



The Montana Woman



*Community - Acknowledgement
Respect - Empowerment
2022-2024*

DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTIONS

Each district will gather in April to learn about the CARE Project, share ideas, honor members for their dedication to Federation, and celebrate each District's unique qualities. Invitations will be sent in March by each District to their local Club Presidents.

CENTRAL DISTRICT – April 15th, Ennis, MT

Canton Valley Woman's Club, Cascade Woman's Club, East Glacier Park Woman's Club, Fairfield Woman's Club, Fort Benton Woman's Club, Helena Woman's Club, Madison Valley Woman's Club, Moore Woman's Club

WESTERN DISTRICT – April 22nd, Plains, MT

Bitterroot Woman's Club, Deer Lodge Woman's Club, Mission Valley Woman's Club, Plains Woman's Club, Thompson Falls Woman's Club, Woman's Club of Missoula

EASTERN District – April 29th, Billings, MT

Big Timber Woman's Club, Billings Woman's Club, Billings Junior Woman's Club, Culbertson Woman's Club, Laurel Federated Woman's Club

Plan on joining the fun with your District!

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GFWC of Montana Executive Committee

ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO :

GFWCMT.BOARD@GMAIL.COM

President
Lynn Foreman

President Elect, Membership Chairman
Karen Gustavsen

1st Vice President, Dean of Departments
Kim Montag

Recording Secretary
Marsha Baumeister

Corresponding Secretary/
Zoom Administrator
Marsha Price

Treasurer
Lorrie Hardy

Parliamentary Advisor
Sandi Conrady

Budget and Finance Chairman
Adina Fox

See the 2022-2024 Contact Book given to each Board Member for more information.

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.

Email news and photographs to:
Karen K. Gustavsen, Editor
gfwcmt.board@gmail.com

Mail or email change of address to:
GFWC of Montana Membership Chairman
Karen K. Gustavsen
gfwcmt.board@gmail.com



It is hard to believe it is already February! Here is a valentine for all of you deserving Club Women.



From the President

I met with the District Presidents – who are planning for their upcoming Spring Meetings. Please encourage your club members to attend your district meeting. It is an opportunity for them to meet ladies from other clubs, and to share and to learn what other clubs are doing. I brought up the idea of a GFWC Montana 2024 Calendar as a State Fund Raiser.

Each district will submit photos for each season (unlike the GFWC Photo Contest – the photos do not need to have been taken in 2022 or 2023. Send a digital copy of pictures for each season Winter (Dec - Jan - Feb); Spring (Mar - Apr - May); Summer (June - July - August); and Fall (Sept - Oct - Nov). to your District President. The calendars will be presented at the Fall Meeting in Butte. Have fun – and showcase your special place in Montana!

The call for GFWC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky from June 9 – 12 is posted on the GFWC.org website. I look forward to sharing this time with many of our Montana members.

Just to plant a seed regarding the State of Montana Fall Meeting. Come prepared to share how many “hats” do you wear! Stay tuned for more information.

I am going to close by saying we have lost Clubs from our State Federation: Cascade, Forsythe & most recently Miles City. If you know members of those clubs – please reach out to them – they are welcome to join another club.

Thank you for all that you do for your community. Peace & Happiness Be with you & continue to stay warm!

***In Federation & Kindness,
Lynn***

I want to reflect and share what I found when I attended a Holiday Craft Show in Sheridan, MT prior to Christmas; and at the Ennis Holiday Bazaar the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It made me feel good to see that there are others that share my passion for Caring for Others & Acts of Kindness. These are two small painted stones, that I have close by – at work & a plaque on my wall at home. They bring me comfort along with Positively Montana (KBZK) from all of the news of the disasters throughout the world, war and senseless mass shootings.



I am also enjoying reading your 2022 Annual Reports. You should be proud of your Clubs and Club Women for all that you have accomplished in 2022!

I participated in the GFWC Legislative Action zoom Webex Meetings. I was detained at work and missed the first one, but did receive the recording; and I was able to attend the second and third sessions. The sessions were well done. The presenters were knowledgeable and really held my interest. There were interactive sessions where the attendees participated in short online survey – and the results were shown. We are very fortunate to have one of our own Joyce DeCunzo on the Legislative & Policy Committee. Please reach out to her or myself if you want to learn more about becoming involved.



Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) ***Bobbie Conrady, Chairman***

When she was first presented at the GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club in 1949, she was introduced as Margie Growl, as she had previously explained to her hostess that her last name was akin to the sound that a lion makes. In actuality, her last name is Rohwer /roar/.

Margie Rohwer joined the club when she was 21, and she will turn 95 in April 2023. She became a participating member of the Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) program in 1996 and she earned her first ESO Century Award in 2004. A Century Award member is acknowledged after passing Member, Star, and Torch levels (a total of 120 books) than reading an additional 100 books. ESO participants can continue their progress to receive Second through Sixth Century Award level certificates.

Margie keeps a "Reading Diary" of all the books she has read since she began ESO, and it lists more than 900 books. She averages between 30 to 40 books a year (not quite one book a week) and the categories range from nonfiction biographies to historical fiction with a few self-help and romance novels thrown in too. In 2006, she had eye surgery; so, she only read 25 books that year. The most books read in one year was 49 in 2015.

The ESO program is designed to provide a planned reading program for self-enrichment and personal growth. Margie believes participating in ESO has helped her through her years to become well-informed and better equipped to make sound decisions in her life. True to the purpose of ESO, Margie will testify that knowledge truly is empowering.

Beat the Winter Cold ***Marsha Price, Zoom Administrator***

It sounds like Montana is in for a frigid, snowy, winter! Therefore, Marsha is reminding you to take advantage of the GFWC MT ZOOM platform to have local meetings within your clubs and committees without leaving the comfort of your homes. If you would like to have a meeting scheduled, simply contact her by text, email, or call her with the particulars. She will be happy to walk you through the process. Remember, it can be any size group...from two members to your entire membership.

Spring Dates to Remember

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Feb. 6 | Club Reports due to Kim Montag, Dean of Departments and Lynn Foreman, GFWC MT President |
| March 1 | Youth and Member Writing Contest entries due to Jan Beekman, GFWC MT Writing Contest Chairman |
| March 4 | LEADS Applications due to Lynn Foreman, GFWC MT President |
| March 15 | Newsletter and Website Contest Entries due to Jen Nowak, see GFWC Club Manual for details |
| April 1 | Photography Contest entries due to Jo Campbell, GFWC MT Chairman |

*There's nothing like a hug to
get you through the day.*



*So I'm sending a great
big one your way !!!*



Do your members know the history of your club? Is there a collection of mementos, Minutes, newspaper clippings, pictures, and scrapbooks telling the story of your past? Take the time to write in a few pages a compellation to share with the community, new members, and us.

Below is an except from an eight page summary of the 100 years community involvement of the GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club. Ten pictures are included in their summary to help complete the story. Here are the first 50 years captured in a nutshell.

The Beginning: 1910 - 1970

Imagine life in Ennis, Montana in the early 1900's - The US had been fighting WWI since April 1917. The Priscilla Embroidery Club had been active in Ennis for a while, providing a place where women could get together and visit and sew. When the US entered the war - they put aside their sewing and rolled bandages and worked with the Red Cross. After the war, the women decided it was time to transition into a service club as there were many needs in the community. In 1920 the Madison Valley Woman's Club was formally organized and in 1921 joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Their motto was "**Seek to serve rather than to be served**". The red carnation was chosen as their symbolic flower - to remind us of the need for beauty in our lives. The Club colors were red and white.

The first President was Susie Maynard (grandmother of Sue France) and Jennie Chowning (Winifred Jeffers's mother) served as Vice-President. Joining them in 1922 was Frances Womack. She was 16 years old and arrived in Ennis from New York City with her soldier husband the year before. - She has held the record for the longest dues paying member - she remained active until her death in 2005 at the age of 100 - although she was Honorary in her later years.

Over the years many worthwhile projects were organized, funded and supported by the MVWC members. Most of the funds were raised through public card parties, home talent plays, club dinners and basket socials. Some of these projects are as follows:

- Purchasing an operating room table for the hospital (it is reported the make shift one collapsed during a surgery)

- Building 2 outdoor toilets for the school

- Installing a metal fence around the cemetery - still exists today

- Providing a fence, benches and picnic tables for the city park donated by Mrs. William Ennis

- In 1938 - purchasing 11 acres for a landfill and educated the public on the proper way to handle refuse

The MVWC has always been supportive of healthcare facilities and funds were raised for the ambulance and when the hospital was built - they raised funds to furnish a room and part of the surgical wing. In 1941, the members purchased a siren for the ambulance and in 1944 purchased time clocks and donated funds to the Fireman's Fund. Over the years the members volunteered many hours to improve the health of the community - supporting the blood donor program, TB Mobile unit and polio immunizations just to name a few.

Another area supported by the MVWC is education. In the early days, the members would take entire classes of students to Helena for a day watching the Legislature and have an interview with the Governor. Girls & Boys State and HOBY delegates were always supported. Scholarships were awarded to the High School graduates and alumni.



The rest is yet to be written.



GFWC MT Leadership Advancement Area *Joyce DeCunzo, Chairman*

Does leadership scare you? You may not think of it, but you have practiced leadership your whole life. If you are a parent, a working woman, a member of a group, or just a person working with others, then you have leadership skills.

GFWC wants to give you the confidence to serve as an officer in your club, district or state organization. This one day seminar will provide the needed skills and knowledge to make you comfortable in a leadership role. The seminar will be held on June 9 in Louisville Kentucky. The application is included here, or you can find it at <https://gfwcmontana.org/resources/>.

Our state has many graduates of this seminar. Feel free to talk with any of them. They are listed on the GFWC Montana website, as shown above.

GFWC will cover a portion of expenses and GFWC Montana will provide an additional \$500. Apply before **March 4** by mailing your form and picture to:

GFWC Montana, Lynn Foreman, P.O. Box 647, Ennis MT 59729

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 various leadership skills.
- 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 the form on the next page, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members to Lynn Forman, Montana State President by March 4, 2023.



Criteria for LEADS Participation

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 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.
- Agrees to make every effort to attend the Fall GFWC Region Conference to report on their LEADS experience.
- Must be a member of a per capita dues paying club.

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. 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:

- Transportation and lodging stipend of \$325.00 from GFWC.
- 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 _____
Share what you have learned at LEADS at your Region Conference?	Yes _____	No _____

Return this form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, to Lynn Foreman, Montana State President by March 4, 2023.

Suggestion of Topics for Three 1-Hour New Member Orientation Sessions

- ◆ *Who Are We?*
 - What GFWC initials means, our mission
 - Brief history of accomplishments
 - Simple outline of national & state structure
 - Brief club history
 - Show one of the DVDs about GFWC
 - GFWC.org and GFWCMontana.org sites
- ◆ *What We Do*
 - Have Club Manual to view
 - Talk about Signature Project, Community Service Programs, Affiliate Organizations
 - Importance of Annual Reporting
 - 501(c)(3) Obligation and advantages—if your club has this status
 - Club Bylaws and Policies/Procedures
- ◆ *Nuts and Bolts*
 - Benefits of membership
 - GFWC Advocacy—Legislative Alerts
 - What is available through Member Portal
 - Clubwoman Magazine, News & Notes, WHRC Newsletter
 - Montana Woman

Membership Corner “Sparkle and Shine” Karen Gustavsen, Chairman

Thank you to the GFWC Thompson Falls Woman’s Club for sharing the basic outline for their New Member Orientation. Does your club have an orientation? What do you cover? Please share with this Chairman so your tips can be passed along. Do you need help planning an orientation? Lets see what we can do together!

Have you started to organize a list of your members who have earned one of the Membership STARS as noted in the chart below?

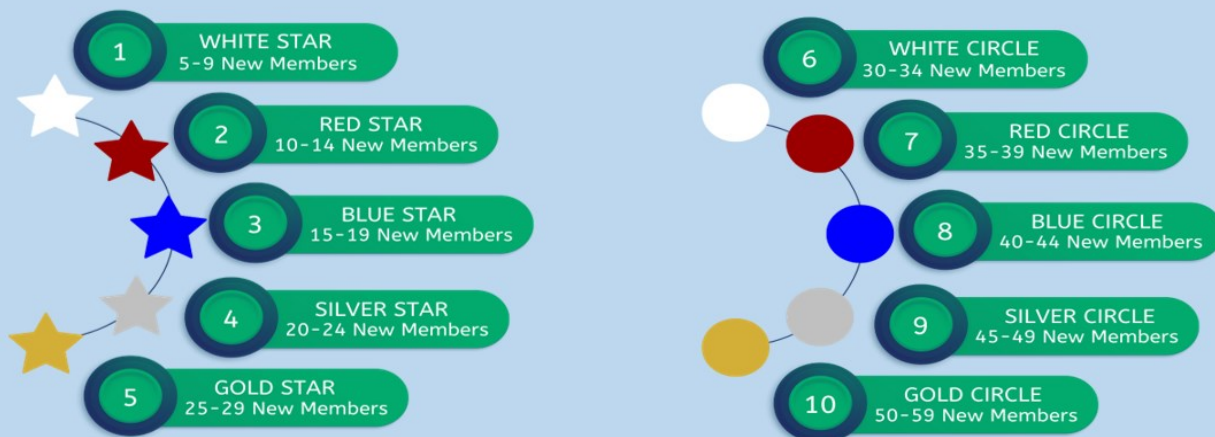
Start with 2000 and build a list for each current member. Note the new members name address, and date joined she has brought to the club and are still dues paying members.

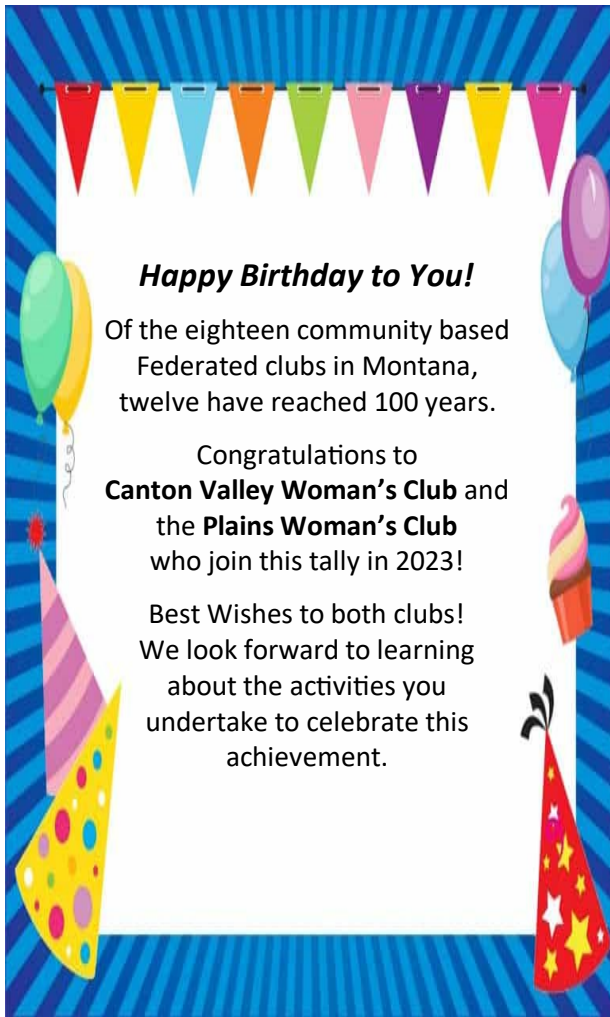
Submit a sheet for each member who has brought in five (5) new dues paying members to this Chairman so the pins and disks may be ordered. It will be wonderful to present these small tokens at your District Convention or the Fall Meeting!

CELEBRATING CLUB MEMBER’S RECRUITMENT SUCCESSES



Star Recruitment Pins and Circles are incentive rewards for successful recruiters. Recruiters earn certificates for 60, 70, 80, etc. new members.





GFWC Montana

Our country had declared war on Japan in December of 1941 followed by Germany declaring war on us in January of 1942. The invasion of Normandy was in June of 1944 with the end of the war not happening until September of 1945. *Programs Projects Plans of the Departments, Divisions, Committees of the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs 1943-1944* was printed and distributed to all clubs in the heart of international conflict. This 71 page mimeographed handout was filled with projects of hope and peace.

There were ideas for patriotic happenings, even as simple as saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and singing a patriotic song at meetings, there was a strong emphasis on post war rehabilitation. In the American Home Department there were suggestions to study peace proposals and the economic problems in peace keeping.

"Homemakers are responsible for the maintenance of the health of their families. Also, for the complete elimination of waste in the home."

Thus Victory Gardens for nutrition plus saving string and aluminum foil occupied every home.

The objectives of the Education Department were Adult Education, Character Education, Vocational Training, and Education for Defense and the Peace.

"If we are to have our democracy, we must have a nation informed on its values, its history, its advantages, its shortcomings, and its responsibilities."

Use and support of public libraries was stressed along with pursuing poetry and crafts for personal recreation, community education, and war effort projects.

The War Service Department saw the clubs' need to fully support efforts to win the war, it also pointed to the need for women to study post-war and peace planning. It was seen that clubwomen would become fundamental in shaping public opinion in their community and the nation.

These women were looking forward to the future with total assurance that there would be victory.

