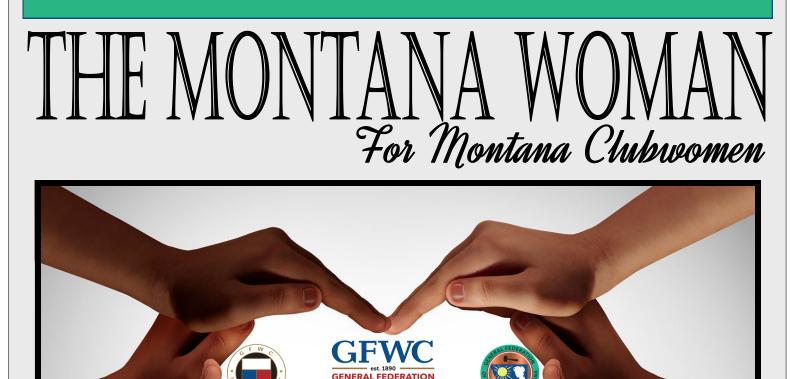
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August 2024 Volume 100, Issue 1



At the heart of it all is FUN! Surrounded by Service, Commitment,

OF WOMEN'S CLUBS MONTANA

Loyalty, Caring and Kindness

FUN

The Mission of GFWC MT shall be to unite woman's clubs throughout Montana for the purpose of mutual benefit, and for the promotion of their common interest in volunteer service.



WELCOME - AUGUST 2024

Fall is just around the corner! The geese are beginning to show their young how to gather in flotillas. Soon They will practice flying in "V" formations.

We have two wonderful opportunities in September to strengthen our clubs and expand our personal knowledge about ways to serve our communities.

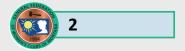
The first is the **Western States Region Conference September 6th to 8th in Tukwila, WA**. This is a time for the eleven Western States to gather and share. If you find you are now able to attend, we can get in touch with the conference chairman to facilitate your registration.

There are so many moving parts to build a conference in a new facility at the opening of a new administration! Plan on joining other Montana Clubwomen at our **Fall Meeting September 20th to 21st in Anaconda, MT**.

You will learn new ideas to revitalize projects or develop new ones for your club as the Community Service Program Chairmen reveal highlights of the Club Manual. Several of our Advancement Area Chairmen will speak on topics that are expected to be helpful. Plus, there is a new President's Special Project, that hopefully will challenge your club and bring you more visibility in your community. Read more about the **Five Points of Light Challenge** in this issue of *The Montana Woman*.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Karen



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GFWC of Montana Executive Committee

President Karen K. Gustavsen President@GFWCMontana.org

President Elect, Membership Chairman Kim Montag Membership@GFWCMontana.org

Vice President, Dean of Departments Linda Suckow Reporting@GFWCMontana.org

Recording Secretary Cathy Kipping Secretary@GFWCMontana.org

Corresponding Secretary Lorraine Renard Meeting-Info@GFWCMontana.org

Treasurer Sarah Fryer Treasurer@GFWCMontana.org

Parliamentary Advisor Sandi Conrady

Budget and Finance Chairman Adina Fox

See the 2024-2026 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 President@GFWCMontana.org

Email change of address to: Kim Montag Membership@GFWCMontana.org



Dear Fellow Members,

I am so excited to welcome you to the 2024-2026 administration. I am deeply honored to serve as your 55th GFWC International President during this pivotal period, in which historic progress can and will be made. I encourage you to take full advantage of the numerous opportunities available to you.

Service and personal development have been central to our mission for 134 years. Through these lies the concept of the "circle of influence" – a dynamic sphere within which our actions radiate outward, touching lives and effecting change. Within this circle, as symbolized on our emblem, we find our



power to transform, uplift, and inspire. As members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, each of us occupies a unique position within this circle, endowed with the capacity to enact meaningful change and to leave an indelible mark upon the world.

Under the banner of "Educate, Engage, Empower," let us work to empower individuals from all walks of life, providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to shape our future. Through education, we open the doors to opportunities and encourage a culture of lifelong learning. Increased engagement creates meaningful connections and fosters a sense of belonging. Empowerment encourages others to become catalysts of change, amplifying the scope and impact of our collective endeavors.

As we step into this new administration, our Strategic Plan has been meticulously crafted to guide our focused efforts. Our leaders have prepared an incredible Club Manual, a treasure trove of ideas, tools, and tips for grassroots involvement. Take full advantage of this powerful resource to aid our growth and development.

Together, as we embark on this new chapter, hold fast to the values that define our organization—camaraderie, collaboration, and commitment to changing lives through volunteer service. Celebrate our diverse perspectives and experiences, recognizing that it is through our differences that we find our strength. Our potential for undefined progress is limitless when we unite and advocate with one voice and excellent clarity. Be bold as we reimagine all that GFWC can become.

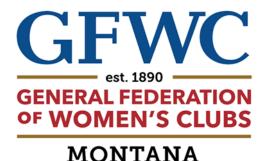
Together In Living the Volunteer Spirit,

Stullen BBrazil

Suellen B. Brazil GFWC International President









Call to the GFWC of Montana Fall Meeting September 20 – 21, 2024 Registration Deadline September 5, 2024

The Forge

100 Union Ave Anaconda, MT 59711 406-797-4100 \$139.00/night plus taxes Two Queen or One King Breakfast included Call Hotel for Reservations Refer to GFWC MT

Rate Deadline: August 30, 2024 (NO GAURANTEE OF ROOM/RATE AFTER THIS DATE)

TENTATIVE AGENDA

FRIDAY - Sept. 20, 2024

- Executive Committee Meeting 9:00 am
- Registration 10:30 am 12:30 pm
- General Meeting 1:00 pm 4:30 pm
- District Meeting & Social in Suites 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm
- DINNER Wear Your Denims to Dinner Rhinestones & Lace welcomed, no "Daisy Dukes" please 6:30 pm
- Basket Bingo for Project Care 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm

SATURDAY - Sept. 21, 2024 (Business Casual)

- TOPPS 8:00 am
- PDQs 8:45 am
- CSP Display Boards 8:30 9:00 am
- General Meeting 9:00 am 11:45 am
 - Reports from Club Presidents
- LUNCH 12:00 noon
- General Meeting 1:00 5:00 pm Advancement Area Reports
- DINNER-Cocktail Attire 6:30 pm

Δ

WHAT TO BRING

- A \$25-\$30 Basket to be the prizes at Basket Bingo Friday night. *Project Care* is the Food Bank serving Anaconda. This event is registered with National Day of Service. Reserve your BINGO cards on the Registration Form!
- . 50-25-25 Raffles at meals will benefit the JLT Tavel Fund.
- View the Denim and Lace All Buttoned Up Quilt being raffled to support the Five Points of Light Literacy Project. Get your tickets NOW – drawing is September 2025! Only 500 tickets will be sold.
- . Jewelry & Accessory donations for the PDQs' Sale to be held during the meeting.
- 2025 Calendar featuring pictures taken across Montana by our club members on sale for \$20.00 each.
- Your smile and curiosity

ALL MEMBERS are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend.







MONTANA

GFWC of Montana Fall Meeting September 20 – 21, 2024 The Forge, 100 Union Ave, Anaconda, MT

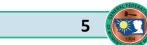
Please send one registration form for each person attending.

Name:			
Phone Number: Ema	il Address:		
First Time Fall Me	eting Attendee: Yes	🗆 No 🗆	
Club Name:			
GFWC Montana Position(s):			
	State, District and/or (Club	
Registration Fee:			\$ 45.00
 Friday, April 20 – Wear Your Denims to Directory Dress in Denim for Dinner; Rhinestones and Lace welcom Dress Your Potato with Diced Chicken, Diced Egg, Sour Chicken Side Salad, Dressings, Cookies 	ned, No "Daisy Dukes" please!	\$22.00	
Saturday, April 21: Lunch – Soup & Sandw Tomato Soup, Turkey and Ham Sandwich Fixings, Chips, Cookies	ich Buffet	\$16.00	
Saturday, April 21: Dinner ~ Cocktail Attire Marinated Pan Seared Chicken with Roaste Eggplant Parmesan with Roasted Vegetable FRIDAY EVENING BASKET BINGO GAME CA	es 🛛	\$45.00 X \$10.00	
Benefits Project Care – the food bank of Anaconda	•	EACH	
Include Registration Fee	in Total Payment Total	:	\$
Please note any dietary restrictions (not pre	eferences):		

Registration Deadline: September 5, 2024 ~ No refunds after September 10, 2024

Make checks payable to GFWC Montana. Mail Registration and check to: Lorraine Renard, PO Box 442, Thompson Falls, MT 59873

ALL MEMBERS are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Project Care of Anaconda



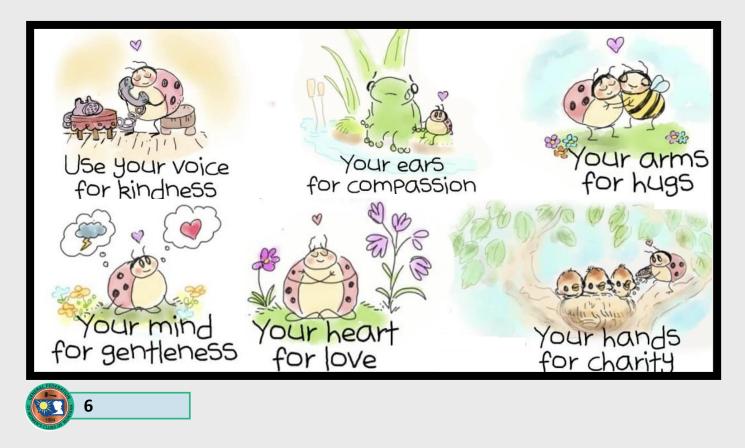
A **Basket Bingo Fundraiser** is planned for Friday at our Fall Meeting on September 20, 2024. Bingo cards are \$10.00 each and may be pre-ordered on the Fall Meeting Registration Form. Markers are provided. Clubs attending are asked to bring a basket with a value of \$25-\$30 that will be the prizes.

A normal card with **FIVE FREE SPACES** is planned, so games will go quickly! Our state level project has been registered with GFWC National Day of Service.

What is Project Care? Anaconda Ministerial Project Care operates as a 501c3 non-profit corporation and has no paid

positions. Their primary objective is to operate a food bank for those in need within Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. The food bank is open from 1 pm to 3 pm on Mondays and Thursdays. Approximately 225 households are served each month. Participation in the food distribution program is nondiscriminatory in accordance with Federal civil rights law and regulations. They partner with the Montana Food Bank Network to acquire food items at a discount. Food is also purchased from, or donated by, local grocery stores. Many residents donate food on an individual basis or in conjunction with organized food drives.

Other types of emergency assistance are occasionally provided. This includes, but isn't limited to, fuel vouchers for necessary travel and assistance with utility bills, rent or medical costs.



OUR STARRY CORNER



As we embark on this new administration, it is hoped that your club is looking forward to accomplishing the Five Points of Light Challenge.

Participating in the National Day of Service 2024 is just around the corner! Working to combat food insecurity is a long-standing project for Montana clubs.

Your club most likely has a favorite project. Please, tell us about it, whether small or large, by completing the Five Points of Light Challenge Report (Form sent with this issue of *The Montana Woman.*)

DID YOU KNOW ...

It is not necessary for the project to be done on just the one NDS day? A week before, a week later, or some point in between, is just fine.

Posting fliers around town, using Facebook, community bulletin boards, and if you are lucky enough to have a local newspaper that will print an article before an event without asking you to pay for an advertisement, are all ways to get out the word. Of course, an article printed after a project is always welcomed!

DID YOU KNOW...

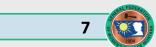
Sometimes it is helpful to send to your local paper's editor an action picture which identifies those included, tells what is being done, who is being helped, plus an email/Facebook page to contact the club and details about the next club meeting. There may not be room for a long article, but a picture is a great filler.

Have you seen Dean's List students printed in the paper? A list of local papers serving our clubs is being composed by Communications and Public Relations Chairman, Nancy Hanford. An article is planned for submission after the National Day of Service to all these papers where one of our clubs has participated. It is hoped having it come from the state level will help get it printed. We need your Five Points of Light Report to find out what you did and to make sure you are included in this article. Plus, scan your local paper to let Debbie Willis know it was printed!

DID YOU KNOW...

There is a special recognition planned when a club completes the Challenge?







I am so proud to have served as your President for the past two years. GFWC Montana is comprised of amazing Clubs and Women who embrace the spirit of volunteer-ism.

We were recognized at the 2024 Convention in Chicago as shown by the Certificates that were received below. They will be presented at the Fall Meeting. A special thank you to the 2022-2024 Chairman who reviewed and submitted their reports to GFWC Chairman, and to Vice President, Kim Montag and myself. I would like to provide a shout –out to the TOPPS Club (of which I am now member) for the recognition of their Montana History Portal project.

Also, I was touched and surprised that tribute was paid to my CARE project in the Convention Program.

I encourage all Clubs to report on how you are serving your communities every year. I am certain you are held in high esteem in your community and deserve to share your achievements.

Lastly, thank you to the LEADS Graduates to have established the Montana Leadership Program. This program was established to allow more Club women to participate in Leadership Training via zoom meetings and at our meetings. Only one LEADS candidate is selected to attend the GFWC LEADS annual training. There is no limit on how many can participate in our State program.

Please continue to Take Care of Those that Take care of Us. They deserve our support. In Federation and Kindness, Lynn

GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club Creativity Award Legislative/Public Policy

> **GFWC TOPP's Club** Creativity Award Women's History and Resource Center

GFWC Montana Outstanding Achievement Fundraising and Development



GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club Club Website Contest 2nd Place

Lynn Forman Charlotte Emerson Brown Award For Exemplary Service & Excellence in State Leadership

GFWC Montana Outstanding Achievement Communications & Public Relations

Awards as listed in the picture below





Membership Corner "Educate, Engage and Empower"

Kim Montag, Chairman

Our recruitment campaign theme for the 2024-2026 Administration is to **Educate**, **Engage and Empower** our members. This is designed to help your club not only recruit new members but strengthen retention of your existing members.

We have <u>new reporting dates</u> for your quarterly reporting –for new members who joined July, August and September – your report is due **October 1, 2024**. During these months we ask you to focus on clear communication to your members providing regular updates through email, newsletters and social media. A fillable form will be sent to Club Presidents as soon as it is available and it will also be available at GFWC.org in the member portal. Remember to send the report to GFWC and also a copy to your GFWC MT Membership Chairman, Kim Montag buy October 1, 2024.

Other reporting deadlines are - October, November and December new members - due **January 2, 2025**; January, February and March new members - due **April 1, 2025**; and April, May and June new members - due **July 1, 2025**. Please mark these dates in your calendars.

Educate your Members – Encourage attendance at District, State, Western Region and GFWC meetings. Make it a road trip full of adventure. Celebrate Federation Day – April 24 – plan a community service project – ask the town mayor to designate April 24th as GFWC (club name) Day to recognize your club's contribution to the community and get it in the local news media.

Engage your Members – Encourage member input – suggestion boxes, surveys, etc. Make sure your projects include all and avoid burnout of a few. Find out what other projects your club should consider to broaden participation.

Empower your Members – Respect the limits of your member's time by being flexible and efficient – use committees to perform preliminary planning and then report at meetings, keep reports brief, plan something fun at your meetings, make it easy to renew membership.

Recruitment is a year-round process and new members will be attracted to a strong, solid and engaged club. Remember – the more we value and engage our diverse members – the easier it is to retain them and recruit others – just have fun doing it!!



2024 ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

Important 2024/25 Dates

August 30	Deadline for Hotel Group Rate
September 5 September 5-8 September 19-22 September 28	Deadline for Fall Meeting Registration WSR, Washington GFWC MT Fall Meeting, Anaconda GFWC National Day of Service
October 1	Summer Membership Recruitment Report, GF & Kim Montag
January 1	Fall Membership Recruitment Report, GF & Kim Montag

Celebrate with us!

GFWC Montana is celebrating two significant dates in 2024. Early April 1904 was the organization of the Montana Federation. Between the first meeting early in the month of April to the acceptance by GFWC by the end of the month much was accomplished! That is why Happy Birthday was sung at our April Biennial Convention, we turned 120!

October 1924 was the first issues of *The Montana Woman*. *Wonderful, thoughtful articles*! *You can read a copy at this link, https://mtmemory.recollectcms.com/nodes/view/107289*.

Just recently there was a lightbulb moment – that means October 2024 will be the 100th anniversary for *The Montana Woman! So how could this be volume 60? What went wrong? Volumes of a periodical represents each year of publication with the Issue being the sequence within that year. This first publication was "Vol. I, No. 1" and they did well through the February – March 1973 issue as XLIX No 3. This was the 49th volume, or 1924 plus 49 equals 1973. Then things get off track!*

Blame it on Roman Numerals, numbering by administration instead of fiscal year, and not understanding Roman Numerals. In 1996 we gave up on the Roman Numerals and went to the Arabic Numerals we commonly use starting with Volume 42, but it should have been 75 (1996 – 1921 = 75)! You may have noticed that last fiscal year, the Volumes went to 99 to get us back on track. (Well, two people have questioned the change of numbers.)

Happy Birthday to The Montana Woman! Our first issue of the new club year is now August, so this is the beginning of our 100th Volume. The tagline of "A Montana Magazine for Montana Women" is wonderful and continues to resonate today.





Club Project Ideas for GFWC National Day of Service September 28, 2024

To help jump start your club's project, here are a few project ideas shared after the 2023 NDS. Your club may choose something as simple as a collection at a local grocery store or arranging for members to help sort food for the shelves.

Remember to register on the GFWC.org website! The national goal is for 1800 clubs to participate in some way to help end food insecurity and hunger. Join clubs across the country and support members of your community who are struggling.

GFWC Maguoketa Woman's Club, Maguoketa, Iowa

GFWC Maguoketa Woman's club earmarked funds for the school district's backpack program, then spread the word to other community/civic clubs. Their local school district provides students/ families who are food insecure with a backpack of food on Fridays so that the students have some healthy and filling food options through the weekend.

GFWC Glendale Woman's Club, Glendale, Arizona

The GFWC Glendale Woman's Club clubhouse turned 100 years old last fall. They advertised for the whole month of September for the community to bring food goods for the 110th birthday party.

GFWC Shades Mountain Woman's Club, Shades Mountain, Alabama

GFWC Shades Mountain Woman's Club provided food for the pantry at the Hoover Public Library for those who are food insecure.

GFWC Woman's Club of Newport News, Newport News, Virginia

GFWC Woman's Club of Newport News coordinated a "Rise Up Against Hunger" event where they filled 10,000 bags of food in 2 hours!

GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club, Daphne, Alabama

GFWC Jubilee woman's Club supply their food pantry with "Birthday Bags" which is a gift bag that contains a 9" by 13" foil baking pan, cake mix, oil, frosting, candles, tablecloth, party hats, favors, balloons, and other items that will contribute to a festive gathering. These return dignity to clients who may not be able to provide a birthday celebration for their loved one.

GFWC Las Noches Woman's Club, Las Noches, Arizona

GFWC Las Noches Woman's Club supplied the Airman's Pantry at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona. The airmen often run out of food before the end of the month, and they are happy to supply food and diapers for those in need.

NEWLY ADDED REGISTRATION OPTION: If you prefer to register by email, please send a message to GFWCNDS@GFWC.org to sign up for the 2024 GFWC NDS. Please include: Club Contact and Information, Official Club Name, Your State Federation, and a 11 Brief Description of Club's Project, if known (not required).

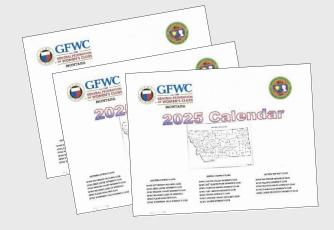


"WHO IS THIS?"



"Books are a form of political action. Books are knowledge. Books are reflection. Books change your mi<u>nd.</u>"

Before the third novel of the Beloved *Trilogy* was published, <u>?</u> was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. The citation praised her as an author "who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality". She was the first Black woman of any nationality to win the prize. In her acceptance speech, Morrison said: "We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives." *The answer will be on the bottom of tihs page.



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2025 Calendar Fundraiser

This calendar features pictures from across Montana taken by Montana Clubwomen. Available for purchase at the GFWC MT Fall Meeting for \$20.00. Or, Contact Marsha Price, askmap@gmail.com, to pick-up a few for your club to sell. Proceeds support GFWC Montana General Funds.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;

they just have the heart."

Answer of "Who is this?" Toni Morrison

TIPS FOR SECRETARIES

Jim Slaughter is an attorney and Professional Registered Parliamentarian who publishes a helpful monthly e-newsletter on a variety of topics. The August 5th issue was titled "**Meeting Minutes Tips**." He has given permission to include this in our *The Montana Woman*.

Always enlightening, you may want to visit jimslaughter.com to sign-up for his emails. Here is an abridged copy of his most recent article. If you would like to see the full article visit <u>Parliamentary Blog Posts</u>.

"Meeting minutes should be fairly short because minutes are not supposed to be a record of what members SAID at a meeting, but what was done. There are ways to move much of the effort to before the meeting. Minutes look similar from meeting to meeting. Prepare a template in advance that can be used to record the minutes. Why not prepare the minutes for a specific meeting in advance of the meeting? That's where 'skeletal' or 'mock' minutes can be helpful. The following is a description of skeletal minutes from page 160 of <u>Robert's Rules of Order Fast Track</u>.

Why wait until the meeting to prepare the minutes? If you're considering a template for meetings, go all the way. Write the minutes before the meeting! Well, maybe not completely, but skeletal minutes (or mock minutes) can get you most of the way there. Having much of the minutes done before a meeting even starts is often easier and less stressful than pulling everything together after a long, tiring meeting.

With a good agenda you should have a pretty good idea of what particular proposals will be discussed. You might know weeks in advance of every resolution or bylaws amendment that will be presented. You just don't know which motions will eventually be adopted, defeated, or amended.

With skeletal minutes, you fill out all information in the minutes, including when the meeting is, where it is, who may attend, and the actual wording of motions or items to be considered. During the meeting, you simply note what happens to each motion and add any additional items that arise unexpectedly. Sure beats starting the minutes after the meeting!"

MEETINGS

MINUTES

— into –



In addition to all the Club Presidents who are part of the Board of Directors by virtue of their club position, these women have been appointed to serve as Chairmen of the following positions.*

*See the 2024-2026 Contact Book given to each Board Member for more information.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

- Dean of Chairmen/Award Entries Arts and Culture **Civic Engagement and Outreach Education and Libraries** Environment Health and Wellness
- Linda Suckow Kathy Green Cathy Mills Marsha Baumeister Mary Sedwick Marsha Price

ADVANCEMENT AREAS

- **Communications & Public Relations** Fundraising and Development Leadership Legislation/Public Policy/Resolutions Membership Women's History Resource Center
- Nancy Hanford Toni Molinario Joyce DeCunzo Cheryl Martin **Kim Montag** Cathy Barth

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Signature Project- Domestic Violence Junior Special Project- Advocates for Children President's Special Project- Five Points of Light

CONTESTS AND AWARDS

GFWC MT Writing Contest GFWC MT Photography Contest Community Impact Program Jennie Award Chairman

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Bylaws Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) **Director of Music Spiritual Values** Webmaster The Montana Woman Editor Montana Woman Copy Editor Zoom Administrator Assistant to the President

Marsha Hotchkiss Joyce Hooper **Debbie Willis**

Cathy McCormick Lynn Foreman Nancy Bruce Linda Stephani

Lorrie Hardy **Bobbie Conrady Dixie Hertel** Florence Diede Kelly Odron Karen Gustavsen Sarah Fryer Marsha Price Cathy Mills

District Officers

WESTERN

President Secretary Treasurer

Linda Suckow Vice President Connie Romero Lorraine Renard **Rachel Meyer**

CENTRAL

President Vice President Lorrie Hardy Secretary Treasurer

Cathy Kipping Mary Sedwick Jo Campbell

EASTERN

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Gayle Carter Marsha Price Nancy Bruce **Bev Silkwood**

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget/Finance - Adina Fox, Chairman; Jo Campbell, Barbara Barrett Bylaws - Lorrie Hardy, Chairman; Connie Romero, Dixie Hertel, Bonnie Connor Nominations - Lorraine Renard, Chairman; Cathy McComick, Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Florence Diede Credentials - Lorraine Renard, Chairman; Cathy McComick, KellyAnn Dardis

