



# The Montana Woman



*Community - Acknowledgement  
Respect - Empowerment  
2022-2024*

## WESTERN STATES REGION CONFERENCE



Well, here we go once more in this administration. This time we will be headed to Oregon! We are scheduled to meet at a wonderful resort, Eagle Crest! The conference chairs have done a bang up job to make this a memorable one. Be sure to look at the tours. On Thursday you have a choice of two: I can't decide which one to sign up for! On Friday, for me, there is no choice but to go to Sisters. I have gone before when they have their huge quilt show outdoors and that is a memory for me. We will all be thrilled to welcome from our International executive committee, President Deb Strahanoski, Suellen Brazil, President –elect and our own Mary Beth Williams,

Secretary. The speakers that our conference chairs have gotten for us will be very enjoyable and informative.

Please read the attached sheet "Things to know". It will guide you in registration and other needed information.

I predict that our fellowship will only grow at this meeting. We will see old friends and find some new ones. We all strive to make our communities better and really do *show our love* and caring as volunteers. I am looking forward to seeing all of your shining faces.

Love,  
Sandi Conrady  
WSR President

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### GFWC of Montana Executive Committee

ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO :

[GFWCMT.BOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](mailto:gfwcmt.board@gmail.com)

Mail or email change of address to:

GFWC of Montana Membership Chairman  
Karen K. Gustavsen  
[gfwcmt.board@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcmt.board@gmail.com)



## THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE CONFERENCE

**Room Reservations** – Call Eagle Crest at **855-682-4786**. State that you are part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Western States Region Conference. The dates are August 24-27, 2023.

- 1 bedroom Suite 169.00 per night
- 2 bedroom suite \$279.00 per night
- 2 bedroom condo \$299 per night
- Double queen room \$149 per night

**\*\* The above rates do not include taxes and fees**

**Conference Registration**- Your checks need to be made out to Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs. Send your check and registration form to: Heather Thomas, 5354 Melrose Court North, Keizer OR 97303. Should you like to pay with your credit/debit card on line you may. The link is: <https://givebox.com/523774> (you will be charged any fees needed for this transaction). You must still send your registration form to Heather to complete the registration process.

**Traveling by air?** – if you are coming by air to Redmond, there are available either Uber or taxi. Also the resort does have a shuttle. Please give Joann Wheeler a heads up on your arrival time as soon as possible so she can make arrangements for this method. Call her at 541-279-1441 or email her at [jwii@msn.com](mailto:jwii@msn.com).

**Boosters!!!** – Central Oregon is noted for its craft beer, so an informal sampling and lunch will take place Friday in Redmond. If you wish to join them, please inquire at the WSR Registration table.

**Service project** – The Central Oregon Veterans Ranch COVR is a working ranch that restores purpose and spirit to veterans of all ages and eras. The Ranch is in need of many different items to support its growth. Your gift card would be **greatly** appreciated. Suggested gift cards include: Visa, Wilco, Coastal, Home Depot, Lowes, Costco, Amazon, Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart, Grocery Stores, staples, & Gas cards. We will be able to find out more as the founder of the ranch will be one of our speakers.

**REGISTRATION at CONFERENCE**- Wednesday - 4:00 to 7:00 pm High Desert Room; the rest are at the convention center, Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Saturday 8:00 to the opening of conference.

**Registration Form & Tour Information follows on Pages 9-12**





**Whoopee It is  
Finally Spring !**

I was so happy to go three weeks without snow! The warmer weather is so welcome. But, unfortunately the smoke from the fires in Canada has hindered much outdoor activity.

The highlight of my April was attending the District Meetings. Central District was in Ennis; and, we had a beautiful day. Some of the attendees came Friday afternoon to shop at the Near New. Business was conducted and there was plenty of time allowed to bid on the silent auction items.

The following week, I was off to the Western District meeting. As I left Ennis, it started to snow. It was a combination of snow & grapple and high winds when I dropped Bentley & Winston (my pooches) at the kennel. The remainder of the trip was a mixture of dry, some snow and rain. It was another beautiful day on Saturday driving from Ronan to Plains ( my first time to the Plains area). It was a great day meeting club women I had not met before.

Eastern was the next weekend – it was a great sunny day! The meeting was held at the Lockwood Fire Station in Billings. An amazing facility with top of the line equipment . It would easily house five Ennis Fire Stations.

All three of the District Programs had a session by the State of Montana LEADS graduates. They have been meeting via zoom since last Fall’s meeting to develop a State of Montana Leadership program. Stay tuned for more information on future events. Club Presidents are welcome to participate; and encourage club members of to do so as well. I also would like to announce that Cathy Mills, from Thompson Falls is the 2023 Montana LEADS candidate.

## *From the President*

I prepared and submitted the GFWC Montana annual statistical report and narrative which were due in April. I enjoyed reading the Club reports and pleased that there were sixteen (16) projects that were identified as “CARE Projects”. Keep up the good work and include in your reports next year.

Seven young people from GFWC Fort Benton and GFWC Helen received Writing Contest awards; and there is an adult who will receive her award at the Fall Meeting (Surprise!)

I am looking forward to the GFWC Convention in Louisville, KY. Connecting with the other State Presidents will be great. Being able spend an evening at Churchill Downs will be really special.

One last item. Please send me an email with dates of any events and/or meetings you have planned this summer or fall.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Western Region Convention in Oregon. If not, I hope to see you in Butte Sept 29-30th.

*Have a great summer!  
Thank you for all that you do for  
your community. Keep up the your  
“Taking Care of Those that Take Care of us”  
efforts.*

*In Federation & Kindness,  
Lynn*



## Spring Has Sprung

### Kim Montag, Central District President



Cathy Kipping and Terry Kockler with one of the many Silent Auction items to benefit the District treasury.

It was a beautiful sunny Saturday – April 15, 2023. The GFWC of Montana Central District held their 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Ennis, Montana at the Senior Center. The theme was “Spring Has Sprung” and it actually did that day. The convention was attended by 22 Central District members from across the district and two guests. The day started with a continental breakfast of baked oatmeal, muffins, juice and coffee. During the convention there was a presentation by previous LEADS candidates on leadership that was very informative. Dave Delisi, Outreach Coordinator for the Ruby Habitat Foundation spoke about their conservation efforts at the Woodson Ranch in the Ruby Valley. We had Club President reports from Helena, Fort Benton, and Madison Valley.

During a lunch of sandwiches and cupcakes, the Madison Valley Woman’s Club put on a vintage fashion show. Members from their club dressed up in the clothes from their Vintage Attic (part of their Nearly New Shoppe) and explained the era of the clothes worn to our group. The Nominating Committee reported to the group and the nominated slate of Cathy Kipping, President; Lorrie Hardy, Vice-President; Jo Campbell, Treasurer and Mary Sedwick, Secretary were elected to serve for the 2024-2026 administration and will be installed as officers at the GFWC MT Spring Convention in April 2024.



Fashions from the Vintage Attic.

## Caring Is Sharing

### Gayle Carter, Eastern District Vice President

GFWC of MT Eastern District Meeting was held April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lockwood Fire Station in Billings, MT. During registration, attendees painted miniature magnets. The magnets were judged at the end of the day and a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place were posted on the paintings.

The meeting started with introductions of GFWC MT State President, Lynn Foreman, President-Elect, Karen Gustavsen, GFWC MT Past-President, Florence Diede, District officers, members attending with state, WSR, and international assignments and was followed by the pledge and collect. Deb Willis and LEADS graduates gave a presentation about the importance of LEADS.

The family of Jean Carroll Thompson was presented her fifty-year pin and certificate. Members shared memories of her contributions to GFWC including the time when Jean Carroll was GFWC of MT President.

Lunch was delivered from a local restaurant giving members time to buy donated homemade items, jewelry from PDQs, and to visit.

The afternoon included a local Repertory Theatre providing readings and music including songs from Chicago, a business meeting, and a guest speaker from Tumbleweed, a non-profit helping homeless teens. A donation was given to Tumbleweed for their extraordinary work.

A unique GFWC history lesson was presented as members drew an upside-down image yielding a picture of GFWC’s founder Jean Cunningham Crowley and learned lots of information about her.



Fireman Zack Smith, gave a tour of the fire station and living quarters.



## Happy Earth Day

### Karen Gustavsen, Western District President

Held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the VFW Post in Plains, 32 members representing all six clubs of the Western District and four guests were in attendance. A challenge to collect pop-top tabs benefiting the Ronald McDonald House in Missoula had been issued at the District's September 2022 meeting. A total of nearly 71 pounds were turned in with Thompson Falls President Cathy Mills having the honor of wearing a crown for the day as the top gatherers.

The busy day included selection of the calendar pictures representing our district, reports from club presidents, review and approval of a few up dates to the District Standing Rules, presentation of the LEADS workshop, announcement of Emma Walker as the \$500 District Scholarship recipient, a presentation by the Cancer Network of Sanders County, and election of District officers for 2024-2026.

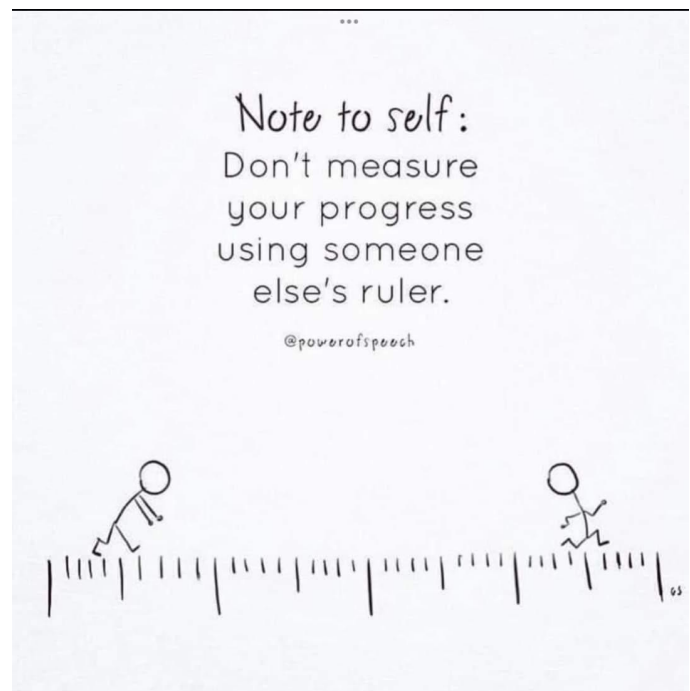
It is the tradition of the Western District for the host club to select a local charity to receive the funds raised by a silent auction held during the Convention. Following the Earth Day theme, \$601 was raised for the Cancer Network of Sanders County.

Congratulations to following women elected to serve as the 2024-2026 District administration - Linda Suckow, President; Connie Romero, Vice President; Lorraine Renard, Secretary; and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer.

District members look forward to a summer gathering at the Woman's Club of Missoula clubhouse on July 20<sup>th</sup> for a brown bag lunch. There is sure to be a lot of laughter and fun!



The Head Table included Debbie Kirschbaum, Plains Woman's Club President; Linda Stephani, Treasurer; Lorri Renard, Secretary; Linda Suckow, Vice President; Lynn Foreman, GFWC of Montana President.



## Suicide Prevention Through Education Canton Valley Woman's Club



Continuing the theme of "Suicide Prevention Through Education" the Canton Valley Woman's Club of Townsend, MT presented the junior and senior students of Broadwater County High School with wrist bands.

The bands have the new phone number 988 on them as the new way for anyone seeking help. There will be someone to talk to in their time of crisis. Or, if they are more comfortable texting MT 741741, someone will be there, too.

The club hopes these wrist bands will make the students aware there is help. If the bands save one life it will be worth it to the club.

Suicide is not chosen; it happens when the pain exceeds the ability to cope.

## National Day of Service September 30, 2023

Help Us to End Hunger in the United States By Volunteering,  
Donating, or Organizing a Community Service Project

Living the Volunteer Spirit | [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) | #GFWC23NDS

Help us to end hunger in the United States by volunteering, donating, or organizing a Community Service Project.

GFWC National Day of Service GFWC is excited to announce its inaugural National Day of Service on September 30, to combat hunger and food insecurity. GFWC's National Day of Service is an international, GFWC-wide campaign.

We encourage GFWC clubwomen in all 50 states and internationally, old and new GFWC friends, and GFWC team members to participate in activities on September 30, to collectively work to end hunger in our communities.

Please put Saturday, September 30, on your club calendar to start planning now in your local communities. Stay tuned for additional information

about upcoming activities and a National Day of Service Toolkit in News & Notes and on the GFWC website. To participate, please email: Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, [mgisler@gfwc.org](mailto:mgisler@gfwc.org) and copy Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, [dstrahanoski@gfwc.org](mailto:dstrahanoski@gfwc.org) REGISTER NOW #GFWC23NDS Living the Volunteer Spirit [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).

### STAY TUNED!

There will a special project during our Fall Meeting in Butte to participate in this inaugural National Day of Service.



**Montana Members Celebrating  
10 Years of Club Membership**

**EASTERN DISTRICT**

Rena Bucher	Karin Green	Lisa Hansen
Becky McGill	Beverly Silkwood	Ellen Smith

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

Dave Bricker	Jennifer Davis	Rhonda DeBorde
Connie Ellerman	Kitty Eneboe	Terry Engel
Evelyn Hall	Cathey Hardin	Shannon Heckler
Leona Huffman	Mary Ellen Kelly	Deb Larson
Linda Maydak	Linda Peterson	Margie Reck
Darlene Rochez	Roz Schildt	Linda Schott
Jean Schroeder	Nancy Smrcka	Lonie Swenson
Susan Welna	Wilma Wortman	

**WESTERN DISTRICT**

Jo Carpenter	Bonnie DeMott	Karen Hoyt
Janet Gardner	Joy Marie Grady	Patty Rome
Cathy Symington	Shirley Thompson	

**Montana Members Celebrating  
25 Years of Club Membership**

**EASTER DISTRICT**

Gayle Carter	Karen Durfey	Linda Pickard
Diane Wohler		

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

Bobby Klatt	Connie Owen	Stephanie Senn
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**WESTERN DISTRICT**

Connie Deyotte	Anne Findlay	Debbi Kirschbaum
Dolores Porter	Linda Sinerius	

**Membership Corner “Sparkle and Shine”  
Karen Gustavsen, Chairman**

Does your club have a special way to celebrate the end of the club year – maybe a dinner, a picnic, or a fun outing? Do you handout special kudos or silly awards to members who went above and beyond with club projects? Maybe you do this all year long. If is nice to take a moment and say thank you.

For most clubs this is not an election year. We have aligned with GF and our own state to have two year administrations. Do you conduct an installation ceremony for officers after your election? Asking a past club president, district officer, or member serving on the Board of Directors is a nice way to recognize their service. There are many ways using flowers, candles, and even candy to highlight the task of each office as the administration is installed. If you are unsure, this chairman has several available to share.

Presenting a club flower, yearbook, or folder is a way to acknowledge a new member and may be done at any time not just at the end of the club year! Make her feel like a part of the club right away.

Our state presents 10 year and 25 year membership pins based on the membership lists clubs submit each year. There are pins available from GFWC for each five years that may be purchased by individuals or clubs. Based on these same membership lists, our Membership Chairman requests from GFWC a 50 year pin and certificate signed by the GFWC International President.

**Up-Coming Dates to Remember**

**June 1** Jennie Award Nominations due to Susan Macartney, GFWC MT Chairman

**June 1** Summer Membership Recruitment Report to GF and Karen Gustavsen

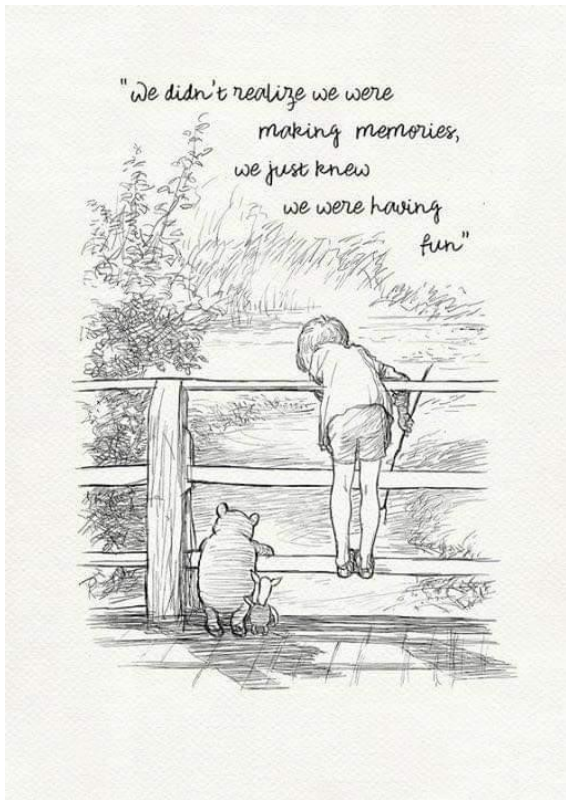
**June 9-12** GFWC Convention, Louisville, KY Marriott Louisville Downtown

**July 1** Dues with 3 copies of club membership list to Lorrie Hardy, GFWC MT Treasurer

**Aug. 24-27** WSR Conference, Redmond, OR Eagle Crest Resort

**Sept. 1** Fall Membership Recruitment Report to GF and Karen Gustavsen

**Sept. 29-30** Montana Fall Meeting, Butte, MT Copper King Hotel



## GFWC Montana

The Montana Historical Society publishes *Montana the Magazine of Western History*. In 1986, an article by Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs titled "Montana Women's Clubs at the Turn of the Century" was published. This ten-page article with many wonderful pictures discussing the homesteading rush in Montana from the 1890s to the 1920s and was part of her graduate dissertation from the University of Montana.

It notes the Deer Lodge Woman's Club as Montana's first women's club founded in 1889 and quotes that it sought "individual growth and direction of effort into lines of useful study."

An interesting side note, several times it quotes Mrs. W. F. Christie's article "The Women's Clubs of Montana" published in *Rocky Mountain Magazine*, Vol. 2, 1901 (from Butte ) and identifies her as director of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. After a review of past GFWC International Presidents from its formation in 1890 through 1904, there is no mention of Mrs. Christie. And since GFWC Montana was not formed until 1904 with no Mrs. Christie listed as a past president, it is expected that Mrs. Christie served in one of the eight Butte woman's clubs active at that time.

By 1910, agriculture exceeded mining as the main source of income for Montanans yet only 39% of the population was women. Even in the urban areas of Butte, Helena, and Missoula there were really few women. Women joined together when possible to relieve their isolation, educate themselves, and to build a proper sort of society that upheld qualities such as hard work, love of family, sobriety, and civility. They read a lot passing along books, periodicals, newspapers, and trading information about gardening, cooking, remedies for illness, and household skills necessary to the success of the homestead.

The projects and department outlines of GFWC promoted in the early issues of *The Montana Woman* reflect these values. Club members were tireless in their efforts to better their communities. Childhood illness, diagnosis, and treatment were important efforts. They wrote position papers and debated issues at meetings. Public health nurses, community libraries, public education for girls and boys, and creative art programs were supported.

The GFWC Montana past is built on strong women!





# Experience Central Oregon's best with our TOURS!

**Thursday, August 24th, 2023- Full Day Adventures (2 options)**

## Option 1- Smith Rock Hiking Adventure & Wine Tasting w/ lunch

**9:00** Depart Eagle Crest Resort for awe-inspiring Smith Rock State Park.

**9:30** Arrive at the park and begin our descent into the Crooked River canyon. We'll begin our hike along the spectacular riparian habitat. From here our options are many, from a beautiful and flat wander along the river scouting for otters and osprey to a steeper hike up a ridge for stunning views of the Cascade Mountains! Both hikes will enliven the senses and spark wonder at the fantastic geology that shapes this incredible canyon.

**12:00** A hidden gem- a vineyard in the desert of central Oregon will give the guests a glimpse into our local growing and winemaking prowess. Throughout the tour your professional guide will dazzle you with the highlights of gorgeous central Oregon delving into vinification as well as the natural and cultural history of the area. After touring and during tasting- lunch is served at the vineyard!

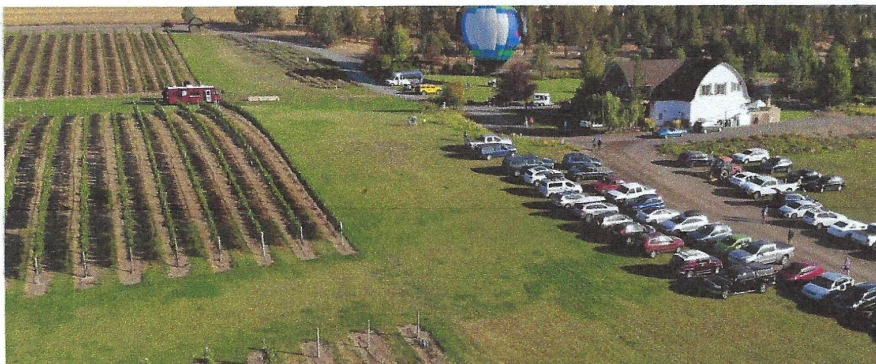
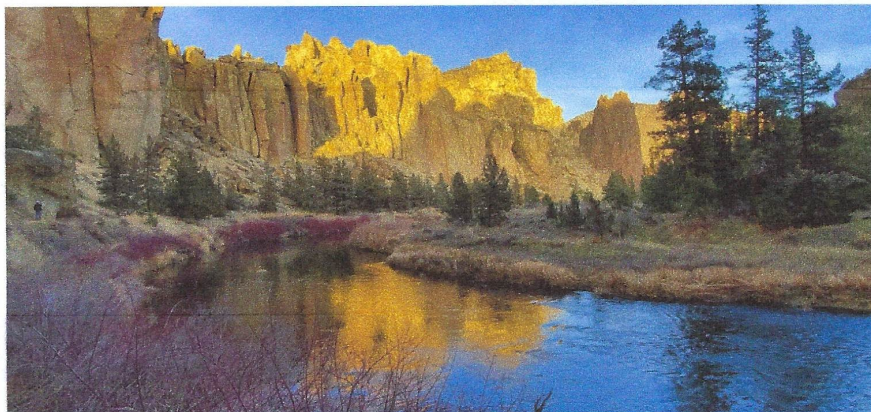
**3:00** Arrive back at Eagle Crest Resort.

*Dress in layers and wear good walking shoes. Bring sun protection and a water bottle.*

**Cost: \$215 per person, including: Transportation, guide and gratuity and lunch**

CALL (541) 389-8359 to book

DEADLINE TO REGISTER JULY 15, 2023



### Steps to confirmation:

1. When you are ready, please call the number above to reserve your trip.
2. Please share which trip option (GFWC Smith Rock & Wine or GFWC Canoe & Mt. Bachelor) you desire to attend on Thursday August 24, so we can locate the right group. We will need your Name, Phone, Email and a Credit card to take full payment.
3. Cancellation policy: up to 2 weeks before, get 90% refunded. Within two weeks prior to your tour, there are no refunds.
4. After signups close you will receive an email with additional details from Wanderlust Tours.



## Thursday, August 24th, 2023- Full Day Adventures (2 options)

### Option 2- Canoe the High Cascade Lakes & Scenic Chairlift Ride up Mt. Bachelor

**9:00** Depart Eagle Crest for a trip into the heart of the Cascade Mountain Range

**9:45** Put in our canoes on a high elevation mountain lake! Our guides will instruct everyone on canoeing techniques and share the natural and cultural history as they highlight the sweet spots on these stunning lakes. Watch for wildlife while you soak in the beauty of these lakes created by ancient volcanic eruptions.

**12:00** Take the scenic chairlift ride up Mt. Bachelor to grab lunch and walk around. Look back down at the incredible mountain lake on which we just spent time canoeing!

**3:00** Return to Eagle Crest Resort

*Dress in layers and wear good walking shoes that may get wet. Bring a swimsuit if you want to take a dip, sun protection and extra layers.*

**Cost: \$190 per person, includes: Transportation, guide, gratuity, canoes and gear, scenic chair lift ride- lunch is on your own!**

CALL (541) 389-8359 to book

DEADLINE TO REGISTER JULY 15, 2023



**Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 9:00 - 2:00pm**

**SISTERS SHOPPING ADVENTURE!!**

Located just 16 miles west of Eagle Crest is the iconic western flare town of SISTERS!

**9:00** Depart Eagle Crest. For those of you who do not have transportation, we are providing a small travel bus to allow you some excellent shopping opportunities....especially for those who have heard of the famous Fabric Shop in Sisters!

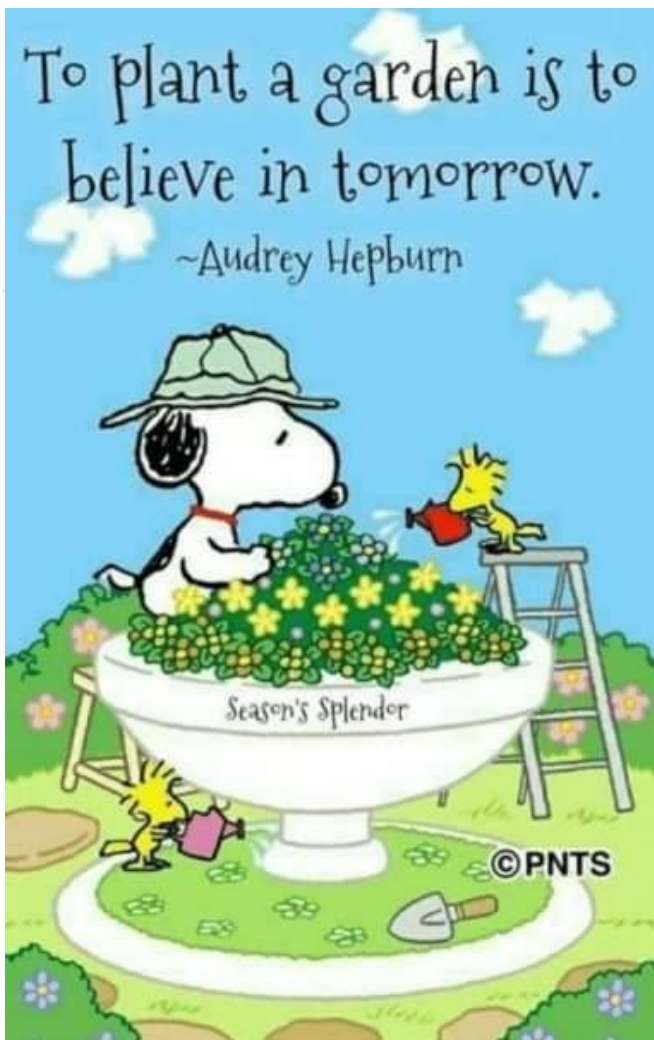
**2:00** Return to Eagle Crest Resort

**Cost \$25.00** (check box on registration form)

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER JULY 15, 2023**

*Otherwise, Friday is open for you to enjoy Eagle Crest Resort amenities, or for you to travel to Redmond or Bend for whatever experience you are seeking!*

\*\*\*\*\*



**ENCOURAGING WORDS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



**2023 GFWC Western States Region Conference**  
**August 25-27, 2023**  
**Conference Registration Deadline: July 15, 2023**  
(Please use a separate form for each attendee)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> time attendee? \_\_\_yes\_\_\_no\_\_\_

Federation Title \_\_\_\_\_  
(GFWC, WSR, STATE, DISTRICT, CLUB, GUEST, BOOSTER)

**Conference Registration Fee** \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meal Registration:**

Friday, August 25, Oregon State Night Dinner  
Fresh Salmon with lemon dill butter, or \$65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Grilled Chicken with rosemary sauce, or \$65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Portabello mushroom with raspberry sauce and vegetables \$65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, August 26, Barbeque Lunch Buffet  
Deschutes BBQ with chicken or Italian sausage \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, August 26, Dinner  
Flat Iron Steak topped with grilled prawns, or \$65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetable Lasagna \$65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, August 27, Caddy Shack Breakfast Brunch \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation for Sisters Trip \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate any special dietary needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to OFWC. Mail registration form and check to: Heather Thomas, 5354 Melrose Ct N, Keizer, OR 97303.

Check here if you are paying your registration online with your credit/debit card \_\_\_\_\_