



The Montana Woman



*Community - Acknowledgement
Respect - Empowerment
2022-2024*

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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

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Joyce DeCunzo, Leadership Chairman has been working with the Leads Graduates Committee on the development of a State Leadership Development Program. There will be more information on upcoming Zoom Leadership Training sessions coming to you soon.

A LEADS session that will be held on Sunday morning at the April 2024 Convention. Club & State Leadership is essential to our future. Do not miss out on this opportunity.



CLUB REPORTING

This is a reminder that Kim Montag, Vice President will be sending you the current 2023 Statistical Reporting Form and instructions for submitting your narrative reports. It is important that the each Club reports on their volunteer hours, donations and donations in kind. Providing narratives is encouraged. Identify ALL project activities for consideration as a CARE project "Taking Care of Others who Take Care of Us".



From the President

Billings Junior Woman’s Club decorated the tables to fit the “Barbie” theme. It was truly amazing, each table had different Barbie’s and accessories which spanned decades! Pink was the color – theme and there were some pretty spectacular outfits worn by our members. We finished off the evening with Bunco with no charge to play, and non-cash prizes to the winners.

The Business Meeting included the Officer and Chairman Reports, and award presentations.

The President’s project CARE Quilt raffle, the winner was Joyce Rogers, Past State President and member of the GFWC Mission Valley Woman’s Club.

The tickets for the Johnny Was designer blanket are still available for sale; and the drawing will be at convention in April.

The GFWC Montana 2024 Photo Calendar was delayed due to a change in the GFWC logo, which was not released until November 13th. The photos selected by each District are timeless, and we will have a jump start on sales. The calendar sales proceeds were approved to go to the GFWC Montana General Fund.

Let me begin with highlights of the September Fall Meeting in Butte. We were welcomed to Butte by Lorraine Hamry, Executive Director of the Butte Emergency Food Bank, who told their story that their 150 volunteers do to support their Community. She graciously accepted the Club food donations. On Saturday, the Deer Lodge Woman’s Club provided the wonderful baskets that contained all the appropriate food groups to prepare a meal on Saturday Sept 30th – GFWC National Service Day. Toni Molinaro passed the Blessing Basket and \$971 was collected for the Butte Emergency Food Bank. Additional food & paper product donations brought later on Friday were presented to Lorraine’s daughter along with the check. Lorraine wrote a thank you stating we had donated 300 lbs along with the monetary donation.

Friday evening, the theme was “How Many Hats Do You Wear”, and the Mission Valley Woman’s Club provided the centerpieces which were a collection of historical photos, and hats. I had requested people to write down how many hats they wore, the received a few submissions. However, one table cleverly compiled a “group” list; an example of Club Women team work in action. Our speaker was Jennifer Birnel, The Montana History Portal Director, which is the repository for our collection of the Montana Woman Magazine. Joyce Rogers contributed an article found later in this issue, with instructions on how to access.

Saturday, Cathy Mills, President Thompson Falls Woman’s Club stepped right in to lead us in some “stretching – exercises” when our speaker had to cancel due to illness. Our primary evening speaker, an author and clothing designer also cancelled due to illness; and her book’s graphic artist, Erica Mica, still came. She brought props of the clothing that Cindy Owings, designed and did an excellent job telling Cindy’s story about her world travels which influenced her bright, colorful designs.



Enjoy the holidays, may they bring you happiness & joy.

Thank you for all that you do for your community. Keep up the your efforts “Taking Care of Those that Take Care of us”

*In Federation & Kindness,
Lynn*



ORDER YOUR GFWC OF MONTANA SHIRTS TODAY!



S to 2XL \$30.00 each



XS to 4XL \$25.00 each

Offered in either a short sleeve or long sleeve style, a large variety of sizes are available for this distinctive high quality Royal Blue shirt with the GFWC of Montana logo prominently displayed on the front in white.

SIMPLE TO ORDER AND SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO YOU
Scan the QR Code or
visit www.bonfire.com/gfwc-of-montana
to get started

Bring awareness of your affiliation with GFWC and GFWC of Montana by wearing this shirt at club events with the public! Small quantity print jobs can be expensive for clubs. Here is your opportunity to join a statewide campaign at a reasonable cost. No set-up cost to you, no minimum order size; individual orders will be mailed directly to members as they join your club and place their order.

Save on shipping by submitting a group order going to one location.



Photography

Jo Campbell, Chairman

There is an exciting change for this year's Photography Contest! You may submit your entry digitally by email! See the details in the blue box.

This will make it so easy for everyone to enter and hopefully you send along one of your pictures. The majority of us take pictures...pictures of the faces of our grandbabies, our families, our pets. Pictures of a beautiful scene that takes our breath away, and we long to capture it. Pictures of a moment so special we want to remember it forever! And pictures of our club members as we meet, work and play together. The holidays are rapidly approaching, giving us many opportunities to take great photos. The lens on your camera is your eyes, and just one single CLICK may be the photo of a lifetime! Pictures are judged by originality, visual impact and technical skill (or just a good luck shot!). I am here to encourage you and help you. Please contact me for any questions you may have concerning the contest or your photographs.

Any pictures to be submitted to the photo contest must be taken during 2023 and are due to this Chairman by April 1, 2024. So, tell us your story with photographs! There are two contests:

First Contest - The World in Pictures

Our World Up Close - Create a visual image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world.

Natural Wonders - use wide angles and panoramas, or moody landscape images to showcase mountains, meadows, sand hills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.

Reflections - Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

Second Contest - GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate, in groups or one-on-one.

Artwork Guidelines

- *Photographs may be vertical or horizontal.
- *Photographs must be the original work of a dues paying member.
- *Each entry must be an 8" X 10" print mounted on a rigid board of the same size not to exceed 3/8" thick.
- *No mattes, frames, or hangers.
- *Photographs will NOT be returned.
- *A label must be affixed to the back with the following information:
 - Contest Name - *The World in Pictures* with category or *GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit*
 - Photographer's name, mailing address, email, phone number
 - Name and state of their club
 - Title and brief caption giving location, date, & other pertinent info about the picture
 - Arrow indicating top of the photograph
- *NEW THIS YEAR—DIGITAL ENTRIES MAY BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO JO CAMPBELL

Must be High Resolution—300 Dots or pixels per inch emailed in "actual" size. Will need to be a large capacity format software such as Dropbox or Hightail.

- *Email body must give the following:
 - Contest Name - *The World in Pictures* with category or *GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit*
 - Photographer's name, mailing address, email, phone number
 - Name and state of their club
 - Title and brief caption giving location, date, & other pertinent info about the picture
- *Judges will look at the overall creativity of subject and quality of the photograph.
- *Photographs may be taken using film or digital cameras in color or black & white.

Entries are due April 1st to:
Jo Campbell
27 Raghorn Court, Ennis Mt 59729
406-640-1083
jocam724@gmail.com



Writing Contests

Jan Beekman, Chairman

Wake up your muse, you Montana writers out there! The world of GFWC wants to enjoy your short stories or poems. The deadline for getting your entries to the Creative Writing Chairman is March 1, 2024, but all entries must have been written in this 2023 calendar year.

This is a great opportunity to share your creativity and get your muse recognized! The contest is not only for students, but it's for our GFWC members as well. We really appreciate the level of participation in the Youth Contest in the recent past, but we have not seen many entries from our GFWC members. You can remedy that!

Get going and get writing! Submit your own, but also contact your local schools and let teachers know about this opportunity for their students. Tell home-schoolers about it ... and invite your children and grandchildren to participate! The contest details and "story starters" may be found at gfwcmontana.org/resources.

The judges are looking forward to reading your creative works this winter!

Remember the Creative Arts Waiver must be submitted for each entrant.

Unlock Your Creativity

There's a muse who lives inside you
She is clever, strong and cute
She is lonely there and waiting
For your visit – she's not mute

When you meet her, she will speak up
She will help you find your voice
Pick up pen and grab a paper
Writing is your muse's choice

I've a blog – its name is **janbeek**
It spreads love and unity
Joy and peace and faith are plenty
There my muse can speak for me

You've a muse who lives inside you
She is waiting to be free
Free to help you find your own voice
Unlock your creativity

Submission Guidelines:

Short stories are limited to 2,000 words

Poetry entries can be any style, with minimum length of 8 lines and maximum of 50

Student Entries:

Must be typed, double-spaced, 1" margins on all sides

Student and teacher's names, name of school, sponsoring club and state, category, title of work and grade level on top right of each page

There are four grade level groupings:

Category 1: K-2nd; Category 2: 3rd-5th;

Category 3: 6th-8th; Category 4: 9th-12th

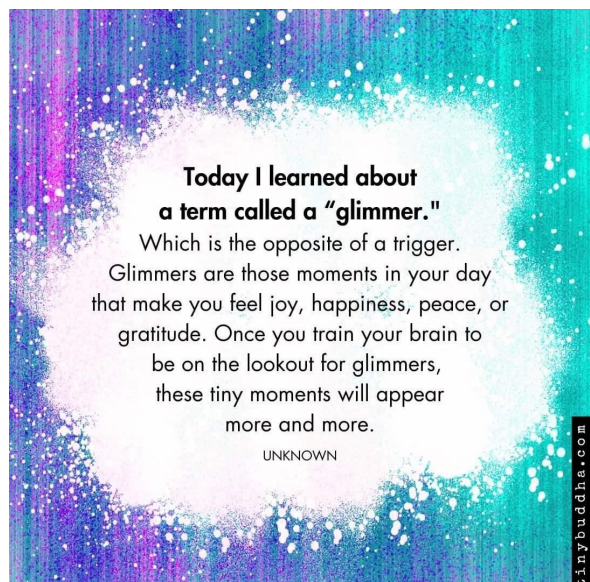
Club Member Entries:

Must be typed, double-spaced, 1" margins on all sides

Author's name, email address, mailing address, phone number, club name, state, category and title on top right of each page

For more information, contact **Jan Beekman** at bobjanbeek@icloud.com.

Submissions should be addressed to her at PO Box 1477, Ennis, MT 59729





CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER

With my signature I declare that:

- I have created the submitted work, entitled _____, and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.
- With my work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe the copyright of other persons or entities.

The work in question is (please check one): Photography Poetry Short Story

- I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sub-license the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.
- I agree that I shall not release the work to any other publication in the same or substantially similar form, without prior written and explicit consent from the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

This agreement shall become effective and binding at the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Full Name (Print)		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Email		
Phone		

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (if submitter is under 18 years of age)

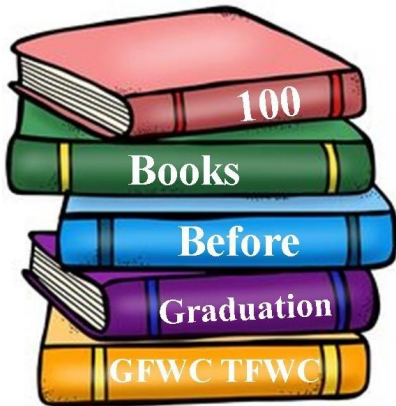
Date

Continue the Spirit of Our National Day of Service

The National Day of Service may be over for this year, but clubs continue to donate all through the year to fight food insecurity! Not all food banks can offer refrigerated items like milk or butter, so check to see what is offered locally. Here are a few tips to make your donation generally more useful to those served:

- * Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot.
- * Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles so try a variation.
- * They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soups unless you buy pop tops.
- * Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot.
- * Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
- * Tea bags, coffee, and hot chocolate packets make them feel like you care.
- * Sugar and flour are treats.
- * Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
- * They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
- * Cake mixes, frosting, and candles make a child's birthday cake.
- * Dishwashing and laundry detergent are very expensive and always appreciated.
- * Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
- * Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, baggies, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues are all useful.
- * Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

100 Books Before Graduation GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club



This is becoming a popular initiative across the country. Every community has its own needs and variations, but the goal is to stimulate a love for reading. The challenge has been offered by TFWC to all 9th-12th students from Thompson Falls west to include both Thompson Falls and Noxon High Schools plus home-schooled students.

Students enroll with a parent/guardian's approval in person or via email through the Thompson Falls Public Library. A reading log will be kept for each student at the Thompson Falls Public Library. Books must be reading level appropriate and may be a classroom assignment, but not the class textbook. The student may report a completed book in person or via email with a form stating the title, author, format, and signature of a parent, guardian, teacher, or school counselor. Print, Ebooks, audiobooks, or other format are all acceptable.

Every book read will earn one entry into the quarterly drawing. There will be one top prize winner for a \$25 gift card and one \$10 gift card winner each quarter from all the entries. The winner will be offered a choice between two or three gift cards for local businesses such as gas or food or an Amazon card. A special \$100 gift card will be awarded to each student reaching 100 books before graduation.

The first drawing will be at the club's January 2024 meeting and they look forward to this event.



100th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff GFWC Plains Woman's Club

The Plains Woman's Club (GFWC-PWC) will celebrate 100 years of membership with the GFWC in autumn 2024. Clubwomen felt that a century of service to the community deserved to be commemorated not only with a centennial project but with a year of celebration!

For the Centennial Project, GFWC-PWC plans to update certain signage and purchase picnic tables to be placed in two parks. The club has always been an active participant in community beautification, a component of community service that requires very little from the community but gives back much more.

Clubwomen are planning quarterly events to commemorate the century. To begin, the GFWC-PWC hosted a kickoff Cake Walk and Dessert Auction, because, after all, joining the GFWC - Plains Woman's Club is a piece of cake! In homage to the earliest days of the GFWC-PWC, guests donned their best 1920s dress or hat as they danced around the cake walk circle to music reminiscent of the jazz age. Through auction purchases and cake walk tickets guests and members alike contributed to raising an incredible \$700 toward the beautification efforts.

Nearly every member contributed to the event, whether by baking for auction, walking the (cake) walk, or spreading the word to friends. The success of the event was a testament to the dedication of the clubwomen toward the community and club itself.

The club is hopeful that a yearlong celebration will increase membership, garner community support, and start off strong for a second century of service.



Left to Right: Cake Walk Committee Alana Johnson, Jamie Schmidt, Debbi Kirschbaum Club President, Janet Brandon . Missing is Debbie Heckman.

For the Helena of It GFWC Helena Woman's Club

Four slightly crazed, witchy members of the Helena Woman's Club competed for the best water station during a recent half marathon race.

For the Helena Of It race is an annual community event benefitting the Friendship Center, a domestic violence shelter in Helena. Club members love the opportunity to show their creativity, what a fun group they are, and the types of service organizations and projects they support.

The witches won the contest hands down!



Left to Right: Kellie McClanahan, Bobbie Conrady, Marsha Baumeister, Sandi Conrady



Membership Corner “Sparkle and Shine” Karen Gustavsen, Chairman



Here is a clever favor idea passed along through the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum on Facebook. A chocolate bar, graham cracker, and four marshmallows wrapped together in a baggie.

Are you a member of the Forum? The Top Ten Projects nationally in each Program are being shared. There might be an idea to spark your club's interest.



Highlights from **Mapping Out a Club Strategic Plan**
CREATED BY: JOLIE FRANKFURTH,
2022-2024 GFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

(Full copies of the materials available may be located at the GFWC.org in My Digital Library/Resources/S/2022-2024 Strategic Planning Tool Kit)

Following the August article in *Montana Woman*, you have met and answered three questions – Where are we now? Where are we going? How do we get there? Not all ideas will meet general consensus, so write the least popular on a sheet of paper for future consideration or combination. The next analysis stage is to take the highest-ranking strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats determined in the *Where are we now?* and answer the following questions:

- How do you use your strengths to take advantage of opportunities?
- How do you overcome weaknesses preventing you from benefitting from the opportunities?
- How can your strengths lessen the likelihood of threats?
- What can you do about your weaknesses to make the threats less likely?

Do not rush this process! It might take a full day or several gatherings to work through the questions. Expect “*How do we get there?*” to bring up ideas for change and hopefully enthusiasm for the planned direction and goals.

The process does not end here but needs monitoring on a regular basis. Not everything will work as thought and might need to be tweaked. Keep striving for the positive!

Up-Coming Dates to Remember

Dec. 1 Winter Membership Recruitment Report to GF and Karen Gustavsen

Feb. 5 Club Reports due to Kim Montag, Dean of Departments & Lynn Forman, GFWC MT President, Include Statistical Sheet

March 1 Spring Membership Recruitment Report due to GF and Karen Gustavsen

March 1 Youth and Members Writing Contest Entries due to Jan Beekman. GFWC MT Chairman

March 1 Community Impact Program Entries due to Joyce Hooper, GFWC MT Chairman



GFWC Montana

GFWC Montana welcomed Jennifer Birnel, Montana History Portal Director as the Fall Meeting Friday night dinner guest speaker. Her message:

"The Montana Woman" magazine Collection of issues from 1921 – 2023 is on ***The Montana History Portal*** website and is user friendly.

In the Fall of 2014 GFWC of Montana applied for a \$1500 Montana State Library Grant to have magazines from 1921 to 2014 scanned and placed on the mtmemory.org website. In 2015 we contributed \$1800 to cover additional costs. The initial upload process was not completed until 2017. In 2021, The Montana State Library changed web platforms and our Collection went offline until late 2022. It was cumbersome for members to use.

In 2023 Adina Fox and Joyce Rogers determined to find a way to present the collection chronologically. We met with Jennifer Birnel to find solutions. She agreed to reset the format to PDF and the magazine sequence using the year-month coding i.e. 1926-10 for October, 1926. It was a major task so we appreciate her so much.

There were other hurdles during the process. Thanks goes to all the Montana Clubwomen who helped make spreadsheets, searched their archives, sent copies of missing issues, and helped with computer transfers of 2014-2023 issues from our state website. Over 600 pages were added to the original data this year. The website is still missing many of The Montana Woman issues. We hope to have a "still missing" list by Spring, 2024.

Bookmark this path in your browser to find our collection; <https://www.mtmemory.org/nodes/view/12957>.

Under the "Help" tab you will find tips on "Searching for an Item in a Collection." This will aide you in locating all types of fun facts about your club and members recorded in the history of GFWC of Montana. There are stories, poems, awards, reports, and so many pictures.

Jennifer asked that you contact Joyce Rogers if you find errors or have questions about the current site.

The really fun addition to the site is that clubs may add "collections" under our state organization. A great way to protect your club's history is by adding the club's Minutes as a collection! But you need not stop there; another collection could be historical fliers and documents, scrapbooks, pictures, reports, proclamations, etc. for your club.

How can your club get started? First your club will need to plan what to include in your collection then register with the Montana History Portal. Directions can also be found under the "Help" tab, "Using the Montana History Portal Site: Access and Initial Setup" or at www.msl.mt.gov/libraries/statewide_projects/montana_history_portal/.

Good luck with preserving your club's history!

