

# the Montana Woman

*Soar with Eagles*  
2016 - 2018



**Summer, 2018**

Volume 55

Issue 8

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## *On the cover ~*

President Joyce, posing on her porch with the carved eagle presented to her at the convention

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## ***NEXT WSR CONFERENCE - LAS VEGAS - SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2018***

### **Raffle opportunity** for a \$200

Credit to be used for

Registration, Meals, Tours

---\$10 for one ticket or

\$20 for three tickets -

Hosted by GFWC Nevada Federation

The lucky winner gets \$200.

***Let's have a Montana winner!***

If you would like to purchase, please

contact Joyce Hooper, [joyhoop@q.com](mailto:joyhoop@q.com)

## The Montana Woman



*Let's Make it a Date!*

### Important Dates for 2018

#### June 23-26

GFWC International Convention -  
St. Louis, MO

#### September 12-16, 2018

Western States Region Meeting  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Tuscany Hotel

#### October 5-6, 2018

Montana Fall Meeting  
Butte, Montana  
Copper King

The Montana Woman is published quarterly, in August, November, February and May. The deadline for news is the first of the month preceding the publication date. We encourage GFWC of Montana clubs to share their news in the Montana Woman.

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## The 2018 Spring Convention



Frolicsome



Awesome



Heartfelt



Celebrative



Profound

Our website address: check it out!  
[www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)

## From the President



“THANK YOU”  
“THANK YOU”  
“THANK YOU”

I cannot begin to thank you for an outstanding two years. Everyone has been there when I needed them. We have accomplished everything that we wanted to for the past two years. Your reports were excellent, membership increased and you soared to the top with the eagles.

It has been a rewarding journey for me and the time has gone by so fast. It seems like we just began but then I think of all you have accomplished with your clubs and your membership. You have truly made my two years one of the best journeys I could have wished for.

Thank you for taking the “Montana Hope Project” over the top with such a success of \$18,246. You have been the workers these past two years and again I thank you.

Thank you also for the beautiful “Eagle”. He is on the porch resting after soaring so high these past two years. As I look at him I will think of all my GFWC Montana friends who helped to make 2016-2018 a rewarding time.



### ***Goal nearly doubled!!***

***Reflections on the project by Sandi Lane,  
pictured handing check to Montana Highway  
Trooper, Jeremiah Snider***

*See story, page 5*

***In the 2016-18 Biennium, GFWC of  
Montana Clubs Did  
Soar Like Eagles.***

***Now their flight has started to close;  
the Eagles have started their descent .***

***They call out  
as they head to their nests:  
- Congratulations to 2018-2020***

***Executive Board!***

***We'll be around to help  
when needed!***



**MONTANA HOPE PROJECT**





## Montana Hope Project Report

The last two years has been a wonderful opportunity to serve others not just with my local club but on a state-wide level. Before a few years ago,

I really hadn't heard of the Montana Hope Project. Oh, sure, I had definitely heard of the *Make a Wish* organization and knew it was a nation-wide group that helps children, but I never knew there was a group of dedicated individuals right here in Montana giving critically ill children a special "wish." The Association of Montana Troopers has dedicated not just time, but also their resources towards this worthy cause.

When I first volunteered, I learned about a little girl whose name was Lena, and how the program provided her with a therapeutic hot tub and lift, so she would be able to stretch her little limbs out because of a debilitating disease that leaves her in a wheelchair. That's only one story and there are SO many more stories out there, of course. Since 1984, wishes have been granted to many critically ill children around the state through this program. Whether a family trip to some fantastic loca-



Debbi Kirschbaum displays the raffle quilt

tion or rebuilding an old vehicle or some other special wish, this fine organization of Montana Troopers keeps making this happen and really makes a difference.

But, you know ladies, we make a difference too. The last two years of this administration proves it once again. Our state president, Joyce Hooper, thoughtfully chose the Presidents Special Project for her 2016-2018 term: the *Montana Hope Project*. Through raffle ticket sales, club fund-raisers, silent auctions and other donations we are so honored to present a check to the Montana Hope Project for an amazing \$18,246. Wow, all of us together really do have a significant impact!

A very special congratulations to Renata Shore, the grand prize winner of the two night lodging and one day fun-filled float trip down the Bitterroot River. The winner of the fabulous quilt was Lynn Foreman. Both ladies are from Madison Valley Woman's Club. Way to go! Thanks to all of you ladies raffle ticket sales were very strong across the state.

It has been a pleasure to serve and work with so many of you as your 2016-2018 GFWC President's Special Project chair of the Montana Hope Project. Thank you Joyce Hooper for all that you have done during your two year term. And again, thank you ladies for all of your help and support.

Sincerely,  
*Sandi Lane*

## LEADS - GFWC's Leadership Program *Polishing Future Leaders*

2018 LEADS Candidate, Bobbi Conrady, came through with a few well chosen words, despite having been taken by surprise when she was called upon!



2017 LEADS Candidate, Margaret Storoy, gave a dramatic report about the LEADS experience!



## 2018 Convention: Off to a Great Start



There were many inspiring moments at the 2018 Convention. One of the foremost was a message from GFWC International President, Sheila Shea. Paying rapt attention are Cathy McCormick, Corresponding Secretary, Adina Fox, Financial Advisor, Joyce DeCunzo, President Elect, Ms. Shea, Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Parliamentary Advisor, Florence Diede, Vice President, Karen Gustavson, Treasurer, and Marcia Price, Recording Secretary

### *Two years worth of awards were presented*



Ed Newman, Helena City Commissioner, welcomed GFWC to Helena



Either Past President Joyce Rogers or Miles City's Dorothy Murnin is getting an award. Or maybe they're making a report. . .



Nancy Hanford presents the Communications award to Barbara Hogg for GFWC Billings Juniors



Beth Campbell, Joyce Rogers, Terry Kochler, Sandi Conrady, Anna Hoffman, Linda Peterson and Bobbi Conrady watch the proceedings



Barbara Hogg presents an ESO award to Karen Hoyt, Bitter-root President

## *Honoring Years of Service Through GFWC*

As Membership Chairman, it was such a pleasure to award certificates to members who have spent many years working in their communities through their GFWC clubs. Our Convention is all about celebrations, and this one makes me proud to be a part of both my local club and GFWC of Montana. Please take a minute to congratulate those in your club who received certificates, and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

*Joyce DeCunzo*

### **10 years:**

Linda Altwine, Billings Jr.  
 Marsha Price, Billings Jr.  
 Judy Senteney, Billings Jr.  
 Ursula Mattson, East Glacier  
 Beverly Grass, Ft. Benton  
 Phyllis Worrall, Ft. Benton  
 Barb Smith, Helena  
 Terry Kockler, Helena  
 Joyce DeCunzo, Helena  
 Michelle France, Madison Valley  
 Diane Laque, Madison Valley  
 Carol Pontius, Madison Valley  
 Toni scully, Madison Valley  
 Debbie Simpler, Madison Valley



Phyllis Worrall,  
10 years

### **15 years:**

Roxanne LaRue, Canton Valley  
 Pat Walston, Deer Lodge  
 Karen Lippert, Ft. Benton  
 Peggy Romano, Ft. Benton  
 Joan Schafer, Ft. Benton  
 Eileen Obernelte, Madison Valley  
 Amorette Allison, Madison Valley  
 Sonja Woods, Miles City



Adina Fox, 45 years

### **20 years:**

Lisa Wagner, Big Timber  
 Gayle Carter, Billings Jr.  
 Karen Durfey, Billings Jr.  
 Linda Pickard, Billings Jr.  
 Barbara Harrison, Bitterroot  
 Betty Browning, Deer Lodge  
 Connie Deyatte, Deer Lodge  
 Anne Findlay, Deer Lodge  
 Mickey Neubauer, Deer Lodge  
 Connie Owen, Madison Valley



Terri Kockler, 10 years  
 Sandi Conrady, 40 years

### **25 years:**

Camille Coughlin, Missoula  
 Charlotte Iverson, Missoula  
 Linda Sinerius, Bitterroot  
 Kathy Miller, Helena  
 Toni Bowen, Madison Valley  
 Pat Hale, Madison Valley



Linda Sinerius - 25 years

### **30 years:**

Linda Palmer, Deer Lodge  
 JoAnn Fox-Moreau, Laurel  
 Patti Mocabee, Ronan

### **35 years:**

Donna Albers, Ft. Benton

### **40 years:**

Pat Brunner, Forsyth  
 Sandi Conrady, Helena  
 Fran O'Shea, Miles City

### **45 years:**

Jean Carroll Thompson, Laurel  
 Virginia Black, Madison Valley  
 Adina Fox, Ronan

### **55 years:**

Dixie Hertel, Moore  
 Eileen Stone, Thompson Falls



Toni Scully,  
10 years





### ***In Memorium***

Shirley Dezell  
 Nancy Grismer  
 Penny Keegan  
 Virginia Melicher  
 Mary Nordenstrom  
 Maryann O'Connor  
 Jean Pattelle  
 Mabel Pyle  
 Wilma Rasmussen  
 Doris Roots  
 Lois Saier  
 Martha Scudder  
 Mignon Waterman  
 LaVerne Yuhas

## ***Remembering Our Sisters in Service***

At each GFWC of Montana convention, a time is set aside to remember those women in our ranks who have served faithfully, and passed on into the next life. This year the memorial theme was *Over the Rainbow*.

Rainbows are a symbol of hope in every culture that mentions them. One message contained within the rainbow is that of crossing a bridge, going through a portal or embarking on a journey. Rainbows speak directly to our hearts and souls, filling us with awe and energies of liquid love pouring all around us.

Each of the women who were honored at the 2018 convention has been a rainbow of service during her lifetime. Representatives from each club that lost a member in the last biennium were invited to place a small rainbow card on the table and tell a little about their deceased one.

An interesting thing about rainbows is that those brilliant colors exist all the time in those white or grey clouds in the sky. It is only special circumstances when they are refracted so we can see them. As with the rainbow colors hidden in the every day clouds, may we know that the good these rainbow women did will remain with the world, even while their names and faces may remain hidden from us.

### ***And the Award Goes to . . . . .***

***GFWC of  
 Thompson Falls!***

**W**hy should Karen Gufstavsén be so amazed when Sandi Conrady presents the Education award for Thompson Falls' RIF program? Below, see what they did to earn it.

As part of the club sponsored Reading is Fundamental Program for the 65 students of the 5th and 6th grades, a visit from two members of the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department was hosted. Each student was given a copy of the fishing regulations and a lesson on how to read, use, and understand the booklet. Then they divided into groups of 5-6 and were given a worksheet to practice what they had been taught. Twelve dozen Ginger Snap Cookies baked by a member were sent after the program to each class for the children to enjoy along with a note saying "When you read, life 'snaps' into place."



*Our website address: check it out!  
 www.gfwcmontana.org*

# Billings Juniors Haul in Awards

## 2016 Communication and Public Relations

The official Holiday Season in Billings begins with the Holiday Parade, and Billings Juniors are a part of it. They worked months ahead of time gathering over 6000 gently used or/and new books. Each book had a BJWC nameplate attached and then a Dr. Seuss bookmark placed inside it. Books were sorted into two age groups and boxed to await the float. 5000+ excited children received a book, a bookmark and a bit of happiness from members and friends who walked the two-mile parade route. and earned the “Best of the best floats!” Imagine the multitude of people who were introduced to GFWC Billings Junior Woman’s Club when the local TV station broadcast and rebroadcast images of the parade.

## 2016 Membership

Instead of meetings in the summer, BJWC sponsors a *Summer University*. Some events are for pure enjoyment, others are to learn a new skill and some are to do volunteer community improvement. Most costs are minimal and are paid by the participants. Any member can plan an event of their choosing. Attendance may be 3-4 or even 15-20. So what events have been popular? Outings to summer concerts, the zoo, the Audubon Center, Tippet Rise and painting centers have all been repeat events. Some summers we have five events and other summers ten events.

The summer of 2018 has multiple outings in the works, i.e. a bus trip to Nearly New in Ennis for the day.

## 2016 Advocates for Children

### CASA

Five of BJWC members are Court Appointed Special Advocates, court appointed to advocate for a child or group of children (1-5) who have been placed into the foster care system. Most often CASAs will see a child in the foster home and/or at school. Monthly reports on the child’s health, education progress, safety, and wishes are prepared and distributed to the attorneys and caseworkers. When caseworkers and attorneys have 50-60 children to be

*continued, next column*



The delegation from Montana’s winning-est club this biennium pose for their picture after the installation ceremony. From left: Marsha Price, Linda Altwine, Marcia Hotchkiss, Florence Diede, Bev Ferguson, and Barbara Hogg.

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## CASA

responsible for at a time, a CASA’s input has proven to be very valuable. Through CASA, one of our members works with the Drug Court, two lead monthly education discussion groups, one is a peer coordinator mentoring 5-6 newer CASAs and one is the past-president of the Board of Directors of Yellowstone CASA.

## 2017 Conservation

This very small group of committee members have made major contributions to conservation through tours and working with youth. BJWC presented 100 Douglas fir seedlings to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and sponsored a speaker who talked about the importance of trees in our environment and taught the students on how to plant and care for a tree.

## 2017 Legislative/Public Policy

One of our members is very active in the local political clubs and thus has a wealth of knowledge that she can distribute. We are updated on legislation and given contact information.

## ***2017 Education***

*Read to Your Bunny* is a program designed by one of our members to teach young parents the importance of reading out loud to young children. Three *Reading Ladies* demonstrate for the parents, provide them with books and even have a quilt drawing for attending. Trainings are held at Young Families (daycare for high school mothers and fathers), Domestic Violence Centers and other places. The Reading Ladies are the readers and presenters of the program.

## ***2017 Domestic Violence Prevention***

BJWC members support Angela's Piazza, a gathering and educating center providing information and assistance in escaping domestic violence relationships. Club members donate materials and attend the Souper Bowl fundraiser. Local potters donate soup bowls for purchase and local eateries donate their best soups for a fun luncheon on Super Bowl Friday.

## ***2017 Advocates for Children***

Youth Service Center

The Ted Lechner Youth Services Center (YSC) provides housing for foster care youth who have struggled finding an appropriate placement. This facility can house up to 14 teenagers from all across Montana. Most attend a local middle or high school but some are digitally connected to their former schools. BJWC has long been a provider of a hygiene tree at Christmas time. The center provides the tree and we cover it with hygiene items; tooth brushes, toothpaste, dental floss, hair ribbons, nail polish, nail clippers, emery boards, socks, mittens, activity books, headphones and even a few stuffed animals. Each good day during December the youth are allowed one item. What is left is kept for use throughout the year. The day of decorating, we bring treats and spend about an hour visiting with the youth.

At the club Christmas party we have a fundraiser for the YSC to use for their outings/activities during the year. We donate \$300 to that fund which covers the cost for chaperones as most often the youth receive complimentary tickets.

Additional funds raised at the club party have been used to update the YSC library. Over the last couple of years, the bookshelves have been replaced and stocked with current popular books and DVD's. These books often venture into resident rooms and enjoyed. The Advocates supplement additional funding for Children club budget.

Just a few days before Christmas, BJWC members and husbands gather at Target to take the YSC residents shopping. Each is provided with an adult and a \$30 gift card to shop for friends, family, themselves or keep. This evening provides a positive interaction between adults and the youth. There are usually about 10-12 youth who will not have a home visit for Christmas.

## ***2017 Arts Program***

Billings Junior Woman's Club Arts Program uses a large portion of their yearly budget to assist area youth in attending summer camps emphasizing the Arts. Scholarships are given to the camp directors to distribute to worthy needy students.

***Thanks to Florence Diede  
for these Billings reports!***

***Congratulations, Miles City!***



Billings Juniors raked in a lot of awards, but not all of them! Above see Dorothy Murnin receiving an International Outreach Award for GFWC Miles City.

*Our website address: check it out!*  
[www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)

## *Friday Night with Miss Montana plus the Fashionistas*



The lovely Miss Montana, Maddie Murray of Corvallis, was guest of honor at Friday's banquet. She charmed the assembly with her speech about sharing our talents. Volunteers stood by large attractively wrapped gift boxes while Maddie began her speech. She asked them to pick up their boxes and give them away. All but one (pre-arranged) did that. She then replaced all the given away boxes and invited the volunteers to open their gifts. As planned, the box not given away turned out to be empty.



***One of the very fun features*** of the Convention was the fashion show of clothing constructed entirely of reusable shopping bags, as per the challenge put out at last fall's state meeting. Madison Valley, Helena, Big Timber, Bitterroot and Thompson Falls participated, coming up with an amazing variety of apparel. Pictured at left: Madison Valley Flapper Toni Scully, Helena Fashionista Joyce DeCunzo, Miss Montana, Gardening Queen Roberta Burress, modeling the Big Timber Creation, Bitterroot Potpourri Queen Linda Sinerius, and Thompson Falls Superwoman Karen Gustavsen. The assembly voted to send the Potpourri costume on to the national costume contest.



Pink Troy, our most entertaining waiter



Our website: check it out! [www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)

## *The Closing Evening - A Gala Banquet*



*And a Solemn Ceremony*



GFWC International President, Sheila Shea, calls the old and new officers to the front of the room



Sheila presents a rose to new president Joyce DeCunzo



New President Joyce gets pinned by Immediate Past President, Joyce.



Joyce D pins Joyce Hooper with a Past President's pin.



Sheila honors Present and Past Presidents: Joyce D, Joyce H, Joyce R, Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Cheryl Martin, Adina Fox, Dixie Hertel, Sandi Conrady

*And then the Foolishness begins*



*Joyce is welcomed into the society of Tired Old Past Presidents*





Enjoying a moment with friends before Friday Night's Dinner - Cathy McCormick, Marsha Price, Shirley Weisberger, Cheryl Martin, Sheila Shea, Joyce Hooper, Dorothy Murnin, Marsha Hotchkiss, Linda Altwine

## Potpourri of Pix



*By George, we've done it!*  
Joyce and Sandi celebrate with a goofy pose



Marion Hertel, official pianist



Toni Engle, of Madison Valley, tells about an award.



Dixie Hertel has been a GFWC member for 55 years! And she's still active. What a gal!



Immediate Past President, with her delegation: Margaret Sharp, Cathy McCormick, Carole Steigerwalt, Joyce Hooper, Karen Hoyt, Pat Tibbs, Linda Sinerius, Linda Stephani



The Helena Delegation pose with the new President: Stephanie Conrady, Terry Kockler, Bobbi Conrady, Joyce DeCunzo, Sandi Conrady, Marsha Baumeister, Beth Campbell, Linda Peterson



These four women in purple didn't really coordinate their banquet apparel! Sheila Shea, Toni Scully, Sandi Conrady and Adina Fox



Lynn Foreman attracted a good sized delegation of supporters from Madison Valley! Pictured above: Kim Montag, Sue Sherrard, Toni Scully, Connie Ellerman, Terry Engel, Sandra Perez, Robyn Bechtold, and Lynn



The 2018 - 2020 Executive Board: Corresponding Secretary Lori Hardy, Treasurer Karen Gufstavsven, Secretary Marsha Hotchkiss, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lynn Foreman, President Elect Florence Diede, and New President Joyce DeCunzo