

Wyoming News Blast

December 2019



Proud GFWC members

Since 1904

GFWC Wyoming President's Message - Mary Lee Dixon



Be Silly—Be Honest—Be Kind

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! This month's note will be short as everyone seems to be crazy busy and the focus should be on celebrating, appreciating family and friends and remembering the reason for the season.

Many clubs did holiday fundraisers and hopefully all were a success. Communities benefit from any and all contributions collected and dispersed through our women's clubs. Hard work and time away from families usually surround these and any other fundraisers throughout our club year. When they are over, take time to enjoy down time and refocus on family and friends.

Just a business note – December marks the end of GFWC-Wyoming's reporting year so please keep in mind your time and impacts for recording purposes. Also, I am again running my "help needed" ad for a photography chairman.

Needed: Photography Chairman – due to health challenges in her family, Robin Broumley cannot continue with her chairmanship. I am asking for a volunteer to see it through until July 2020. It entails notices in the news blast for the upcoming state convention submittals, rules, etc. Then at the convention, you would oversee the entries, arrange judges and display winning ribbons. I need a volunteer by February of 2020 so notices can go out for participation/rules in the contest. If no one volunteers, we will just suspend the contest for next year. Thank you for considering doing this important job.

Have the happiest of holiday seasons!!

Have fun! Be Silly! Be Kind!!
In Federation,
Mary Lee Dixon
GFWC-W President



Club News

It's striking how much we clubwomen share in this holiday season across the state. This is illustrated by two clubs, 4 hours apart. Marcia Volner, President of the Rock Springs Women's Club, writes:

Holiday House is over! We survived another year. Thanks to our Cheyenne friends for coming and supporting us! Exhausted now. Happy Holidays everyone.

Linda Stowers, President of Women's Civic League in Cheyenne, similarly writes:

WCLC just completed an exhausting week with our Annual Christmas House Fundraiser. I don't have the numbers yet, but our members sold a lot of items and I greeted a heck a lot of people. We look forward to the New Year and awarding Community Grants with our proceeds from this weekend.



In another noteworthy similarity, upon entering both the Rock Springs Holiday House and Women's Civic League's Christmas House, it was plain to see our mutual fascination with gnomes.

Gned Gnome on the left hails from Rock Springs and Gnate Gnome on the right comes from Cheyenne. Aren't they gneat?

We've heard the gnomes sold quite well. Gnaturally!

GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne President Linda Stowers

During the October and November luncheons, we asked members to donate gently used children's book or new books for children 5 years and younger. The books are to be divided between Head Start and Stride Learning Centers. We are delighted to report that 144 gently used books were collected as well as 66 new books for a total of 210 books. Each center will receive 72 used and 33 new books for a total of 105 books per group.



GFWC Meadowlarks President Flo Beville

Four Meadowlarks traveled to Rock Springs on December 6 to attend Holiday House. The house was beautiful, and we were happy to offer support to the Rock Springs ladies. After Holiday House, we enjoyed a delicious dinner and arrived home safely back in Cheyenne on the 7th.

Sue Tardif, Trish Peoples, Marcia Volner (President of the Rock Springs Club), Flo Beville, Karen Kent



Laramie Woman's Club Member Lynda Hidalgo

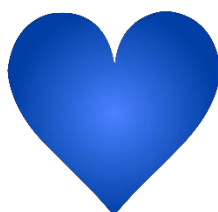
The Laramie Woman's Club's CIP project is focused on our homeless students in Jr. High and High School. "Homeless," in this case means any student not living with their parents -- they could be living with a relative, with friends, in a motel or in a car. Our mission is to assist them with their basic needs.

We began this project last year with a donation of two refrigerators followed by \$3,500.00 -- the net proceeds from our 5th annual Bunco Party. Students are in need of everything from sox and personal hygiene products thru money for laundromats & doctor visits.

Three local salons offered to give haircuts to students for \$15.00 each. Members of LWC personally donated \$390.00 towards gift cards with these salons. One of these salons refused to take any money for the haircuts so we were able to obtain 36 gift cards.

At each monthly meeting we have a continuous "Sock Box" & a personal hygiene box for donations of these items.

Can you imagine the strength of character it takes to get yourself up and to school -- especially a teenager -- when you probably don't have the appropriate clothing, food and other necessities? Our hats go off to these kids and we are truly blessed to have women with such giving hearts to help us do our best for them.



GFWC X-JWC President Trish Peoples

On December 10, 1869, Wyoming gave women the right to vote. 150 years later, GFWC X-JWC members took part in the festivities at the Capitol in Cheyenne. This included attending the free screening of the PBS "The State of Equality: Wyoming Women Get the Vote" at the Civic Center, marching to the Capitol, listening to Governor Gordon's address and watching reenactors (right) tell the history of women's suffrage in Wyoming.



News from our Chairmen

GFWC-Wyoming Dean of Chairmen Nancy Kaufman

I hope everyone is enjoying their holiday season – it seems to go ever so quickly! This is just a reminder that we at GFWC Wyoming really would like to hear what your amazing clubs have done in the past year! Last year we received reports of activities from every club in the state for the first time in a while.

Club President reports are due to Mary Lee Dixon (GFWC Wyoming President) and me by January 31, 2020. They should include any (all is great!) activities your club has done, the number of participation hours for each activity, and any moneys donated (actual and/or in-kind). There is a Statistical Report form on the GFWC Wyoming website that can be filled out electronically, but I will also be sending one to each Club President. Reports can be submitted in written form or electronically. I will also take oral reports from any club that prefers to do that and transcribe one for you! Sometimes clubs can win monetary prizes for their endeavors at the International level!

Whew! I know that's a lot of information but please, call me (307) 630-3003 or e-mail me (npkau@comcast.net) with any questions. We GFWC women do so much for our communities and state that I would love to tell the world what we have accomplished. GFWC is 80,000 strong, making a difference one club at a time! Happy Holidays!

Community Improvement Project Chairman Karen Brannon

How about these projects for CIP? One CIP project was to furnish a group home. One club made a float for the fair parade to encourage voting. Another club secured handicap signs for special parking, and another club conducted a rummage sale to provide funding for improvements to an elementary school playground. All are great ideas for projects.

Membership Chairman Katherine Van Dell



Magic of the Dance

Membership in GFWC is first and foremost about volunteerism. In all 50 states and more than 15 countries, our members work together to create global change. GFWC clubwomen are mothers, wives, daughters, doctors, teachers, and community leaders who are dedicated to enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

The greatest benefit of membership is being part of a world-wide volunteer movement of women working to better the lives of countless men, women, and children all over the world. The collective impact of GFWC clubwomen working together to assist those in need demonstrates the true power of Federation.

Recruitment--There are many women in our communities that would truly appreciate being asked to join a GFWCW club or would consider organizing a club in their community. Looking for ideas to use in recruiting new members, well hopefully, the following suggestions will help in accomplishing this endeavor.

Develop an “Elevator Speech” about your club
Promote the value of GFWC
Invite the media to cover well known speakers
Have members give talks at other organizations
Participate in community events
Send club’s newsletter to guests/potential members

Have a special guest day
Repeatedly invite prospective members
Use word of mouth
Share your club experience with others
Create more fun/Make it fun
Participate in community events

Mentoring New Members--Mentoring is an effective way to promote new members’ involvement. Clubs may call these mentors “Federation Buddies” or “Big Sisters.” A mentor’s responsibilities include explaining your club structure and activities, as well as illustrating how your club fits into GFWC’s overall structure. Develop a process for finding enthusiastic committed members who are interested in serving as an ongoing source of support for new members. Some basic qualifications for a club mentor include:

- A high level of knowledge about and interest in the club and GFWC
- A willingness and ability to devote the time and energy necessary to help a new member full participate in club activities.
- A willingness to hold a GFWC Refresher before the club year begins to highlight any changes for new members.
- Having some things in common with the new member (hobbies, interests, profession)



Fundraising Chairmen Flo Beville and Karen Kent

Contact Flo at robi53@msn.com or Karen Kent at wyokents@msn.com for tickets for this cozy cabinet!

\$5 or 5 for \$20

Proceeds go to GFWC-Wyoming



Home Life Chairman Phyllis Salzburg

December 21st – Winter Solstice

The darkest and shortest day of the year. Celebrate the day by collecting and donating flashlights to a homeless shelter.

National Short Girl Appreciation Day – Also associated with the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. Anyone under 5’5” is included in the “short” category and since the average American woman is between 5’3” and 5’4” there are plenty of us to appreciate! Activity for SGAD: If you’re not a Short Girl, offer to grab a grocery item from the very top shelf for someone who is!

December 28th – Card Playing Day - The perfect time to spend an hour or so playing cards with club members or seniors in an assisted living facility.

Plan ahead for January, which is National Blood Donor Month. Help organize a blood drive with your local blood bank. For information and ideas, visit www.adrp.org, Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals, division of America’s Blood Centers.

Have a Happy and Healthy 2020!

Does your family celebrate New Year’s Day with the traditional meal of black-eyed peas, collard greens, hog jowls, and corn bread, or some variation thereof? Growing up in a southern family, we always did to ensure luck throughout the year.

There are many legends concerning the menu. Southerners may tell you that the black-eyed peas custom dates back to the Civil War. Black-eyed peas were considered animal food, not deemed worthy of serving to General Sherman's Union troops. When the Confederates' food supplies were raided, legend says the Yankees took everything except the peas and salted pork. The Confederates considered themselves lucky to be left with those meager supplies and survived the winter. Peas then became symbolic of luck.

Collard greens and cornbread eaten on New Year's Day ensures money will be in your future. Cornbread represents pocket money or spending money, stemming from the color of the bread, representing "gold" or "coin" money.

Hog jowls -- a cured meat product that stores well for long periods of time. Before refrigeration, cured beef and pork would be very popular in the winter. The tradition has persisted and become a part of a New Year's feast for many.

Communications and Public Relations Chairman Pat Stenback Article from the GFWC International Newsletter

DON'T FALL FOR THE WRONG CAN OF SPAM Spamming ~ Phishing ~ Hacked ~ Spoofed

Communications and Public Relations is important in our club world. However, we need to worry about what the "bad guys" are searching for and sending us in order to get into our email and website.

Spamming is an unsolicited email. It is often an advertisement, a subscription offer, or a newsletter. They are annoying, but they are typically harmless. Just do not open them.

Phishing is an attempt to gather your personal information, passwords, etc. They are vague or they will warn you that something good or bad will happen to you if you do not respond. They may pretend to be from a commonly used company or service - UPS, FedEx, Amazon, Chase Bank. They will often times have some form of bad grammar as a clue to them not being legitimate. It may also have links that redirect you to fake data gathering web pages. They also commonly use classified ads, such as Craig's List to start an interaction with you.

Hacked is when an unauthorized user(s) attempts to access your account. Some signs may be that the contacts say they are receiving emails from you, or you start receiving mail delivery failures. There can be messages in your "Sent folder" that you did not send and there can also be activity pages/logs show logins from places and times you did not do.

Spoofed is when someone sends an email with your name in the "From" field using an account that is not associated with you. Some signs that this is happening may be that your name is John Doe and your email address is johndoe@gmail.com, but people are receiving emails that show "John Doe" as the from name, but the email address shown isn't johndoe@gmail.com.

When in doubt, do not open anything. A simple click can cost you a lot and make you frustrated.



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GFWC-Wyoming website: www.gfwcwyoming.org

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