

# THE MONTANA WOMAN

## For Montana Clubwomen



**District Spring Conventions**

Central District—April 5th  
Western District—April 12th  
Eastern District—April 26th

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.



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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  
Debbi Kirschbaum  
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

## WELCOME – FEBRUARY 2025

Winter may have just begun, but I am looking forward to the Spring and actively am planning my vegetable garden!

I hope you will join other members of your district at your April meeting. Yes, they are a business session, yes they are educational, but most of all they are an opportunity to enjoy the company of other like-minded women.

The Registration Forms for each will also be available at [GFWCMontana.org/mt-clubs/](http://GFWCMontana.org/mt-clubs/) under your district’s page.

The first is the **Central District to be held in Helena on April 5th**. The registration form and meeting details will be emailed to the club presidents mid February. If you would like a copy sent to you, just let Cathy Kipping know.

The **Western District will be meeting in Deer Lodge April 12th**. This registration form will be emailed the end of February.

The registration form for the **Eastern District meeting on April 26th in Big Timber** is already available on our website and will be emailed once proposed changes to the district’s bylaws are ready.

Each district has planned a full day and I look forward to spending time with all of you!

Karen



## OUR STARRY CORNER



There are whispers about projects happening across the state accomplishing the Five Points of Light Challenges.

### **Now is the time to share!**

The "Report As You Go" form on our website is a quick way quick way to get this done.

**Not sure where to report your Five Points of Light happenings?** It all depends on the purpose of your project.

**DID YOU KNOW ...** National Day of Service work might be *Advocates for Children, Health & Wellness, Civic Engagement, or Domestic Violence*. Who did you work with and was there a special population being helped? Even a simple cash donation was greatly appreciated by the recipient so tell us about it!

**DID YOU KNOW...** there has been a 13% increase in the number of Montana members participating in the Legislative Action Center. Most likely you would report under *Legislative/Public Policy*, but if there was a special issue your members were supporting it could be *Civic Engagement*.

Ten of our 16 community-based clubs have at least one member enrolled. Every member should enroll. It is important that you know what laws are coming to the floor of Congress nationally and how they reflect the stand GFWC has taken through Resolutions adopted at Convention. You may only respond to a few of the notices. But you will be informed about the current direction of policy makers and how their actions may affect you, your community, and Montana. *The response of our members is not political; it is advocacy for the issues we support.*

**DID YOU KNOW...** supporting an Affiliate Organization has the most flexibility for reporting. No-No Armbands for Operation Smile could be under *Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, or Advocates for Children*. Once again, was there a special population being helped and what was the goal of your club? And this is just one of the possible nine Affiliate Organizations to support.

**DID YOU KNOW...** increasing the club's Visual Presence would most likely be in a *Communications and PR* report if you updated the club's letterhead to include the new GFWC branding or revitalized the club's Facebook Page, but maybe you made a new club banner to carry in the town's parade and it was an *Arts & Culture* project.

**DID YOU KNOW...** Support Literacy seems like a no brainer as *Education & Libraries*, but maybe you helped the local shelter with an English as a second language program or GED project so it would be *Domestic and Sexual Violence*.

**Feel free to reach out to [Reporting@gfwcmontana.org](mailto:Reporting@gfwcmontana.org) with questions — the February 5th deadline for reporting is quickly approaching!**



# Ideas to Whet Your Creative Juices

## Suggested by Our CSP Chairmen



**Step the ideas up, scale them down, or maybe twist one around to something entirely your own!**

### **Arts & Culture**

- \* Hold a student contest to design landscaping for a public space- can include cooperation between artists, horticulture students, builders or just individual student designs.
- \* Coordinate with local gardening clubs and service organizations to build out, plant and maintain a community focal point such as entry into town.
- \* Hold a student contest to design a tee shirt promoting your community. Sell the tee shirts to raise funds for a project chosen by your club.

### **Civic Engagement**

- \* Members have reached out for information about supporting the GFWC pledge of \$75,000 toward the Women's Suffrage National Monument. A dedicated link for GFWC member donations has been established. <https://donorbox.org/womensmonument-gfwc>
- \* Give your local shelters HUGS. Donate Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks to them. Remember that all sizes and sexes are represented in our homeless communities so give items for men, women and children. Many stores are having sales on these items as they clear out to display spring merchandise.

### **Education & Libraries**

- \* Create a Storybook Trail focused on families with small children to enjoy nature and be entertained by reading books along a park walkway. Pages from the children's book are installed along the path; include activities for added fun.
- \* Partner with a local early learning program to provide supplies.

### **Environment**

- \* Community Landscape Project - include as many aspects of society as possible from schools to community organizations to local government in a public space enhancement project that enriches the community. It could be as simple as having a tree planted near the town welcome sign or to enhancing a war memorial.
- \* Recycle greeting card fronts into handmade bookmarks to be provided at no charge at a local library or bookstore.

### **Health & Wellness**

- \* Hold a sign-up opportunity for organ donors (<https://www.organdonor.gov>)
- \* Donate feminine hygiene products to school pantries and shelters
- \* Finance an AED machine wherever one is needed
- \* Support our newest GFWC Affiliate, Alzheimer's Association

### **Domestic & Sexual Violence**

- \* Partner with a school counselor or other agency to provide informational pamphlets about Teen Dating Violence in the high schools.
- \* Volunteer or donate to a shelter or organization that serves Native American women.



# Photography Contest Details

Lynn Foreman, Chairman

We are so fortunate to reside in a State which is filled with scenic wonders and; with wonderful photographs taken of our club members at local meetings & events; our District Meetings and State Meetings. I know for a fact there are many of you are taking quality pictures based upon the photos submitted for the 2025 GFWC MT calendar. So what's stopping you! Digital submissions are preferred, but if you have a special camera and would like to submit an 8 X 10 entrée, follow the instructions. I can't wait to receive your entrees.

Any pictures to be submitted to the photo contest must be taken during calendar year 2024 , and must be taken by a dues paying member of an active club. They can be color or black & white, A Creative Arts Waiver Form for each submission is required. 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. Examples bugs & flowers.

**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. I offer this challenge to capture a landmark building as a reflection; or a magnificent Elk, Moose, Bear ... to name a few.

## **Second Contest - GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit**

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

Contact me if you have any questions 

## Artwork Guidelines

DIGITAL ENTRIES MAY BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO LYNN FOREMAN

\* **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**

\* **Photographs may be taken using film or digital cameras in color or black & white.**

\* **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**

Entries are due April 1st to:

Lynn Foreman

P.O. Box Ennis Mt 59729

406-599-3120

Lforeman.gfwc22@gmail.com





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 on 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 sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or noncommercial purposes.

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

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date





## *Membership Corner "Educate, Engage and Empower"*

*Kim Montag, Chairman*

I wanted to remind our Club Presidents about our **Star Recruitment Awards**. If you have a member who has recruited at least 5 new members since they have been a member (this is cumulative – not by year) – you can apply for a Star Recruitment award for those members which is a small star shaped pin in different colors for the various levels.

There are 10 levels – 5-9 new members; 10-14 new members and the levels increase by 5 up to 50 new members. These awards are cumulative so a member can earn the white star for bringing in 5-9 members one year and then a few years later they can earn the red star for bringing in 10-14 members cumulatively. The form is being added to the GFWC Montana website or you can contact me and I will send you the information and form. I will need to receive these nominations by the end of February so there is time to order the star pins before the District Conventions in April.

Another thought to consider for your members – consider holding a meeting where your members break up into small groups – maybe separate new members from seasoned members – and discuss what they like about being a club member, what new activities they would like the club to consider and what they would like to get out of being a club member. Then they can pick someone to share the thoughts of the group with the entire club.

Please don't forget to report your new members quarterly – even if you only have one – Fill out the quarterly recruitment forms and send them to me and GFWC International. The next report is due April 1, 2025 for members recruited in January, February and March.

Remember you can always contact me with any questions a  
[membership@gfwcmontana.org](mailto:membership@gfwcmontana.org).



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 MT Leadership Advancement Area*

**Joyce DeCunzo, Chairman**

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 6 in Atlanta, during the GFWC Convention. You can find the **Application as a fillable pdf Form** at <https://gfwcmontana.org/contests-and-awards/>.

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

GFWC will cover \$325 of expenses, lunch during the LEADS Training, and GFWC Montana will provide an additional \$500.

### **Application Process and Deadline**

LEADS Candidate: Return the form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, and a picture of yourself to Karen Gustavsen, by **March 4, 2025**.

MAIL TO: GFWC Montana, Karen Gustavsen, P.O. Box 876, Thompson Falls, MT 59873, or  
EMAIL: [President@gfwcmontana.org](mailto:President@gfwcmontana.org)

## **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.

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.

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





## Bits and Pieces



Thank you to the almost 400 registered club members for the ***GFWC Learning Gateway Series: ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission*** with Author Amy S. Peele.

Amy, a Best-Selling and award-winning Author, has made a unique offer for GFWC Club members.

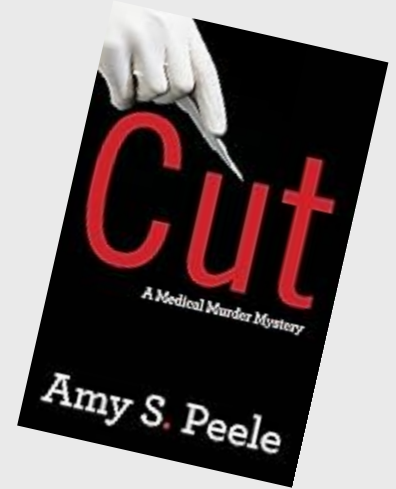
**Purchase audiobooks and enjoy A Medical Murder Mystery Trilogy for just 99¢.**

**Offer begins February 3 – April 6, 2025.**

To purchase the audiobooks, use the link below:

A Medical Murder Mystery Trilogy at

<https://www.bookpassage.com/book/9781647420185>



## A FRIENDLY REMINDER/REQUEST

Our GFWCMT Creative Arts Writing Contest for 2024 will draw to a close March 1, 2025. Our judges are ready and waiting for entries.

Prompt your members to complete the process of submitting:

1) do a final edit 2) type a final copy 3) make a hard copy and send it with a signed waiver to Cathy McCormick 4) email a copy to Cathy.

Reminder: Poems and short stories need to have been written (completed) in 2024; amateurs only. See November *The Montana Woman* for more details.



## Seeking Nominations for the Jennie Award

This is an opportunity for you to honor your outstanding women. Check out the GFWC.org website for information about this award.

Submit applications by June 1, 2025 to Linda Stephani. See the November *Montana Woman* for more details.



## **Probing the Past to Move Forward with Confidence** **Cathy Barth, MONTANA WHRC CHAIRMAN**

The Women's History and Resource Center was established in Washington, D.C. In 1984. To celebrate this fortieth anniversary, your club can:

**Educate** members and others about GFWC's history and the contributions of those in the past. Get a committee together of people who love history and set them loose on your own historical documents, the state resources and the national archives. Have them share with your club, community and the media. Remember that March is Women's History Month. An article about members and contributions they have made in the past would be welcomed by most media outlets.



**Engage** with people in your community regarding historical activities of your club. Can you resurrect a project from the past that still has relevance today? How about a Heritage Tea where you choose important women from the past and have a "Tea" to celebrate them. Send invitations to any relative of these women to let them know that their family member is being honored. It might become a recruitment opportunity. Continue with community partnerships of the past and use this as a time to reconnect with some that are no longer active.

**Empower** your club and community with what you have learned through your research to improve the lives of people in your community.

As you move forward with these projects, keep in mind that WHRC can help. You can obtain a copy of ***A Guide for Recording Oral History and A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History*** by e-mailing: [WHRC@GFWC.org](mailto:WHRC@GFWC.org) or calling: 202.683.2028. You can check the Club Manual for other resources.

As MT State chair for the WHRC, Cathy Barth is embarking on a project that will become an on-going effort. We are establishing a GFWCMT Hall of Fame. Each club is asked to research the past leaders from their club and submit them to Cathy for the inaugural group of the Hall of Fame. Many ladies held office at the state, district and/or national level along with contributing to their communities. Some were previous Jennie winners. Some were long-term contributors, with more than 50 years of belonging. People that achieved in areas outside the club may be considered.

Cathy will be sending out a form along with submission guidelines. Club presidents are asked to submit nominations with information about the ladies, along with a picture, if possible, to Cathy. We are asking that these initial people be from the past - either aged out or passed on. Every two years, new nominees will be put forward. Some of our clubs from the past have ceased to exist, but they still had women of distinction. The Past State Presidents, TOPPS will be asked to research *The Montana Woman* archives to ferret out these former great ladies.

To start out with, at least forty nominations are sought to celebrate the WHRC 40 year anniversary. This will become a page on our website for all to see.



# 2025 ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

## Important 2025 Dates

February 5	Club Reports due to Linda Suckow
March 1	Writing Contest entries due to Cathy McCormick
March 4	LEADS Application due to Karen Gustavsen
March 15	Newsletter and Website Contest entries due to GFWC
April 1	Spring Membership Recruitment Report, GF & Kim Montag
April 1	Photography Contest entries due to Lynn Foreman
April 5	Central District Spring Convention
April 12	Western District Spring Convention
April 24	Federation Day
April 26	Eastern District Spring Convention
June 1	Jennie Award Nominations due to Linda Stephani



# Celebrate with us!

## Omni Atlanta at Centennial Park

### Top Hotel Features:

- Connected to Georgia World Congress Center, College Football Hall of Fame, the State Farm Arena
- Centennial Olympic Park and the Fountain of Rings across the street
- Business center (7am - 7pm)
- One block from the World of Coke and Georgia Aquarium
- Two blocks from the National Human and Civil Rights Museum

Book By May 12, 2025

Extended Stay Available May 30, 2025 - June 15, 2025

**Don't delay making your hotel reservation!**

<https://bookings.omnihotels.com/event/atlanta-centennial-park/2025-gfwc-annual-convention>

**Watch News & Notes for Registration Details**



"You can find magic  
wherever you look.  
Sit back and relax,  
all you need is a book."  
-Dr. Seuss



@themindsetofamom

March 2nd, the birthday of \_\_\_??\_\_\_, known around the world as Dr. Seuss, is recognized as **Read Across America Day**, when children celebrate their love of reading. Here are three fun facts:

1. Dr. Seuss was not a doctor. He briefly studied English literature but instead became a cartoonist. In 1955, Dartmouth awarded him an honorary doctorate.
2. Only four of the 44 books Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated are written in prose.
3. Concerned about kids learning to read, he answered a friend's challenge to "Write me a story that first-graders can't put down!", thus *The Cat In The Hat*. \*Answer at bottom of this page

## WE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE WORKSHOP!

**Not sure how or where to start on Facebook?  
Want to up your club's Facebook Page posts  
to attract members? What about Instagram?  
The New Jersey clubs have opened their Zoom  
Workshop to our clubs!**

**February 10th, 5 PM MT  
Register at [Rothstein@njsfwc.org](mailto:Rothstein@njsfwc.org)**

**#WeAreGFWC**

**NJSFWC Social Media  
Workshop**

Learn how to use social media to promote your club!  
See how easy it is to create a club account and post photos, videos and text on Facebook and Instagram

Workshop will be held on Zoom

February 10, 2025

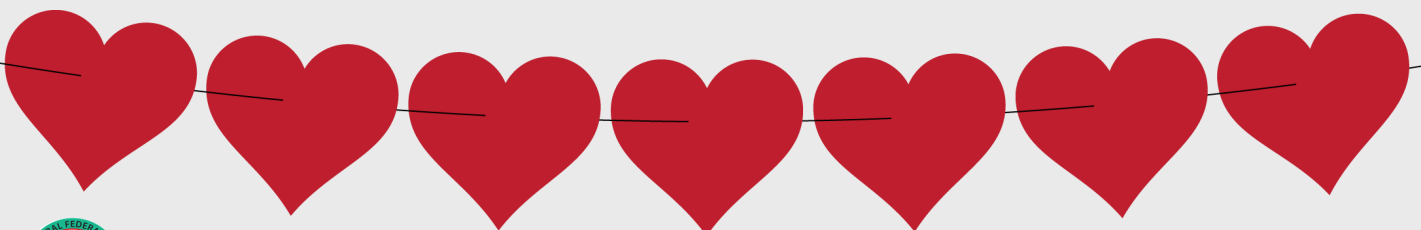
7:00pm

Workshop will be led by NJSFWC Webmaster, Dee Hosier and NJSFWC Communications Chairman Shelley Rothstein

REGISTER NOW [rothstein@njsfwc.org](mailto:rothstein@njsfwc.org)

ZOOM LINK WILL BE PROVIDED TO REGISTRANTS PRIOR TO THE WORKSHOP

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,  
but because they're priceless."*



## Education & Libraries Marsha Baumeister

## ESO Bobbie Conrady



### The Horse Pack Librarians

During the Great Depression, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt initiated the Park Horse Library as part of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA). Courageous, energetic and self-sacrificing women signed up to deliver books to often suspicious residents of the rugged, very rural portion of Kentucky. At that time, (1930's), over 30 % of people in eastern Kentucky could not read. The American Library association estimated that about one third of all Americans no longer had "reasonable" access to public library materials. Many people in rural, Appalachian Kentucky did not have



access to books. Due to the efforts of these determined women, by 1936 there were 8 pack horse libraries in operation. They carried books, magazines and storybooks, often through inclement weather and astride recalcitrant mules. Librarians looked to members of the respective communities for available buildings, from schools to Post Offices to shacks. They organized the books and kept records of which riders took which books to whom and when. Since they had numerous routes to cover, they normally stopped back by each property every two weeks to bring new books and pick up those already read.

Some parents were suspicious of "book learning" or any interference with their way of life. While generally women looked forward to seeing magazines, even in cases where they couldn't read, occasionally they were chased off properties by the men who felt they were interfering with their way of life. On occasion, a patient librarian would convince a resistance male to allow her to drop books for the children at their gate.

However, in general the pack horse librarians came to be welcomed and materials were much in demand. In 1936, these fearless, hardworking librarians served 50,000 families until 1943 when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the end of the WPA.

### Recommended reading: [Giver of the Stars](#) by Jojo Moyes

### A Practical Guide to Getting and Keeping Volunteers

We know that members are the backbone of our work. We know that they contribute countless hours of time and commitment to our clubs, making projects possible. **Currently, the national average value of one volunteer hour is \$25.63** (more than two times the \$10.55 Montana minimum wage). Nonprofits everywhere are desperate to find volunteers, and it's easy to see the tremendous economic benefit members bring to your club. Yet so often we are unsure about effective ways to find and manage quality members. And given the post-pandemic decrease in volunteering nationwide, it's crucial for us to keep those members that we already have.

#### **What Do We Need: Processes!**

To recruit, train, mentor, and appreciate our volunteers, we need standardized processes that can be repeated, iterated, and scaled. Why? Because no one wants to reinvent the wheel every time they have a new member. Think of it as part of your succession plan: your successor needs a clear roadmap on how to get (and keep!) members.

Standardized, documented processes also enable you to consistently focus on your cause rather than constantly reinvent logistics. They show new members (and donors) that you are maximizing time and talent through an organized system.

**This is an abbreviated and customized article from Blue Avocado, a newsletter among non-profits offering support and advice. For the full article by Laura Steuer, visit: <https://blueavocado.org/volunteers/getting-and-keeping-volunteers/>**

