

the Montana Woman



Hats & Hearts
2014 - 2016



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On the cover ~

Cathy McCormick, Western District
Penny Cope, Central District
Cheryl Martin, Eastern District

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Wanted!

**Pictures and stories about what
YOUR Club is doing.
Are you doing things for people in
need?
Are you having fun?
You keep seeing pictures of Plains
Woman's Club because that's where
the editor lives, and it's all the
pictures she has. . .**



PWC member
Mary Egbert
had fun riding in
the Plains Day
Parade.

The parade looked like so much
fun a prospective member
inquired about joining!





Let's Make it a Date!

June 12 - 15, 2015

GFWC 125th International Convention
Memphis, Tennessee

125th GFWC Convention registration will be open on the gfwc.org website on February 23rd. 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 126th International Convention
Baltimore, Maryland



GFWC of Montana Clubs, you are awesome! We have raised over half of the \$10,000 goal for this project. Great Job!

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

Note for Club Treasurers !



Club treasurers received information in April on club dues to be paid by July 1. Please check club member information carefully before returning the information. E-mails are very important to verify.





From the President

GFWC is celebrating 125 years of service this year. Is your club planning an event to celebrate? Ideas can be found in this issue.

Time flies when you are having fun. District Conventions were absolutely wonderful. Three April weekends were spent traveling to Fort Benton, Billings, and Thompson Falls to celebrate District Conventions. We had speakers, noisemakers, bras, movies, and art; we reported and spent lots of our cash on 50/50 tickets and silent and auctioneer auctions. Funds were raised, luncheons were served, entertainment was enjoyed, and friendships were renewed.

I was privileged to attend Fort Benton's 100 year anniversary celebration on April 16th. Those girls know how to wear their hats.

Sadly, I also attended the funeral of Sigrid Laird in Miles City in February. She will be greatly missed by GFWC of Montana. An obituary for Sigrid and for

Jeanette Stevenson can be found in this issue. I did not know Jeanette but have heard her name many times over the years. She and Sigrid were GFWC movers and shakers.

Thank you to all the clubs who reported your 2014 activities this year. You are truly "Living the Volunteer Spirit." I hope your clubs are trying new projects and letting local folks know what you do. Don't forget to ask others to help with your projects. A new member is often a "Will you help with this," away.

While the annual reports are very important, news and pictures from your club are welcome anytime to be published in the Montana Woman. When you are doing a fundraiser, have a float in a parade, have a special project that works in your community, send me the information. Take Pictures (with identification of the people in them). You can e-mail or send in the mail. SHARE your NEWS.

One last note: Do you have leaders in your clubs that would be willing to serve at the District or State level? Who will be your next club president, district officer, state officer? Leaders come from the clubs--Do you have a hidden gem in your membership just waiting to shine? Ask if they would like to try a new HAT!

Joyce

Why Pay GFWC Dues?

A frequent question club members ask is, "Where does GFWC use your \$15.00 dues"? Our dues provide a wealth of resources including:

- * A vibrant communications network, featuring GFWC Clubwoman Magazine, weekly News and Notes e-newsletter, social networking, and the GFWC website at www.GFWC.org.

- * Leadership training and professional development, through annual Conventions, Region Conferences, State Federation Conventions, the Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS), and local workshops. GFWC membership helps gain knowledge and experience.

- * Volunteer leadership, who can assist you in all aspects of GFWC club life, including membership and leadership issues, fundraising, women's history, program planning, communications, and project development.

- * Professional GFWC Headquarters Staff, who work

diligently, behind the scenes, on your behalf to provide you with resources and information to enhance your club projects, programs, and experiences.

- *GFWC International Headquarters, the National Historic Landmark home in the nation's capital that belongs to all GFWC members. All members are encouraged to visit and experience GFWC hospitality firsthand. Members and clubs are welcome to schedule a tour in this beautiful complex in the heart of Washington D.C. (Members of the GFWC Billings Jr. Club visited this year and were in awe.)

Editor's note: GFWC is your organization. There are many resources available. Are you and your club taking advantage of these resources? We hope so. If you have questions, please call anyone on the executive committee. If we don't know the answer, we will help you get it

And the Winners Are . . .

2015 Leads Candidate Marsha Hotchkiss



Marsha Hotchkiss, GFWC Billing Junior Woman's Club member will attend the 125th annual GFWC International Convention as Montana's LEADS candidate. A fairly new member of GFWC, Marsha is actively involved in her club's projects. She sits on the Arts Committee, participates in club projects and chairs the local ESO reading group. Friends report that Marsha, a

retired registered nurse, serves people with kindness and compassion. Communication, enthusiasm and organization are just three of her many skills.

LEADS or Leadership, Education and Development Seminar is held on the day before the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. One candidate from each State Federation is eligible to participate. The program is designed to identify and help up-and-coming leaders to gain the capacity, confidence, and commitment to pursue and achieve leadership positions in GFWC. GFWC International funds a portion of each candidate's expenses including two nights lodging at convention and discounted meals. Marsha will receive \$500 from GFWC Montana.

Polson Girl Awarded Scholarship



Monica Cleveland, a Polson High School graduate and current University of Great Falls student and has been awarded the 2015 GFWC Montana \$500.00 scholarship. She is the first member of her family to attend a four year college, taking courses to double major in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice with the goal of returning in her community and making it a better place to live.

In her first year at the University of Great Falls, Monica has worked for Family Connections through a work study program. She also works at least 15 hours per week doing office work. This spring she was awarded a position as a peer mentor at the University.

In High School Monica worked with the Special Education class, the Migrant Program and the Montana Youth Conservation Corps. She played soccer and was a consistent member of the honor roll. Her recommendations were glowing and GFWC Montana is proud to help this very special girl in her pursuit of learning.

*****Editor note:** Our scholarship chairman received two entries this year. There are many deserving students in our communities. Do you know of someone?

The requirements are:

*resident of Montana, married or unmarried, entering his/her sophomore year in a Montana College or University

* GPA of 2.5 or above as of the last year of school

* demonstrate financial need

* postmarked March 28, 2016



*You can either complain that
rose bushes have thorns - or
rejoice that thorn bushes
have roses.*



“Freeing the Girls” at Eastern Convention



“Free the Girls” was the theme for this meeting. Members had been asked to bring new or gently used bras to donate to the project. Sherry Porter explained that the donated bras help survivors of human trafficking start their own business selling second hand

clothing while they recover and build new lives. A video entitled “Chosen” was shown. The video demonstrated how young women in our country are stalked and lured into prostitution by sex traffickers.

Cheryl Martin, GFWC MT Eastern District President, called the meeting to order Saturday, April 18, 2015, in Billings, MT. Flags were presented by Stephanie Stokke and Sherry Porter; the Pledge of Allegiance and Club Collect were recited.

Roll call confirmed that six of eight district clubs were represented including two first time attendees, and five state officers. Sandi Conrady was endorsed for the GFWC Western States Region office of Treasurer by Florence Diede. The motion was passed.

Linda Altwine and Karen Durfey relayed greetings from GFWC Headquarters. They had recently visited and shared insights on the beauty of our Washington, DC property and staff.

There was discussion about feasibility of rotating district spring conventions and meeting more often.

A desire to have more scheduled time for meetings during Fall Board and Spring Conventions was expressed.

A photo session was held to display donated bras. Members also assembled bags containing donated water, snacks, and toiletries for medical patients and their families during hospital and outpatient treatments.

Florence Diede won \$67.50 in the 50/50 drawing. Bonnie Connor won the Best Sculpture and Best Painting Awards, and Shirley Weisgerber won the Best Photography Award. District fundraising totals were \$7.00 from art entries, \$42.69 from the Pennies for Arts Collection, \$75.50 for the President’s Special Project from the 50/50 drawing,



and \$221.00 from the home goods pantry sale.



Left: Pat Lindeman, Pat Brunner, Karen Durfey, Linda Pickard, Sherri Porter, Marsha Price



And Pictured . . .

Top left: Cheryl Martin

Top right: Sherri Porter

Just above: Linda Pickard,

Stephanie Stokke, Marsha

Price, Linda Altwine,

Florence Diede

Bottom left: The whole

gang, with bras for the girls



Central District Makes Some Noise

President Penny Cope called the GFWC MT Central District meeting to order Saturday, April 11, 2015 in Fort Benton. "Let's make some noise," said President Cope and passed out noise makers to attendees. Throughout the meeting, when someone was excited or pleased, the noise makers were blown.

Presentation of the Flag was provided by Fort Benton Boy Scouts Pack #76 and Jaycee Worrall (granddaughter of club member Phyllis Worrall) sang the Star Spangled Banner. Fort Benton's



Club President Toni Molinario welcomed the Fort Benton, Helena, Madison Valley, and Moore club members attending.

Meeting guest speaker (shown at right), Stacy Collette, MT State Department of

Commerce, Operations Manager of the Housing Division, explained how she provides assistance to businesses to find their meaning and focus on efficiency. She bridged this into the non-profit work of GFWC reminding us to "toot" our horns and remember we all have unique talents. Her insight was inspiring to everyone.

Montana President Joyce Rogers announced that Western States Region Conference will be in San Jose, CA. September 17-20. Joyce DeCunzo, Montana 1st Vice President nominated Sandi Conrady for the WSR office of Treasurer. The motion carried.

President's Special Project Chairman Anne Loveless spoke about the Heart Monitor project and raffle. Florence Diede updated the members about the "Books for Babies" project and the importance of reading to babies as early as 0-4 months old. Lynn Foreman encouraged clubs to



Above: State Officers have a grand time making noise!

look for great Home Life Projects.

The Silent Auction fundraising had some spirited bidding right to the end. Funds were split between the President's Special Project and the Central District Scholarship Fund with \$417.00 awarded to each. \$200 raised by the 50/50 drawing was split by Nancy Hanford and a GFWC Fort Benton Community Project. The Fort Benton woman's Club hosted a lovely luncheon.



Right: GFWC Moore members, Dixie Hertel, Marion Hertel, and Clara Allen



Above: District President Penny Cope waves for attention, as Terry Kockler prepares to take notes and past president, Lynn Forman moves to the lectern.

Left: Attentive members!

Western Goes Western



Six of the eight clubs of the Western District, plus a welcome squadron of state officers went western at their convention in Thompson Falls on April 25. Nearly everyone showed up in some degree of western wear and four ladies were awarded prizes for their versions of western. First Prize was awarded to Debbie Heckman for her genteel lady's wear. Other prizes went to Eileen Stone, Cathy McCormick, and Jody Magdos, who wore a wonderful pair of chaps and cowboy boots, which can't be seen in the picture at right.

In business of the day, Fundraising Chair Anne Loveless was invited to speak about the state project. Florence Diede told the group about the Billings club's Books for Babies project and urged clubs in the Western District to consider adding a similar program. Each club president made a report about her club's activities, and two nominations were made - Margaret Storoy of Plains Woman's Club was nominated as First Vice President of the Western District. Sandy Conrady was endorsed as candidate for Western States Region Treasurer. Mary Lou Hermes offered a brief remembrance of Sigrid Laird.

Following a western style buffet lunch, the group enjoyed music by Dave and Deb Oliver and then enjoyed outbidding one another for bountiful baskets, auctioned by the guest musician, assisted by his wife, playing the lovely Vanna White. Proceeds from the auction were all donated to Sanders

County Coalition For Families (SCCFF), provider of services to victims of domestic violence. The auction raised a total of \$897.28.



The Best in the West Group!



A Pair of Presidential Visits

Forsyth Meeting

President Joyce Rogers was excited to visit the GFWC Forsyth Woman's Club meeting January 12, 2015. She was welcomed and introduced by club president Pat Brunner and then treated like one of the group. This club is very active in their community, supports the library, and has an excellent Christmas program for children.

The evening program was presented by Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SE MT Development Corp, a regional non-profit funded by the cities and counties in the region, usually by \$1 per residence and thru private donations. He discussed several topics, all related to the economics of the area.

Hot topics for Director Atchison included BNSF plans to remain active in Forsyth, cost effective recycling in the area, infrastructure and equipment grants for schools and libraries, and quality of school programs.



Back: Nancy May, Lena Dresbach
Center: Pam Witmer, Mary Herberle, Pat Lindeman, Linda Cormett
Front: Mariellen Lee, Joyce Rogers, Connie Brown

Popping in at Plains

Plains Woman's Club members were tickled to have a visit from President Joyce Rogers at their February meeting. Vice President Joyce Hooper, District President Cathy McCormick and Roberta Burress, all members of the Bitterroot club joined President Joyce in the visit. Western. Fund raising Chair lady, Anne Loveless was there as well, and she presented a program on the heart monitor project.

Posing in the picture and showing off the Monitors poster are Cathy McCormick, PWC Vice President Glenda Wolverton, PWC President Sandy Lane, Anne Lovelace, and President Joyce.



GFWC of Montana Western District Summer Luncheon

Wed. August 19, 2015

11:00 am in the atrium

Montana Club, 2620 Brooks, Missoula

(406-543-3200)

No need to RSVP

It was good seeing those of you who came to our convention in April! Hopefully you can be at our luncheon (no formal meeting!) in August. This gathering is becoming a tradition, and we all enjoy visiting once during the summer.

Club presidents, I hope this is in time for you to inform your members and have them save the date as well..."The more the merrier", as they say!

Please call if you have any questions: 961-8492.

Sincerely,
Cathy

In Memorium



Sigrid Ragna Laird passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at her home in Miles City, Montana. She was a dedicated GFWC member. She served as Montana State President from 2000-2002, as an International Chairman of the Conservation

Program, in many categories as a state chairman, and was the 2014-2016 GFWC of Montana Spiritual Advisor. She almost never missed a State meeting. Sigrid amazed everyone with her genuine love, honestly and of course “those outfits.”

Sigrid was a member of the GFWC Miles City Woman’s Club, the Convent Keepers, the Red Cross, and several international organizations. She loved to travel to GFWC conferences, to see her children and grandchildren, and made friends wherever she went.

Sigrid was born in Bozeman, MT January 14, 1937 to David and Ella Rivenes and spent most of her life in Miles City. She graduated from Custer County High School in 1955, attended Purdue University and obtained degrees in Physical Education and Biology and swam on the swim team. She taught in Wyoming and Connecticut before marrying Loren “Bo” Laird. She and Bo moved to Ripon, CA. where they spent 15 years teaching, coaching swim teams, raising four children, and volunteering for many clubs and organizations.

They returned to Miles City in 1976 . Sigrid taught adaptive P.E. and biology until her retirement, She also managed the Miles City swimming pool, taught swim lessons, and coached swim teams in the summer. She was a book club member and served on the library board. An avid collector of many things, she will be remembered most for the many, many friendships she collected.

Courage is contagious. When a brave person takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.

*Billy Braham,
from Good Stuff, 2002*

Jeanette Stevenson passed away Sunday, May 10th, 2015 in Lewiston, MT just six weeks shy of her 101st birthday. A long time member of the Hobson Woman’s Club, she served as 1970-1972 GFWC of Montana State President.



Jeanette was born in Miles City on June 29, 1914 and spent her early life on a homestead near Broadus. She lived for a time in South Dakota, returned to Hobson, MT, and attended the local high school, graduating as valedictorian in 1931. Jeanette attended one year of University in Missoula.

She married Jamie R. Stevenson in 1936. They ranched in the Hobson area, eventually becoming registered Angus owners. Jeanette was a community volunteer in her club, church, school, and 4-H. She was a charter member of the Montana Angus Auxiliary. Active in legislative issues, Jeanette served on the Governor’s Council for Aging and was recognized in 1990 as Montana’s outstanding Senior Volunteer.

Jeanette’s family described her as straightforward. “She didn’t ask for anything, she told you what to do.” Montana club members report that she was smart, determined, sometimes stern, and always in command while encouraging others.

Things I’ve Learned

*I’ve learned that an act of love, no matter how great or small, is always appreciated.

*I’ve learned that of all the bad four-letter words, diet is the worst.

*I’ve learned that no situation is so bad that losing your temper won’t make it worse.

*I’ve learned that no matter how beautiful your makeup is, it can’t hide the expression of a sad heart.

*I’ve learned that warmth, kindness and friendship are the most yearned-for commodities in the world. The person who can provide them will never be lonely.

from Good Stuff, December 2014

Our Clubs at Work

Fort Benton Club turns 100

Founded as the Fort Benton Study Club by Dorothy McLeish on October 9, 2014, the ladies group joined GFWC Montana in 1915 and GFWC International in 1918. On April 16, 2015, dozens of local women and several men gathered at the Chouteau County Library to celebrate the Fort Benton Woman's Club's 100 year anniversary. A certificate from GFWC International honoring the club's longevity was presented to club president Toni Molinaro by Nancy Hanford, past Club and State President and current GFWC Montana Treasurer.

"The Fort Benton Woman's Club is one of the most outstanding volunteer clubs Fort Benton has," Mayor Rick Morris said. "You have made the city of Fort Benton a better place to live." City Councilman Roger Axtman presented a plaque honoring the club's anniversary and 100 years of service and declared April 16, 2016 "Fort Benton Woman's Club Day."

Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade teachers from Fort Benton brought their classroom girls to witness a piece of local history and inspire future volunteers. Special guests included GFWC of Montana President Joyce Rogers and



Adina Fox, past Montana State President and current Budget and Finance Chairman.

Club member Mary Meissner wrote a reader's theater called "Let's Celebrate," that was presented by local club members. The humorous skit covered the club's history from the perspective of the movers and shakers, opponents, and bystanders.

Club founder Dorothy McLeish spearheaded the formation of the Fort Benton Library in 1916. They were awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation and the Chouteau County Free Library was open for business. "Libraries raise your taxes and a Woman's Club will have you donating, donating, donating" griped one critic in the script of "Let's Celebrate."

To celebrate further, the club presented \$300 to the Chouteau County Library, \$1626 to the Choteau County Cancer Support Group, and \$2000 to the Lights of Love Program in support of the Missouri River Medical Center.



Top photo: Karyn Giles, Kathy Nelson, Connie Foreman and Joan Schafer take part in the Reader's Theater performance.

Left: GFWC of Fort Benton members Nancy Hanford and Toni Molinaro pose with visitors Adina Fox and GFWC of Montana President Joyce Rogers in front of a Fort Benton memorial wall hanging.

Serving others and having fun,

**. . . that's
what Women's
Clubs do!**



Plains Woman's Club held a shower at their May meeting, but it wasn't the usual kind of shower. For one thing, the recipients couldn't be there, because they are women and children who may need to leave a dangerous situation in a hurry. For another, the presents couldn't be wrapped because they were supplies to stock a food and supplies pantry maintained by the county's service for victims of domestic abuse.



The Eastern District had some fun with bras, also intended to help women in need, survivors of human trafficking.



Adina Fox admires artwork displayed for auction at the Eastern District Convention

Potpourri



Above: Musicians at the Central District Convention.

Right: Joyce Hooper asks for endorsement on Sandi Conrady's nomination for Western District Treasurer



Above: Western District V.P. nominee Margaret Storoy, foreground, and Linda Sinarius

Left: Stephanie Stokke urges the group to support the fund raising project



Should we bid on that basket? It looks pretty good!
(You can tell those westerners by their cowboy hats.)



When clubs turn 100, everybody gets a slice of birthday cake!



**Future member?
She's Jaycee Worrall**



Four Fabulous Females Celebrating Fort Benton's Birthday: Patty Paulsen, Maryann O'Connor, Phyllis Worrall, Donna Albers

Nominations Needed for State Officers

Spring/Summer greetings to all! It's always so hard to believe when it is time to ask Clubs in our great state if there are women in their groups that are interested in joining the ranks of volunteers willing to serve as officers for a new term!

Well -- that time has arrived yet again! It will be time to elect and install new officers at the 2016 Spring Convention. At that time President-Elect Joyce Hooper will step up to president with the remainder of the offices (President-Elect; First Vice President; Recording Secretary and Treasurer) open for women who would like to serve on the Executive Board of Directors for a two (2) year term with the possibility of "moving up" in the different offices.

Below are the requirements (as listed in the Bylaws) for an active member of the GFWC to be eligible for an office for the GFWC of Montana:

ARTICLE X – NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Section 10.1 Nominations.

Nominations for the office of President-elect, First Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall be made by endorsements and must be for a specific office.

Section 10.2 Endorsements.

Endorsements shall be obtained from three clubs in separate cities of the District or from the Board of Directors of the District in which the candidate resides. Documentation of such endorsement shall include the page(s) of minutes of the meeting endorsing the candidate or when polling by mail, email or phone a statement regarding the outcome of such poll. Endorsements shall be verified by signatures of the presidents and secretaries of the three clubs or the District and be sent to the GFWC MT Elections Chairman, by January 10 of the even numbered years.

Section 10.3 Nominations from the floor.

Nominations may be made from the floor following the report of the Elections Committee. Candidates so nominated shall have consented to be nominees; shall have provided 25 signatures of delegates at the convention and shall meet the bylaws requirements of eligibility, as provided in Section 5.2.

Section 10.4 Elections.

Candidates' names and the offices they seek shall be announced in *The Montana Woman* in the even numbered years. A plurality vote shall elect.

The President-elect shall automatically accede to her respective office without standing for election.

All nominations should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Weisgerber, at P.O. Box 314, Bridger, MT 59014-0314 by

125th Anniversary Ideas

In 2015, GFWC celebrates 125 years of service. Let's celebrate in our clubs. Some ideas follow.

1. Appoint an anniversary celebration chairman.
2. If your club has a newsletter, submit a feature about a club event.
3. Give a short historical presentation during a club meeting or two.
4. If any club members have served as a district, state, or region president ask them to write a short summary about their administration.
5. If you have pictures of past club activities, ask your ARTS chairman to put together a collage for a club meeting. It's fun to reminisce and to show new members some of your history.
6. Share the GFWC timeline with members.
7. Highlight a GFWC accomplishment each month in a meeting, newsletter, or a letter to the local newspaper editor.
8. Conduct a fashion through history show. Allow members to select a period dress of their choice and present important events from that time period.
9. Have a mini-program on WHRC and pass out brochures.
10. Serve an anniversary cake to celebrate YOUR club's anniversary, whatever year that may be.
11. Research Jane Croly's descendants. She had four children.
12. Check out the GFWC webpage. There is a wealth of information to share.
13. Celebrate your state charter.
14. Celebrate past GFWC presidents or State presidents from your club
15. Put up a display at the library.
16. Spread the word. GFWC IS 125 YEARS OLD AND STILL SERVING!!!

