

# THE MONTANA WOMAN

## For Montana Clubwomen



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 – MAY 2025

So many fun events and laughs were shared at the three District Biennial Conferences. Yes, there was some business at each as this is the time to review Standing Rules and make any necessary changes, but there were informative programs and time to reconnect (or make new) Federation friends.

Pictures and reports from the District Presidents follow for each District for your enjoyment. So sorry if you were not able to join us! Take a moment to enter the few remaining meeting dates on your calendar so we may see you there.

Don't forget to use the **Report As You Go** link on our website, [gfwc.org/reporting](http://gfwc.org/reporting), to quickly tell us about your club activities. Take a moment as each small and large activity is done, while details are fresh in your mind. **Not sure which CSP or Advancement Area to report the project?** There will be a fun activity at our Fall Meeting in Great Falls, Montana September 26th - 27th to help.

Our clubs reported an impressive 261 projects, 38,151 volunteer hours, \$310,488 in cash donations, and \$137,883 in-kind donations during 2024. Is all your club's work included? Bet there is a project or two you remember now that should have been included!

The Advancement Areas are the most under reported. Remember, activities each calendar year are new to the current national chairman. They do not know that you give each new member a booklet of information about the club and GFWC or that you updated the Facebook Page and letterhead.

Enjoy your Summer, and join us in Great Falls!

Karen



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## GFWC of Montana Executive Committee

### President

Karen K. Gustavsen

[President@GFWCMontana.org](mailto:President@GFWCMontana.org)

### President Elect, Membership Chairman

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### Treasurer

Debbi Kirschbaum

[Treasurer@GFWCMontana.org](mailto: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:

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[President@GFWCMontana.org](mailto:President@GFWCMontana.org)

### Email change of address to:

Kim Montag

[Membership@GFWCMontana.org](mailto:Membership@GFWCMontana.org)

## Central District Conference

### Cathy Kipping, District President

The 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Central District Conference was held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Helena, Montana. Members from Fort Benton, Helena, and Madison Valley attended



Sharing the GFWC brand in sweaters and shirt.

along with Karen Gustavsen, Montana President, Kim Montag, Montana President Elect, Linda Suckow, Montana Vice President, and Adina Fox, Montana Budget and Finance Chairman.

Business included updates to the Bylaws and election of the 2026-2028 district administration; Ani Gonzales will be the President, Beth Campbell will be Vice President, Kelly Anne Dardis will be Recording Secretary, and Jo Campbell will remain as Treasurer.

**Karen** gave an update on her Special Project, Five Points of Light Challenge and **Kim** present 10 year and 25 year anniversary certificates to district members.



Nancy Hanford received a 25 year membership pin and Certificate from Kim Montag, Membership

**Melanie Chapter**, Executive Director for the State of Montana of the Alzheimer's Association, presented an informative and well received program providing information about available support.

**Ann Lauer**, GFWC International Honorary Co-Chair of Special Projects and Arts and Culture, talked about her work with Ride 4 A Woman whom she encountered while searching for gorillas in Uganda. It was a great presentation of her work to help the women support the community and their families.

Club President's gave reports on their club activities which always is a wonderful time to share ideas.

There was a Country Store selling homemade items donated by various members that raised \$1,606.50 to be split between Alzheimer's Association and Ride 4 A Woman. The District contributed \$300.00 towards the Five Points of Light Project to support the Blackfoot Reservation's library for Tonies and Wonderbooks.



Fort Benton Woman's Club was honored for having completed the Five Points of Light Challenge.



## May is Get Caught Reading Month

### Excerpt from News & Notes by Dana Jones

### GFWC Education and Libraries Chairman

There are many ways you can get involved. Share photos of yourself reading on social media, organize reading events at schools or libraries, or simply make a conscious effort to read more throughout the month.





Always a fun time when we get together! L-R Lorri Renard, District Secretary, Karen Gustavsen, MT President, Linda Suckow, District President, Connie Romero, District Vice President

## Western District Conference Linda Suckow, District President

The GFWC Montana Western District Biennial Conference was held April 12, 2025. It started at the 115-year-old Deer Lodge Club House with breakfast and conversation then moved over to the Elk's Lodge for our meeting. We were lucky enough to have all six Western District Clubs represented — Bitterroot, Deer Lodge, Mission Valley, Missoula, Plains and Thompson Falls. Quite a cool!

Desera Towle, a Deer Lodge club woman provided information on the fundraiser and the projects the club has been working on to help preserve the historic clubhouse building. The best part of the conference was the participation of all the clubs to help

support this ongoing fundraiser. The clubs donated 33 baskets, as well as various other items, to the silent auction, and through this generosity the local club was able to raise over \$1,000.00 that will go towards the renovations.



Eighty-five pounds of pull tabs were collected for the Missoula Ronald McDonald House. With 57 pounds, Thompson Falls earned the right to wear the tiara.

What an array of service projects were reported by the clubs! So good to hear what everyone is doing in their communities.

The Standing Rules were updated and the 2026-2028 officers were elected, Serving as District President will be Lorri Renard, Vice President will be Connie Romero, Secretary

will be Betty Kelly, and Treasurer will be Linda Stephani.

Kim Montag presented 10 and 25 year membership pins and certificates to several district member. She also announced that earlier in the year, a 75 year membership certificate was presented to Margie Rohwer of Thompson Falls.

During the Five Points of Light Challenge Report, Karen announced that Thompson Falls has completed the challenge earning the right to wear the special star pin! Several clubs in the district are also close to completing the Challenge.



Joyce Hooper and Sarah Fryer check a bid sheets to see how it is going.



Lorri Renard and Kim Montag show off Federation togs.

### Facebook Tip

You have a great flier that was created in Word and now want to post on the club's Facebook Page. But they only want images such as .jpg or .tif What to do? Here are two options:

- ♦ Print a copy and use your printer to scan a copy to a thumb drive saving as a .jpeg
- ♦ While in Word, "Save as" a pdf. Then use the free utility tools at [Smallpdf.com](https://smallpdf.com/pdf-to-jpg) to convert pdf to jpg. <https://smallpdf.com/pdf-to-jpg>

Ready to post!



## Eastern District Conference

### Gayle Carter, District President

The theme of the conference was "Making a Point" supporting the GFWC MT State Project "Points of Light". The goal was for the district to complete three of the points at this meeting.

GFWC Officers attending were President, Karen



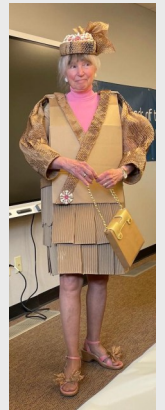
Sharing various club, state, and GFWC branded apparel.

Gustavsen, President-Elect, Kim Montag, Linda Sukow Vice President, and Debbi Kirschbaum Treasurer. The District Officers and past GFWC MT President Florence Diede were introduced. Kim presented a 50-year pin to Linda Johnson and a 10-year year pin to Eileen Ewan, both from Big Timber. Karen explained the "Five Points of Light."



Linda on left and Eileen on right show off their certificates.

Members received a DO NOT OPEN grab bag when they entered the meeting room. The bags could only be opened if they could stand to a question asked during the meeting. First question *"Have you ever visited GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC?"* Member Peggy O'Brien spoke to the group about her experience visiting Headquarters and encouraging members to visit. Second question was *"Have you ever attended state, regional or international meetings?"* Florence Diede emphasized the importance of attending. Last question that allowed the remainder of the bags to be opened was *"Have you ever attended an Eastern District Meeting?"*



Susan McAdams models the "box" dress.



Slate to be elected in September are Marsha Price, President; Radika Burton, Vice President; Bev Silkwood, Treasurer; Nancy Bruce, Secretary

The lunch guest speaker was Jen Flategraff, a previous winner of GFWC MT Eastern District's Scholarship. She presented a summer lunch program she started in the Big Timber Park that feeds children Monday through Friday during the summer. GFWC Big Timber's Woman's Club helps with the lunch preparations.

After lunch a totally amazing, hilarious style show by GFWC Big Timber Woman's Club had all the members laughing. Models included a bride dressed in toilet paper to a modern dress made of boxes, and much more including bugs and springs.

The silent auction was finalized with proceeds being divided between Alzheimer's Association and the state literacy challenge thus completing TWO POINTS OF LIGHT.

The THIRD POINT OF LIGHT achieved was to "Shout Out Our Story." At the end of the meeting each attendee was given a GFWC hat to wear at community events and to the tour at the Greycliff Mill. Fun was had by all!





## OUR STARRY CORNER



We had such great success with the National Day of Service component of the project in September 2024! The 2025 **International Day of Service** should be right up your alley with projects supporting those affected by Domestic Violence.

We will be working with the Great Falls YMCA during our Fall Meeting. Surely you will find an additional activity to help in your community.

It was wonderful to learn how the **Districts are also supporting the Five Points of Light Project.**

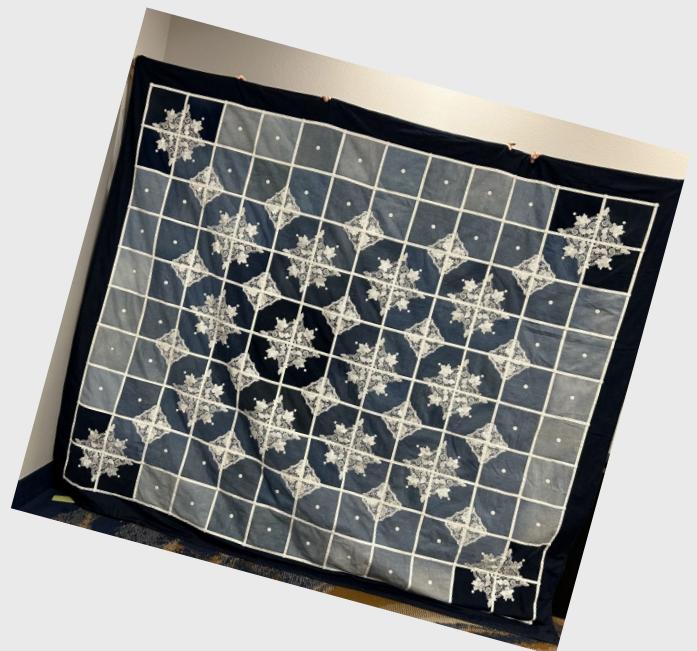
- All three supported the Care Project for NDS and will surely back the IDS this fall.
- There were programs and donations to Affiliate Organizations from the Districts.
- A sea of GFWC, GFWC Montana, and club branded clothing on display at the Conferences. The updated GFWC logo has been adopted in District communications.
- The financial donations towards the literacy challenge are greatly appreciated!
- If the District Officers have not already joined LAC, please do so now and lead the way for your club's participation.

**Not sure what the Affiliate Organizations are?** Visit GFWC.org and search from the home page for a brief introduction. If you log into the member portal, there will be project ideas in each of the Community Service Programs supporting all nine Affiliates.

**Need the link to sign up for the Legislative Action Center?** Not everyone wants to scan a QR Code so instead visit <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved/>. Scroll down to the box on the right that says "Sign Up for Alerts." See how there are specific alerts for Tennessee and Florida? We can do the same if there is a Montana issue your club would like to addressed.

**The Denim and Lace All Buttoned Up Quilt Raffle** will be drawn on September 27th. You need not be present to win. Only 500 tickets will be sold—\$10 each or three for \$25. Tickets were given/mailed to all club presidents. Make sure to send stubs and checks, payable to GFWC Montana to Deb Willis. Need more tickets or have extras? Contact Deb Willis, [debwilli72@gmail.com](mailto:debwilli72@gmail.com).

**Other financial donations** may be mailed to Debbie Kirschbaum, GFWC MT Treasurer. Earmark the check as "Five Points of Light."



## *Yellow Tulip Project*

**Marsha Price, Health & Wellness Chairman**

**Come together, plant Hope Gardens, build community,  
talk about mental health and smash the stigma.**

The Yellow Tulip Project (YTP) is a determined youth-driven 501(c)(3) with a mission to smash the stigma surrounding mental illness – and to build a community of people who realize that hope happens when youth and community leaders work together.

YTP wants to help others realize that even in the darkest places, hope is always there, and suicide should never be an option. Fiercely dedicated to helping people know that there are ways to get help, that people are there for them and that circumstances can and will change for the better.

## **BECOME A YTP VOLUNTEER!**

TUESDAY, MAY 14TH | 12-1 PM EST | VIRTUAL



### **LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

- PLANT TULIPS & CARE FOR A LOCAL HOPE GARDEN
- HOST A COMMUNITY EVENT OR FUNDRAISER
- SHARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & EXPERTISE

## Bits and Pieces

Were you part of the **Legislative Action Center** in the past but have not received the three alerts sent out in 2025 about supporting global vaccination programs, supporting survivors of human trafficking, or the "Take It Down" Act? There was an update to the GFWC.org website the summer of 2024 and you may need to re-enter your information.

Visit <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved/> and scroll down to "Sign Up for Alerts."

GFWC anticipates distributing additional Legislative Alerts in support of federal funding of programs which impact local communities. The President's FY 2026 proposed budget is expected soon.

**You may also need to sign up for the Member Portal** again to access all the material available to members.



### Seeking Nominations for the Jennie Award Linda Stephani, Chairman

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.

### GFWC Montana Hall of Fame Cathy Barth WHRC Chairman

Each club is asked to research the past leaders from their club and submit them using the fillable form available on the Home Page of GFWCMontana.org. 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.

Include information about the ladies, along with a picture, if possible, by December 31, 2025. We are asking that these initial people be from the past - either aged out or passed on. The first installation will be at the Biennial Convention in April 2026. 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. Do you know one to nominate?





## *Veteran Moms Baby Shower*

**Betty Kelly, Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman**



**MONTANA VA**

### **BABY SHOWER FOR VETERAN MOMS - 2025**

**Donate Baby Shower Gifts to Veteran Mothers through July 7th**

The Fort Harrison VA Women Veteran Health Program is hosting Baby Showers for Montana Veteran Mothers in August 2025.

VA Women's Health staff will travel to Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Missoula, Kalispell, Great Falls, Helena and other areas where VA clinics are located to host a baby shower for our Women Veterans who have delivered a baby or will deliver a baby in 2025 or early 2026.

*47 Veteran mothers participated across Montana in 2024 & 80+ moms are expected to participate in 2025.*

**You can purchase/donate gifts through the  
Montana VA Baby Shower "Registry"**



<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/montanavababyshower-2025-july-2025-fortharrison/3MG CZ03OQ2I17>

***At Checkout, please choose the FT HARRISON MT shipping address***

**Thank you for your kind and generous support for Women Veterans in Montana!**

**Contact Information:**

**Sue Calentine, MSHL, BSN, RN, Women Veteran Program Manager**

[Susan.Calentine@va.gov](mailto:Susan.Calentine@va.gov) 406-438-1684

P.O. Box 1500, 3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, MT 59636

**Facilitated by the GFWC-BWC**





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

*Kim Montag, Chairman*

Do you remember the first time you attended a State meeting? I learned so much about GFWC outside of my club at my first GFWC Montana Convention. I was able to meet clubwomen from all around the State and it was great to hear what other clubs were doing for their communities. State and District meetings are a great place to promote membership and enhance involvement of your members in activities outside of your club. What are some ways to increase attendance from your club at State or District meetings? One way might be to hold a drawing and pay for one person's attendance – a first timer or new members. Offering carpool opportunities is another thing to consider. Just think back to your first State or District meeting and you might think of other ideas to encourage attendance.

Speaking of District conferences – we just held ours in April. At these conferences I presented the membership pins and certificates to honor our clubwomen for their dedication to service. At the Central District conference held in Helena April 5<sup>th</sup> we presented two 25-year and seven 10-year awards. At the Western District conference held April 12<sup>th</sup> in Deer Lodge we presented three 25-year and six 10-year awards. Earlier in the year a 75-year award was presented to Margie Rohwer of the GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club. At the Eastern District conference held in Big Timber April 26<sup>th</sup> we presented one 50-year award and one 10-year award. Just think of the total amount of time these clubwomen have devoted to volunteering in their communities. Remember you can purchase membership award pins for other anniversaries (5, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40 and 45) at the GFWC marketplace. GFWC Montana acknowledges 10-year, 25-year, 50-year and 75-year anniversaries.

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 July 1, 2025 for members recruited in April, May and June.

And remember, you can always contact me with any questions at  
[membership@gfwcmontana.org](mailto:membership@gfwcmontana.org)



*Save the Date*

## 2025 ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

### Important 2025 Dates

June	1	Jennie Award Nominations due to Linda Stephani
June	6-9	GFWC International Convention, Atlanta, GA
July	1	Dues and Membership List due to Debbie Kirschbaum
July	1	April-June Member Recruitment Report
August	1	Montana Woman Distribution
Sept 11-14		Western State Region Conference, Long Beach, CA (details available early July)
Sept 26-28		GFWC MT Fall Meeting, Great Falls, MT (details available in the August <i>Montana Woman</i> )
Sept	27	GFWC International Day of Service

### *Poke Around the GFWC Digital Library*

**There is so much to find on the GFWC.org website!** Why, just on the Home Page before you even login to the Member Portal, you can get an overview of the Community Service Programs and the Affiliate Organizations, see who the national officers and staff are, see the latest (or a past) issue of News & Notes, find a club in another state and connect with them, and so much more.

Look what was found in the "Media" tab under the 2024 Open House. Every state was asked to send a glass, silver, gold, or all three ornament. Some were in a garland while others like our's were on a tree.

After you login to the member portal, click on the "Digital Library" tab and scroll down. You might find what you want right there! Every row has "See More" on the far right. Oh my goodness so many other links of a similar topic!

When searching in the keyword box, keep it simple. For example if you enter "Tool Kits" there will be 15 files from Leadership to Communication and Public Relations, Strategic Planning to Operation Smile and March of Dimes. Enter "Club" and there are 37 files in addition to the Club Manual. Try it and see what you get.

Remember, this is a living resource. The Club Manual that you downloaded to your Computer may have been updated. Periodically go back and check the date uploaded.

Enjoy the scavenger hunt, but be warned that you might spend an hour down a very rewarding rabbit hole!

**Now go visit GFWC Montana.org!**





Don't just teach your children to read ...  
Teach them to question what they read. Teach them to question everything.



1. Regarded as one of the greatest and most influential comedians of all time, dubbed "the dean of counterculture comedians".
2. "Here's a rule of thumb, folks: nothing you see on the Internet is mine unless it comes from one of my albums, books, HBO specials, or appeared on my website. [...] It bothers me that some people might believe that I would be capable of writing some of this stuff."
3. He produced 20 records, 6 books, 14 HBO, 16 films, and countless TV appearances.
4. He credited his mother for his teaching him the affective use of the English language.

\*Answer at bottom of this page

*Celebrate with us!*

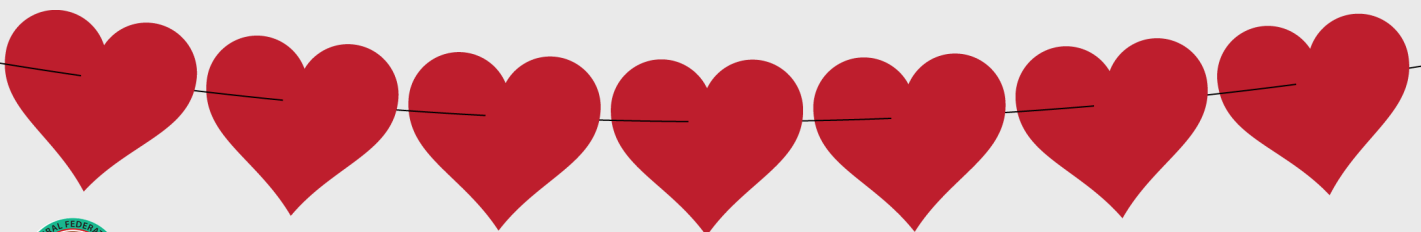
## Mark your calendar now!

**April 17-18, 2026** Biennial Convention, Great Northern Hotel, Helena, MT  
Feel free to come on Thursday, April 16th, and take the time to visit Helena! A tour map will be part of the registration information distributed with the Call.

We will have Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice President, as our special guest. Come share our Montana hospitality with Jolie. Learn what this anticipated GFWC International President may share with us.

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

– Helen Keller



## Proper Use of Friendly Amendments during Meetings

### Sandi Conrady, Parliamentary Advisor

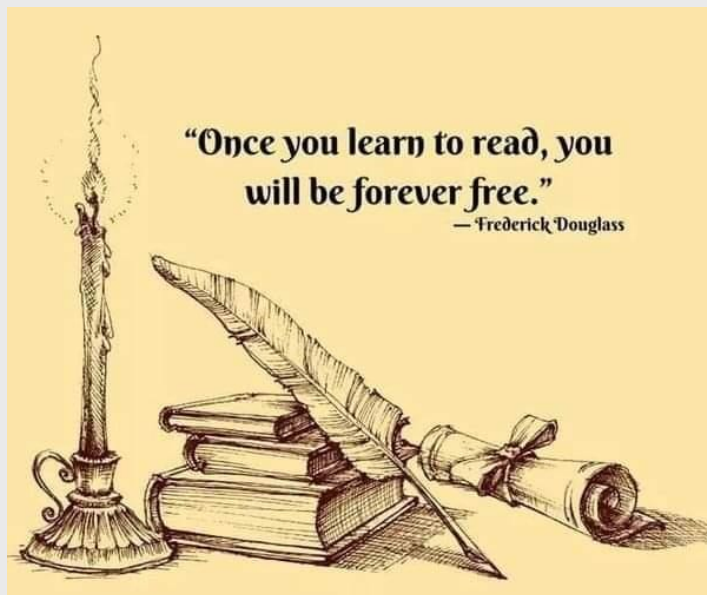
At meetings conducted under parliamentary procedure, you may hear references to a “friendly amendment.” Despite how common the term has become, *Robert’s Rules of Order* barely addresses the concept—and did not mention “friendly amendments” at all until the 10th Edition, published in 2000.

The current Robert’s describes a friendly amendment as “an amendment offered by someone who is in sympathy with the purposes of the main motion, in the belief that the amendment will either improve the statement or effect of the main motion, presumably to the satisfaction of its maker, or will increase the chances of the main motion’s adoption” *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th Edition)* 12:91. Unfortunately, “friendly amendments” are often misunderstood and misused.

Used **improperly**, it’s assumed that if a member proposes a friendly change and the original maker agrees, the motion is automatically amended. **Wrong!** Once a motion has been stated by the chair, it belongs to the assembly—not the maker—and cannot be changed unilaterally.

**Properly used**, a friendly amendment is simply a way of adopting a noncontroversial amendment by unanimous consent. A member may suggest an amendment they believe will be acceptable to the maker of the original motion. If the maker agrees, the chair should ask the body, “Is there any objection to the proposed amendment?” If no one objects, the amendment is adopted. If anyone objects, the amendment must go through the normal process of a formal proposal, a second, and debate.

Friendly amendments can be a helpful timesaver for changes that are truly non-controversial. However, the “friendly” part means **friendly to the entire assembly**, not just the original maker of the motion.



This is a recent article from Jim Slaughter, a parliamentarian who provides educational emails on Robert’s Rules of Order and meeting procedure.

To subscribe, visit

<https://www.jimslaughter.com/>. His books are also available through the National Association of Parliamentarians at [parliamentarian.org](http://parliamentarian.org).