



Preserve our Past – Protect our Future Trish Peoples – GFWC Wyoming President



It's annual meeting time! I hope to see you at the GFWC Wyoming Annual Meeting in Laramie, April 25-27. The full board meeting will be on Thursday at 3:00, followed by a tour of the Wyoming Women's History House that is open to everyone! Included in the tour is a celebration of the Wyoming Federation's 120 Anniversary. Friday will include a LEADS session, GFWCW business, guest speakers from the forestry department, Laramie Plains Museum Tours, and an Art, Wine & Cheese Evening with raffle prizes to win. Local artists will be highlighted, and it's open to the community. Saturday will include more business, the election of 2024-2026 officers, a guest speaker on advocacy and empowerment, and a banquet featuring our GFWC Guest, Second Vice President Jolie Frankfurth. You'll see fabulous photography and awesome art as well. Please get your registration to Katherine Van Dell by April 5th. The block of rooms at the Holiday Inn closes on April 11. Don't forget to bring your gently used bras for Save the Girls, your used socks for Smartwool recycling, and your loose change (or checks) for our mile of dimes for March of Dimes. Finally, but most importantly, thanks to all of you for your hard work this year. The reports illustrate how invested we are in serving our communities and GFWC Wyoming. I'm proud to be serving with all of you.

Karen Bard – President elect

Our club year is almost to a close but not before we have our State Conference in Laramie. The agenda is jam packed full of fantastic work sessions and wonderful speakers. We also have three wonderful evening events for you to attend. So I hope, like everyone else, that we will see many of you at the State Conference at the end of April. I also wish all of you a fantastic summer. I have many things planned as usual and will be attending the National Conference as well as the Western States Region Conference. In addition, I have another conference in Laramie in June and a conference in Florida in July and my first national board meeting in DC in August. I know September will be here before I can blink an eye. But for the rest of you I hope it is a time for adventures, family and taking a deep breath and rejuvenating your souls for another fantastic club year. I will close with another attempt to entice members to think about serving at the state level. We still have some appointments to fill and if you have ever thought of serving the state, even for a fraction of a second, do yourself a favor and give me a call. It is very rewarding, and I am sure we can find a position that fits your passion. We have a good start to a wonderful team for the next administration. We just

need to round it out and fill some vacancies. Hope to hear from you. Better to see you at the conference and we can have a chat about it. Have a great summer but hope to see you at the conference beforehand.

Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman

April is an exciting time of the year. We are gearing up for our Annual Meeting which will be held in Laramie. I want to encourage everyone to come, if only to take in one or two events. Thursday we will be celebrating Wyoming's 120th anniversary as part of GFWC. This would be an excellent opportunity to bring a guest to learn more about GFWC and GFWC Wyoming. On Friday the Laramie Women's Club will be holding an Art, Wine, and Cheese event. There will be many different fine artists who are willing to give a percentage of their sales to the state. This is another prime opportunity to bring a guest to see that we have fun alongside the work we do for our communities.

April is also the time of year that many of our clubs, as well as the State, elect new officers. New officers create the opportunity for new ideas and new directions which keep our clubs thriving.

Please take the time to read the attached resolution co-authored by Phyllis Salzburg and Patty Benskin. It is something we can and should all support.

Lucy Russell - Spiritual Adviser

I am very much looking forward to our GFWCW State Convention in April. I will be doing a memorial service for all our members who passed away in 2023. If you as president haven't sent me information about these members, please send it to me. I don't want to miss anyone. I love Wyoming in the spring. In one day, we can have rain, wind, snow, and sunshine. We also have been having some warm days which help us to make it through the cold of winter. I encourage you all to go outside. Visit a park and walk around or just sit and watch the birds or smell the flowers that are starting to pop up. This is the perfect time to get our gardens ready for planting. I look forward to seeing you all at the Convention in Laramie in April.

Phyllis Salzburg - Environment Community Service Program Chairman
Get Ready -- It's Coming Once Again!! Arbor Day, April 26, 2024!

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works on both public and private lands to plant trees and restore forests. That aligns with GFWCW State President Trish Peoples' special project to plant trees. There's still time to get some more trees planted before the end of her administration! Check with your city forester, arborist or parks department to find out what will be happening in your community to celebrate Arbor Day. There may be trees in your future!

Taking care of our trees is important in our challenging climate. Women's Civic League of Cheyenne provided a grant to Rooted in Cheyenne to produce three short videos on planting, watering and mulching to help keep trees healthy. The "watering" video reports a newly planted tree requires 10 gallons of water per inch diameter two times per week. An established tree three years or older requires 10 gallons of water per inch

diameter once per week. More good information on the videos at <https://rootedincheyenne.com/education/>



Deb McCann - ESO and Education & Libraries Chairman
GFWCW ANNUAL MEETING IN LARAMIE

Please Consider Contributing to the Following:

This year we will have a statewide book exchange at the Annual Meeting in Laramie on April 25-27, 2024. All members attending may participate in the book exchange *if* they contribute a book. You may find the book you have been searching for!

Also, we will be collecting children's books at the Annual Meeting for a GFWCW ESO donation to a school or organization in Laramie. The Laramie Woman's Club will select the benefactor. If you aren't attending the meeting but would like to donate a children's book, please ask a member who is attending to stuff the book in her book bag and bring it! All donations are appreciated.

Raffle

You may want to bring lots of \$1 bills to purchase raffle tickets for a decorated book caddy. The proceeds will be given to the Laramie Woman's Club to be applied toward an ESO and/or Education & Libraries project.

Drawings

Drawings will also be held for ESO items such as t-shirts and book bags.
Hope to see you in Laramie!

Please contact Deb McCann at debmccann841@gmail.com for information on becoming an ESO participant.

Leslie Jo Gatti - Arts & Culture Chairman

I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Easter. Now is the time to plan for the State Conference in Laramie. The following five Clubs donated to GFWC Wyoming's \$ for Art and can bring Youth Art pieces for judging: Laramie Woman's Club, Women's Civic League of Cheyenne, Women's Club of Sweetwater County, X-JWC, and Yoder Woman's Club. The judging will take place at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center at 9 am, Saturday, April 27. The art must be in place prior to 9 am Saturday. Please, contact me with your questions.

Over the summer the Club Chairmen for Arts & Culture may be in flux because of new administrations. But the, hopefully, good weather should encourage being outside to partake of local walking or historic tours or attending outdoor concerts. For more suggestions, check out the Member Portal at GFWC.org. See you in Laramie.
pc_ljgatti@hotmail.com

Flo Beville – Scholarship Chairman/Custodian

Scholarships – We will be awarding three scholarships this year, Mary N. Brooks,

Paulena Hays, and Ruth Clare Yonkee for \$1200 each. Therefore, in February I sent all the information to high school, college, trade school, etc. counselors all across Wyoming. Applications are due Apr 15, 2024.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED: The Scholarship Committee has a couple of openings. This is your opportunity to help our young students advance their educational pursuits. Membership on the Scholarship Committee entails receiving and reviewing Scholarship applications, rating/grading the applications, and choosing your choice for recipients and alternates. We will meet in May in person and/or via zoom. It is very rewarding knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of young students who need assistance in their education pursuits. Please contact me, Flo Beville (307) 421-3011, or email robi53@msn.com to be a part of this important committee. We would like representation from different clubs in the State. Because Karen Bard is stepping into the Presidency, she will be leaving the committee. Please consider this as part of your GFWCW commitment. Thank You.

Patty Benskin – President, Meadowlarks

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEADOWLARKS!

GFWC Meadowlarks, affectionately known as the Larks, is celebrating its fifth birthday. The club was formed to accommodate membership meeting needs for busy schedules and snowbirds. The club is busiest between March and October with a varied meeting date, time, and location. Membership is currently at 18 members, mostly living in Cheyenne, but also including members from Laramie, Colorado, and Texas.

Club on-going service projects include Meals of Hope (our thanks to clubwomen around the state that have supported the Meadowlarks with Meals of Hope), The Meadowlark Market, Veterans' Rock, and Coalition for the Homeless. The ladies have continued to bake, and hand decorate hundreds and hundreds of sugar cookies for our airmen for Valentines day. Every summer the Habitat for Humanity workers enjoy a "home cooked" lunch. The club participates in several other projects as needs are presented.

The club's fundraiser has been very successful. The Meadowlark Market is an Arts, Crafts and Vendor fair. This market gives vendors the opportunity to display and sell their wares. This year it will be held on October 26th at Blue Credit Union Headquarters in Cheyenne.

In addition to club work participation, a number of Larks are serving at the state and national level of GFWC. Current officers are Patty Benskin, President; Flo Beville; Vice President, Karen Kent, Secretary; and Julie Gleim, Treasurer.

Claudia Wilen – President, WCLC

Happy Spring! As of this writing the wind is still blowing...hopefully April will bring much needed rain showers instead.

We had a busy general membership meeting in March. The CGC grant allocations approved by the board were sent to the membership for approval. This year seven grant applications were fully funded and another partially funded with a total amount of

nearly \$34,000 given back to the community through this process alone. This constitutes a substantial portion of the proceeds from our annual Christmas House fund-raiser. Our 2024 Christmas House chairs and many of their helpers have already been fast at work preparing for this year's event in December.

Bylaw changes were also voted in, resulting in just a few minor changes before a heavy-duty review takes place during the upcoming administration.

Rooted in Cheyenne presented during our luncheon, explaining their tree planting program which takes place each Spring in Cheyenne. For as little as \$50, residents can sign up to have a substantial sized tree purchased and planted on their property. This is an unbelievably affordable way to spruce up a yard while promoting a healthy environment.

WCLC will be providing a raffle gift bag at the Spring Convention, packed with all things Taylor Swift! So all you Grammas with "Swiftie" granddaughters, have your money ready to buy those tickets...that is, if I haven't swept them all up before you!

Deanna Frey – President, Casper Active Service Club

The Casper Active service club met on March 15. We spent time catching up on everyone's activities for the last 3 months and discussing financial donations we made to Meals on Wheels, Hospice and Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies. Our club also provided Christmas stockings and materials to decorate the stockings to the youth at Casper Unaccompanied Students house.

Marcia Volner – President, Women's Club of Sweetwater County



We have so much happening! We delivered a box of cat and dog collars and leashes along with lots of dog treats to Rock Springs Animal Control. They have had a tremendous influx of surrendered and stray dogs lately and said this was what they needed. We are also getting ready for our first Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's on

April 13. It will be from 8-10 AM if you are in the area. April 11 is the McKensie Home fundraiser which we purchased a table for and also provided a raffle basket. This facility will be a great addition to the community when completed. It will give a home to women with children with nowhere to go as well as training for the moms so they can get a job to support themselves.

Then on April 24, we are supporting the Power of the Purse by purchasing a table at their dinner fundraiser and donating lightly used purses. This will support the school program for



sending backpacks of food home with students who may not otherwise eat. We also initiated 3 new members at our last meeting! We also supported a Bingo fundraiser and raffle that our local law enforcement put on to raise money for the family of the officer killed in Sheridan Wyoming. Some of us went to play Bingo and the club also donated a basket to the silent auction.

Lucy Russell – President, XJWC

Last month we had a member turn 90 years old. Her family had a birthday party for her and 4 of our members attended this party. Our club has a lot of things happening this month. We will be meeting on April 2nd at the Red Lion at 11:30 am. We will be having our election for the next club year, and I look forward to our new officers, I feel we have a great line up. We will be collecting used bras and socks for our State President Trish Peoples' projects. We will also be collecting dimes for the March of dimes. Our Education & Libraries committee will be collecting children's and young adult books to donate to Safe House. They have also had a member go around Cheyenne locating all the Little Libraries, she will be providing this list to our members. Our Arts and Culture committee chair has been in contact with the Boys & Girls Club here in Cheyenne and so she will be collecting art from them. She hopes to be able to display it at our meeting on Tuesday and then will take it to the GFWC Convention at the end of April. We are having our final fundraising activity, which is a Bunko party. This will be held on April 13; the play begins at 1:00 pm. We hope to have good attendance, and this should be a lot of fun. We are all looking forward to attending the GFWC-W convention in Laramie the 25th to the 27th of April. We have many ladies planning on attending. I am happy to be the President of X-JWC and truly appreciate my board and all the members for their volunteer spirit.

It's April! Where has the time gone? April is my favorite month, when we see wildflowers begin to bloom and days getting a tad warmer. April is an inspirational month as we look to new beginnings.

Margaret Lynn Prichard – President, Laramie Women's Club

Our LWC has been busy preparing for the statewide conference. We have quite a few fun things in store. I look forward to meeting you all!

Our February Bunco Party was a success. We raised \$1000 to donate to Feeding Laramie. Thank you, Ina Buckner, for your hard work organizing this event.

Janice Pelton and Irene Peach work diligently to excite students to read. They invite Wyoming children's authors to come to Linford Elementary to encourage them to read. And each student receives a copy of the author's book. I was privileged to attend the presentation by Spencer Pelton, State of Wyoming Archaeologist. Spencer gave a wonderful talk about archaeology in Wyoming and had very interesting relics to share with the students. They were excited, engaged and asked some excellent questions. Each student received a copy of *Accidental Archaeologists* and a poster. What a fun morning! Thank you, Janice and Irene, for the invitation and your dedication.



I hope to see you all at the end of the month!

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Editor: Karen Kent

wyokents@msn.com