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www.GFWCMontana.org

November 2024
Volume 100, Issue 2

THE MONTANA WOMAN

For Montana Clubwomen



Explore the Updated
www.GFWCMontana.org
A New MT Facebook
Coming Soon!

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 to Fall!

So many wonderful happenings at the Fall Meeting in Anaconda that instilled enthusiasm for the club year!

Our special guest for the weekend was Shannon Bailey, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs. The handout from her program "Build Your Team... and Build Momentum" had supportive ideas and is attached on the last page for everyone's benefit.

The display boards by the CSP Chairmen were greatly appreciated and we will try to honor the special request to have them at the three District Conventions in April 2025. They were filled with project ideas and suggestions for each area. Attendees wished to share them with their clubs.

Sam Walters, Director of the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda presented an informative program blending history of the town with that of the library. Several attendees took the opportunity to visit the library on Saturday afternoon.

The enthusiasm of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County CEO Bill Everett was contagious as he told of the many encouraging developments in this sleepy town since the smelter shut down.

And, most exciting was the success of our Basket Bingo to support Project Care, the food bank serving Anaconda! Read all about it on the next page.

Until I see you again, remember to have fun with your club's undertakings!

Karen



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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

Project Care of Anaconda



Karen Gustavsen and Shannon Bailey display a sample Bingo card and prize basket.

The **Basket Bingo Fundraiser provided \$910** for the food bank through the sale of Bingo cards and was a resounding success before we even began to play!

Thank you to all the clubs and members who brought such a variety of baskets and gifts to serve as prizes for the games.

We welcomed Co-Director Terry Vaughn before the games began to tell us the history and explain about the work of Project Care in the community.

Terry returned the next morning, and was blown away when presented a check with the proceeds by Fundraising Chairman, Toni Molinaro.

BUT WAIT, THAT IS NOT ALL!

Before Terry left, Western District President Linda Suckow stood and presented a check for \$100 from her district and issued a challenge to the other two districts to meet or beat their donation.



Linda Suckow ups the ante with a check from the Western District.

Within an hour, Eastern District announced a donation of \$101 and before lunch, the Central District added another \$110.

The total for Project Care was now at \$1221 and three more National Day of Services projects were added to help reach the national goal of 1000 clubs, districts, and states working to end food insecurity.



A stunned Terry Vaughn with the check presented by Toni Molinaro.

AND THERE IS STILL MORE!

That afternoon, the Past District Queens (better known as the PDQs) voted to make a donation of \$150, adding another club towards the NDS goal of 1000 and a total of **\$1,371.00 raised to fight food insecurity!**

The best part was when Terry told us later that Town Pump would be matching our donations for a grand total of \$2,742 in support of Project Care!



Did your club have a National Day of Service Project that donated cash to your Food Bank? Through December Town Pump has pledged \$1,000,000 to match funds given to community Food Banks across the state. Check to see if your donation qualifies!



OUR STARRY CORNER



Such wonderful National Day of Service Projects to begin our Fall activities! In addition to our successful Basket Bingo, here are a few pictures and highlights passed along from clubs across the state.

DID YOU KNOW...

WOMAN'S CLUB OF MISSOULA partnered with Blackfoot Communications for this project. Blackfoot donated the full cost of the materials to fill 12 birthday gift bags for children. The Missoula Foodbank hands them out with the food boxes if the family has a birthday event that week. The club has done this project in the past. This time, they put more school items in the bags that also contained a cake mix, candles, frosting, toothbrush, and toothpaste.



BILLINGS JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB spent the day helping the Salvation Army with their food program. They spent two and a half hours filling 628 meal plates and 90 fruit cups. The Salvation Army provides hot meals five evenings per week to two low-income senior housing and several locations where the homeless gather. The biggest challenges for the members was getting the food into the containers neatly! Everyone was tired (who knew dishing up food would be so tiring!) and glad the club could help. BJWC is looking for future opportunities to help with this program.

DEER LODGE WOMAN'S CLUB collected 77 pounds of food for their local food pantry through a unique project at the New to You shop run by the club. For one donated food item that is not expired, and non-perishable brought to the store, customers were able to get one regular priced item FREE. (1 per customer) The project was such a success the club has decided to continue the effort through the rest of the year.



Fort Benton Woman's Club assembled Backpack Buddies supplies, a charitable initiative supporting local children with backpacks filled with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food items, ensuring students have access to meals over the weekend when school-provided meals are unavailable. Club members worked in assembly line fashion, filling each bag with a variety of healthy snacks, canned goods, and

beverages, all carefully chosen to provide balanced nutrition. The bags will be discreetly handed out to children identified as benefiting from the program. The club also donated \$500 to the Backpack Buddies program, earning a matching donation from Town Pump Charitable Foundation.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

GFWC MT YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS

The time has come to solicit and gather poetry and short stories from creative Montana youth as well as from our GFWC Montana members.

Your contacts with the poets and authors can be best made through public, private and home schools, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. All youth have their own experiences, observations, thoughts and emotions which can be put into short stories and/or poems.

Guidelines include a limit of one entry per category per author written within the calendar year 2024. It must be typed double-spaced on 8.5X11 inch paper with minimum margins of one inch on all 4 sides. Each page needs to include the following in the top righthand corner:

- Author's name, email address, phone number;
- Author's teacher, school, grade level;
- Name of local GFWC club;
- Category (short story or poetry);
- Title of work.

Montana winners have previously been from GFWC Plains, Bitterroot, Helena and Fort Benton Woman's Clubs.

Enjoy your writing; it will be wonderful to share!

CONTEST DETAILS

WHO Amateur authors in grades K,1-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12; and adult (members only)

WHAT Unpublished creative poems and/or short stories

WHEN Written January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024
Submitted September 2024-February 2025

WHERE Cathy McCormick, GFWC Montana State Chair
cathym@montanamadeonline.com plus one hard copy and waiver
mailed to 1133 Meridian Road, Victor, MT 59875

WHY Chance to share individual creative writing. Winning entries will be chosen from each category and will receive a small monetary award and recognition from GFWC Montana. They will be submitted to the GFWC International competition for entries from across the United States.

Questions? Call Cathy at 406-961-8492.





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



You still have time to get that perfect shot in 2024!

Digital entries are encouraged, saving the need to enlarge and print your pictures.

More info in the next *The Montana Woman* by Lynn Foreman, Montana Photography Contest Chairman, but in the meantime look through your pictures for examples of Our World Up Close, Natural Wonders, Reflections, or club activities showing clubwomen Living the Volunteer Spirit. Review pages 221-224 in the Club Manual.



Fundraising Toni Molinario, Chairman SMART Goals

When planning your Fundraiser, Set **S.M.A.R.T.** goals.

- SPECIFIC GOALS** By setting SPECIFIC clear goals, members involved in the project will know what you want to accomplish, which will increase your chances of achievement with your project.
- MEASURABLE GOALS** Use criteria that can be quantified by defining and tracking your progress effectively and adjusting your strategizes accordingly.
- ATTAINABLE GOALS** Be realistic, considering your clubs skills and resources.
- RELEVANT GOALS** Align your goals with your member's aspirations and keeping your members motivated.
- TIME BASED GOALS** Establish time lines such as beginning dates of your projects and end dates which help fundraising teams maintain focus.

Strategizes for successful fundraising by committing to the team's goals. Always be ready to learn from setbacks and challenges and always show APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE to your fundraising teams.

For more information go to the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual page 138-144 for project ideas which have been successful for other clubs and might be tweaked for your club.



Membership Corner "Educate, Engage and Empower"

Kim Montag, Chairman

We always seem to talk about how to recruit members but how do we retain our members? Here are some ideas to consider:

- * Educate your members on GFWC and what it means to be a Federated Club. GFWC has a long history of supporting women and improving our world with projects such as their seatbelt crusade that resulted in the requirement for car seatbelts, child labor laws and focusing on the establishment of libraries across America - just to name a few.
- * Share your club's history at one of your meetings – many of our clubs are over 100 years old and learning about the history and what your club has accomplished in the past can enhance the sense of pride in belonging to your club.
- * Encourage the wearing of GFWC and Club logo shirts and jackets when working on projects to enhance a sense of teamwork and camaraderie and,
- * Design your club projects to try to include all your members to help everyone feel included and involved.

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 January 2, 2025 for members recruited in October, November and December. And remember you can always contact me with any questions - membership@gfwcmontana.org.

Club Presidents—check your email! Most of the national chairmen have emailed their fall newsletter to our state chairmen, and our state chairmen have forwarded these to our club presidents.

These have been filled with great ideas that might spark a project for your club. Do you have a project chairman who would like getting the newsletter directly? Check our Contact Book and forward her contact information to our state chairman.



2024 ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR



Important 2024/25 Dates

November 14	Reporting Zoom Workshop, 7 PM
January 2	Fall Membership Recruitment Report, GF (address on form) & Kim Montag, membership@gfwcmontana.org
February 1	Next <i>The Montana Woman</i> Issue
February 5	Club Reports due to Linda Suckow Reporting@gfwcmontana.org
March 1	Youth and Member Writing Contest Entries due to Cathy McCormick
March 4	LEADS Application due to Karen Gustavsen president@gfwcmontana.org

Putting Action into Your Writing

Tips for better articles, social media posts, and report writing from Jeanne O'Sullivan, GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee Member

Do you consider yourself an active person? If you are a GFWC volunteer, your answer is probably "Yes!" We are a dynamic group of women who take the initiative to make things happen in our communities. When posting about our volunteer work, we want to ensure our writing reflects this.

Current best practices recommend using an active voice. When a sentence is in the active voice, the subject of the sentence is the one doing the action expressed by the verb. The passive voice is typically formed with a form of the verb be—such as is, was, or has been. Passive writing comes across as less empowering or engaging. As GFWC members, we need to use correct grammar and write in an active voice so our posts stand out. We want our words to pull the reader into our conversation. Research shows we have only 2-4 seconds to gain their attention, especially on social media. Compare the following examples of passive vs. active writing style (passive verbs are underlined and bold):

Donations of more than \$10,000.00 **were made** to several local charities this past year. (passive)

The GFWC Community Club **donated** more than \$10,000.00 to local charities this past year. (active)

Vegetable seedlings **will be sold** at our annual plant sale. (passive)

We **will be selling** vegetable seedlings at our annual plant sale. (active)

Guests **are welcomed** at our monthly meetings. (passive)

We welcome guests at our monthly meetings. (active)

As you can see, the active voice sounds better when posting club activities on social media as well as in printed articles. Include an action picture or video with your article to catch the reader's attention. Let's make our writing stand out by putting ourselves back in the action!



GFWC Glacier Park Woman's Club

For years, the village of East Glacier Park has had a speeding problem, especially during the busy summer season. Hwy 2 is the major trucking route across the northern tier of the country and Hwy 49 leads to Glacier National Park. People are in a hurry to get somewhere in semi-trucks, huge fifth wheel campers, RV's, buses, and cars. Visitors cross the two major highways to get from their hotels to restaurants and shops and kids walk to/from school along these busy highways. Cross country and local cyclists use these routes frequently. Injuries and two deaths had occurred and another tragic accident was waiting to happen.

ENOUGH....

This spring the Glacier Park Woman's Club and the East Glacier Volunteer Fire Department joined forces to raise the money, get the necessary permits from the MDT (Montana Dept of Transportation), purchase four radar feedback signs, and install them.



Our East Glacier School children all signed a letter of concern for their safety as they cross Hwy 2 going to/from school. Multiple individuals and businesses signed a letter showing need and concern for safety. Several very generous grants from Glacier Electric Coop, Burlington Northern Railway Foundation, AgWest Farm Credit Bureau and the Glacier County Commissioners recognized this very real safety issue and awarded grants. Once there was a good base of seed money, donations from local businesses and concerned individuals started pouring in. Those of us putting in the volunteer hours were overwhelmed by the response.

On August 23rd, four radar speed feedback signs were installed; two on each highway. They have been more successful than we'd ever imagined and you can almost hear a sigh of relief in our little town. Caring for our community is what our Women's Club and Volunteer Fire Department are all about.

If your community needs help in getting started with this process (and there are multiple steps), feel free to contact: Ursula Mattson 406-226-4451 in East Glacier. The State of Montana does not pay for these signs.



Jennie Award

Linda Stephani, Chairman



"Jennie June" aka Jane Cunningham Croly, GFWC's founder, wrote for national newspapers under this pen name. GFWC has honored her by creating the **Jennie Award** the *only national honor* bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. *Does this remind you of someone in your club?*



There are many women in Montana who deserve the **Jennie Award**. Please take the time to nominate a GFWC Montana Clubwoman from your club. A copy of the judging criteria, nomination form, and award rules will be sent to each club president in November. Information can also be found on the gfwc.org website in the Club Manual, page 213.

Remember: Nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five consecutive years.

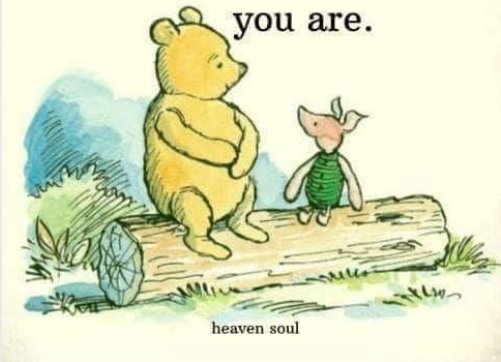
The deadline for submission is June 1, 2025. Send them to:

Linda Stephani
795 Bowman Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

or email them to whiteoaksgal@gmail.com.

The Montana winner will be announced at the GFWC MT Fall Meeting in Great Falls September 26-28, 2025.

Do things for
people not because
of who they are,
or what they do
in return,
but because of who
you are.



Reporting Made Simpler

November 14th 7:00 pm

Linda Suckow, Chairman



This is too time consuming!

Why do I need to tell anyone what we are doing?

A Fillable form would be great!

I don't know what to write!

Mark your calendar and join us for tips, tricks, and a new way to report!

Make sure Reporting Chairman, Linda Suckow, knows you are interested in participating so you are sure to get the Zoom link for the November 14th, 7:00 PM info session.

You will be introduced to the new **Report As You Go** fillable form, a guide sheet on what and how to include the facts of you project, a Reporting Template to organize your thoughts, a Project Report to pass along to the next chairman, and a valuation guide to capture the value of those hidden In-Kind Donations.

The World Wide Web has become a part of our everyday lives.

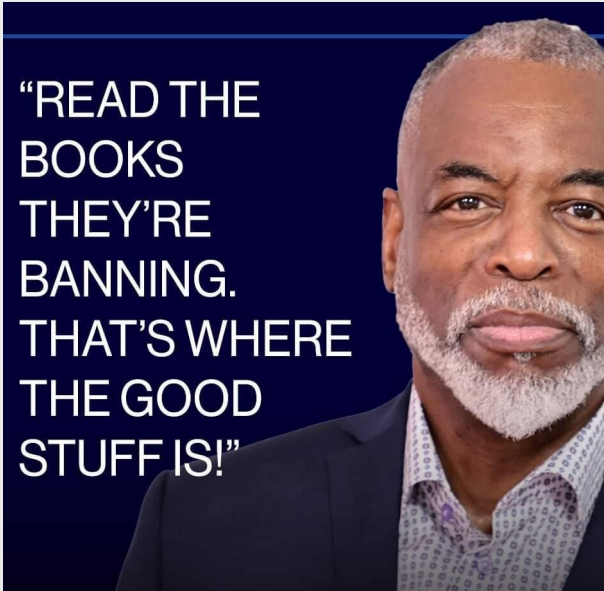
Use the resources offered by the commonly called "Social Media" to bring your club to the attention of a whole new audience.

Whether you select a website, a Facebook page or Instagram, remember to post weekly. Something as simple as sharing a recent post from GFWC or an affiliate organization will keep your name before the public and highlight what is important to your club.



“WHO IS THIS?”

“READ THE BOOKS THEY’RE BANNING. THAT’S WHERE THE GOOD STUFF IS!”



An American actor, director, and television host, he played Geordi La Forge in [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#), Kunta Kinte the miniseries [Roots](#), and was the host of the [PBS Kids](#) educational television series [Reading Rainbow](#) for 23 years. He and a business partner formed RRKIDZ, a new media company for children. *Reading Rainbow* was reimagined as an all new application for the iPad in 2012, and was an immediate success, becoming the number-one educational application within 36 hours. In three days his Kickstarter Campaign raised \$5 million dollars to bring free access to the application to schools in need.

**The answer will be on the bottom of this page.*

Last Call!

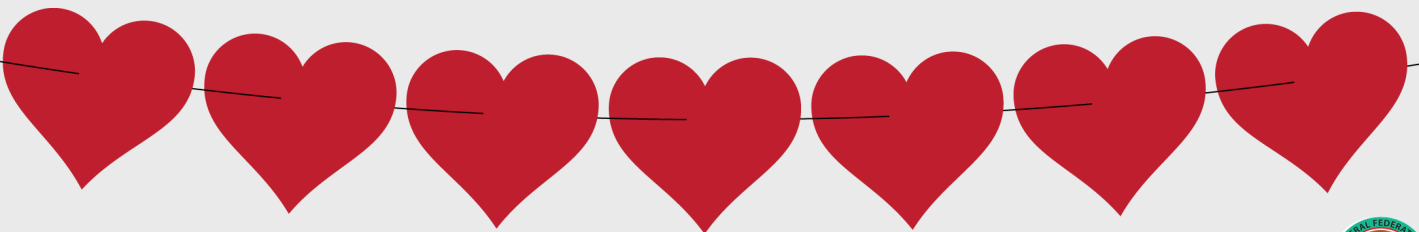
2025 Calendar Fundraiser

This calendar features pictures from across Montana taken by Montana Clubwomen. Contact Marsha Price, askmap@gmail.com, if you still need one. Proceeds support GFWC Montana General Funds.



“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”

~ Helen Keller



Answer of “Who is this?” LeVar Burton

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Build Your Team... and Build Momentum

Shannon Bailey, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs

GFWC of Montana 2024 Fall Meeting

Build Your Team: YOU set the tone

- Two great quotes by Teddy Roosevelt: "The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people." and "Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care."
- Emphasize that we are always stronger together
- Model the great teamwork you want to see: collaboration, respect, communication, consistency, excellence

Build Momentum: Team leaders are vision casters

Set Goals TOGETHER – brainstorm and then prioritize

- Take a look at everything you will do – how can you rethink it? What's working great? What needs improvement?
- Consider: meetings, initiatives, events, processes, communications, projects, organizational culture, a strategic plan
- Picture July 2026, after a great administration: What has your team accomplished? What dreams have come true?
- What words speak to you when picturing these next two years? Here are a few to get you started: Teamwork – sisterhood – passion – legacy – energy – service – communication – growth – strength – encouragement – empowerment – success – change – inclusivity – advocacy – fun – momentum

Got your goals? Have a vision?

- Finetune SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Based)
- Communicate the vision and the goals that come out of it – create BUY IN
- Come up with a plan of action: steps to take, ownership/assignments, follow up, evaluation, recognition and celebration

Based on your vision casting and goal setting, explore:

- What 3 things will you do in the next few months to prepare for what's ahead?
- How will you kick off the next administration?
- How can you set the tone and cast the vision for everyone?

Great resources:

- **Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast (search by topic heading)**
- **James Clear's *Atomic Habits***
- **Kristi Hedges' *The Inspiration Code***
- **John Maxwell Leadership Books (*Developing the Leader Within You 2.0*, *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork*)**
- **GFWC Member Portal: Leadership Toolkit**