



### Special points of interest:

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- Suffragette Mural Dedication
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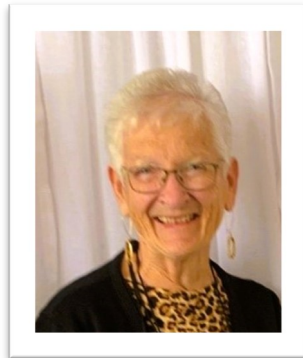


gfwcofkansas.com

# KANSAS CLUBWOMAN NEWS

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

## From Sabra's Desk...



Sabra Clarke  
GFWC of Kansas President  
2024-2026

Dear GFWC of Kansas Clubwomen,

Despite the fact that our weather has been despicable, with very cold temperatures, wind, snow, illnesses you all have continued down the "Yellow Brick Road". Thank you so much for all the work you accomplished in each of your clubs in Kansas. Reporting was completed showing the amount of work done by each of the Clubs. Linda Loyd, our 2024-2026 Kansas Vice President has been working very hard on receiving all the reports from our Kansas Clubs and sending them to the GFWC Committee Chairs.

Please mark your calendars for April 11-12, 2025 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Salina, KS. The Call to Convention is included in this issue of our Kansas Clubwoman News. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to send me an email, text message, or give me a call. I do have a new mailing address which is 302 E. Cedar Street, Ness City, KS 67560-1662.

During our Executive Committee Google call today, we worked extensively on The Call for our April Convention. Mark your calendars for April 11-12, 2025, at the Quality Inn and Suites in Salina, KS. A fun, interesting, learning opportunity will be available for all. Our very special guest will be the GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil. Plan to come to Convention as we are able to lead our GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil down the Kansas Yellow Brick Road.

Sabra Clarke, GFWC Kansas President  
[sabrajc4@gmail.com](mailto:sabrajc4@gmail.com) (785) 798-7554

## President-Elect

Is it March already? The first part of club year and holidays have gone by so quickly. We are rolling into a GFWC spring planning for GFWC of Kansas Annual Convention in April and then The International Convention in June.

As GFWC of Kansas President elect my priority has been to visit all of our Kansas Clubs before June of 2026. If I have recorded a meeting incorrectly or left your club out please, please let me know! I have had so much fun with all the clubs and recognize the efforts the Club Members make to help me feel welcome! I will start my article with a summary of my travels in the 2024-2025 club year.

1. Lawrence Classics: My husband and I drove to Lawrence for an evening meeting on October 10, 2024. As I am a KU alumni, I always enjoy a drive through Lawrence. The meeting was held after dinner at Perkins. Brenda Rezac, Club President, opened the meeting with a nice welcome. Members introduced themselves. I enjoyed the fact that 2 Boosters attended, The speaker topic was Alzheimer's and other dementia related challenges. Some of the topics covered were Good News Minutes (Donations included), the Suffragist Mural Memorial, Socks for Veterans and Festival of Trees for the towns Holiday celebration.

2. Wamego Study Club: On October 21, 2024, I drove to Wamego to join the Club on a scheduled field trip. Barbara Lippman, President, introduced me. Linda Krebs, GFWC of Kansas, Treasurer and I rode with Donis Artzer our fabulous chauffeur. Our car met the rest of the members at our first stop, Grandma Hoerner's off of I-70. Our second stop was in Paxico at Live Edge Furniture and Art owned by Club Member, Carolyn Mathews and her son, Woody. Our last stop, The Heritage Home in Alma for a tour, lunch and club meeting. Heritage Home is a family owned and operated, intergenerational Senior Facility and Childcare Center, [heritagehomefamily.com](https://heritagehomefamily.com). After lunch Erin Steele, RN, BSN, Operator spoke to the club. Topics covered in the meeting were Suffragist Mural Memorial, MVR Convention in 2026, The Honor Flight Project and December Holiday Historic Columbian Theater stage show for which the GFWC of Kansas Executive Committee was invited.



## President-Elect

3. Hiawatha Progressive Club: on November 6, 2024 I drove to Hiawatha to sit in on a monthly meeting. Hiawatha Progressives meet regularly at the Vintage Park Assisted Living facility. The speakers were beekeepers, Jason and Nancy Dvorak of Miss D's Honey. We were able to purchase a few early Christmas gifts while there. Such good honey!! This lovely group of ladies all introduced themselves and Janice Elliott, President, led the meeting. The club shared a little of their history with me along with past and present projects they are involved in. I answered good questions about the Suffragist Mural Memorial and discussed the planning for the 2026 MVR in Kansas.

4. Mulvane Federated Women's Club: I traveled to Mulvane on November 13, 2024. They meet in the Community Hall of Our Savior Church. Cindy LaRue, President, asked me to speak about the Suffragist movement and the Mural. The ladies shared with me some club history in the community and work on current projects. **Congratulations to Mulvane Federated Women's Club** on their recognition from the City of Mulvane for their history of support and contributions since the beginning of the Club early in the 1900's. They were described as a "Driving Force in the community."



## 2026 MVR

Keep in mind Kansas is hosting the 2026 Mississippi Valley Region Convention. It will take place in Nebraska this year. It will take a lot of work to plan for this event and the Executive Committee will appreciate all help offered by members across the state.

2025 GFWC of Kansas Annual Convention, April 11-12, Salina, KS

I hope many of you are planning to attend the convention! My favorite aspect of this weekend is meeting new faces and reconnecting with old friends. We all learn from each other.

*Until next time,  
Joanna Treas*

## Vice President

Hello Kansas Clubwomen,

We've made it to March. This has been quite a winter. Warm spring days will be very welcome. THANK YOU to the club presidents who submitted volunteer hour reports for your clubs. You should all be proud of what you have accomplished for your communities. I was amazed at what you've done. It is a pleasure to let the rest of GFWC know too. Our State Chairmen and Appointees are working on the reports that will go to their International counterparts. Those reports make up the State Report Book that will be available at our upcoming convention.

I have very important news. **GFWC of Kansas has a new website and new domain address: [gfwcofkansas.com](http://gfwcofkansas.com)** The new website is still a work-in-progress, but the forms and links that you need are there and up to date.

THANK YOU again to our Club Presidents, State Chairmen, and Appointees for your work in the reporting process. I hope to see you all at State Convention.

*Linda Loyd GFWC of Kansas Vice President*

## Treasurer

***"In the winter she curls up around a good book  
and dreams away the cold." -- Ben Aaronovitch***

Hello GFWC members! I hope you are "enjoying" winter as much as possible. The quote above sums up my attitude towards cold weather and snow!

However, the work of GFWC of KANSAS has continued through the winter. In December Kansas GFWC wrote the check for **\$2,528.00** for all our wonderful clubs' donations to the **Suffragist Memorial Fund**. **Good job, GFWC sisters!**

We have received one more donation after the check was sent, and that donation will be submitted to the Suffragist Memorial Fund Foundation in early March. **So, if you wanted to donate, but did not get a chance to do so, it is not too late!** Please send any further monies to Margaret Ohmes, Kansas State Secretary, and be sure to denote that it is for the **Suffragist Fund**.

Another highlight from my office is that we have sent two scholarship checks to the winners' university and music camp. Scarlett Pfister was awarded her 2023 Music Scholarship of \$500 to benefit her participation and required fees in Music for All camp/festival. \$400.00 was awarded towards tuition at Kansas Wesleyan University for the benefit of 2023 Citizenship Essay winner, Shelby Davidson.

GFWC of Kansas received an extremely generous, anonymous gift of \$25,000 in November. As per instructions from the benefactor, \$1,000 was deposited in a new "Leadership Cash Fund," \$10,000 was used to purchase a new Certificate of Deposit (CD) labeled as GENERAL FUND, and another CD was purchased for \$14,000 earmarked as a LEADERSHIP CD. The CD's principal amounts are to be used only when other funds are depleted, and the use is approved by the Executive Committee.

*Linda Krebs  
GFWC of Kansas Treasurer  
[lindafredkrebs@gmail.com](mailto:lindafredkrebs@gmail.com)*



## Leadership

### Lessons for Leadership

Participants in a GFWC Leadership Workshop were asked to provide a piece of advice they would like to offer. Here are some of those shared pieces of wisdom:

- Your ideas are important. Convey them clearly.
- Open yourself up to learning and trying new things.
- If you make a mistake, own it, fix it, learn from it, and move on.
- The loudest and most vocal members do NOT necessarily represent the majority when you are proposing a change or new concept.
- If given advice, say, "I'll take that under advisement, thank you." This shows you acknowledge their advice but are not committed to heeding it.
- Always give what you would expect of others.
- Always keep your members informed. They work better when they know the facts and feel included in the decisions.
- Leadership is about serving others and encouraging others to grow and be their best. It isn't about authority and position. It is about us, not me.
- Encourage; Be a good role model; Be friendly; Make personal connections.
- Attend yourself and encourage members to attend as many local, state, regional, and international meetings as possible to observe other leaders and network with club members from other clubs and states.
- Your Federation sisters and I will support you. We will not let you fail! We will help you succeed!
- Encourage your members to do the job even if they think they can't. Offer your support! Always let them know they are appreciated.
- You don't have to know it all; you just need to know where to go to get the answer.

*Kathy Baker,  
GFWC of Kansas Leadership Chairman*



## Calling all Club Presidents

You are invited to lunch at the

### *President's Club*

Saturday at State Convention

Lunch provided, please note on registration



## **“Rebel Women” Mural unveiled on January 29, 2025**

GFWC of Kansas was on hand at the State Capitol Building in Topeka for the dedication and unveiling of the Kansas Suffragist Memorial Mural on January 29, also Statehood Day. In the Rotunda of the capital building contingencies from GFWC met up to help celebrate before the speeches and unveiling.

From Lawrence Classics, Brenda Rezac, her husband, Randy, and Martha Silks attended.

Wamego Ad Astra brought Amy Benz, Eudora Hempler and Cynthia Whitney.

Gardner Athena brought Linda Loyd, Kathy Baker and new member, Arlene Strass, Margaret Ohmes and husband Jerry.

Manhattan Flint Hills Woman’s Club was represented by Joanna Treas, and Shirley Ferley attended for the Kansas Rainbow Club.

Governor Laura Kelly in her speech called the Suffragists of Kansas “Badass Women.” She did a terrific job outlining the challenges and wins towards full suffrage. Here are a few quotes.

“When Kansas became a state, it was in the midst of national turmoil. Yet we stood firm as the free state, a beacon of equality and justice.” and “One of the best examples of this is Kansas’s leadership in women’s rights. Long before women’s rights became the national standard, Kansas women were shaping their communities and advocating for change.” – Governor Laura Kelly, 1-29-2025. Governor Kelly’s full speech can be found on the Kansas Suffragist Memorial Facebook page.



## **“Rebel Women” Mural—continued**

Another first for women. Phyllis Pease, the Rebel Women artist, painted and helped install the very first work of art created by a woman to hang in the Kansas State Capitol. It was clear how honored and proud she was to have had this opportunity. And what a beautiful work it is!! I had watched the mural in all of its stages during development. My amazement grew constantly but when I walked into the hallway in front of the metal cage elevator I was not prepared for how beautiful the mural is and how awestruck I would be.

GFWC members, take an opportunity to visit “our” mural. GFWC women across the country met the challenges presented to them while fighting for the right to vote. GFWC of Kansas Past President, Lucy Browne Johnston, 1901-1903, is honored for her work on full suffrage by being included in the mural. Mrs. Johnston, as President of the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association, is praised for her contributions to the ratification of the Equal Suffrage Amendment in Kansas, Ratified in 1912. She is second from the right, behind the sitting suffragist.

Plan a day outing or a weekend outing to tour our Capitol Building. It is a Kansas museum of art-work and history.





## **GFWC Kansas Needs You**

We are preparing for the next administration of 2026-2028 and the nominating committee would love to hear from you if you would like to step up to be part of the leadership of GFWC Kansas. The chairman of the committee is our immediate past president, Janine Eilert. The other members of the committee are Gina Rice, and Cynthia Rice. They would love to receive phone calls from clubwomen volunteering to step up to the executive committee. GFWC of Kansas needs your help to succeed for the 2026-2028 administration. The nominating committee will be at the upcoming state convention and very eager to talk in person with anyone who might be interested.

Janine Eilert (316) 250-0432  
Gina Rice (316) 633-0565  
Cynthia Rice (417) 546-7585

### Current vacant positions on the board of directors for the 2024-2026 administration

Chairman for Legislation and Public Policy

## **Scholarship Committee**

The GFWC of Kansas General Scholarship recipient for 2024-2025 is Vanessa Tenn Hue. She is a sophomore at Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, and is majoring in Nursing. She was awarded the scholarship for the 2024 Fall Semester.

Thank you to all who contribute to the Scholarship Fund that makes this financial support available each year to a student attending a Kansas college or university.

*Ila Stone*  
*GFWC of Kansas Scholarship Committee*

## **Student and Clubwoman Art and Photography Contest**

Now is the time for clubs to be making contact with your community schools for student art and photography. Also, encourage your Clubwoman to enter their art, photography, and crafts. The rules were revised in 2024. All rules, senior scholarship collection, and necessary forms are on the website [www.gfwcofkansas.org](http://www.gfwcofkansas.org). If you are unable to enter the website and would like a hard copy of the rules and forms, please email me and I will send the nine pages to you.

All art and photography will be accepted between 1:00pm and 3:00pm on April 11, allowing time for setup before judging at 4:00pm. Students may enter 1 entry from each category. Each club is limited to 15 student pieces.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please let me know if your club will be bringing student art so that we can plan our setup space. Also please contact me with questions or hard copy requests.

Art Chairman, Karen DeCou, [KL63decou@cox.net](mailto:KL63decou@cox.net)



## Photography Contest

It's that time again! Time to go through your 2024 pictures and choose one for each contest and each category to enter at the state convention in Salina in April. The more you enter, the better the chances of winning.

All contests and categories remain the same as the previous administration. The two contests are "The World in Pictures" with categories of Our World Up Close, Natural Wonders, and Reflections and "GFWC Living The volunteer Spirit" as the contest and category.

Please mount your 8 x 10 photo on posterboard with details on an entry form from the state program book. Attach completed form to the back of the entry.

Contest name and category

Photographers name, email address, mailing address, and phone number

Name of state and sponsoring club

Title and a brief caption giving location, date and other info about the photo

Arrow indicating the top of the photo.

All contest rules and forms remain the same as the last administration. Please contact me by email or phone, if you need any of that information or have questions. You can also message me. See you in April.

*Shirley A Ferley*

*GFWC Kansas Photography Chairman 2024-2025*

*ferley@swbell.net*

*913-259-1577*

## The Lawrence Classics Made Kansas Proud in 2024

The Lawrence Classics made Kansas proud in 2024, when they won the \$2500 Community Impact Award in category 4 at the GFWC International Convention in Chicago. Susan Andersen, daughter of long-time GFWC supporters Bob and Jan Schwartz, tirelessly continues the project in early spring to late fall.

The two-year garden project included building raised beds to create vegetable and flower gardens plus involving the children in learning about and caring for the gardens. The work was accomplished at the O'Connell Children's Shelter, a foster care system in Lawrence. The O'Connell Ranch has been an ongoing place of support for the Classics, which has grown from growing and caring for the gardens, to also picking, preserving and eating the food they grow. With the loving support of the community and GFWC Classics, the children at the ranch learn from these role models. A huge Congratulations and Thank You to Susan and the Classics.

With that said, we are entering the second year of your club's two-year project for this administration January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 Community Impact Award. It is not too late to consider expanding and entering your project next year by the March 1, 2026 deadline. Involve the community, Churches, Chamber of Commerce and more. Kansas clubwomen are always giving. It is your club's time to shine.

*Shirley A Ferley*

*Community Impact Award Chairman 2024-2026*



## Not Your Mama's Squiggly Square



Invented in 1994 in Japan for inventory control purposes, Quick Response (QR) codes exploded in everyday life during the pandemic. The codes within those little boxes contain data that directs users to a website or a document file that can easily be edited or updated. When opened with a click from a phone camera, codes can quickly access a website, display text for a presentation, an event flyer (pdf file), a video, or a brochure.

The QR code is a revolutionary advertising strategy for nonprofit organizations in that it negates the need for excessive printed paper handouts and minimizes outdated material. The beauty of a dynamic QR code is that as data in the targeted file or website changes, it can be edited on the computer, and the code user will always have accurate and current information. One practical use of the QR code for GFWC is to place a code on a membership application, allowing a complete picture of your club without additional printing.

Creating a QR code is usually free and fairly simple to set up. The most challenging task is identifying the content you wish to access. Step-by-step instructions can be found on any QR code generator by searching your browser. So jump into the 21st century and save some trees- use QR codes to get your message across!

## Epsilon Sigma Omicron—Zeta Chapter of Kansas ESO

### Heifer International “Read to Feed” Challenge

I want to tell you about an easy way that you can support Heifer International with your ESO reading. I've shared a post on the GFWC Kansas Facebook page with a direct link to “Read to Feed”. You can also find it by going to Heifer.org. Scroll down to “School Programs” and click on “Explore Programs”. You will find “Read to Feed”. Go to the “Adults” tab to register. Then all that is required is to log your reading time and watch 12 short YouTube videos about Heifer. Book titles and authors are optional although including them is a way to log your ESO reading. You will earn badges as you progress through the challenge which is complete after you've logged 10,000 reading minutes and watched all the videos. Heifer International's corporate sponsors will make contributions in exchange for your completed challenges.

I've been doing this. It is actually fun. If you like I can help you register at our State Convention, or you can contact me if you have questions.

*Linda Loyd  
ESO Chairman  
lindaloyd05@gmail.com*

## Health and Wellness

Start or join a GFWC Walk to End Alzheimer's National Team Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. GFWC will continue its impact by forming teams and raising funds for Walks across the country.

### To Participate:

\*Visit [alz.org/GFWC](http://alz.org/GFWC) and select "start a team," or if your club already has a team registered, select "join a team" and find the team name you would like to join.

\*Find your local Walk by entering your ZIP code and select the Walk nearest to you and register

In addition to participating as a Walk to End Alzheimer's National Team, there are many volunteer opportunities with the Alzheimer's Association:

\* Provide support and education to your community by volunteering ([volunteer.alz.org](http://volunteer.alz.org)):

\* Community Educator — Educate your community about Alzheimer's and other dementia by delivering prepared presentations and answering questions.

\* Community Representative — Attend local community events, raise awareness of Association programs, provide basic information and connect people with services.

\* Support Group Facilitator or Mentor — Create a safe environment for caregivers of people living with dementia to share their feelings and experiences.

\* Faith Outreach Representative — Represent the Association at local faith groups, provide basic education about dementia and share information about free resources.

Become an advocate ([alzimpact.org/volunteer](http://alzimpact.org/volunteer)): Help make Alzheimer's a national priority by writing, calling, emailing or visiting government officials. Your level of commitment is completely flexible to fit your schedule, style and skills. No matter how you want to get involved, you can make your voice heard and raise awareness throughout the year.

June ([alz.org/abam](http://alz.org/abam)) — Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month November ([alz.org/events/nadam](http://alz.org/events/nadam)) — National Family Caregivers Month

*Sharon Teagarden-King  
Health and Wellness Chairman*

## GFWC Kansas Clubwoman Mailing Changes

Please remember that the new due dates for the Kansas Clubwoman are **October 20, February 20, and May 20**. I will send a reminder prior to each due date, but please send your articles whenever you have them. I maintain a working copy of each issue. Don't forget to include photos. They add a lot of fun and interest to our newsletter.

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

## GFWC Wamego Study Club

*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."*

--Hal Borland

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Now that the first several weeks of 2025 are "in the books," hopefully, we can look towards Spring! But, first, we would like to tell you about our Club's winter activities.

November was an exciting month for GFWC Wamego Study Club (WSC) because it was when we had our big Veterans' project for our club year. This year we sewed 166 bright, colorful felt Christmas stockings for the food trays for the veterans at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Hospital in Topeka, Kansas.

Our members decorated the stockings and then stuffed each one full of wrapped individual candies! Chocolate, peanuts, peppermints, candy canes, and many other goodies! Our members donated **\$135** in candy to make these stockings extra special for the Veterans' dinner trays at Christmas.

Along with the tray favors, WSC members donated money to purchase other needs for the veterans: socks, underwear, hygiene items, with snacks and coffee for "Movie Night" at the Hospital. A total of **\$509.01** was donated for items for the veterans! Part of that money came from our "Penny Pocket" program.

**97 volunteer hours** were donated to this project.

Our "**Penny Pocket**" mission is an ongoing project throughout our club year. Every 2 – 3 months, our members bring in our pocket change, which has been collected in our special red "Penny Pocket" tubs. Our members voted on how to spend this donation; in November, the Veterans were the chosen project!

Chairman of other committees reported that WSC members donated **\$301.50** as in-kind items to the Wamego Christmas Bureau plus \$40 cash. Another milestone for us was the collection and delivery to Ronald McDonald House in Topeka of more than 12 pounds of pull tabs. That is a LOT of tabs! (Fun Fact: a pound is approximately 1300 pull tabs.)

A wonderful highlight of our Club's winter activities was our December Columbian Theatre's Christmas get-together! Our hostesses provided a delicious assortment of cookies, brownies, and other treats for our members and our distinguished guests to enjoy before seeing "A Christmas Carol—Radio Play" at the Columbian Theatre in Wamego.

We were thrilled to welcome **Sabra Clarke**, President of GFWC of Kansas, and her husband John, as well as President-Elect **Joanna Treas** and her husband Chip, as our guests. Several members also invited guests to join us. It was a special afternoon with a matinee presentation of the live play at the Columbian. WSC thanks our state officers for making the drive to Wamego to be with us.

One last event that WSC would like to tell you about is our participation in the Kansas Suffragist Memorial Fund. Our club treasury donated \$150, and members added \$218 to bring our total donation to GFWC of Kansas for the Suffragist Fund to a grand total of **\$368**. The Study Club is very proud of our participation in this important event!

*Linda Krebs, Communication Chairman  
GFWC Wamego Study Club*





## GFWC Gardner Athena

In preparation for Thanksgiving cooking, GFWC Athena Club, Gardner, learned "Turkey Origami". While this was a fun lesson for us, it could be an activity for children as part of decorating the table or place settings. Linda Loyd, center, demonstrates how to make the turkeys.



Christmas excitement was buzzing all around as GFWC Athena Club, Gardner met to celebrate the holiday. There were games, food, presents, Christmas attire and lots of laughter!



How do those store bought cakes always look so perfect? Is it as easy as it looks? Well, the GFWC Athena Club, Gardner, discovered that it definitely takes some tutoring and a lot of practice to get excellent results. As Cake Decorating was the program, the club met in the bakery section of the local grocery store to be given a small cake frosted in white. Each member then chose a design and colors (8-10 available) to decorate the cake with. It was interesting to see the different patterns chosen: butterflies, roses, birthday candles, and balloons. The colors used gave another artistic element to the whole setting. We learned a lot and in the end we got to take our cake home with us!



*Kathy Baker  
Athena Club President*

## Wamego Ad Astra

### November News:

Susan Payne Evans, director of the 360 Life Center of the Salvation Army, spoke to our club. The 360 Life Center serves Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie counties. Susan explained that the Salvation Army has designed a new type of local service unit that meets the *spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental needs of those in need*. She presented a **POWERFUL** presentation explaining this program.

### December News :

Ad Astra adopted a local family through the Wamego Christmas Bureau. Clothing, hygiene items, toys, clothes, and food for a Christmas meal were purchased for the family. We enjoyed a delicious soup supper followed by wrapping the gifts. The gifts and food was delivered to the family.

### January News:

Ad Astra member, Barb Depew, gave a most informative program on The Kansas Sampler Foundation. She explained the goal of the foundation is to educate Kansans about Kansas and to support rural communities. Barb has been inspired to travel the backroads of Kansas through the Kansas Explorers Club since 2010. Each year three rural counties are selected for people to travel finding unique eats, shops, and landmarks along the way. The 2025 travel plans are to explore Southwest Kansas, beginning with Morton County on May 2. Then Sept. 6 travel to Halstead County, And Oct. 4 travel to Hoxie, Ks. These dates will be one day or pop- up events for Kansas Explorers to celebrate a famous feature of each county. Barb's favorite part of the program is all the people she meets along the way. The door prize for the meeting was won by Mindy Thierolf which included membership to the Kansas Explorer's Club, which inspires and encourages the exploration and appreciation of Kansas.



Several Ad Astra members attended the Suffragist Memorial Mural Dedication on Kansas Day, Jan. 29, 2025, at the State Capital in Topeka. The mural is 8 x 19 foot oil painting and features 13 important Kansas women who fought for the passage of voting rights. Kansas was the first state in the nation to battle for full women's suffrage, making the mural especially significant.



• Amy Bena, Eudora Hempler, Cynthia Whitney

February News : ESO rules were reviewed at the February meeting . Members shared books they have read. Members brought homemade Valentines to be delivered to the local nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals.

*Submitted by Joanie Doperalski, President*



## GFWC Mulvane

### Our Trip to the Botanical Gardens



### A Trip Down Memory Lane 110 Years



### Christmas at Olive Garden



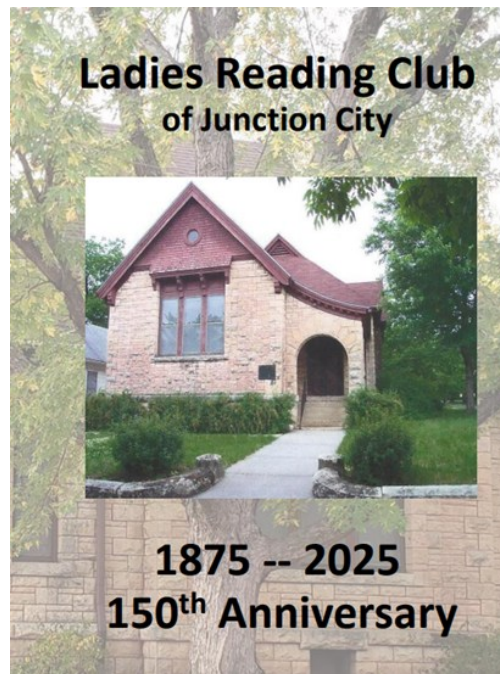
### Our Scholarship Winner





## Ladies Reading Club of Junction City is Celebrating 150 years!

In 1875, fifteen Ladies Aid Society members chartered a new club where the idea of helping people and community minded service, along with a strong interest in learning, became the Ladies Reading Club of Junction City. Throughout 2025, the Club will be celebrating the Ladies Reading Club's past and future!



**1875**

The Ladies Reading Club of Junction City began in 1875 formalized with 15 charter members meeting in various member homes and Centennial Hall. It is called "reading club" because Club members read a book to the group while working on charitable projects. The original intent of the club is similar to the intent today, always "community minded".



**1897**

The Ladies Reading Club of Junction City clubhouse was given to the club by Captain Bertrand Rockwell and dedicated on September 1, 1897. The clubhouse continues to be used for bi-weekly meetings today.



The Club library was collected by members who had books sent from the east coast. At one time, these books could be accessed by the public. In 1934, the Club turned the concept over to the City library.

Early on, the Club had a focus on community beautification. They sponsored roads, sidewalks, parks and planted trees. Today, the Club supports Arbor Day with a seedling and perennial give-away and tends the well-established Monarch Wayside designation and garden.

## 150th Anniversary



### The Collect for Club Women

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;  
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.  
Let us be done with fault-finding  
and leave off self-seeking.  
May we put away all pretense and  
meet each other face to face without self-pity  
and without prejudice.  
May we never be hasty in judgment  
and always generous.  
Let us take time for all things;  
make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.  
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
straight forward and unafraid.  
Grant that we may realize it is the little things in life  
that create differences, that in the big things in life  
we are at one.  
And may we strive to touch and to know the  
great common human heart of us all;  
and, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.  
April 1904 . . . . . Mary Stewart

### 1900's to today

The Collect for Club Women was written by Mary Stewart in 1904 and was used by the Club for the first time in 1920. Today, members recite the Collect after the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting.

The state of Kansas established music scholarships in 1938 to support the arts. Today, Florence Whitebread, Club member, continues this amazing work.

During wartime, the Red Cross was allowed to use the Clubhouse. It was the *only* exception to allow non-members access made by the Club.

The Junction City Little Theater presented their first productions at the Clubhouse. To celebrate their 75th year anniversary, JCLT will be on-stage at the Ladies Reading Club clubhouse in March 2025.

Scholastic recognition began with a luncheon in 1960 sponsored by the Rolfs family, continuing for 50 years. The Club then voted to provide two annual scholarships for JCHS students which are awarded each year. The Ladies Reading Club began with the idea of service in the community and endures with the members today.



Mary Hogan and Lois Galliher



Char Grelk and Pat Foster



Helen Kovac and Florence Whitebread

## Ladies Reading Club FALL FESTIVAL 2024 November 9, 2024

Our annual fundraiser for Ladies Reading Club spotlights our "famous pecan sales" and luncheon at LRC's historic Clubhouse. In addition to soup and dessert luncheon, members contributed pies and cakes for the bake sale and a Char Grelk quilt was raffled. The event was very well attended and lots of smiles ended the successful day.



Official Call to the 129<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention  
General Federation of Women's Clubs of Kansas  
Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
"Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Growth"

Quality Inn and Suites  
2110 W Crawford Street  
Salina, KS

The town of Salina and the Salina Chamber of Commerce welcomes GFWC of Kansas members (clubwomen and boosters) to celebrate GFWC at the upcoming state convention.

Accommodation: Please call **(785) 825-2111** to reserve your room. Reservations can be made until **April 1, 2025**. under the **GFWC of Kansas** room block per contract. The room rate is \$82.00. Features include free continental breakfast, indoor swimming pool, free parking and miniature golf. Check in time is 3:00pm, check out is 11:00am. **Accommodations must be made by April 1, 2025.**

Convention Space: In the Dukes Room in the west wing of the hotel. For easier access to the meeting room, art and other items may be unloaded at an outside door on the west wing. Look for a GFWC and a Yellow Brick Road sign. All art and photography pieces for the state competition will need to be delivered to the convention space on Friday afternoon between 1:00-3:00 pm.

**Convention registrations must be received by April 1, 2025.**

All clubwomen of GFWC of Kansas are invited and encouraged to attend the Convention.

All attendees must complete the enclosed registration form and return to the State Registrar, **before April 1, 2025.**

Payment must also be submitted with the completed registration by the deadline.

All attendees are responsible for securing their own hotel reservations **before close of April 1, 2025.**

If there is a chairman or appointee who wishes to meet with the Executive Committee, please let Sabra know by **April 1, 2025.**

Rosemary Hour will be coordinated by the GFWC Ad Astra Club. Please send names and information about any recently passed clubwoman so they can be respectfully honored at the convention. Send to Roxie Peterson, 404 JC Rogers Drive, Wamego, KS 66547, phone 785-456-9138 or email [jcrbpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:jcrbpeterson@gmail.com) **before April 1, 2025.**

If you have specific dietary restrictions, please call Sabra Clarke directly at (785)798-7554 so she can discuss options with the caterer.

Dress at the Convention will be business casual. Please keep in mind that the room may be quite cool. Pack and dress according to your personal comfort level.

Suggested items to bring to convention.

1. One large item (or basket) per club for a silent auction to benefit the Citizenship Essay Scholarship Fund.
2. Items for "Kansas Marketplace," please note a price for your donated item. Baked goods are allowed. (Any items not sold must be collected by the owner.) Proceeds from "Kansas Marketplace" benefit the general fund for GFWC of Kansas.
3. Reusable water bottle
4. Pop tabs for donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities.
5. Gently used hearing aids and eyeglasses only (not the case) Shakespeare Club, Waterville.
6. Hygiene items for the Domestic Violence Association in Salina: Full Sized shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, feminine hygiene products, soap, razors, etc.
7. For the service project to turn grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless: bring plastic grocery bags
8. Food donations for the Salina Food Bank.

*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

GFWC of Kansas 129<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention  
Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

TENTATIVE Schedule of Events:

Thursday April 10, 2025

6:00-8:00pm GFWC of Kansas Executive Committee Meeting Commons Hall

Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

1:00pm Registration begins Dukes Room Hallway

1:00-3:00pm Acceptance of Art and Photography Dukes Room

1:30 Service Project

4:00pm Judging of the Art and Photography Competition Dukes Room

3:30 LEADS Dukes Room

4:30pm-5:30pm ESO meeting (Commons Hall)

6:00pm Convention begins Dukes Room

6:15pm Dinner

7:00pm Suellen Brazil

7:45pm Purse Auction

9:15pm Rainbow Club meeting (Commons Hall)

Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

7:45am Past State President meeting (Commons Hall)

8:30am Registration available

9:00am Opening of Convention Dukes Room

11:45am Rosemary Hour

12:15pm Luncheon President's Club in Commons Hall\*

12:45pm Convention Continues

1:30pm Guest Speaker

3:15pm Raffle Drawing, Closing Announcements

3:30pm Adjournment

\*President's Club is for Club Presidents

According to GFWC of Kansas Bylaws:

Article VI-Conventions

Section 1. The Convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Kansas shall be held annually in the spring at a place to be determined by the person serving as President at the time of the Convention.

Section 2. Representation. The voting body shall be:

A. The President or her appointee and one delegate for each 10 members or major fraction thereof for each club holding active membership.

B. Members of the Board of Directors.

C. Past State Presidents and General Federation of Women's Clubs of Kansas Directors of Junior Clubs.

Section 3. The quorum for the annual convention shall be twenty-five (25) voting members.

GFWC Kansas President Sabra Clarke

GFWC Kansas Secretary Margaret Ohmes

*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

Official Call to the 129<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention, GFWC of Kansas  
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Salina, KS

**Accommodation must be made by April 1, 2025.**

☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Time Attendee

☐ Previous Attendee

☐ 50+year member of GFWC

<u>Attendee Information</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Club Name:	<input type="radio"/> Registration Fee: \$25
First/Last Name:	<input type="radio"/> Friday Dinner: \$26.00
Mailing Address:	Saturday Breakfast: free if hotel guest
City, Zip:	<input type="radio"/> Saturday Lunch: \$21.00
Phone:	<input type="radio"/> President's Club (Club Pres) \$0
Email:	<b>TOTAL PACKAGE: \$72.00</b>
	Total Paid:
	Check #:

Send completed registration form and payment (checks payable to GFWC of Kansas) to State Registrar **before April 1, 2025**. Linda Krebs, 124 Riverview Dr., Wamego, KS 66547, 785-313-4191, [lindafrankkrebs@gmail.com](mailto:lindafrankkrebs@gmail.com).

<u>Credentials</u> (mark only one to indicate highest office currently held)	
<input type="radio"/> International	Position
<input type="radio"/> State Officer	Position
<input type="radio"/> State Chairman	Position
<input type="radio"/> Club Officer	Position
<input type="radio"/> Club Member	
<input type="radio"/> Booster/Guest	
<input type="radio"/> Voting Delegate OR <input type="radio"/> Non-Voting Delegate	

Rosemary Hour:  
Please send information to Roxie Peterson.  
404 JC Rogers Drive 785-456-9138  
Wamego, KS 66547 [jcrbpeterston@gmail.com](mailto:jcrbpeterston@gmail.com)

*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

*"And What They Dare to Dream of, Dare to Do"*

**James Russell**



RETURN TO:  
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CLUBS OF KANSAS  
SABRA CLARKE  
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