



**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
**GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

**Special points of interest:**

- Save the Date
- By-Laws
- Jennie Award
- Music, Creative Writing, Photography Contests
- Community Improvement Award
- Club News

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GFWCofKansas.org

# KANSAS CLUBWOMAN NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF KANSAS

## From Janine's Chair...



**Janine Eilert**  
GFWC of Kansas President  
2022–2024

Dear GFWC of Kansas Clubwomen,

As I reflect over this past year, I am humbled to know that I have met so many GFWC clubwomen beyond the borders of Kansas.

The office of state president allows you to meet with other state presidents a minimum of twice a year. It has been so interesting to me to listen and learn from these other state presidents about how they conduct their state business and their meetings.

As we end the calendar year, I ask each of you to take time for yourself to enjoy your family and friends. Please be thankful for the blessing of family and friends near and far.

I am especially thankful for all the GFWC Kansas clubwomen who are joining their fellow clubwomen by contributing to families and others in need over the coming holiday season. Thank you for purchasing gifts for families who could not otherwise afford gifts, spending time with residents in nursing homes who do not have the luxury of family members visiting them, creating Christmas cards for veterans or for soldiers who are currently deployed, cooking extra Christmas meals for the homeless and/or homebound. The generosity

of the GFWC clubs in Kansas during this holiday season is making a difference in communities. I know that you are making their **“Whirl Go Round,”** thank you for caring.

*“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted” ~ Aesop.*

An update on my Presidents challenge to all clubs to collect and donate items for local blessing boxes, foodbanks and/or food pantries in your community. As of this newsletter we have collected and donated over 5000 items. WELL DONE. A friendly reminder to all club presidents to please update me monthly on how many non-perishable food items or hygiene products your club has donated. I believe that we can reach the goal of collecting and donating 9999 items by the end of June 2024. WE CAN DO IT.

Please remember to check our website frequently as my Vice President and I will be continually updating our working document the “state handbook” [www.gfwcofkansas.org](http://www.gfwcofkansas.org). In addition, check out our state Facebook page to see what other clubs are doing in the state.

Have a blessed holiday season with your family and friends and, continue to **“Make the Whirl Go ‘Round’** in your community. Merry Christmas to all.

*Janine Eilert,*  
GFWC of Kansas President  
[kimveilert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kimveilert@sbcglobal.net)  
(316) 250-0432



## Christmas Trees

Decorated trees date back to Germany in the Middle Ages, with German and other European settlers popularizing Christmas trees in America by the early 19th century. A New York woodsman named Mark Carr is credited with opening the first U.S. Christmas tree lot in 1851. A 2019 survey by the American Christmas Tree Association, predicted that 77 percent of U.S. households displayed a Christmas tree in their home. Among the trees on display, an estimated 81 percent were artificial and 19 percent were real.

## Vice President

Hello Everyone.

This year has certainly gone quickly. The holidays are here, and we will soon be completing our volunteer hour reporting.

Club members, now is the time to begin thinking about and tallying your volunteer hours.

For Club Presidents, I will be emailing the forms and instructions that you will need to complete your club volunteer hour reports. Look for my email by mid-December. Your reports are due February 1, 2024. Please return them to me and our State President, Janine, via email attachments. I hoping that we can develop a process that we can all easily use going forward.

State Chairmen and Appointees, we will be using the same procedure beginning in mid-February. We will work together to tweak the reporting process as we go. I welcome everyone's feedback..

All of the reporting forms and instructions will be available on [gfwcofkansas.org](http://gfwcofkansas.org). Back issues of the Kansas Clubwoman are also archived on our website along with the Clubwoman magazine. The GFWC Kansas State Directory is available on the Members Only page. You will need the password to access that page. Which is KS2022. You might want to make a note of that.

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with you in 2024.

*Linda Loyd*  
*GFWC Kansas Vice President*

## Secretary

Hello to all our great GFWC members in all of our wonderful Kansas clubs! The leaves are falling from the trees, and I think winter is right around the corner! When you read this, we will all be planning and working towards Christmas! Where has the year 2023 gone?

I'm sure all our clubs can cite several examples of projects that have been accomplished, as well as our National Day of Service that we have worked on to improve our communities. Isn't that a great thing to look back over this calendar year and think about those efforts?

GFWC of Kansas has a new slate of state officers that will be presented at the State Convention next year. That is an exciting opportunity for all of us in all Kansas clubs to reach out into our communities and within GFWC of Kansas to improve and grow.

I would like to say "thank you" to Prudence Fager, our Parliamentarian Advisor, for all her work in organizing and selling most of the Old Masters and Madonna art prints. Also, "thank you" to the members of several different clubs that have assisted Prudence with this huge job.

As of this writing, we have twenty-three clubs in GFWC of Kansas with a grand total of 320 members. Perhaps we can increase that membership in the coming months. Remember, as **Becky Wright, GFWC International Treasurer**, advised us always invite **FRAN** to our meetings:

**F – Friends**  
**R -- Relatives**  
**A -- Associates**  
**N-- Neighbors**

Wishing each of you a peaceful and Merry Christmas.

*Linda Krebs*  
*GFWC Kansas State Secretary*

## Treasurer

The GFWC of Kansas 2023-2024 fiscal year is a little past the halfway point, so I am updating with a mid-year status report on the balances and activity in our special funds:

Music Fund: Balance of \$2,721.45

Donations from Clubs: \$20.00

Donations from Individuals: \$1,000.00

Donations in Memory of Anita Pfister's sister Barbara Strahm: \$50.00

Scholarship Fund: Balance of \$2,940.14

Donations from Clubs: \$22.50

Veterans Fund: Balance of \$37.50

Donations from Clubs: \$37.50

Art Fund: Balance of \$4,888.39

from Clubs: \$87.50

from sale of Old Masters Art Prints: \$1,850.00\*

Fund: Balance of \$3,008.42

Donations from Clubs: \$65.00

Donations from Individuals: \$1,000.00

Proceeds from Fundraising: \$656.00

\*Out of 36 Old Masters Art Prints owned by GFWC of KS, all but two have been sold. After proceeds from the remaining two prints have been received, the Executive Committee will be asked to approve the purchase of, and decide the amount of a new certificate of deposit in the Art Fund.

*Carol Hanson*  
GFWC of KS Treasurer

## Save the Date, Make Your Hotel Reservations

Save the Date, Make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

GFWC Kansas, State Convention is Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A group of rooms has been reserved until April 1<sup>st</sup> with the room rate of \$125 per night. I have sent a link via email with booking information to all club presidents, past state presidents, LEADS delegates, current appointees, and chairpersons with a specific website for this upcoming state convention. If you prefer you can use the unique booking link below or call Hilton directly and use the reference code. Double and King-sized beds are available, and each room has a microwave and fridge. Other features are free parking, a hot breakfast, premium workout facility, on-site arcade, full bar, and indoor water park.

Unique Booking Link: <https://group.hamptoninn.com/wto0fa>

Or they may call our reservations line and reference group code **GFW** / 1-800-HILTONS.

The tours will be available on Friday in the early afternoon. Currently I am working with the Wichita Art Museum and the Kansas Foodbank to develop 2 different tour options. The Wichita Art Museum is due to have the following exhibit available until Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

*Making American Artists: Stories from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1776–1976* presents 74 of the most acclaimed and recognizable works of American art, which have played a demonstrable role in shaping conversations about the nation's history and identity.



### A Charlie Brown Christmas

Decades later, it may be hard to imagine that this beloved TV special inspired by Charles Schulz's *Peanuts* comic strip was first rejected by CBS executives. But when it finally aired on December 9, 1965, almost half of all U.S. TV sets were tuned to the broadcast, and the show went on to win an Emmy, a Peabody, an enduring following and even a trend of "Charlie Brown" Christmas trees. "I never thought it was such a bad little tree," Linus says in the special. "It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love







## Christmas Pickle

If there's a pickle among your snowman, angel and reindeer ornaments, you're likely taking part in the American tradition of hiding the green ornament on the tree, so that the first child to find it wins a gift, or gets to open the first present Christmas morning. The practice's origins are a bit murky (or should that be briny?), but, it's likely it grew from a Woolworths marketing gimmick from the late 1800s, when the retailer received imported German ornaments shaped like a pickle and needed a sales pitch.

## Madonna and Old Master's Art Prints

Soon after 1903 the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs purchased several dozen large format photographic reproductions of European old master paintings. The art pieces were placed under the supervision of the Kansas Traveling Libraries Commission at the strong urging of KFWC in 1907. Additional pieces were added to the collection from other artists (Birger Sandzen) and continued travelling around Kansas. In the 1980's the entire art collection was given to the Kansas State Historical Society. A few years later GFWC Kansas was notified that the Historical Society no longer wanted to keep the old master's paintings and the pictures were returned to the Federation.

In the administration of Prudence Fager (1996-1998) as state president the religious prints were matted and framed. The framed collection found a new home at the Columbian Theatre in Wamego for a few years but was ultimately moved to Council Grove to the Morris County Historical Society. In the second quarter of 2023 GFWC Kansas was asked to remove the prints from Council Grove, and they were introduced for sale to individual clubwomen in attendance at the August Fall Board Meeting in Manhattan.

We are pleased to report that we have 2 remaining prints for sale. Madonna of the Rose Bush by Stefan Lockner and Madonna with Child by Mathias Grunewald. Both framed pieces are small and would make great gifts for the coming season. If you are interested, please contact Prudence Fager directly at (785) 556-2171. All proceeds from the sale of these pictures will be deposited in the Art Fund of GFWC Kansas.



## Sad News from GFWC Headquarters

Billy Brazil, husband of GFWC International President-elect Suellen passed at home with family and friends at his side. Prior to his death he spent over 5 years battling many challenging health issues. Billy Brazil passed away on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 9:55 p.m. (central time zone).

If you or your club wishes to send a card to Suellen, please do so at the address listed below.

Suellen Brazil  
6510 Bay View Lane  
Daphne, AL 36526-4720  
[sbrazil@gfwc.org](mailto:sbrazil@gfwc.org)

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his name to the [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#). Donations may also be made by phone at 901-216-1148 or by mail to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105. Please use **Willis Langley Brazil III memorial ID Number 23694816**.

## GFWC Rebranding

GFWC has rebranded its emblem to include the year we were established, 1890, and the words "General Federation of Women's Clubs" alongside our traditional round logo.

Going forward please use the new version of the emblem.

Digital files of the emblem are available on the [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org) website. Digital Library under "E" folder for emblem. The files will also be uploaded in the future to our website [www.gfwcofkansas.org](http://www.gfwcofkansas.org) for all clubs to use.

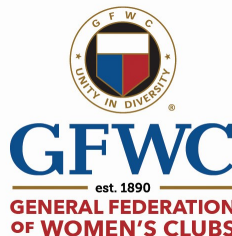
Formats available include: **JPG** (best for web pages and digital communications, such as emails, and has a white background), **PNG** (best for graphic designers or design projects and has a transparent background), and **EPS** (ideal for professional printing, used by designers for large scale design/print projects).

In addition, there are two versions of the new rebrand available for the Emblem: 1) horizontal and 2) vertical. The primary Emblem is the horizontal. However, the secondary Emblem, vertical, can be used when space is limited, or your design requires more flexibility. Each will be available in full color, black (light backgrounds), and white (dark backgrounds).



## Yule Log

Yule logs were part of ancient winter solstice celebrations, but it was Americans who turned the wood burning into must-see TV. Back in 1966, WPIX-TV in New York City aired a continuous 17-second loop of a fireplace for three hours along with holiday music. That led to eventual better production and nearly 20 years of annual viewing. Today, you can view the yule log on demand and on the web.





## Elf on the Shelf

Love it or loathe it, since 2005, moms and dads have either joyously or begrudgingly been hiding a toy elf each night from Thanksgiving to Christmas. More than 13 million elves have been “adopted” since 2005 when Carol Aebersold and her daughter, Chanda Bell, published the book *Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition* that comes with the toy. Social media has even inspired some parents to set up elaborate scenarios for their elves—as in: He TP’d the tree! She filled the sink with marshmallows!

## Creative Writing—Short Story and Poetry

Now is the time to be thinking of entering the Creative Writing Contest. Remember this is for all school age children, home schooled ones included, as well as all clubwomen. All entries are to be sent to me by March 1, 2024. There is a monetary award for each category of poetry and short story for youth and adults. First place is \$15, second place \$10, and third place \$5. The first place in each category will be sent to international.

Be sure all the correct information is included in the upper right hand corner of each page. This includes name, email address, mailing address, phone number, author's GFWC of Kansas club, state federation, category, and title of manuscript. You should consult the handbook on pages 33-34 for further information or check on the website.

Be sure to include the waiver, which can also be found on page 25 in the handbook or on the website.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Elizabeth Hemberger  
Creative Writing Chairman  
1220 W 20th Ave N  
Argonia, Kansas 67004-8014  
rgea@havilandtelco.com  
620-435-6416

## GFWC Music Auditions

Since information about the GFWC Music Auditions has been promoted at GFWC meetings and in the Kansas Clubwoman News publications, I am not sending each club individual letters. If a Club needs additional information please contact me. I have sent information to music departments at nearby schools where there are no clubs and I have had entries in the past. I would ask that Club Presidents or Music Chairpersons do the same in your area. Also, don't forget the private music teachers and home schools in your area. Let's get the word out, and music students to auditions on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at First Baptist Church, 7th and Jefferson, downtown Junction City.

*Florence Whitebread*  
10263 S. Hwy K-57  
Junction City, KS 66441  
785-238-2395  
fwhitebread@gmail.com

## Civic Engagement and Outreach

### .....what about Distracted Driving?

Distracted Driving has become a huge issue. I tend to think of it as texting while driving, but there are actually many other causes. I must confess that sometimes I am guilty of not totally focusing on the road (YIKES!) ...and if you are honest, you might be guilty of it too. So let's take a look at Distracted Driving.

#### What is it?

- talking or texting on a phone
- eating and drinking
- talking to people in your vehicle
- fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system
- ANYTHING that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving

#### What's the big deal?

- 80% of car accidents are caused by a driver being distracted.
- 2% of distracted driving accidents are the result of eating or drinking
- attention span to the road decreases by 40% when you listen to music or podcasts
- 26% of all car crashes involve cell phones
- texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed!
- texting makes a crash up to 23 times more likely
- driving while texting is six times more dangerous than driving drunk
- 9 people in the U.S. are killed daily from dis-

tricted driving

--in 2020, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers, in 2021 the number was 3,522

#### What are the rules in KANSAS?

- may use handheld cell phones while driving
- ban on all cell phone use by **novice drivers** (drivers with learner or intermediate license)
- ban on text messaging for all drivers.

#### What can I do?

- never talk or text while driving
- set your phone to respond that you are unavailable while driving
- speak out if the driver of your car is driving distracted
- encourage friends and family to drive phone-free
- be a voice in my community by supporting local laws, speaking out at community meetings, and highlighting the dangers of distracted driving on social media

Alerting others of these dangers and making changes in your habits and actions may require a little effort...but it could be the difference between life and death.

Kathy Baker,  
Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman

## Leadership: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Whether you are the CEO of a Fortune 500 Company, a Club President or club member, everyone always wants to improve their skills and become more efficient. Steven Covey, in his book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, writes about the importance of being optimistic and positive, being collaborative, being able to manage relationships and conflicts, asking and listening, being a problem solver, being a life-long learner who is results- and action-oriented, being able to focus on the important things, and being able to have fun and share humor effectively. A person can adopt these skills to the point of them becoming habits. So, no matter what role you have in life, here are the "7 Habits":

- 1: Be Proactive:** take responsibility for your own actions, focus time and energy on the things that you can control
- 2: Begin with the End in Mind:** have a clear vision of goals
- 3: Put First Things First:** Prioritize the things that lead you to the goals
- 4: Think Win-Win:** realize that we can grow and benefit from one another
- 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood:** first, listen to understand ...this creates a feeling of care and empathy. Next, give honest and valuable advice if requested.
- 6: Synergize:** cooperate in order to use the benefit of others ideas
- 7: Sharpen the Saw:** take time for self-care and self-renewal in order to stay balanced and effective (physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual) This habit is the basis for staying balanced to be able to handle the other six habits.

*Kathy Baker*



### Advent Calendars

Early versions of this tradition, started in Germany in 1903 by publisher Gerhard Land, offered a way for children to count down to Christmas by opening one "door" or "window" a day to reveal a Bible passage, poem or small gift. Since gaining mass popularity by 1920, the calendars have evolved to secular calendars that include daily gifts from mini bottles of wine to nail polish to chocolates to action figures.





## Gingerbread Houses

Although Queen Elizabeth I gets credit for the early decorating of gingerbread cookies, once again, it's the Germans who lay claim to starting the gingerbread house tradition. And when the German Brothers Grimm wrote "Hansel and Gretel" a new holiday tradition was born. Today, the edible decorations are available in a slew of pre-packed kits.

## Sharing Message from GFWC By-Laws Committee

### PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

As with other standing committees the members serving on a committee may change, but the committees work does not. Preparing a good old-fashion hard copy folder or notebook of your committees work, along with a USB flash drive or access to a cloud storage folder of current committee's documents is advisable. There is no need for incoming committee to repeat the outgoing committee's work. Rather, they should be building on that work. A hard copy is advisable as computer programs change, new member's computer may not have a USB port and "The Cloud" may be inaccessible due to some glitch. HOWEVER, IF TECHNOLOGY does work, it saves time by not having to reproduce the documents by hand.

### SHOULD IT BE IN THE BYLAWS?

The bylaws of an organization, be it local, state, or international, is the document that contains its basic rules as an organization rather than rules of parliamentary procedure. They define the primary characteristics of the organization, prescribe how it functions, and include all rules that are considered so important by the group that they cannot be changed without prior notice, require a sufficiently large majority to amend and cannot be suspended unless provided for in the bylaws under specified conditions. Administrative details should not be in the bylaws but in the Standing rules. These items like how much an officer may be reimbursed for attending a function-as a representative of the organization, whether a fine be imposed for not wearing a name badge at a meeting. Specific how-to-details, such as where the switch is to turn on the microphones or the order in which tables are arraigned in the room for the holiday event, belong in the procedure manual. This manual should be passed along year to year and updated regularly.

### BUT WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY

Sometimes, the rule is not written anywhere, but that's how the organization has always preformed a duty or placed an item on the agenda. That's called s custom. Should it be discovered that a standing rule or bylaw conflicts with the custom, the bylaw or standing rule takes precedent over the custom, it is out of order and must not be followed. Suppose the group would rather do it the way they always have. In that case they must amend the bylaw or standing rule to conform to the custom unless they find it violates the rules of the facility where they are meeting or the local ordinances prohibit it.

*Delva Powers*  
*State By-Laws and Resolutions*



## Time to Elect New Officers to Serve 2024-2026 Term

As we will be electing state officers for the 2024-2026 term, I thought I would remind you of the by-law pertaining to eligibility.

Page 39 of Directory -Article IV-OFFICERS

Section 1A. Eligibility Of Officers

1. Only members of clubs holding active membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Kansas shall be eligible to hold office.
2. A candidate must be endorsed by her own club.
3. A candidate must file in writing with the Chairman of Nominating Committee( this year is Jan Moore) by January 1 of even numbered Calendar year (2024) stating her ability, her consent to serve if elected and send her endorsement. IF there is nomination from floor at convention, that candidate must also follow the criteria to furnish endorsement, also, at that time.

If you read Section 2 and Section 3, you will see that covers Vacancies during term of office.

If you read Section 4 you will see description of Duties of officers. It is not to be taken lightly . Candidates must see what is going to be expected in carrying out duty's of office they would aspire to. Leadership is vital to any organization. Please understand if you aspire to go further in club work and what it has to offer, you must be willing to be open to education and information given. Learning all that available on being a leader. Our LEADS program is a great way to get a taste to what your future would look like, if you would like to grow your knowledge of General Federation and its programs. Kansas is very fortunate that we have mentors who could help also.

Would love to see more candidates step forward to serve in State Positions.

*Delva Powers*

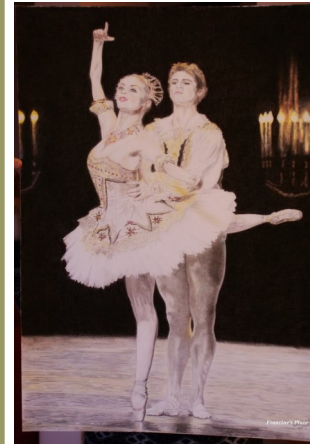
*GFWC of Kansas State By-Laws and Resolutions*

## Jennie Award

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June". 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. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

It is with the upmost pride that GFWC Kansas has nominated Anita Pfister of the Hutchinson Questers Club to represent our beautiful state. Her submission is now at the regional level, and we sincerely hope that she is chosen as a candidate to represent MVR.

Anita has a lifetime of personal excellence in her community and an incredible knowledge of all things GFWC. She has held a lot of different positions within GFWC Kansas over the 50+ years that she has been a clubwoman. She has mentored many clubwomen within her own club to step up to leadership roles and has welcomed multiple new members into GFWC Kansas. Thank you, Anita, for your incredible service to GFWC.



**The Nutcracker**

For many, the holiday season is not complete without a trip to watch this ballet. With music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and originally choreographed by Marius Petipa, the romantic tale of the young Clara's Christmas Eve premiered Dec. 18, 1892, in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was performed for the first time outside of Russia in 1934 in England and made its way to the United States in 1944 when it was performed by the San Francisco Ballet. It became a must-see event in America in the 1960s, as performances spread across the nation.



## Ugly Sweaters

You can blame our neighbors to the north for this silly, ironic tradition that really gained steam in the 1980s. According to the *Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Book*, sweaters became a party trend in Vancouver, Canada in 2001. And the trend is seemingly here to stay. According to Fox Business, the ugly sweater industry is a multi-million business, with websites such as Topsy Elves, retailers including Macy's, Kohl's and Target, and even food chains jumping on the ugly bandwagon.

## Environment/Conservation

### Kansas State Parks

Do you know how many State Parks we have in Kansas? How many of those have you visited? I love Kansas, the Sunflower State and exploring our state parks.

Kansas has 28 state parks all over the state. There are 6 State Wildlife Management areas, 5 State Forests, and 4 National Wildlife Refuges. The Kansas State Park system encompasses over 117,000 acres of land. Nearly 9 million visitors come to Kansas to see and explore our state parks each year. The four National refuges are: Flint Hills, Kirwin, Marais de Cygnes and the Quivira and are great places to observe birds, go fishing, and has some wildlife.



My husband John and I stumbled across a Gem while we were Interim Ministers in Canton, Ks. The Maxwell Wildlife Refuge is located at 2565 Pueblo Rd. Canton, Ks. There you can drive thru on a dirt road and see elk and buffalo from your car. They offer tram rides throughout the year that you can take to get very close to the animals, and it gives you an opportunity to immerse yourself in a sea of colorful wild flowers. A man named John Gault Maxwell, a Scotsman, came to Kansas and settled near present day Marquette in McPherson, County in 1866. He fell in love with what he saw, and desired to preserve part of the prairie so that others could enjoy what he saw then. After his death and that of his two sons in 1940; \$75,000 was set aside with explicit instructions to purchase three to six sections of Kansas prairie for a Wildlife Refuge. Finally in 1951, the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge officially opened with 2,560 acres of rolling prairie land, with rolling bluffs, deep wooded creek bottoms, and deposits of Dakota sandstone. There was a herd of buffalo, and elk established on site at the time. The McPherson State fishing lake is a part of the Refuge and it opened in 1956.

I hope you will go and explore the fantastic Kansas State Parks that are close to you or travel to visit Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and take a step back in time to see Kansas as it was in the early days. Happy Trails to you!

*Juanita Rothaus*  
*Environment GFWC Kansas Chair*

## Oh, the Fun That Was Had By All

At the most recent Mississippi Valley Region (MVR) Conference in Branson, Missouri GFWC Kansas had 20 clubwomen and 4 boosters in attendance. Prior to the start of the conference many of us enjoyed attending shows, shopping, and sightseeing. GFWC Kansas had the most clubwomen in attendance for the conference, so we therefore received the attendance award (silver plate) from the current MVR president Pat Stevermer. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we have received the award since its inception in 1987. Thank you to all the clubwomen who attended.

Friday night (host state night ~ Missouri) we celebrated with a Mardi Gras theme. On Saturday we heard presentations from all the community service program and advancement area committee members. We also heard from Deb Strahanoski, International GFWC President who was in attendance. On Saturday evening we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> year of MVR and were honored to hear from past region presidents. Sunday morning, we wrapped up the conference with presentations from all state presidents in attendance.

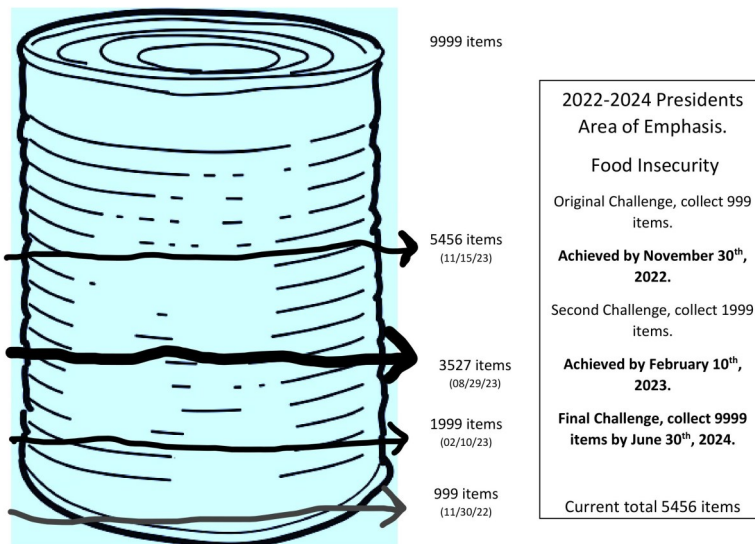
I would urge all clubwomen to consider attending the next MVR conference in Des Moines, Iowa September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2024.



### Cookies and Milk for Santa

While leaving treats for Santa and his reindeer dates back to ancient Norse mythology, Americans began to sweeten up to the tradition during the Great Depression in the 1930s, as a sign of showing gratitude during a time of struggle.

## 2022-24 Food Insecurity Challenge





## Candy Canes

Whether devoured as a treat or hung on the tree as decoration, candy canes are the No. 1-selling non-chocolate candy during December, and date back to 1670 Germany. The red and white peppermint sticks arrived stateside in 1847, when a German-Swedish immigrant in Wooster, Ohio placed them on a tree. By the 1950s, an automated candy cane-making machine was invented, cementing their mass appeal.

## Health and Wellness

Good mental health is ageless. A healthy mind is as important as a healthy body. Good mental health can help you: enjoy life more, handle difficult situations, stay better connected to your family, friends and community, and keeps your body strong.

Talk with your doctor or other health care professionals. Share your feelings with a friend, family member or spiritual advisor. These people can sometimes notice changes that you might not see. At any age, help can support growth, discovery, recovery and happiness.

The National Eldercare Locator number is 1-800-677-1116 or the Federal Center for Mental Health Service at 240-276-1310.

GFWC is working towards developing a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association. Please promote National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month - November and the Diamond Daisies of GFWC Virtual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

The Alzheimer's Association has a 24/7 Helpline that offers confidential support for individuals-with dementia, caregivers, families, and the public. **800-272-3900**. Visit their website to take advantage of educational videos that provide - information on the disease, guidance for caregivers, and reinforcement for those living with Alzheimer's. <https://www.alz.org/help-support/resources/care-education-resources>

Let's put an end to Alzheimer's! **Join the Walk**. You can support the mission even if there is no team in your community. Donate to the **Diamond Daisies of GFWC**. Thank you to those who have already contributed to our team. This chairman aims to raise \$5,000, but we can do more!

*Sharon Teagarden-King,  
Health and Wellness Chairman*

## Walk Kansas 2024



It's time to be gearing up for WALK KANSAS 2024. Ladies start forming your teams now. Being physically active can improve your health and help you feel better. Walk Kansas is a health initiative presented by Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. The tentative dates occur March 24-May 18, 2024. More information can be seen on [www.walkkansas.org](http://www.walkkansas.org), and be watching for more news in the February Clubwomen. I hope you will get teams formed and let's get walking.



## Photography Contest

Let's Do it Again! Let's win another award for Kansas in Photography at GFWC International Convention in Chicago 2024. Keep taking your pictures until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Here are the details. There are two contests World in Pictures with three categories and GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit.

### World In Pictures

**Our World Up Close:** A visual that offers a novel viewpoint or macro images making small items larger than life. Bugs on a flower for example.

**Natural Wonders:** Wide angles and panoramas. Showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, oceans, deserts. Any magnificent vista.

**Reflections:** A setting, situation or landmark that brings back memories or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water or any mirrored surface.

### GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit

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

### RULES:

Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.

All photographs must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.

Photographs for this contest must be taken between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

Contestants must be considered amateur photographers.

### Photographs for State Judging:

May be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.

Must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.

Each photograph must be 8 x 10-inch board and overall thickness not to exceed 3/8 inch. No mattes, frames or hangers are to be included.

May be taken using film or digital cameras and may be color or black and white.

Printed photographs will not be returned.

Each photograph must have a label affixed to the back with the following information.

- \* Contest Name: World in Pictures with category or GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit
- \* Photographers name, email address, mailing address, and phone number.
- \* Name and State of Sponsoring Club.
- \* Title and a brief caption giving location, date, and other info about the photo.
- \* Arrow indicating the top of the photograph.

Increase your odds. Enter one in each of the three categories in World of Pictures and one in GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit for a total of four pictures.

*GFWC Photography Chairman*  
*Shirley A Ferley*  
*[ferley@swbell.net](mailto:ferley@swbell.net)*  
*913-259-1577*



### Door Wreaths

Wreaths have been around since the ancient Greek and Roman times, but the evergreen Christmas wreath, often adorned with boughs of holly, eventually took on Christian meaning, with the circular shape representing eternal life and the holly leaves and berries symbolic of Christ's crown of thorns and blood, according to the *New York Times*. Today's wreaths, which come in all varieties, from flowers and fruit to glass balls and ribbon to artificial and themed, are most often seen as a secular winter tradition.



## Christmas Cards

The first official Christmas card debuted in 1843 England with the simple message, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." The idea of a mailed winter holiday greeting gradually caught on in both Britain and the U.S., with the Kansas City-based Hall Brothers (now Hallmark) creating a folded card sold with an envelope in 1915. Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, more than 1.6 billion holiday cards are sold annually.

## Community Impact Program Award

"Community Impact Program Awards are designed to encourage and recognize the positive effects a club can have on specific needs in their community." GFWC's longest standing project has evolved since its inception in 1949 to implement projects that bring change to a community.

Any grassroots project that makes a large impact in your community and fits the criteria will be accepted for judging purposes.

### Contest Description:

Each entry can feature one project based on community need or the Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Programs Areas and/or community service Programs. The project must be undertaken by a club and accomplished during the award period of **January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023**.

The details and forms are in the Club Manual located at GFWC.org. I can also send the information and forms by mail or email. We are nearing the end of your two-year project. It is time to gather the plans, pictures, news articles, media coverage, money spent, and results to fill out the entry forms.

### Award entry Highlights:

Brief description of project and the issue/problem you are trying to solve.

#### Project scope:

- \* Plan of action
- \* Costs to implement and how funded
- \* Community collaboration, if any
- \* Obstacles, if any

Results achieved and long-term effects on the community.

Public relations and media (include internet, newspaper articles, social media, Television, etc.) including pictures of the project activities.

### Total entry cannot exceed 10 pages, including photos, media, etc.

Club entries must be sent to me by **March 1, 2024**. Your entry will be accepted by email at [ferley@swbell.net](mailto:ferley@swbell.net) if you prefer.

GFWC Community Impact Program Awards will be given at the international convention in Chicago 2024. A total monetary award of \$21,000 will be given. Each of the 5 state category winners, of which Kansas is in Category 4, will receive \$2500.00. This is one you'll want to "GIVE IT A WHIRL."

*Community Impact Program Awards Chairman*  
*Shirley A Ferley*  
[ferley@swbell.net](mailto:ferley@swbell.net)  
913-259-1577

## Kansas Clubwoman Next Issue

News items and articles for the **March 2024** issue of the Kansas Clubwoman are due **February 20, 2024**. Please feel free to forward your articles to me whenever you have them ready. No need to wait for the due date. I maintain a working copy of the next issue and will insert your article when I receive it. I will always send a reply to confirm that I have received your article. If you don't receive a confirmation, please check with me.

Back issues of the Kansas Clubwoman are archived in our website [gfwcofkansas.org](http://gfwcofkansas.org).

If you would like to have a digital copy of the Clubwoman emailed to you, please let me know.

*Linda Loyd, Editor*  
[lindaloyd05@gmail.com](mailto:lindaloyd05@gmail.com)  
913-856-8602

## Legislation and Public Policy

### Protect Children, Advocate for Congress to Enact these Bills

Children may be groomed, enticed, exploited, trafficked, and abused through involvement with online platforms. This victimization increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, 31.9 million reports of child sexual abuse material were made to the CyberTipline hosted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), the nation's clearinghouse and comprehensive reporting center for all issues related to the prevention of and recovery from child victimization.

FWC joins the National Center on Sexual Exploitation to urge enactment of bipartisan legislation to establish new statutory authority to hold offenders accountable, targeting the production and live streaming of child sexual abuse materials. Advocate to protect children against online child sexual exploitation.

A package of five bipartisan bills has been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and are ready for floor action. Together, they revise and update the legal framework used in the prevention and prosecution of online sexual abuse of children.

The bills are:

**The EARN IT Act (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2023, S. 1207)** removes immunity for social media and technology companies that knowingly facilitate the distribution of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) on their platforms by giving victims of child sexual abuse the right to sue the companies. The bill also updates existing federal statutes to use the term "child sexual abuse material" instead of "child pornography."

**The Kids Online Safety Act (S. 1409)** creates a legally relevant "duty of care" requiring online apps and platforms to automatically safeguard the needs of children.

**The Project Safe Childhood Act (S. 1170)** modernizes the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Program to enhance law enforcement's response to online child sexual exploitation.

**The Report Act (Revising Existing Procedures on Reporting via Technology, S. 474)** improves the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline by requiring reporting of child sex trafficking and enticement or grooming. It also extends the retention period of reported material, giving law enforcement more time to conduct investigations.

**STOP CSAM Act (Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment, S. 1199)** expands civil remedies for victims of online sexual exploitation and requires the removal of related exploitive visual depictions.

Please urge Congress to enact these bills to protect children.

Gail Jamison

Legislation and Public Policy Chair

## Epsilon Sigma Omicron—Zeta Chapter of Kansas

How are you coming with this year's Reading Challenge? I hope you are having fun choosing books to fit the prompts. Many of you have kept me updated with your book lists. I'm going to ask everyone to send me a final list for the year because I report the number of books we've read and our reading hours to ESO. You may be wondering where the reading hours come from. Apparently it takes an average of seven hours to read a book. So I multiply our total books by seven.

It's not too late to join ESO. The ESO Handbook, the ESO Reading List, and the ESO Membership Standards from the State Handbook are available on our website. I would also be happy to email them to you. If you are reading anyway, why not join? Audio books count as well. All you have to do is send me your name and keep a list of the books you read.

Happy reading,

*Linda Loyd*

*ESO Chairman, lindaloyd05@gmail.com*



### Christmas Lights

Thomas Edison may be famous for the light bulb, but it was his partner and friend, Edward Hibberd Johnson, who had the bright idea of stringing bulbs around a Christmas tree in New York in 1882. By 1914, the lights were being mass-produced and now some 150 million sets of lights are sold in the U.S. each year.





## A Visit from Saint Nick

Best known as *The Night Before Christmas*, the reading of this classic by poet Clement Moore is an American holiday tradition. Believed to have been written on Christmas Eve of 1822, the *New Yorker* is said to have been inspired by his sleigh ride home. According to the U.S. Library of Congress, Clement, a professor at the General Theological Seminary in Manhattan, was “embarrassed by the work, which was made public without his knowledge in December 1823. Moore did not publish it under his name until 1844.”

## GFWC Flint Hills



GFWC Flint Hills Club members that attended the Mississippi Valley Region Conference at Stone Castle Convention Center in Branson, MO Sept. 14-17th, 2023. L to R: Ruth Linville, Fran Zerby, Joanna Treas, Carol Hanson and Jane Willich.



The Flint Hills Club members attended and toured the Cat’s Cupboard at their open house Sept. 22, 2023. The club members donated food items and hygiene items at no cost to currently enrolled KSU students and KSU faculty/staff. The facility is setup like a grocery store for students facing food insecurity. This allows them to shop for the groceries they like and will use. The Cupboard provides opportunities that promote student health, success and well-being. Look on their website for more information: [catscupboard@k-state.edu](mailto:catscupboard@k-state.edu). They are located at 1021 Dension Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502.



The Flint Hills Club observed the National Day of Service by sorting food at the Flint Hills Breadbasket. The Breadbasket services residents of Manhattan, Riley County, Fort Riley and St. George who are experiencing food insecurity. We volunteered two separate afternoons sorting food before stocking their marketplace. Team 1 members: Fran Zerby, Ruth Linville, and Janice May. Team 2 members: Joanna Treas, Jane Willich, Carol Hanson, and Fran Zerby.

*Jane Willich*



## GFWC Questers of Hutchinson, Kansas

The GFWC Questers had a full fall in South Central Kansas! After months of collecting 100 pounds of stretchable plastic, we were able to add ours to much more donated to us. The result is a park bench at the basketball court of the Farmington Park in Hutchinson, KS.

In October, we focused on the needs of American female military veterans who are having cancer issues. Thirteen large tote bags of comfort gifts were delivered to the Bob Dole Veterans Hospital in Wichita, KS. Thanks to member Dena Miller for the idea and for the delivery to the hospital.

On November 1st, Mary Ann Wenner, Anita Pfister, Marsha Field, Nancy Maes Simonetti, Andrea Henne, and Karen DeCou traveled to Abilene, KS, to decorate five of the 60 Christmas trees that are displayed at the Seelye Mansion each year. Twice we have donated to the food banks in our city. At our November meeting, Anita Pfister was presented her 50 year membership pin by good friend, Karen DeCou.

*Andrea Henne,  
Questers President*



## Twelve Days of Christmas

Even though most hear the song between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, the Christian 12 days of Christmas, which span the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi, actually take place from December 25 to January 6. The earliest version of the poem-turned-song is thought to have been published in *Mirth Without Mischief*, a children's book from 1780, with the modern version credited to English composer Frederic Austin who set the poem to music. Each year the PNC Christmas Price Index totals up the total cost of the 12 gifts named in the song based on current markets. For 2019, everything from a partridge in a pear tree to

## GFWC Waterville Shakespeare

The Waterville Shakespeare Club started the year with a Friendship Tea in September which led to 5 new members. We welcome Norma Hirt, Lydia Lindquist, Jeanie Prinslow (who even was elected to take over the recording secretary position), Marilyn White, and Alice Roepke. We are so excited on making the Clubwomen's front cover for our National Day activity of collecting items for the Blessing Box.

October the ladies heard from Mandi Becker, founder and director of The Lighthouse: Memory Care Residence in Marysville, KS. It was extremely enlightening and we all enjoyed the education. Also attending our October meeting was Joanna Treas, our State President-Elect and had a great time getting to know each other a little more.

We are preparing now to host a Veteran's Coffee on Friday, November 10th at 10:30 am and present a program on our own local veterans who were in WWI.

*Sharon Teagarden-King, Club President*





## Poinsettias

America's Christmas flower, these plants native to Central America were brought to the United States (and given their name) by the country's first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, botanist Joel Roberts Poinsett, in the 1820s. It was a California horticulturist named Paul Ecke who brought the traditionally red and green plants to the masses 100 years later. He donated the plants to TV shows, and, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, the poinsettia became the best-selling potted plant in the nation by 1986.

## GFWC Goddard Woman's Club



For the Goddard Fall Festival Parade, members dressed in attire representing the nine decades of service to the community since the Club's founding in 1933!

The Goddard Woman's Club celebrated its 90th Year Anniversary, October 10, 2023 and the honor to be the community's oldest service organization. The City honored the club with a Resolution marking October 10th annually as Goddard Woman's Club Day. The Goddard Lions nominated the club for the honor.



Goddard Woman's Club hosted a 90th Anniversary Celebration and Ribbon Cutting of a LEGO Wall and Learning Center addition to the Children's Section of the Goddard Public Library. The club has continued to support early literacy since the Club's founding of the Library in 1969. A *Come and Go* Reception featured the current projects of the club as well as treasured articles from the Club's historical archives.



The Goddard Woman's Club members purchase pies for the FREE Goddard Community Thanksgiving Feast and Salute to Veterans. Over 400 people were served at the annual FREE Thanksgiving feast sponsored by the Goddard Lions and supported as a community event with school volunteers and community groups.

Goddard Woman's Club in partnership with the Goddard Lions created "Crash Kits" to support diabetic students in the Goddard Public Schools. The kits were presented to the District's Nurse Facilitator, Kim Lynch during November, National Diabetes Awareness Month.

*Gail Jamison, Club President*



## GFWC Ad Astra

Ad Astra Club of Wamego began the club year planning Our National Day of Service project. Study Club and the Ad Astra Club are pairing together to supply the Blessing Boxes in town for this year. Each club has specific months to fill the boxes with food and personal hygiene items. Pictured are members of both clubs gathered at one of the Blessing Boxes.

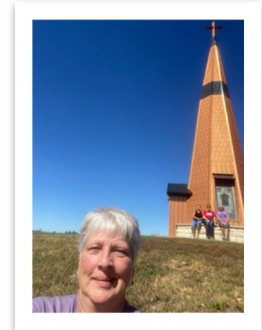


ers, close to 2000 pounds of grapes were harvested. 48 crates were half filled or fully filled weighing 35-50 pounds each with the majority of the grapes being transported to Holy Field Winery.

Several members gathered at the Buffalo Winery in Ozawkie, Kansas in mid Sept to help harvest 5 acres of grapes. With the help of oth-



After harvesting grapes, we took a short side trip to view the St. Joseph Woodworker Shrine. The steeple was removed from St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Wamego and relocated to Ozawkie, Kansas.



Ad Astra hosted their annual Guest Night in October. Lisa Ward was our guest speaker who advocates for DIPG, (a highly aggressive and difficult to treat brain tumor.) Lisa shared her son's story and their crusade to fight this disease that often attacks children. Lisa, together with other advocates, have developed the Tough2gether Foundation to end DIPG. Tough2geth-



er brings people who care together to do game changing work that really matters. She has spoken at the WHITE HOUSE on several occasions advocating for DIPG.

Harlan and Dorothy McNinch, along with Eric Artzer and Cliff Baughman presented our Veteran's Day program. Harlan and Dorothy are the first married couple to participate in the Honor Flight program from WHS, as both of them are veterans. In 2017, Eric and Cliff took it upon themselves to create the first of several Wamego Honor Flight's replica pedal planes of WWII. They are auctioned off to provide awareness and fundraising dollars for the program. Cliff hand-paints the customized planes each year. Veterans from each mission sign these planes which makes them even more special. The McNinch's own this particular pedal plane. Don Riffey also spoke to our Club to promote the Wamego High School Honor Flight Program.



*Joanie Doperalski, President*



## Luminarias

Simple, folded brown bags filled with sand and lit by votive candles are particularly popular in the Southwest. Dating back more than 300 years, they line sidewalks and churches in places such as Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico. In Phoenix, the annual Las Noches de las Luminarias at the Desert Botanical Garden features more than 8,000 luminaria bags.



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