

# the Montana Woman



*Hats & Hearts*  
2014 - 2016



**Winter, 2014 - 2015**

Volume 54

Issue 2

## ***GFWC of Montana Executive Committee***

### **President**

Joyce Rogers  
Box 2778, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912 joycerogers@montanasky.net 406-253-3355 (cell)

### **President-elect**

#### **Membership Chairman**

Joyce Hooper  
772 Paige Lane, Corvallis, Montana 59828  
joyhoop@q.com  
406-961-3930 (home), 406-381-1201 (cell)

#### **1st Vice-President, Dean of Departments**

Joyce DeCunzo  
5420 Peaks View Drive, Helena, MT 59602  
jrdecunzo@gmail.com 406-933-5962 (home),  
406-439-0076 (cell)

#### **Recording Secretary**

Florence Diede  
535 Johnson Lane, Billings, MT 59101  
fdiede@bresnan.net  
406-245-4998 (home), 406-861-1681 (cell)

#### **Treasurer**

Nancy Hanford  
Box 1293, Fort Benton, MT 59442  
4849nan@mtintouch.net  
406-622-5313 (home & fax), 406-788-2984 (cell)

#### **Budget & Finance Chairman**

Adina Fox  
42942 Sky Lane, Ronan, Montana 59864  
adinaf@ronan.net  
406-675-3580 (home), 406-253-1774 (cell)

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Shirley Weisgerber  
Box 314, Bridger, Montana 59014  
swgfwc1979@gmail.com  
406-662-3738 (home)

#### **Parliamentary Advisor**

Vurnie Kaye Barnett  
Box 186, Ennis, Montana 59729  
vurniek@gmail.com  
406-682-4313 (home), 406-579-9485 (cell)  
406-682-6862 Ext 2271 (work)

### *On the cover ~*

Sigrid Laird, Eastern District  
Karen Lippert, Central District  
Karen Gustavsen, Western District

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Debbi Kirschbaum, Cathy Henry, Judy Senteney, and Karen Durfey demonstrate teamwork at the 2014 Fall Board Meeting. They're GFWC members making beautiful music together! See more about that meeting on pages 4, 10 and 11.



*Let's Make it a Date!*

**March 15**

Reports mailed/emailed to GFWC  
by State Chairmen

**April 19-25** GFWC Volunteers in Action Week

**April 24** GFWC Federation Day – 125th Anniversary

**District Conventions**

Central District: April 1, in Fort Benton

Eastern District: April 18, in Billings

Western District: April 25, in Thompson Falls

**June 12 - 15, 2015**

GFWC 125<sup>th</sup> International Convention  
Memphis, Tennessee

125th GFWC Convention registration will be open on  
the [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) website on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can book  
your rooms online now via the same website.

**September 16 - 20, 2015**

Western States Region Conference  
San Jose, California

**October 2 - 3, 2015**

State Fall Meeting  
GranTree Inn, Bozeman, MT

**April 22 - 23, 2016**

GFWC Montana Biennial Convention  
Best Western Premier Great Northern Hotel  
Helena, MT

**June 25 - 29, 2016**

GFWC 126<sup>th</sup> International Convention  
Baltimore, Maryland

Currently our efforts have raised over



Silent Auction	\$1046
Fund Raisers	\$ 542
Donations	\$1808
Raffle	\$ 80

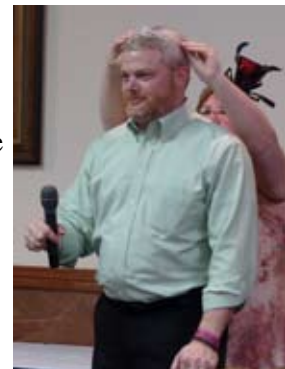
*GFWC of Montana Clubs, you are awesome!*

Be on the lookout for raffle tickets at your District meetings in April, 2015. The Montana Special Project fundraising raffle drawing for a \$500.00 gift certificate and several other prizes will be held at the April, 2016 Spring Convention



Michael Bullard, executive director, Providence Montana Health Foundation, Guest speaker at the Fall Board Meeting, spoke about the importance of heart monitors.

At right, in keeping with the Hats and Hearts theme of the luncheon where he was speaker, fund chairman Ann Lovelace is fitting him with a crown.





## *From the President*

I want to thank everyone for putting on your new hats at the Fall Board Meeting October 20-11, 2014 in Billings. Your help and support made my new hat so much easier to wear. The Hat Lady certainly piqued my interest in the art of wearing hats!

I was fortunate to attend Bitterroot and Forsyth club meetings in January. New friends again!!! My travels also took me to Miles City and back to Helena to acquire and deliver The *Montana Woman* books for The Montana Memory Project. Our history is going digital—Thank you Lewis and Clark Library in Helena (see article in this issue, page 7).

Most of you will have submitted your reports to Dean of Departments Joyce Decunzo by the time you are reading this. I look forward to reading the copies you send to me. These reports are invaluable in reminding us of whom we are and why GFWC is so important in our lives. I urge you to try one new project in 2015. A New Hat for your club.

District conventions are all in April this year. Your clubs will be receiving invitations from the District Presidents soon. The District meetings are always so rewarding. Plan to attend if at all possible. \*\* We have a GFWC of Montana member who has expressed interest in being endorsed for GFWC Western States Region office. I hope we can do that at the District meetings.

The General Federation of Woman’s Clubs is 125 years old in 2015. International President Babs Condon has assured us that there are going to be special events during the Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee in June. Let’s join this celebration and represent Montana well. I am looking forward to the tour to visit St. Jude’s Hospital. What a special hospital that is for children. Visit [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) for details and registration information.

GFWC of Montana has already reaped the benefit of the bylaws amended in October. Our 2014 accounting fee was less than half the previous year. The amendments are published in this issue, and the updated bylaws will be on the GFWC of Montana website very soon.

Again, I say thank all of you for your warm welcomes, great reports, and friendship. I hope to meet with old friends and make a few new ones at the April District meetings. See you there.

*Joyce*

## *There Was Fine Fun at the 2014 Fall Board Meeting*

Fifty GFWC of Montana members attended the Fall Board meeting in Billings, Montana on October 10-11, 2014. Bylaws were changed. We pledged, we sang, we welcomed, we credentialed, we appointed, we fundraised, we were entertained, and we reported.

Members heard from Barbara Kirscher the 2014 Western States Region Jennie Award winner and from 2014 LEADS graduate Robin Pittsley and her children who presented an amusing and effective Conflict Resolution seminar.

Linda Altwine and Gayle Carter shared “Books for Babies” project updates. Dean of Departments Joyce Decunzo and cohorts Toni Scully and Sandi Conrady showed us the importance of reporting. Membership Chairman Joyce Hooper and “volunteers”

demonstrated the advantages of club teamwork with harmonica playing.

Michael Bullard, Director of the Providence Montana Health Foundation spoke emotionally about the benefits of funding the Heart Monitor project for our rural population.

Program chairman provided information and ideas. Club presidents spoke about projects their clubs do in their communities. Projects included having a Children’s Christmas Store; Birthday bags; Cookies for Teachers; Christmas Stockings; a Soup, Bread and Dessert Supper; Woman’s History Matters; Craft Shows; and Jingle Bell Projects in schools.

See pictures of some of the fun on pages 10 and 11 in this issue. Consider coming to the next one and having your picture featured in a future *Montana Woman!*

# Membership Matters!

## **HOW TO RETAIN CLUB MEMBERSHIP:**

Listed below are a few suggestions that were presented at the fall meeting to retain club membership.

1. Borrowing ideas from other clubs.
2. Facebook – linked to other clubs.
3. Getting to know your programs.
4. Weekend or morning meetings
5. Ask someone to come to a meeting (& keep asking)
6. Invite someone to help with a project
7. Be visible in what you do – newspapers, television, media
8. Personally invite someone to a fun activity with food so you can learn
9. Some facts, get involved and learn how to serve the community.
10. Keep meetings short; not too long.
11. Be kind to each other.

“A stable core of experienced members is the backbone of your club. They are the skeleton that holds it all together and holds it up. New members can lean on and learn from members with a good memory and history of involvement. Working together, experience members and new members can function like a well-exercised body – standing tall, moving forward, and making strides toward accomplishing goals.”

(Quoted from – “How to Retain GFWC Club Membership).



## **GFWC of Montana**

***is a mighty and powerful group.***

Here are a few members who celebrated their anniversary during the past year.

### **25 Years**

Janet Cole	Billings Junior Woman’s Club
Roberta Burruss	Bitterroot Woman’s Club
Ruth Zimmerman	Canton Valley Woman’s Club
LouAnn Huck	Harlowton Woman’s Club

### **30 Years**

Mille Woolley	Big Timber Woman’s Club
Doreen Sautter	Canton Valley Woman’s Club
Vurnie Kaye Barnett	Madison Valley Woman’s Club
Dorothy Murnin	Miles City Woman’s Club

### **35 Years**

Bobby Bjork	Madison Valley Woman’s Club
Shirley Weisgerber	Bridger Woman’s Club

### **40 Years**

Linda Johnson	Big Timber Woman’s Club
Clara Allen	Moore Woman’s Club

### **45 Years**

Alice Gleason	Ronan Woman’s Club
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### **50 Years**

Evelyn Casterline	Culbertson Woman’s Club
Nancy Asbury	Bridger Woman’s Club

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

*Joyce Hooper - GFWC of Montana – President Elect, Membership Chairman*

**At Left:**

***Shirley Weisgerber, who has been a club member for 35 years, pins a 50 year pin on her friend, Nancy Asbury. Both are members of GFWC Bridger Woman’s Club.***





## ***GFWC Montana Matters!***

Adina Fox and Nancy Hanford present funds to Christie Briggs from the 2012-2014 Talking Book Library State Project.

November 18, 2014

GFWC of Montana  
PO Box 1293  
Fort Benton, MT 59442

Dear Members of the GFWC of Montana,

It is with an astonished and appreciative heart that I accept your generous grand total donation of \$17,000.00, to enhance the Montana Talking Book Library's (MTBL) Recording Program. This amount includes your gift of four brand new comfortable and quiet chairs for our Recording Program Volunteers, for which they are continually grateful.

A potential second recording booth that would meet the National Library Service standards is being researched. I will report our progress to GFWC-MT through Nancy Hanford and Adina Fox, the 2012-2014 President and Chairperson of the President's Special Project.

Undoubtedly, your donation will impact Montanans with visual, physical and reading disabilities who would otherwise not have access to local Montana materials. Additionally, I am deeply grateful for the tremendous efforts of each individual club of the GFWC of Montana that has improved the quality of life for Montanans through spreading awareness of our Talking Book Library services.

As you have become ambassadors of MTBL, we too have become ambassadors of GFWC of Montana, with the goal of helping others in need.

Sincerely,

Christie O. Briggs  
Regional Librarian  
Montana Talking Book Library



## *Montana Woman accepted as a Montana Memory Project*

GFWC of Montana and the Helena Lewis and Clark Library were recently awarded a Montana Memory Project grant from the Montana State Library to digitize the bound copies of The Montana Woman.

Sandi Conrady attended a state library trustee meeting, heard about this grant, and thought it would be a great opportunity for GFWC of Montana. The Lewis and Clark Library applied for the grant. Costs should be completely absorbed by the grant according to the Library.

Copies will include the original GFWC Montana magazine The Woman's Voice from 1921 thru the Montana Woman issues from the 2012-2014 administration. The bound and in some cases very fragile copies of this historic magazine have traveled from Miles City to Helena to be inventoried by the library staff before the digital process can start.

The Montana Woman should be available on line before the end of this year. Website information will be published when the project is completed.



## *Expanding Horizons with Reading*

GFWC has a program for readers that will help members grow while enjoying reading. It's called Epsilon Sigma Omega, ESO. The program recognizes readers with awards and encourages widening horizons in choice of reading matter. At right, ESO Chair Dorothy Murnin has just presented two reading certificates to Sigrid Laird. Joyce DeCunzo has accepted a certificate for her club, GFWC Helena Woman's Club.

## *Great Advertising!*



**GFWC Bitterroot Woman's** Club members serve at several events in the Bitterroot Valley. Club members (models) Roberta Burruss, Jody Magdos, Janice Bailey, and Becky Grimm were working in the concession stand at a Corvallis High School wrestling match on December 19 when this picture was taken.

Joyce Hooper and Carole Steigerwalt donated their sewing machines and time to embroider the aprons with GFWC BITTERROOT WOMAN'S CLUB.

# Our Clubs at Work

**GFWC Bridger Woman's Club** members show off their hand-made Christmas stockings at a December 10th Christmas party. Each member had brought little stocking stuffers for all of the stockings. Around table left to right: Amy Kraft, Jeannie Scott, Nancy Asbury, Laura McElhinny, JoAnn Schutte, Joan Gereghty, Joan Miller, Vicki Weiper, Staci Pospisil.

*picture and story courtesy Shirley Weisgerber*



## ***Recycling Project Benefits County***

Plains Woman's Club has been collecting recyclable bottles at the annual County Fair for several years. This year they went a step farther, invested in some official collection containers and found that they could benefit the county by recycling their plastic at the local dump. Plastics recycled through that center are sold and the money goes to finance other recycling projects throughout the county, such as collecting used electronic devices and cleaning up chemicals. The club received the following Thank You from local conservation contact, Kathy Conlin:

"I'm so proud of what the Plains Women's Club is accomplishing in regards to recycling, and I know that the Board of Commissioners is as well."

## ***New Officers Crowned at Plains***

President Elect Glenda Wolverton and President Sandi Lane were "crowned" as the head team for Plains Woman's Club at their September meeting. Later, they posed with Debbie Heckman and Michele Furry, who had conducted the installation, wearing the more appropriate work hats the club has adopted. The club is delighted that these two relatively new members are willing to take on responsibilities.







## ***Literacy Passion Sparks “Books for Babies” Campaign***

*The following article (cut somewhat by MW editor) appeared in the Billings Gazette October 13.*

Thanks to women like Gayle Carter and Linda Altwine — and maybe four dozen friends and colleagues in the Billings Junior Woman’s Club — Billings’ newest moms and dads are given a touch-and-feel board book upon the birth of their child.

“When children are young, reading starts with colors and shapes, sitting in mom’s or dad’s lap and hearing the sound of their voice,” said Carter, who like Altwine was a longtime public school teacher. “Those students’ success in school later on is much, much better.”

Now Carter and Altwine want to expand their giveaway statewide.

The co-chairs of the Books for Babies and ... You program said that almost 2,700 Billings-area families will benefit this year from the contents of a stuffed bag provided to the family of each child born at Billings Clinic or St. Vincent Healthcare. Along with other reading material and helpful items such as bookmarks and a library card application, each book comes with a board book that allows the child to discover by touch, for example, what a duck’s belly feels like.

Since 2008, the club has distributed more than 15,000 free books.

Together with brochures and a magnet reminding parents of story times at the Billings Public Library, each bag also contains the 12-page book “Books for Babies and ... You,” authored by Carter with photographs by Altwine.

It’s time, club members figure, to widen the organization’s volunteer distribution network to encompass the Treasure State.

“We would like to see every baby born in a Montana hospital to get a book,” Carter said.

“We have a five-year plan,” Altwine said, adding that one of Gov. Steve Bullock’s policy advisers,

Siri Smillie, gave the women some good ideas over the summer about, among other things, where to get funding to expand the program.

The service club buys books at a discount from Hastings Books, Music and Video, and AlphaGraphics prints material placed in bags at a discount. After the bags are stuffed, they’re taken to the hospitals and stored there. Bags are distributed to families before mother and baby go home from the hospital.

The two co-chairs pitched their idea last weekend to a statewide Junior Woman’s Club conference, which is part of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. (*The paper got our name a little wrong - ed.*) While they’re not sure of the logistics involved in growing the program, they do have more than six years’ experience raising what’s now the \$14,000 needed annually to provide free books in Billings and, occasionally, stuffing 1,000 or more bags in a single afternoon — with the help of about 20 fellow club members. “This program is all about literacy,” Carter said. “Technology is great, but you’ve got to start somewhere, and we start with what gathers a kid’s eyes — the colors and the sounds that the animals (in the books) make.”

### ***Gayle & Linda Sent the following in an e-mail to the clubs after mailing a packet of Books for Babies materials.***

Hi GFWC Clubs,

We hope all of you have received your packet of information about the Books for Babies and... You! Project.

Gayle and Linda

Number of Babies born to each hospital in 2013. I received this information from the Montana Hospital Association.

Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital - 138

Community Hospital of Anaconda-40- new doctor could be 80 next year

North Valley Hospital-468

Holy Rosary Healthcare-294

St Peter’s Hospital-798

St Luke Community Healthcare-167

Sidney Health Center -133





## ***Fantastic Fall Fellowship***

Officers Florence Diede, Nancy Hanford, Joyce Hooper and Joyce Rogers listen to one of many interesting reports. That's Vurnie Kaye Barnett hidden behind the lectern.

Below: an equally attentive assembly of delegates and guests



Stephanie Stokke,  
Communications  
and Public Relations  
Chair



Karen Gustavsen,  
Conservation Chair



Judy Senteney,  
Domestic Violence  
Prevention and  
Awareness Chair

## ***Reports***



Well hatted Joyce  
Hooper gives  
magical membership  
report



*Joyce and . . .*  
Pat Brunner of GFWC  
Forsyth



Cathy Henry of GFWC  
Big Timber

## ***Awards***



Adeia Thompson of  
GFWC Laurel



Barbara Plakke of GFWC  
Bitterroot

***Above: President Joyce presents Membership Awards to representatives of various clubs.***

## Programs



Linda Carlson, Kim Montag, Tony Scully and Cathy Henry share a table at lunch



Guest author Mary Anne Schwehr, retired teacher, wrote her adventure book after she was confined to a wheelchair. She read from it to the assembly, who bought copies after her presentation.  
 2014 LEADS graduate Robin Pittsley, pictured below, assisted Mary Anne when she was writing *Search for Our Home*



And at another table, Linda Altwine, Marsha Price, Ellen Smith and Diane Hooker enjoy one another.

At right: Renee Seiben, Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Robin, and Tammy Dean at Robin's presentation to the assembly



Mother and daughter Woman's Club Aficionados Stephanie Stokke and Cheryl Martin put their heads together.



***Foolishness here and there.!***  
 Sandi Conrady and Rae Proctor sport spider hats.

***But Finally . . .***



***Joining hands in unity of purpose:  
 "Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let it Begin With Me."***

# Amendments To Gfwc Of Montana Bylaws October 11, 2014

After a good deal of discussion and an amendment to Article IX proposed amendment, the following bylaws were approved at the October Fall Board meeting in Billings, Montana. The Article and Sections printed here show the four bylaws as amended.

## ARTICLE IV Dues and finance

Section 4.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall be July 1 through June 30. The accounts of GFWC MT shall be presented at the close of each fiscal year to a Certified Public Accountant, who shall prepare and file all necessary tax forms for GFWC MT, copies of which shall be on file.

## ARTICLE V Officers

Section 5.5 Duties of Officers.

### TREASURER

11. She shall prepare all records at the close of each fiscal year to present to a certified public accountant who shall prepare and file all necessary tax forms for GFWC MT.

## ARTICLE VII Executive Committee

Section 7.2 duties. Executive Committee

G. Approve a certified public accountant.

## ARTICLE IX Committees

Section 9.1 Standing Committees

A. Budget and Finance This committee shall be composed of five members: The Chairman, the President and Treasurer as ex-officio members and two appointed members who shall not be members of the Executive Committee. The remaining members of the Executive Committee shall be invited to attend meetings without vote. It shall be the duty of this committee to: (a) prepare a budget and submit it with recommendations to the Executive Committee for presentation to the Board of Directors and to report thereafter as requested as to the status of the budget: (b) review the financial affairs of GFWC MT, making recommendations regarding dues and investments as necessary; (c) consider and make recommendations for expenditures not provided for in the budget (d) employ the services of a Certified Public Accountant and (e) complete an Internal audit at the end of each fiscal year.

## *Leads Applications*

**GFWC of Montana is looking for a Montana candidate who has the potential and desire to attend a GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) on June 12, 2015 in Memphis, Tennessee.**

Participation in LEADS helps members gain knowledge and confidence in becoming a leader. *Is there someone in your club who has demonstrated leadership capabilities, understands and is committed to GFWC, and who would share information gained from the seminar?* GFWC will cover a portion of the travel expense, breakfast and lunch during the LEADS program, and one-half of room charge for two nights at the Convention Hotel. GFWC MT provides an additional \$500.00 for expenses.

**The deadline for turning in the application has been extended to March 15, 2015.**

# GFWC LEADS Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Above information should be concealed during judging process

List all local club offices and/or chairmanships held\* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List all district offices and/or chairmanships held\* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List GFWC club/district programs/projects in which involved\* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List positions at district/state/national level in which you are interested\*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to:

Defray costs to attend GFWC LEADS not covered by GFWC or state? Yes No Return to the state and share what you have learned at LEADS? Yes No

\*If more space is needed, please complete answers on reverse side of this form. Return copy of this form and two letters of support from an active GFWC club member, by January 15, to:

GFWC OF MONTANA PRESIDENT  
Joyce Rogers  
Box 2778, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

