



The Montana Woman

Let Your Light Shine
2020-2022

GFWC of Montana Leadership Seminar

Monday, March 15 @ 7:00-8:30 pm — Zoom meeting

Who is invited? Spread the word, **ALL MEMBERS** are invited to attend this free Leadership Seminar.

Ever wonder-- How to address your club president during a meeting

Ever wonder-- Why the president refers to the agenda so often

Ever wonder-- What is on the president's agenda that you don't see

Ever wonder-- How does the secretary decide what to record for minutes

Ever wonder-- When to stand or to remain seated

SECRETS will be revealed! *YOU* will be in the know!

PROTOCOL presented by Sandi Conrady, Parliamentary Advisor, as a general session for all.

ROLE of the SECRETARY presented by Lynn Foreman, President-Elect, as a breakout session.

MEETING AGENDAS lead by Florence Diede, GFWC MT President, as a breakout session.

Email your name, email address, club, current club positions, and which breakout session (Role of Secretary or Meeting Agenda) you want to attend to Corresponding Secretary, Marsha Price, askmap@gmail.com. **Your zoom invitation will be emailed on March 14.**

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Greetings Fellow GFWC MT Club Members



The new year has begun and yet we are facing some of the old challenges. So, the problem before each of our clubs is now that we can't meet in large groups, how can we be together anyway? Or even how can we continue having our club make an impact in our community?

I have a favorite saying I have used to motivate myself when facing difficult situations. "Now that I can't do it, how can I do it anyway?" Yes, just getting started on one of the lesser difficulties puts the whole process into motion. This is the application of Newton's Third Law of Motion. "When one body exerts a force on a second body, the second body simultaneously exerts a force equal in magnitude and opposite in direction on the first body."

Does your club have a weekly bulletin email, monthly bulletin, or a newsletter reminder of club happenings? If not, try a letter/postcard or small group email to update members? Tell about things your members are doing and any club activities. Members

like to hear about other members. One example is the large number of members making masks.

Here are a few ideas on how to implement the "Suicide Prevention Through Education" effort. Death by suicide continues to rank Montana near the top per capita. What can we do to become more informed of this huge problem right in our own cities and little towns? Each club received a packet of information. Try delivering a few pamphlets at each member's home or dropping one in the mail. Encourage members to check out the GFWC of Montana website <https://gfwcmontana.org/> Click on the link to the Presidents Special Project on the Home page to view websites, watch a video and even view a short TED talk on Suicide Prevention.

"Now that I can't do it, how can I do it anyway?"

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*.

Mail or email news and photographs to:

Karen K. Gustavsen, Editor

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Mail or email change of address to:

GFWC of Montana Membership Chairman

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Let's discuss, how can we possibly meet together? Holding committee/club meetings and even bingo parties using FaceTime or Zoom has worked for some clubs. A free Zoom account is available for 40-minute meetings. GFWC of Montana has purchased a Zoom contract for longer meetings-available for your use. GFWC of Montana is eager to help your club by sharing Zoom. We will help by inviting your members to a practice session and setting up your club meeting with one of us attending the meeting for technological support.—Want to give it a try? Reach out to Marsha Price, Corresponding Secretary (Zoom Administrator) or contact me.

In this issue find some tips from Parliamentary Advisor, Sandi Conrady on holding meetings using technology.

"Now that I can't do it, how can I do it anyway?" I'm hoping the suggestions of communication through a newsletter or email, providing materials to review and/or holding a technology-based meeting will allow us to "DO IT ANYWAY!"

Let Your Federation Light Shine!

Florence Diede

GFWC Montana President

CALENDAR OF 2021 FEDERATION DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 28 Youth Writing Contest Entries Due to Marsha Baumeister

MARCH 1 Media Campaign & Newsletter Contest entries due to Karyn Charvat (for address, GFWC Club Manual, pg 179)

MARCH 1 LEADS Applications due to Florence Diede

APRIL 1 Photography Contest Entries due to Jo Campbell





Parliamentary Pointers - Virtual Meetings **Sandi Conrady, Parliamentary Advisor**

Okay... Let's Zooom! If you are attending your first meeting on the internet, you may be a little apprehensive. It is perfectly natural to be a bit nervous. Once you click on the highlighted site in your invitation and are accepted by your host, you should see your picture and those of the other member that have joined. If you don't see your picture, it might be that your computer does not have a camera. You can still be part of the meeting with only the sound.

So here you are, all ready to participate. As there are usually many participants, you cannot all talk at once (not like sitting in the back of the room visiting with your buddies). You are actually sitting in the first row! So here are some things to keep in mind:

- Keep your audio in mute until asked to unmute by the host or presenter
- If you need to ask a question there is 'chat' where you can ask a question, etc. Just type in your question and send it. The host or presenter will get you a response.
- You are on camera, so be on your best behavior
- You may be asked to vote and there will be a method to do this on the computer screen
- Time is of the essence (these are not free usually) and there is a time slot for the meeting. So do not take up too much time standing on your soap box.

These are good things to keep in mind even if you are a Zooomer extraordinaire! And have a good time seeing your friends.

Important 2021 Meeting Dates

APRIL 10 Central District Convention

April 17 Western District Convention

MAY 1 Eastern District Convention

JUNE 29-29 GFWC International Convention
Toronto, Canada **CANCELLED**

SEPTEMBER 9-12 WSR Conference, Colorado

OCTOBER 1-2 GFWC MT Fall Meeting, Helena, MT

GFWC International Convention in Toronto

It is with great sadness President Marion St. Clair reports the 2021 GFWC International Convention planned for Toronto has been cancelled due to the hotel closing for an "extensive refresh." Plans are to reschedule, whenever and wherever possible, and we will be notified as soon as possible. Hold Convention dates, June 25-29, 2021 for the time being.



President's Special Project *Suicide Prevention Through Education*

Check out the President's Special Project packet or the GFWC of Montana website, gfwcmontana.org Here you will find a list of potential speakers. GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club February meeting via Zoom had Karl Rosston, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Montana, provided MVWC with valuable statistics and information on suicide prevention in Montana.

When your club has a speaker on suicide prevention, send Toni Molinario (mtmolin@mtintouch.net) or Florence Diede (fdiede@bresnan.net) an email letting them know how it went.

Please, please, do move forward in providing your members with this much needed information that may be used to help a loved one, help a neighbor or lend support to one who has faced this loss.

Tips For Asking the Suicide Question

- ◇ **If in doubt, don't wait, ask the question**
- ◇ **If the person is reluctant, be persistent**
- ◇ **Talk to the person alone in a private setting**
- ◇ **Allow the person to talk freely**
- ◇ **Give yourself plenty of time**
- ◇ **Have your resources handy; phone numbers, counselor's name and any other information that might help.**

"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

– Mother Teresa

Suicide Prevention Resources

National Suicide Prevention Hotline – <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>
1-800-273-8255.

We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/index.shtml>

is the largest scientific organization in the world dedicated to research focused on the understanding, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders and the promotion of mental health.

Talking with the Suicidal Person

DO'S

- * Ask the question, "Are you suicidal?" or "Are you having thoughts of killing yourself?"
- * Ask if they have a plan
- * Voice concern
- * Tell someone else (NO CONFIDENTIALITY)

DON'TS

- * Leave the person alone
- * Be sworn to secrecy
- * Don't assume the person is venting or it will pass
- * Challenge or dare
- * Argue or debate





LEADS

Leadership Education and Development Seminar

Yes, YOU! Would you feel more comfortable serving as an officer in your club, district or GFWC Montana? LEADS helps provide the needed skills through a one-day seminar. 2021 LEADS will be held in Toronto, Canada on June 25. Check out the application on the following pages or at <https://gfwcmontana.org/resources/>.

GFWC will cover a portion of expenses and GFWC of Montana will provide an additional \$500.

Apply before March 1, 2021 by mailing your form and two letters of support to :

GFWC of Montana

Florence Diede

**GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**



GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS)

The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar identifies GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on the national level. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher offices and serve with distinction.

GFWC LEADS is typically held annually on the day prior to the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. The program may include the following:

Overview of public speaking, time management, vision casting, and conflict resolution. Explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance.

Outline of GFWC policies, parliamentary procedure, and protocol.

Discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.

Application Process and Deadline

Each State Federation and International Affiliate may select one LEADS attendee annually.

LEADS Candidate: Return this form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, to your State Federation by the state application deadline.



Criteria for LEADS Participation

It is highly recommended that each State Federation or International Affiliate 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 characteristics, 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.

Expenses

GFWC demonstrates its commitment to training leaders by funding a portion of the expenses of candidates who are members of per capita dues paying clubs. State Federations may consider underwriting a portion of an attendee's expenses. LEADS candidates are asked to be responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment to the leadership development and training. LEADS participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

State Federation attendees receive:

Stipend of \$250 for travel.

Lodging allowance for half of the double room rate for two nights at the Convention hotel.

Breakfast and lunch during the LEADS program (no registration fee is required).

In addition, GFWC Montana will provide \$500 to help with expenses

Checks will be distributed to candidates upon attendance and completion of the seminar.



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Club: _____ District: _____

Please conceal applicant's 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 Federation, 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.**

GFWC Montana Membership Report

Lynn Foreman, President-elect



The membership numbers were obtained from the December membership list that accompanies the annual dues. Two clubs submitted recruitment updates for Summer due September 1, one of reported no change, but at least reported. Four clubs submitted recruitment updates for the Fall reporting which was due December 1st. I encourage you to please complete your Winter report due March 1 and Spring due June 1. In addition to reporting numbers provide information on what you are doing to ***retain members, recruit new members, mentoring and recognition.***

We were able to recognize clubs & members with certificates at the Fall meeting.

The “facts” and nothing but the “facts”:

State Membership decreased by 4: 2019 – 599 2020 – 595

4 Clubs – no change in membership

15 Clubs – increased membership

7 Clubs – decreased membership

What are you doing to recognize club members? How are you staying in touch with your members during the pandemic – when many clubs are not able to have meetings in person. Do you reach out to members who are sheltering in place – phone call, or sending thinking of you card.

I attended a GFWC Membership webinar on Cyber Clubs. A panel of 5 Cyber Clubs presented on the reason they formed the clubs, what they do, how they do it. It was fascinating. Your Club could encourage and support the formation of a Cyber Club. One Club was called “Birds of a Feather” because they shared common interests; they welcomed members from their own clubs but also reached out across states. Some communicated solely by email (before virtual meetings were available). They decide on service projects that they work on for their respective areas; another club were quilters who worked on Pillow Cases for Christmas giving trees. Cyber clubs provide opportunities for members to participate who are unable to attend meetings because of conflicts (they can meet anytime they agree upon); plus for members like our club has who are seasonal in the summer when our club does not meet.

Give some thought to also sponsoring a Juniorette club in your area. What better way to engage young women to work on a Community Service project which they will receive credit; and open the door for them to become a club member in the future.

In closing “Think Outside the Box” and share. Happy 2021!



A Home Built with Magazine Subscriptions GFWC Deer Lodge Woman's Club

The GFWC Deer Lodge Woman's club was federated in 1904. These early club women took on a challenge to sell magazine subscriptions to raise enough money to build the still functioning club house. Yes, it took a few years—in fact, TWENTY YEARS! Sixty-six club women meet here regularly wearing masks and social distancing. Club women maintain this club-house by raising funds through the New to You store. With minimal shopping available for miles, this store provides residents with school clothes, birthday presents, new shoes and a variety of necessities. Covid regulations closed the store for a period of time but donations continued to appear at the front door. Twenty members working two by two sort, iron and tag garments in order to be ready for reopening the store.



A \$10,000 small business grant from the State of Montana helped during the pandemic making it possible to pay utilities and other expenses to keep New to You and the Club House sound.

President Canfield said, "We were closed a lot but were still able to provide grants to local entities." These clubwomen have made an impact on this tiny community of less than 10,000 by providing socialization, shopping, receiving and giving donations. Yes, GFWC Woman's Club of Deer Lodge demonstrates the vision of GFWC President Marion St. Clair,

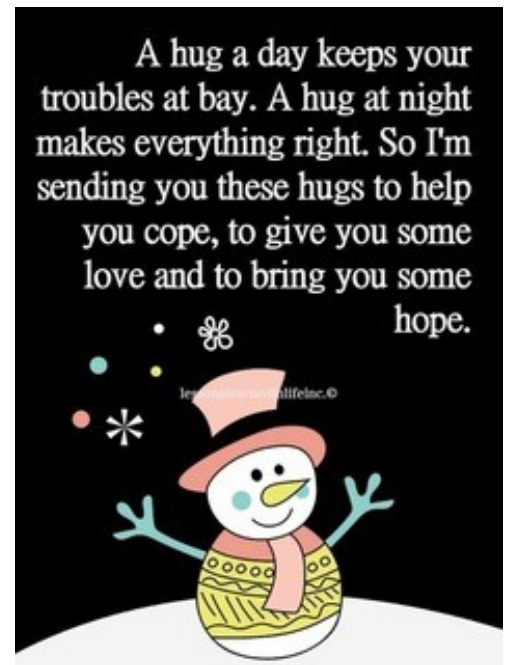
"When we work together, no dream is too big."

Tips from the GFWC Club Manual

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

- * Hold the smartphone sideways to take all photos
- * Clean the camera lens
- * Avoid digital zoom...decreases the quality

***The way people communicate is changing
and we need to keep up with the trends,
not only to thrive but to SURVIVE.***



Holiday Craft & Bake Sale **GFWC Cascade Woman's Club**

GFWC Cascade Woman's Club was federated in 1986, making it one of the youngest federations in Montana. Sharon Britton and Jacqueline Strandell, current thirty-five-year members, were among the founders. Jacqueline serves as the club treasurer.

A craft fair and bake sale help keep this club sound. Tables are rented to local craftsmen to show their wares. The club members make all the goodies for the bake sale. Shoppers can purchase crafts, a bowl of homemade soup or a street taco in a bag. How about buying a raffle ticket for a chance on a fishing trip and/or camping trip? The club provides both of these raffles to help raise funds for club projects.

Due to this past year's restrictions the club has not held a meeting since March 2020 but are anxious to have their sixteen members able to be active in the community soon.



Unite with Others for Success **GFWC Miles City Woman's Club**



Perfect for a Princess Party!

The GFWC Miles City Woman's Club was Federated in 1914 and is now 107 years young. Ella Rivenes was President of GFWC of Montana in 1980-1982. Her daughter, Sigrid Laird lead GFWC of Montana for the 2000-2002 term. Current long-time members are Fran O'Shea joining in 1977 and Dorothy Murnin, current club treasurer, who joined in 1981. Miles City Woman's Club currently has eleven paying members with 4-6 super active members.

Smaller towns thrive when a relationship can be formed for unity. Miles City Woman's Club has formed a strong relationship with the Convent Keepers and the JC's. The Children's Christmas Store has been a favorite project for many years. Gifts, both new and used, are collected throughout the year and stored at

the convent. On the first Saturday in December the club members, the JC's and local librarians come together to provide shopping for children. No items are over \$5. Purchases can be taken to the wrapping stations and, like magic, each shopping child has a bright shiny package and a smile of pride to head out with the purchase. This project would often raise close to \$1000. In 2020 the JC's came to the club's rescue and took over the project. The club would like to see the JC's continue the Children's Christmas Store.

In 1902 the Miles City Library was started by the GFWC Miles City Woman's Club and have continued to be strong supporters of each other. Thus, the librarians come to help at the Children's Christmas Store.

The relationship with the Convent Keeps stems from club members belonging to both organizations. One day a little girl riding with her mother past the convent asked, "Is that where the princesses live?" An idea was sparked. The Convent Keepers and club members began the Disney Princess Party with fairy outfits and Disney princess costumes. Young girls come for a day of being a real princess with polished nails and a Fairy Godmother. "Bippity, Boppity, Boo!" Local high school girls help make this day a huge success.



From the Desk of Jennifer Lippy **GFWC Woman's Club of Missoula**

In honor of the "Love Month," I would like to extend my gratitude to Rae Proctor and let her know that she is loved and treasured.

Rae Proctor is a woman of many talents. She was valedictorian of her high school class. She joined the Woman's Club of Missoula in 1963 and has been a valuable member ever since. Rae has mentored and guided many through the ranks of our club. She was a Junior Director for the Woman's Club of Missoula, and a Junior Director for GFWC of Montana. We are thankful for her service.

One of our favorite projects is a February luncheon for the International Students. We are looking forward to having this luncheon in February 2022 and to getting back together.

Thank you also to Camille, Charlotte, and Dottie for always helping out when you can and keeping our wonderful club active. Thanks to all the present and former GFWC ladies for setting a great example for what service in our communities can and should look like. I am grateful to be surrounded by such amazing women.

Jennifer Lippy
WCM President

Nearly New Shoppe Silent Auction **GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club**

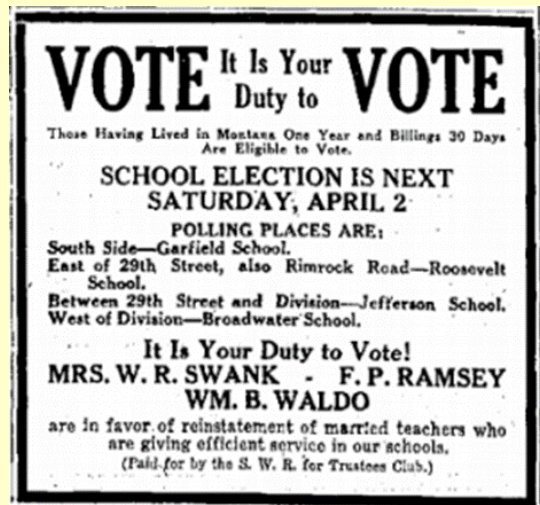
The Nearly New Shoppe, operated by the GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club, holds a Silent Auction every two weeks featuring "The Best of the Best." All items have been donated.



Toni Scully and her committee display collections on various themes: jewelry, glassware, antiques, artwork, pottery, etc. Visit the store and place your bid for some of these special treasures!

GFWC of Montana

While some districts banned all married teachers, others were willing to employ married women if their husbands were "an invalid in some way." Commenting on the Billings school board's decision to institute a marriage bar in 1927, the editor of the *Helena Independent* argued that exceptions should be made for "married women whose husbands are invalids or insane and unable, therefore, to provide a living for the family." Nevertheless, he averred that men should take care of their wives. "Single women with their living to make should not be penalized by having positions open to them otherwise taken by women who have married failures."



The Billings Federation of Women's Clubs opposed the 1927 Billings school district's decision to bar married teachers. When the school board refused to reconsider, they recruited candidates to run for the school board on a pro-married teacher platform. All three lost the election.

Billings Gazette, April 1, 1927

