

the Montana Woman



Soar with Eagles
2016 - 2018



Spring, 2017
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On the cover ~

Sunset in Glacier Park, photo by Joyce Hooper's Granddaughter

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Clubhouse of Note



Did you know that Montana houses the oldest continuously occupied GFWC Clubhouse in the United States? It's in Deer Lodge, and you can read about it on page 6.

Another interesting clubhouse, pictured above, is in Missoula. Its story is on page 6 as well.

In an earlier issue, there was a story about the clubhouse at Moore. What other clubhouses are there in the state? If your club owns and uses one, send us pictures and information so it can be featured in a future article.



*Let's Make it a
Date!*

GFWC International Convention -
Palm Springs, California
June 24-26, 2017

**Western States Region Conference
and Montana State Fall Meeting**
Radisson - Helena, MT September
8-10, 2017

**GFWC Montana Biennial
Convention**
Great Northern - Helena, MT April
20-22, 2018

GFWC International Convention
St. Louis, MO
June 23-26, 2018

***T**here are basically two
kinds of people in the
world:
Those who finish what they
start, and*

The Montana Woman

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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***Montana Hope Raffle Is On-going!
someone will win
a day trip down the Bitterroot River
with two nights lodging!***



Someone else will win this beautiful quilt!

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

From the President



Hi Ladies,

Spring is here, trees have leaves, flowers blooming, birds singing, eagles flying and lawns to be mowed under the “blue” Montana sky.

It has been an awesome April for me. I was so excited to attend your District meetings. I started out

by driving to Ennis and attending Madison Valley’s club meeting. The following day we were able to purchase items at the “Nearly New Store”. The Central District meeting was on Saturday, April 8th with an enjoyable “Vintage” fashion show using clothing from the Nearly New Shop. We made it home just in time to miss a spring snow storm.

On April 22 it was off again to Billings for the Eastern District meeting. It was another enjoyable meeting. Their speaker was an FBI Agent who spoke on human trafficking. They also had humorous workshops on successful club meetings, reports and membership development.

April 29th, it was off again to Polson and to the Western District meeting. They had a spring theme with green table cloths and beautiful flower arrangements. A fun filled skit was presented by Ronan Woman’s Club about those phone party lines we had years ago. It was

all about how a message can change from one person to another.

Thank you to all three Districts for your continued support and outstanding volunteering to GFWC Montana.

During the month I attended Deer Lodge and Missoula club meetings. While in Deer Lodge, they opened their “New to You” shop for Nick and me. What an outstanding job they have done.

It has been a busy month for me but what a rewarding one. I was able to see GFWC Montana in action throughout the state. We are volunteers in action and all of you are awesome.

We have many events awaiting us throughout 2017. The GFWC International Convention in Palm Springs is coming up the later part of June and I am looking forward to being with our GFWC Montana attendees. Clear your calendars get ready for Montana hosting the Western States Region Conference September 6 through the 8th in Helena. We will need your continued help to make this event a successful one. When I have asked, you have answered and I know GFWC Montana will continue to be volunteers in action.

Until September, enjoy your summer and the precious times you have with family and friends.

Yours in federation,
Joyce

“Living the Volunteer Spirit”



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

The Good of the Order

Benefits Of Membership

How's your membership drive going? We all have another year to work on meeting our 20% growth goal for this administration. It takes work and determination to both sustain our current members and to reach out and gather new members.

At this time of year, when we are asking people to pay their dues, we sometimes lose members rather than gain them. People move, their interests change, they become unable to participate. It's sad to see these women leave the group. It does, however, provide an opportunity for each member to reflect on why she belongs to the club.

Think out loud to yourself - what brought you to club work, what keeps you here, where do you want to go in the coming year? Write these thoughts down. Now when you talk to women about why you want them to join, you have a ready-made "elevator speech". Your enthusiasm is the most convincing tool you have for recruitment!

In addition to your very own reasons, here are benefits listed in the GFWC manual. Feel free to use these as well.

- *Contribute to the quality of life in your neighborhood and community
- *Gain a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction in doing good
- *Participate in interesting, informative, and inspiring programs
- *Explore and sharpen skills that can lead to professional advancement
- *Expand your network of contacts - professional and personal
- *Build Lifelong friendships
- *Have Fun!

Joyce DeCunzo, President Elect

GFWC Montana is proud to present the 2017 LEADS candidate, Margaret Storoy, of Plains Woman's Club



Dues Are due Soon

Club treasurers and presidents, did you get it?

For most of you it came as an email; some got it in the mail. What was this important communication? Why the annual GFWC of Montana dues notice, of course!

The cover letter and form give all the directions. You need to mail the completed dues form, three (3) copies of the club's current membership list, three (3) copies of a list of recently dropped members, and a club check payable to GFWC MT for \$22 per member to the state treasurer, Karen Gustavsen, by July 1st. To save you printing and postage, there is a new option of emailing the dues form and membership lists to the state treasurer and only needing to mail the check to her.

Questions or need another copy of the form? Contact Karen by email or phone.

[609 471 0476 (cell), karengus@verizon.net]

This information is in the Contact Book distributed to club presidents at State Fall Meeting in September 2016

Karen Gustavsen, Treasurer

Help Wanted for Fall Meeting



The country store needs Montana made art or craft items (homemade preferred); these items should be easily packable into suitcases, as many members will be flying here. Food products need to be vacuum packed. Members

should price their own products. These items will be sold at a 1/2 price sale at the end of convention, so if the member does not want to sell at that price please let me know when they bring the items in.

GFWC Montana will receive 60% of the sales to help fund the convention. Also, I need helpers to staff the store - it will be open before meetings, at breaks and after meetings. If you want to help you can email me at marshh48@gmail.com. I will contact you in September to set up a schedule for everyone.

Marsha Hotchkiss, Fundraising Chair

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

Central District Goes on Spring Break



SPRING BREAK was the theme and attendees were welcomed with sand buckets, lip gloss and sunglasses!

President Toni Scully called the GFWC MT CentraDistrict to order Saturday April 8, 2017 at the Ennis senior center. Presentation of the Flag was provided by Kim Montag and Mary Sedwick carrying a very large antique flag with 48 stars. Lynn Foreman provided an inspiring/humorous Thought for the Day with the word "UP".

GFWC of MT President Joyce Hooper gave the State President's Message and Karen Gustavsen, GFWC of MT Treasurer, provided an update on the Montana Hope President's Special Project. Madison Valley Womans Club surprised President Joyce with a gift of \$2,500 towards the Montana Hope Project.

Adina Fox presented Past State President pins to Vurnie Kaye Barnett and Nancy Hanford.

Attendees were treated to a fashion show given by The Nearly New Shoppe's Vintage Attic. Attic chairman, Barbara Blomeley, kicked off the show in her jeweled denim jacket and introduced the models who represented 8 different eras. Each model described her outfit

The Silent Auction raised a total of \$512.00.

Contributed by Lynn Foreman and Toni Sculley



A Vintage Fashion Show



Shirley Storey

Vintage Model Closeups



Susan Phillips



Janet Allestad



Lynn Leeming, President of the Madison Valley Club, gets a certificate from Joyce.

Our website address: check it out!

www.gfwcmontana.org

Eastern District Hosts an Educational Convention



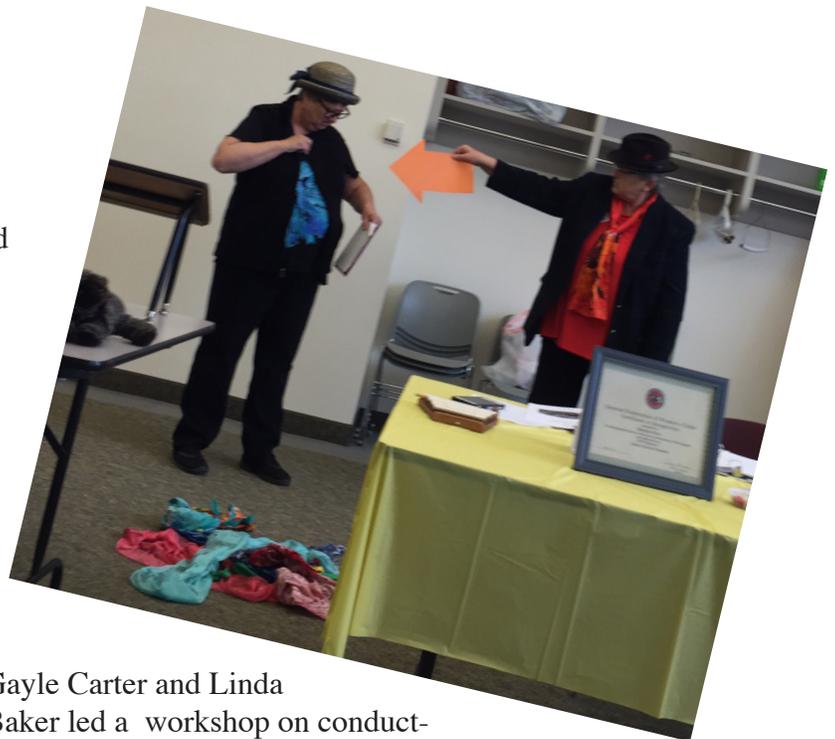
Above, President Marsha and the FBI special agent, Brandon Walter, who spoke on human trafficking.



Eastern Officers listen intently to the keynote speaker



Florence Diede conducted a workshop on “dreaded” reports and record keeping



Gayle Carter and Linda Baker led a workshop on conducting successful club meetings



Club reports to the Western District focused on the history of each of the clubs, all of which are close to a hundred years old, some over that age and some nearly there. Some clubs reported on their entire history, while others focused on one particular project in their past. GFWC Ronan told about visits from Jeanette Rankin, establishment of the public library, and the effort to support opening St. Luke Hospital. Thompson Falls reported on the establishment of the city library. Plains reported on preservation of the first school house in their area. The report from Deer Lodge was so interesting that it can be found in a separate story (see page 6).

After a luncheon featuring old time recipes, the group was entertained with a hilarious skit featuring six women on a party line turning a simple report into a scandalous story.



Fund Raising Chairman Sandi Lane, (standing, wearing a white shirt) draws a winning ticket for a quilt



Plains member, Anita Mitchell, looks through one of the club scrapbooks on display.



Lucky winner in the drawing, Shirley Thompson of Plains Woman's Club delightfully shows her prize



Left: Officers pose for an official portrait. Margaret Storoy, Debbi Kirschbaum, Debbie Heckman, Renee Seiben. Seated is Michele Furry.

At right, the cast of the skit portraying a small story becoming a large scandal.



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

Celebrating Club Houses

In Deer Lodge, the oldest continuously occupied GFWC Clubhouse in the United States - 107 years old!



Today, the Deer Lodge Woman's Club is 107 years old and has 65 members. We meet once a month with our board meeting at 10 and club meeting at 11 a.m. Our New To You store provides Community Service as a fundraiser for continued civic projects. \$30,000 a year goes back the community. Projects include maintenance of the clubhouse, scholarships, food pantry, Senior Center, Search and Rescue, Council on Aging, Rialto Theater, etc. The shop involves over 20 hardworking volunteers. With new members on board we hope to continue serving others!

Founder of the Deer Lodge club was Alma Higgins – aunt of current Deer Lodge member, Betty Hoffmann. She was given state recognition as the *Christmas Tree Lady*, since she was responsible for the first Christmas tree planted on the White House lawn in Washington D.C., in 1924. It still stands there today.

Alma loved to learn, and at age 16, in 1890 while growing up in Deer Lodge she organized the Deer Lodge Woman's League for Civic Improvement. She and club members sold magazines for 20 years and raised enough money to build our current clubhouse. It is the first and only one in the United States owned by a Woman's Club, still open, and still active.

Mary Ann Fraley

There's More Than One Way to achieve a Clubhouse!

GFWC Missoula's For Example. . .

GFWC Missoula got their club house in an interesting way. The women had saved money toward a building of their own for a period of 30 years, but finally, in 1935, decided they could not afford to maintain a building, and voted to give their accumulated \$18,000 to the University for an art museum, with rooms for the club, provided that the University take responsibility for upkeep.

The new building, which was completed at a cost of \$34,000, \$18,000 from the women and the remaining from a Federal Grant, was to hold an art museum, a small theater, with a seating capacity of 300 to 400, and three other rooms.

The stage still exists, but is now piled high with all the custodian's "stuff." In the 1950s 1/2 of the building was the planetarium. As the campus grew, UM needed more office space, so the planetarium was removed and the Alumni Association moved in. They had movable walls and stayed for several years. When they needed more space, they were replaced by the International Programs office. They have some conference rooms, a lounge area and offices and are still there.

Through all of these changes, our club still occupies half of the building. UM provides all custodial services and maintenance, at no cost to us. We have a large meeting room that can be divided into two spaces. It is furnished with a baby grand piano, antique sofas and chairs and a lot of original art work. There is a kitchen stocked with two sets of dishes, coffee pots, silverware, silver services, etc. We also have a locked storage room and well as two closets. And, when we need them, we have a supply of card tables and matching chairs. All of this was part of the original deal with the government when the building was first constructed on a college campus.

Rae Proctor



Club News

Forsyth Woman's Club, at 103



The Forsyth Woman's Club has been serving the Forsyth Community since 1914. There are currently 18 members ranging from 55 to 92. Our average age is 70 years young.

Our club is very proud to be of service to our community through a variety of projects. In the past years we have established the Rosebud County Library, established Marcy's park, supplied upkeep for the Alexander-Pioneer Park Gazebo, contributed to the Bob Watts Mural at MacConnel Memorial Park, sponsor the HOBY delegate, help with the food pantry, provided flowers to beautify the hospital addition and many more.

This last year we have replaced roses in the rose garden at the library, helped fund the new basketball court at Marcys park, replaced ten tables at the library community room. We also donated money to purchase 5 Jet Boil stoves for the Rosebud County wild land fire-fighters to enable them to have hot meals while on extended stays fighting fires.

Each year we are proud to help out our young people with a scholarship to a college bound senior, and to support Shakespeare in the Park. We enjoy providing the Children's Christmas Store and the Craft-A-Ramma for our fund-raisers. This year we are also trying a fund-raiser rummage sale in June.

Our officers are Lena Dresbach- President, Pam Witmer-Vice President, Dixie Cozzens-Secretary, Karen Weamer-Treasurer. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 7:00 in the Rosebud County Library basement. (Sept- May)

submitted by Lena Dresbach

East Glacier Community Hall/Library Gets Facelift

The Glacier Park Women's Club announces that after several years of hard work in the planning and fund raising stages, the East Glacier Community Hall/Library is getting a facelift by Garth Stewart of Glacier Country Construction. Work started in June and the final stages of log work should be completed by week's end.

What is being done:

Rotten sill and gable logs replaced; building leveled; rotten log ends replaced; new cedar shakes on the back of the building; 2 new exterior doors installed; support posts replaced in the basement; logs cleaned by soda blasting process; logs stained.

Funded by:

*Early last year an anonymous donor gave approx 1/3 of the cost to the Women's Club.

*This was matched by Women's Club funds which are generated by hall rental fees and a monthly stipend from Glacier County to house and operate the library (branch of Glacier County Library).

*The final approximate 1/3 of the cost is donated in the form of labor by Garth Stewart and Randi Biskupiak of Cut Bank.

Most of the labor for these projects as well as the day to day cleaning and maintenance is donated by club members and others who care about the building. Materials are paid from the club budget.

The Women's Club invites anyone to come to monthly meetings and help us keep this vital piece of the East Glacier Community open, warm and inviting for us all to use.

Submitted by Michelle Petersen



Our website address: check it out!

www.gfwcmontana.org

The Way to a Club's Budget Is Sometimes Through The Public's Stomach!

At the Helena Vintage Market

GFWC Helena raises a good deal of money providing concessions for several events in Helena,. The picture below is from the April Vintage Market, where the club made over \$1100.

They served people on Friday night and all day Saturday. The menu consisted of grilled chicken salads, chicken salad wraps, hot dogs, saucy balls, tons of homemade desserts such as pies, cakes, bars, cookies, beverages.

Pictured are: from left to right, Deb Larson, Terry Kockler, Beth Campbell (sitting) and standing are: from left to right Kyla Rigby, Anna Hoffman, Bobbie Conrady.



Pictured at left are some of the desserts the Helena Club made and sold at Vintage Market. Pies are always best sellers; they sold almost all their pies on the Friday night opening as whole pies! One of their members, Beth Campbell, went home and made another 4 pies late at night, so they would have more to sell on Saturday.

At the Plains Turkey Banquet

A major fund raiser for Plains is catering a banquet for members of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

At left, club members prepare food for the feast. Head cook Terri Henry carves the meat. Lores Porter, Margaret Storoy, and Shirley King, left side; on the right side, Joy Nelson and Adrienne Galinat prepare plates.



The picture at right, although it involves food, isn't a fund raiser. It's Janice Bailey, Barbara Plakke, and Linda Stephani of the Bitterroot club preparing cookie plates for Valentine treats to give to care centers, the home bound, and the fire departments in the Bitterroot.



Madison Valley Meets Membership Goal

Pictured at left is a GFWC Madison Valley group, at the home of Club President Lynn Leeming, celebrating their having met the goal of 20 new members! See our “20” in the first row?

Submitted by ToniScully

GFWC Billings Juniors, At Your Service!

GFWC Billings Junior Woman’s Club members and a guest joined 120 other volunteers and 475 Billings fourth-graders in an Arbor Day celebration at Veterans Park, Thursday, May 4th.

Beautification and landscaping projects were completed by the volunteers while the students participated in over 20 hands-on activities.

In appreciation of their donation to help sponsor this event, volunteers received a event T-shirt and lunch.

Pictured on the right - members and guest from left to right - Karin Green, Ann (guest), Rena Bucher, Bev Silkwood and Cheri Dale

contributed by Gayle Carter



Reading to children is one of GFWC Billings Junior Woman’s Club literacy goals. Sylvia Jensen and Mary Huffmaster, also known as the *Book Ladies*, read *Corduroy*, by Don Freeman, to 37 preschool and kindergarten students, and *Paddington*, by Michael Bond to 19 first and second grade students at Friendship House. Each child received a *Corduroy* or *Paddington* bear with his or her book. Marmalade cookies were an additional treat for the first and second graders. A comment from a kindergarten student, “Do we get to keep them?”

contributed by Gayle Carter

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

Opportunities for Young and Old

DPHHS Wants to Hear from Montana Centenarians

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) wants to honor Montana Centenarians at the 49th annual Governor's Conference on Aging this September in Kalispell and Glendive. The Centenarians will be honored at noon luncheons on the first day of each conference.

DPHHS is asking Montanans who will turn age 100 as of December 31, 2017 or those who are already over the age of 100 to submit their name and a brief profile. All Centenarians who submit information will receive a recognition proclamation from Governor Steve Bullock.

Centenarians, or friends or family members, are encouraged to supply DPHHS with the following information by August 1, 2017 so they can be recognized.

(NOTE: The first five items are required in order to receive a certificate.)

1. Centenarian's Name.
2. Contact person (who to send certificate to).
3. Contact person's phone number and email address
4. Mailing address (where to send the certificate)
5. Birth date of Centenarian.
6. Are they a World War II Veteran?
7. Where were they born?
8. If not born in Montana, what is their story on how they got to Montana?
9. What is the secret to their longevity?
10. What has been the most amazing event in their life that they would like to share?
11. What is their favorite quote?
12. Anything else they would like us to know about the centenarian?
13. If planning to attend either of the centenarian luncheons, please provide a picture of the centenarian when you send in the information above.

Please send Centenarian information to:
Governor's Conference on Aging-Centenarians
DPHHS-SLTC
P.O. Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210

Or email jstoeckel@mt.gov

Or submit your information online at Montana Centenarian's Program or <http://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/aging/centenarians>.

Western District Scholarship

The western District scholarship is open to any woman living in the Western District area who is entering her 2nd year or higher studies. She may be enrolled in any institute of higher education in Montana including technical programs, two year schools, or four year schools, whether studying online or on campus.

With proof of enrollment, the award will be sent directly to the school on the selected student's behalf to be used for tuition or supplies as needed.

A scholarship committee consisting of a Chairman appointed by the Western District President and 3 additional club-women of the district shall conduct the blind selection of the recipient.

The scholarship will be posted on the GFWC of Montana website and distributed by the Scholarship Committee chairman to institutions and high schools within the district. Clubs of the district are asked to contact past applicants to their own club's scholarship offerings, encouraging them to apply for this district scholarship.

The application will include a minimum GPA restriction with proof from the institution, letters from two references excluding immediate family members, and a one page essay outlining the student's educational goals, financial need, personal situation, and any additional information they feel the committee should know.

This scholarship is funded by a \$60 per year assessment to the clubs of the district, with clubs of less than 7 members being assessed \$15 per year. Any shortfall of funds collected in any given year to equal the \$500 of the award, will be taken from the District's funds dedicated in the past towards the scholarship.

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