

# the Montana Woman



*Soar with Eagles*  
2016 - 2018



*2016 Fall Board Meeting:  
GFWC Caring about the  
world*



*Enjoying one  
another*



**Autumn, 2016**  
Volume 55  
Issue 2

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## *On the cover ~*

Featured speaker, Montana Highway Trooper,

Jeremiah Snider at Conference luncheon

Sandi Conradi in promo tee shirt

Debbie Heckman and Linda Sinerius in a goofy moment

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Note this Change!

If you have stored Vurnie Kaye's home phone number in your system and that's the way you usually contact her, please note that she has dropped that home phone service, and is now only reachable by her cell phone.



Our fearless GFWC leader, posing with Jeanette Rankin

## *The Montana Woman*



*Let's Make it a  
Date!*

### **January 1 to February 28 ~**

Writing Contest entries due to  
GFWC of Montana Writing Contest  
Chairman Jan Beekman

### **February 5 ~**

Reports are due to Florence Diede,  
Dean of Departments & to GFWC of  
Montana President Joyce Hooper

### **March 3 ~**

LEADS applications due to GFWC  
of Montana President Joyce Hooper

### **March 15 ~**

Website, Media Campaign and  
Newsletter Contests – entries due  
(see GFWC Club Manual)

### **April District Conventions - 2017**

Eastern - April 8, 2017  
Central - April 22, 2017  
Western - April 29, 2017

### **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

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

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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## **2016 - 2018 Presidents Special Project:**

### ***Montana Hope Project***

Our GFWC State of Montana President Joyce Hooper's theme for her 2016-2018 administration is "Soar with Eagles". As our local clubs continue to soar with our own projects, I ask for your help with this administration's fund-raising campaign.

Ladies, we need your help with the President's Special Project helping to raise \$10,000 or more for the Montana Hope Project. In 1984 Montana State Troopers started this program to help children living with critical illnesses and those with life-altering medical conditions, granting them "wishes." There are many amazing stories of the children that were "blessed" through the Montana Hope Project. My personal favorite is the story of little Lena and her new hot tub that she uses daily for therapy. Her family would not have the resources to make it happen had it not been for the Montana Hope Project. Lena and many more children have been granted wishes since 1984, all because of this program.

All GFWC Montana club presidents recently received a packet with more information on the Montana Hope Project. Also, club presidents received a book of (20) tickets plus a photo of the quilts. Club members are encouraged to sell the tickets around their communities. The winner of the general drawing will win a choice of (2) custom handmade quilts. The drawing will be held in the summer of 2017. Tickets are \$10.00 each or (3) for \$25.00. Sandi Lane, PO Box 561, Plains, MT 59859. For further questions please contact me at (406) 396-2631 or e-mail: [gh442@yahoo.com](mailto:gh442@yahoo.com).

I look forward to working with all of you in the 2016-2018 administration as your GFWC Montana Presidents Special Project Chairman.

*Sandi Lane*  
**3**

# From the President



Hi Ladies,

Winter is on its way and GFWC Montana had so many rewarding events these past few months.

Your elected board has been working diligently during this time.

Your club presidents are also helping to make the next two

years enjoyable for you.

You have been outstanding and I thank you.

It has truly been a rewarding few months for me. We started the summer by having a retreat which your board members attended in July. We discussed strategy for the next two years. We have exciting things that will be happening in 2016-2018. A few GFWC Montana members were able to attend the GFWC International Convention in Baltimore in June. In August I was off to Arlington, Virginia for a amazing three day trip. Each time I attend, I learn more and more.

In September, we were off to Utah. I cannot tell you how pleased I was to see fifteen GFWC Montana members attend the Western States Region Meeting. We attended presentations and workshops. We were able to enjoy the conversations with GFWC International President, Sheila Shea and GFWC International President Elect, Mary Ann Brock. A special event was when the 15 ladies from Montana gave a galloping invitation to all the 10 Western states to join us on September 8, 2017 in Helena for an enjoyable time in our

Montana. I wish all from Montana could have attended but I know you will make up for it in September 2017.

You did it again at our Fall Meeting. Attendance was super. It was enjoyable to see all of you in Missoula for our Fall Meeting. We had so many rewarding things happen. The chairmen dressed in costumes to give their reports, a fun membership workshop, entertainment was the Five Valleys Chorus, Corvallis High School Speech and Drama Team had Elizabeth Taylor's biography and stand up comics that were funny. At the Saturday luncheon, Montana Highway Trooper, Jeremiah Snider gave a very informative presentation on the "Montana Hope Project." We left the meeting on Saturday with an excellent start on this project "\$3,100!" I am sure with your help we can make our goal of \$10,000. Thanks GFWC Montana!

What are we looking ahead to in 2017? First I need all the Clubs' Chairmen to sit down and start thinking about their reporting. We can do it and with your help we will be able to get awards at the International Convention in Palm Springs, 2017. Secondly keep inviting new members to reach our 20% membership increase. Let's continue to soar with the eagles and fly high. Have fun, get to our goals and enjoy the upcoming 2017. We have only just begun but we are "Volunteers in Action."

I am looking forward to 2017 and your District Meetings in the Spring. Until then, have a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed and joyful Christmas. I hope the New Year brings you good health, joy and happiness.

Your Federation Sister,  
*Joyce Hooper*  
President,  
GFWC Montana  
[www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)



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

# Fifteen Wonderful Women Attended the Western Regional Conference



Back: Joyce Rogers, Barbara Hogg, Bobbi Conrady, Adina Fox, Florence Diede, Marsha Hotchkiss, Nancy Hanford, Karen Gustavson, Cathy McCormick, Cheryl Martin, Anne Loveless.  
Front: Dorothy Murnin, Beth Campbell, Joyce Hooper, Sandi Conrady.

## Highlights of WSR Conference

1. 148 attended, with California having the most, at 25.
2. MT fundraising workshop - most unique - Mad Hatter Tea Party.
3. International GFWC President Sheila Shea presented a power point on the GFWC website, regarding topics available and where to find them and how to use them. She encourages you all go to this site, where there is a wealth of information. GFWC.ORG.
4. Presentation on Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. The majority of rape victims are intimate former or present partners. Rape is on the rise at college campuses. Utah GFWC provides new clothing including under garments, to hospitals for rape victims, as their clothing is taken by law enforcement for investigation purposes.
5. Presentation by *Everytown for Gun Safety* national representative. Its mission is gun control for keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals, the violent offenders. Forty-six women are killed by guns every month by former or current partners alone.
6. There was a presentation on the Constitution and the Law.

Finally: Tours! – Park City and City. One highlight was the Olympic Freestyle and Family Center. Also a night listening to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



Sandi Conradi, Cathy McCormick, Beth Campbell, and Barbara Hogg help with a Fundraising Workshop

Montana Cowgirls prepare to ride their horses in to the assembly in order to invite them to the next WSR conference, in Helena, 2017.



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

# GFWC of Montana Fall Board Meeting

## September 23-24



### Reports, Reports!

#### *Cathy Henry re- ports on Interna- tional Outreach*

How far are you willing to step out of your comfort zone? In the past GFWC has stepped up to the plate with sharing not only funds, but also man (oops) I mean woman hours. And we are still carrying the flag. How can your club make the global impact?

#### GFWC Partnerships

- (1) Heifer International
- (2) Operation Smile
- (3) Shot at Life
- (4) UNICEF:

This newest partnership, with UNICEF, focuses on the End Trafficking Project, to focus attention on child trafficking.

#### *Arts Community Service Program, by Lynn Foreman*

##### *Suggestions for projects*

“Hire” student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events.

Host an art supply drive in your club. Contact the local school or community center to see what is needed.

Host a fund raiser to purchase large pieces of equipment for your local school or community center.

Attend public art displays, plays and concerts as part of social events for your club.

Use member art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, club booklets, etc.

Sponsor ads in local theater or school theater play-bills.

Establish scholarships for students studying the arts, such as literature, drama, or music. This could be used to attend an arts school summer program.

Sponsor Youth Art Month activities in your communities in March.

Establish awards that acknowledge the artistic achievements of club and community members.

*GFWC Montana’s annual Fall Board Meeting is the time when club women from all around the state gather to share plans for carrying out the work of the Federation. Ideas are shared, projects are promoted, enthusiasm is stoked for the work of the federation.*

*The conference isn’t all work and no play, however. Banquets with entertainment, a hands on project, and several very goofy costumes gave us an air of relaxed camaraderie.*

*On this and the following pages you’ll see pictures of the work and the play, and excerpts from reports. Maybe next time you’ll be able to come join the fun!*

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#### *PR with Nancy Hanford*

Dressed as Fannie, the new lunch lady at school, Nancy Hanford began with an, “Oh goodness, I should have gone over the *who what when and why* of the day’s presentation!” Nancy, Communications and Public Relations Chair, concluded her report with, “Deciding how to do all this ‘communicating and relating’ is like my lunchroom picture. Instead of being rigid and only doing things the way we always have, we need to sample a little bit of everything so that we can find out whether we like it or not, whether it works or not.”

#### *Home Life*

*Marsha Hotchkiss, Chairman*

“The Home Life Community Service Program is designed to inform members of issues that affect the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Program ideas are numerous, and can include: Women’s Health, Theft Prevention, Service Dog Programs, People with Disabilities, Healthy Lifestyles, Childcare.

As a retired nurse I would encourage all of our clubs to become more involved in helping educate others on women’s health issues, particularly gynecologic cancers.”

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

## Photographers of Note



The photography contest report was wonderfully goofy. Chairman Michelle McConnaha could not be there but asked Karen Hoyt, Bitterroot President, to read her presentation. Before the report, three other Bitterroot members infiltrated the audience “taking pictures” with their large cardboard cameras. Left to right, the team was Barbara Plakke, Janice Bailey, Karen Hoyt, and Linda Sinerius.

Members are invited to enter their photographs in this annual contest. Perhaps it would be best to use real cameras.



## A Dozen Club Presidents, All in a Row



**Jan Beckman**, writing contest chair, urges clubs to get kids started at writing prose and poetry by sponsoring the annual short story and poetry contest. Entries are due at the end of February. There’s still time!

**Janis Bailey**, Conservation Chair, says, “Did you know: That with only 700-800 grocery bags you can crochet marvelous mats, or blankets for the homeless?”

See more of her report at right.



Our website address: check it out!

[www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)

## Conservation, Conservation

**Did you know:** that there are three days set aside for conservation awareness: Arbor Day, Earth Day, and America Recycles Day?

**Did you know:** On Arbor Day that kids and adults can learn how trees can reduce global warming, increase oxygen, beautify our world, and clean up water ways? How about getting involved with re-forestation after forest fires?

**Did you know:** Beautification can be planting flowers and shrubs – in parks, hospitals, shelters, cemeteries, Main Street. What about giving recognition to individuals and businesses through a “Garden of the Month” program?

**Did you Know:** Animal lovers can get involved in preservation of natural habitats, provide local shelters for sick and injured animals.

**Did You Know:** One club in Iowa helped kids and young adults study nature by providing back packs to the library to be checked out for outdoor exploration? These had various themes, like birds, bugs, butterflies, spiders, and reptiles. In the back packs were needed supplies: coloring books, crayons, magnifying glasses, toys, stickers, measuring tapes, binoculars and activity suggestions. How about one for Pond Ecology? Or What can you learn on a camping trip? Or your own back yard!



The Five Valley Chorus, a group of Missoula area women with wonderful voices, sang an a-cappella concert at Friday evening's dinner.



## Women's History Project

*Bonnie Connor*

What are you doing in your club to preserve your history? When researching early records of Big Timber Woman's Club, I found out that our club initially got its start in 1894 when the territorial governor promoted

the forming of groups to study wild flowers and trees in Montana.

The Big Timber group was called the Cactus Club, not because the founders were prickly, but because Mrs. Busha, a charter member, went across the Yellowstone River on the ferry with a sharp knife and pail to gather cactus blossoms for the group's meeting. Later this group organized into the Chautauqua Study Club, started by "Mrs. Taylor" from New York, who was trying to bring a little culture from the East to this tiny town in the West. The men's group developed into the Fortnightly Club, while the women's group developed into the present Woman's Club. Both study groups joined to start a library in this frontier town.

This is a little about my club, but your club's history is valuable to your community and to GFWC. The Women's History and Resource Center can help you preserve your club's archives, record the oral history of long time members, and write an engaging historical narrative. They can help you develop programs using GFWC history to promote interest and membership. Reviewing your club's history through photos, news articles and power point presentations is a great way to

start your club year and stimulate interest in community service activities. This year our club has elected a historian, to present interesting facts about our history. We have a lot of new members who are not aware of the volunteer work that our members have been involved in over the years. We need to be proud of our efforts to improve our communities.

## Public Issues

*Carol Peterson*



We already have a good start. We have sent several students to Girl's State and Boy's State. We have participated in Memorial Day parades, voted in elections, worked at the polls, helped people get to the polls. We have helped fire departments earn money. We have helped create bike paths, we have written grants for signs and crosswalks, we have worked with the road departments to make safer routes. We have provided

CPR training and baby sitting training. We have helped victims of forest fires and floods. We have been crosswalk guards. We have sponsored no-alcohol graduation parties and prom dinners. We have helped with the VA hospital and outpatient clinics. We have transported veterans to medical appointments, brought them food, and helped clean their homes. Now it is your job to send the reports with what you have done, and the hours to me so I can pick out the most creative project. Good Luck!

*Our website address: check it out!*

[www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)

## Grow Your Membership –

## and Have Fun Doing It!

“In order to carry a positive action we must develop a positive vision.” *Dalai Lama*

At our Fall meeting, clubs were challenged to grow their membership by 20%. That’s a great idea. We have all talked about the need to gain more members – the more members we have, the more good work we can do. But, what happens when we leave the meeting and go our separate ways? Too often, we get busy with our lives and just don’t take any positive actions to accomplish our goals.

If you attended the Fall meeting, then you participated in our workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a goal for membership growth. It included the development of a membership goal paddle for clubs to use at every meeting – to provide a visual reminder for membership growth. As you can see by the picture, we had a lot of fun putting together our goal paddles. I hope you are all using them at every meeting. I would love to hear from you about your progress. In Helena, we had a goal of 5 new members for this year, and have gotten 2 so far. We plan to have each new member attach a star to our goal paddle; hopefully it will be overloaded soon!

For those members who were not in attendance, I’m sorry you missed out on the fun. However, you too can develop a vision of growing your membership by 20%. Here’s the simple action plan:

1. Develop a visual reminder that you can display at every meeting – be sure to include the number of new members you need to get.
2. Talk about ways to reach your 20% increase.
3. Write down your plans for action and follow them – be specific.
4. Review your progress at every meeting.

Your positive vision is crucial. Develop it, massage it and then revel in your accomplishments!

*by Joyce DeCunzo, Membership Chair*



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



*As you can see by the picture, we had a lot of fun putting together our goal paddles. I hope you are all using them at every meeting.*



*At work on their club’s goal paddles*

*Above: Sandi Conradi, Cathy Henry, and Dixie Hertel  
Below: Marion Hertel and Karen Gustavson*



## GFWC MT Jennie Award 2016-2018

Do you have someone in your club who has an outstanding record of success and achievement as a volunteer and leader; is she committed, kind, loyal, and positive in club work? Has she shown a commitment to her community beyond her club work? Is she committed to family and the well-being of others? I am positive that all our Montana Clubs have a Jennie or two. Your Jennie needs to be honored.

The Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual GFWC members for personal excellence at the club, state, region, and international level. After state judging, the winner is submitted to their region and each region selects two finalists whose applications are forwarded to GFWC International. One club woman from each region will be selected for national recognition at the 2018 Convention in St. Louis, Missouri as a Jennie Award honoree.

### Award rules:

\* Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined in the Judging Criteria.

\*Nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club(s) for 5 years. Years of service must be consecutive.

\*Nominations should emphasize the member's en-

tire lifetime of service.

\*Clubs must submit a completed official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form and a maximum 500-word written narrative. Narrative should include a description of the nominee's club activities, participation in other groups both volunteer and professional, and her commitment to her extended family.

\*Clubs should also submit a photo of nominee (no larger than 5x7), Clips of 2-3 media stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (her name does not have to be mentioned), a letter of endorsement from her Club President, and a letter of endorsement from another organization.

Forms, and more details including the Nomination Form, can be found on the [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) website. From the GFWC home page, click on Membership Services; 2016-2018 Club Manual; Awards, Contests and Grants; and finally Jennie Award.

Submitted materials will not be returned. Nomination materials must be received by June 1, 2017, for State judging to:

*Joyce Rogers, Jennie Award Chairman,  
Box 2778, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.*

Questions—Call 406-253-3355 or email:  
[joycerogers@montanasky.net](mailto:joycerogers@montanasky.net)



### *Shot At Life*

Shot at Life Champion Sandi Conrady told the assembly about the importance of that project to protect the youth in our communities.

Champions spearhead the Shot@Life movement and stand up for childhood. Some ways Champions get involved include:

\*Building relationships with members of Congress so they remain committed to supporting global immunization programs.

\* Being an ambassador of Shot@Life and engage your local community.

\*Raising awareness and your voice to help expand access to vaccines worldwide.

### *Two of Several Awards presented by Immediate Past President, Joyce*



*To Karen Lippert, Fort Benton above, for a poetry entry their club won, and to Marsha Hotchkiss, Billings Juniors, at left.*

## Leads

Hello GFWC Montana Club Women,

I would suspect that by now your clubs are busy with all your activities that make your club unique, and a contribution to your community.

Well do you know that with the help of GFWC and the LEADS program you can make even a larger contribution to your community?

If each club would submit a candidate to the LEADS program, Montana Club's would continue to grow and do great things.

The LEADS Attendee does not have to bear the complete expense of going to the International Convention on her own, GFWC offers:

- \*Stipend of \$250

- \*One-half of room charge for two nights at official Convention hotel

- \*Breakfast and lunch during the LEADS program

- \*\$10 Gift Certificate (on purchase of \$15 or more) for the GFWC Annual Convention Marketplace.

Montana gives \$500.00 toward your expenses.

LEADS attendees are expected to be responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment. LEADS participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements and do not have to stay for the whole convention, but I would suggest that you do.

It is highly recommended that each State Federation LEADS candidate meet the following criteria:

- \*Demonstrates leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project or committee chairman

- \*Exhibits a commitment to the Federation

- \*Exhibits an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service, illustrated by programs and projects in which she is or has been involved

- \*Demonstrates leadership skills, including, but not limited to, organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, and flexibility

- \*Exhibits an interest in and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in GFWC

- \*Agrees to share information gained from participation in LEADS with others in the state federation

- \*Understands and accepts potential expenses

involved in participation

- \*Has not held elected positions at or beyond the state level (this criterion is recommended in order to encourage potential leaders at the club level to apply)
- Has not attended a previous LEADS program. Members are eligible to attend only once.

GFWC offers a wide variety of opportunities for us to take a leadership role, BUT the best part is that they also give us the tools and resources to get there.

LEADS, Leadership, Education and Development Seminar is a very important part of this, everyone that has attended this seminar has come back to their clubs, district and state with new ideas and a glow that is sheer delight. I would like to have every club in our state submit a candidate for LEADS each year.

So come on Clubs, lets get some candidates submitted and watch us fly with the Eagles.

*Sherry Porter*  
*LEADS Chairman*



Robin Pittsley, 2008 LEADS graduate, gives the LEADS presentation at the Fall Board Meeting. Her assistant, left, is Cheri Dale.

### *A Few Other LEADS Graduates:*



Marsha Price, Joyce Hooper, Judy Senteney, Terry Kockler, Robin Pittsley, Mary Ellen Laister (International Officer), Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Joyce DeCunzo, Penny Cope. Missing in this picture are the candidates from 2015, Marsha Hotchkiss, and 2016, Barbara Hogg.

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

# GFWC Leadership, Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) APPLICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Please conceal applicants identity during selection deliberation

### **Please answer the following questions in as much detail as possible:**

(Attach a separate sheet of paper if more space is needed)

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 the district, state, and/or national level in which you are interested: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to:

- Cover costs to attend GFWC LEADS not covered by GFWC or state? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Share what you have learned at LEADS with your state's members? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Return this form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, to your state federation by the application deadline.**

# Club News

## Working together to help Breast Cancer Patients

*Middle School Students at Castle Rock, Riverside, and Medicine Crow work together with GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club to make Breast Cancer Pillows.*

Billings Junior Woman's Club Home Life Committee has provided breast cancer pillows to patients since 1990. The small pillows help recovering patients to be more comfortable. About eight years ago this project changed from the members sewing the pillows to middle school students sewing them. At that time the name was changed to comfort pillows.

Kelly Smith, a club member and Family Consumer Science teacher, began teaching sewing skills to middle school students at Castle Rock. She thought these pillows would be a good project for her students to sew, stuff pillows and make a pillowcase. This would allow students to meet the class sewing requirement and provide a connection to the community. Billings Junior Woman's Club members were delighted and agreed to provide the materials and distribute the pillows locally. Kelly explained to the students the reason for the pillows and had each student write a special note for the patient receiving the pillow. Other FCS teachers had their students make pillows and spread the good cheer.

Patients loved the pillows and many comments were made about how the note helped them. Some of the students take the pillows home and mail them to family members who need comfort. Last year, two boys hand delivered pillows to patients at the hospital and talked about how some of the patients cried when they were given a pillow.

This year things were changed, as the FCS class was no longer offered. Members wondered if they were going back to doing the whole project. A new class, EMPOWER, offers basic sewing skills. The Home Life Committee was contacted by the teachers of the classes at Castle Rock, Riverside, and Medicine Crow and then came an idea. If the students didn't have to cut the pillows and their pillowcase there should be time to meet the basic sewing requirements. Twenty mem-



bers of the club came together and created "Pillow Kits." The members cut the muslin fabric for the pillow, cut a colorful fabric piece for the case and another piece for the trim. These three pieces were assembled in sandwich bags for the students. The students will sew the pillow, stuff it, sew the pillowcase, and include the note. The teachers are thrilled and so are the members. Three hundred kits were distributed to the three schools this week.

One note GFWC/BJWC received really said it all:

Dear GFWC-Billings Junior Woman's Club,

I recently had surgery for breast cancer & received a small pink pillow afterward. I wrote a thank you note to the 2 young ladies who made the pillow, but I wanted to thank you for your part in supporting recovery from breast cancer as well as giving students a purpose for their learning & in doing so, giving to their community. This is an excellent example of many groups guiding and supporting children & their education.

I told the girls that I use the pillow every night to help stabilize my arm. It is a small gift but is so useful and appreciated.

*submitted by Gayle Carter*

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

## 95th Anniversary Celebrated with a *FREE Family Movie Night*

The GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club recently celebrated their 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by licensing a public showing of the Disney animated movie, Zootopia. The movie is the story of a young bunny who always wanted to be a police officer and the challenges she faces on a force populated by water buffalo, elephants, rhinoceros and other large mammals.

The old theater in town does not show movies and is rented mostly for live stage performances by local music groups, talent shows, and high school productions. Having a free movie is a big deal! Families, groups of children with an adult, and even a few teenagers on a date night comprised the audience of about 80.

Eight members attended and stood in the front as President Renee Sieben welcomed everyone to the show and explained that the next day would be the 95th Anniversary of the forming of our club, spoke of current projects done in town, and honored four women who have been members for 50 years and one who has been a member for 65 years.

A sheet cake was prepared by a member with the GFWC logo and was displayed in the lobby with a poster announcing the club anniversary. The cake was cut and slices were distributed to attendees as they left the theater. In total, the celebration cost the club just under \$500 and we were thrilled to provide the event to our community.

*Submitted by Karen Gustavsen*



## A Holiday Parade!

GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club prepares a float for the Holiday Parade every other year.

Why would we plan this event every other year? We collect new and gently used books for the parade. One year is not enough time to collect the number of books needed to reach the children at the parade. This year we are ready. Robin Pittsley and other members have gathered books over the two-year period and have collected 5,000+ books to distribute.

The books are sorted by age and this year a bookmark was put in each book. The bookmark features a quote from Dr. Seuss "The more you read the more you will know. The more you learn the more places you will go," on one side and information about GFWC/BJWC on the other side.

It took many hours to prepare the books. Members will decorate the float with posters of different Dr. Seuss books. Those handing out books at the parade will wear Dr. Seuss hats and walk with our float. The parade is on a local TV station and a narrative is read about each float. This is a great way to get our club name into the community.



*Submitted by Gayle Carter*

## GFWC Helena and Canton Valley Clubs Meet

GFWC Helena Woman's Club joined GFWC Canton Valley Woman's Club (Townsend) for their lunch meeting on October 19. Attending from Helena were Sandi Conrady, Beth Campbell and Joyce DeCunzo. Each year in the Fall we meet

in Townsend, and in the Spring or Summer, we meet in Helena. It is always fun to catch up with each other, and share what each club is doing. At this meeting, two Canton Valley members received membership certificates: Carol McGuire (left), 15 years, and Mary Olsen (right), 25 years. Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers!

*Submitted by Joyce DeCunzo*



**The Bitterroot club** decorated pumpkins to be given to the local care center. Looks like they're having a wonderful time!



**Plains Woman's Club** held a fall clean-up day around the grounds of the old schoolhouse which they maintain as a some time museum.

Another autumn tradition at Plains is preparing plates of cookies to welcome teachers back for another term. At right Shelly Quackenbush and Jo Carpenter arrange the plates.





**Helena GFWC Lends  
Helping Hands  
To Operation Smile**

Operation Smile is a global network of medical professionals providing quality surgical care for children in need that have a facial deformity. We as Helena GFWC members help alleviate the discomfort and stress by extending our generosity beyond the surgery the patient receives, giving the child some joy.

A workshop hosted by Sandi Conrady put the gals behind surgers, cutting boards and glue sticks completing several adorable fleece blankets. Members Sandi Conrady (also serving delicious homemade soup), Joyce DeCunzo, Karen Lewis, Mary Bailey, Sandy Lehman and Bobbie Conrady gathered for this event working but also enjoying the comradeship. Along with the blankets, Operation Smile dolls, crayons, beanie babies, toothbrushes, washcloths, soaps, and shampoos were boxed. Debbie Zuidema then takes the baton in mailing them to Operation Smile.

*Submitted by Bobbi Conrady*



**Members prepare for the  
Festival of Trees!**

Each year, GFWC Billings Woman's Club members decorate a Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees provides an opportunity for community members to help prevent child abuse and neglect in Yellowstone County and the surrounding area. Festival of Trees helps raise money and awareness; both help The Family Tree Center. A private viewing, dinner and tree auction are held before the event opens to the public.



GFWC/BJWC members plan ahead each year in order to make wise choices on themed books, purchase a tree at a reduced price and other items. The tree features books by a children's author and ornaments (many handmade)



This year the books are by Leo Lionni. Ornaments for the tree are made during several work sessions. The ornaments this year are characters from the books. One character is a mouse and the other is a fish. The tree is then prepared for the event, attaching ornaments and books to the tree by wire so it can be moved easily. At

the private auction most of the trees are purchased to donate in the community.

Last year's tree was auctioned for \$2,000 and donated to a Title One school. Children were given the books and ornaments.

*Submitted by Gayle Carter*



*Above: Billings ladies work on this year's mouse ornaments.*

*Far left: Sandi Conrady, Sandy Lehman and Mary Bailey, and immediate left, Karen Lewis: all Helena members, working on Operation Smile items.*

## *GFWC MT Member Visits Headquarters*

If you are ever in Washington D.C. take time to visit Headquarters. Kelly Smith, a member of GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club, visited Headquarters in September. She said it gave her a new and exciting understanding about GFWC and the work done by members across the nation. Members are given a one to two-hour tour of the facility and then given a 1734 key pin. Kelly is now a key carrying member.

GFWC Headquarters is a National Historic Landmark located at 1734 N Street, NW in Washington DC. The building became GFWC's official headquarters in 1922. The building's historic Victorian style has been maintained through generous contributions from members and friends. The property also houses the popular Iron Gate Inn Restaurant. Register ahead of time and you can even spend one night at headquarters for free.

Become a key carrying member and visit Headquarters!

*submitted by Gayle Carter*



*Kelly Smith, member of GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club points to Montana on a GFWC quilt hung at International Headquarters.*



## *Plains Woman's Club's Annual Membership Party*

Way back when GFWC International asked all clubs to "Act in Oct," to add members to the organization, Plains Woman's Club held its first October membership party. The party was a lot of fun, and interest was widespread. That first party was a tea party, and guests were asked to wear hats - a supply was on hand for those who needed to borrow. The party was so much fun that the club decided to hold one every year. Every year the party is different, is fun, and garners new members.

All of the parties have had costuming themes - a Slumber party, a Roaring 20's party, a Hawaiian party. This year's theme was *Back to the Sixties*, and it netted three new members.

*Pictured top left* is party chair person, Michele Furry awarding a prize to Sandi Lane for the best far-out costume. *Below*, a group work on tie dying tee shirts to take home as souvenirs. On the left are Debbie Kirschbaum, Margaret Storoy, and Glenda Wolverton.



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