



The Washington

# ClubWoman

Winter 2023  
Vol. 107 No. 3



GFWC-Washington State is a member of General Federation of Woman's Clubs ([www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)) 1734 N Street NW, Washington, D.C.  
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**GFWC-WS members** collected and delivered food for Thurston County Food Bank at our Fall Board Meeting. (Pictures on left side.)

## NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE **BATTLING FOOD INSECURITY**

the repacked food for Emergency Food Network whose mission is to provide Pierce County with a con-

Pictures on the right captured **GFWC-WS Peninsula District members** repacking and labeling

sistent, diverse and nutritious food supply. (Featured in 10/25/23 GFWC Blog) [Please see the following two pages for more National Day of Service projects.](#)



"Living the Volunteer Spirit"

# NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE

## BATTLING FOOD INSECURITY

### GFWC Sokico



For our National Day of Service project, we assembled 20 birthday kits to donate to the Auburn food bank.



“Living the Volunteer Spirit”

# NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE **BATTLING FOOD INSECURITY**

## **GFWC Battle Ground**



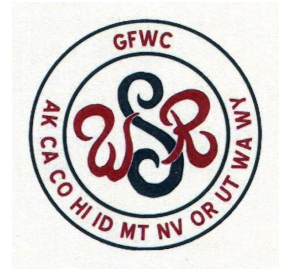
The club budgeted \$50 for the Day of Service to buy food that kids can use in their lunches. Above, Paulette Stinson and Gloria Walck were the shoppers for the products. The local food bank will oversee the distribution. The club also gave the food bank a number of colorful hand-made tote bags.

## **GFWC Cathlamet**



National Day of Service project was assisting at West End Food Pantry in Wahkiakum County. Members helped unload and weigh a truckload of perishable and non-perishable food, followed by sweeping and tidying the area before the food pantry opened to the community. Members cut up the many cardboard boxes and took a carload to the recycling center. After assisting at the food pantry, members helped sort and fold like-colored fabric in the Dress A Girl Around the Work room. We had an opportunity to see some of the beautiful dresses the members of the organization had sewn. Those participating included **Kathy Briggs, Connie Kyser, Anna Quick, Maureen Zacher-Bockius, Caroline Walton.**

Twenty-two GFWC-WS members traveled to Redmond, OR, August 28-30, 2023, to attend Western States Region Conference held at Eagle Crest Resort. The group picture below was taken Friday evening at the Oregon State Night banquet with special guest, Smokey the Bear.



Pre-conference sightseeing trips took us to Sisters, OR, for a day of shopping and lunch at The Open Door Restaurant where we enjoyed art, food and atmosphere as one. Picture below left shows four of the group: Nancy Burdick, Kim Skagen, Cindy Bassage and Carlene Garner. Picture on right shows the grounds of Faith, Hope and Charity Vineyards where we tasted wines and had lunch outside under a shade tree while enjoying the lush landscaping and warm weather.



"Living the Volunteer Spirit"



GFWC-WS President Susan Tyler and GFWC-OS President Wendy Wheeler-Jacobs with Smokey.



Deb Strahanowski, GFWC International President, with 2023 WSR LEADS graduates Cathy Mills, MT; Lynn Stagg, UT; Chris White, NV; and Suzanne Bagdon, WA.



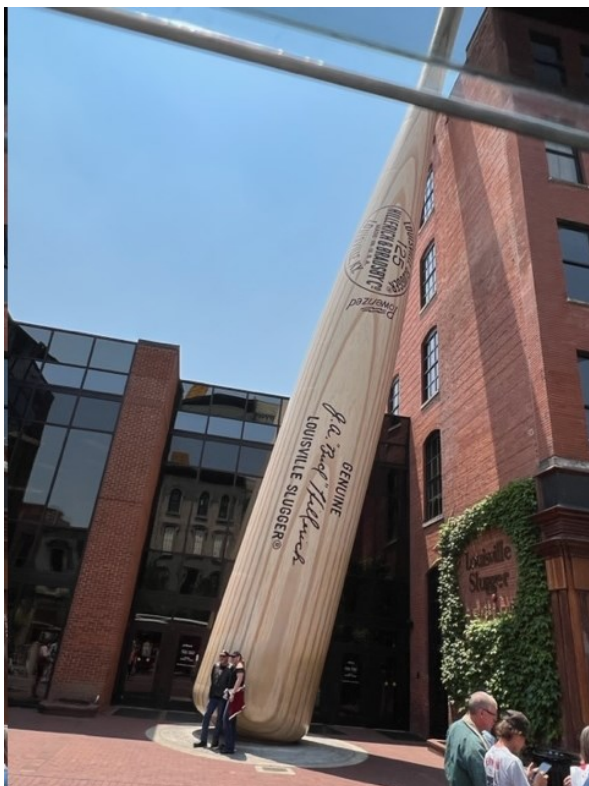
Lunch at Faith, Hope and Charity Vineyards: Cheryl Holman, Bonnie Walden, Kim Skagen, Vicki Conner, Val Selby Kathie Jorgensen (standing) Suzanne Bagdon, Susan Tyler, Cindy Bassage, Marth Curwen, Char Lysne.



Betty MacMaster, Susan Tyler, Kathie Jorgensen and Suzanne Bagdon.

“Living the Volunteer Spirit”

## 2023 GFWC Convention Pictures—Louisville, KY



### OUT AND ABOUT IN LOUISVILLE...

Attending GFWC Convention is more than meetings.

Pre-convention sightseeing included:

Giant Louisville slugger bat, the pink house

Churchill Downs, oil lamp in Garden District.

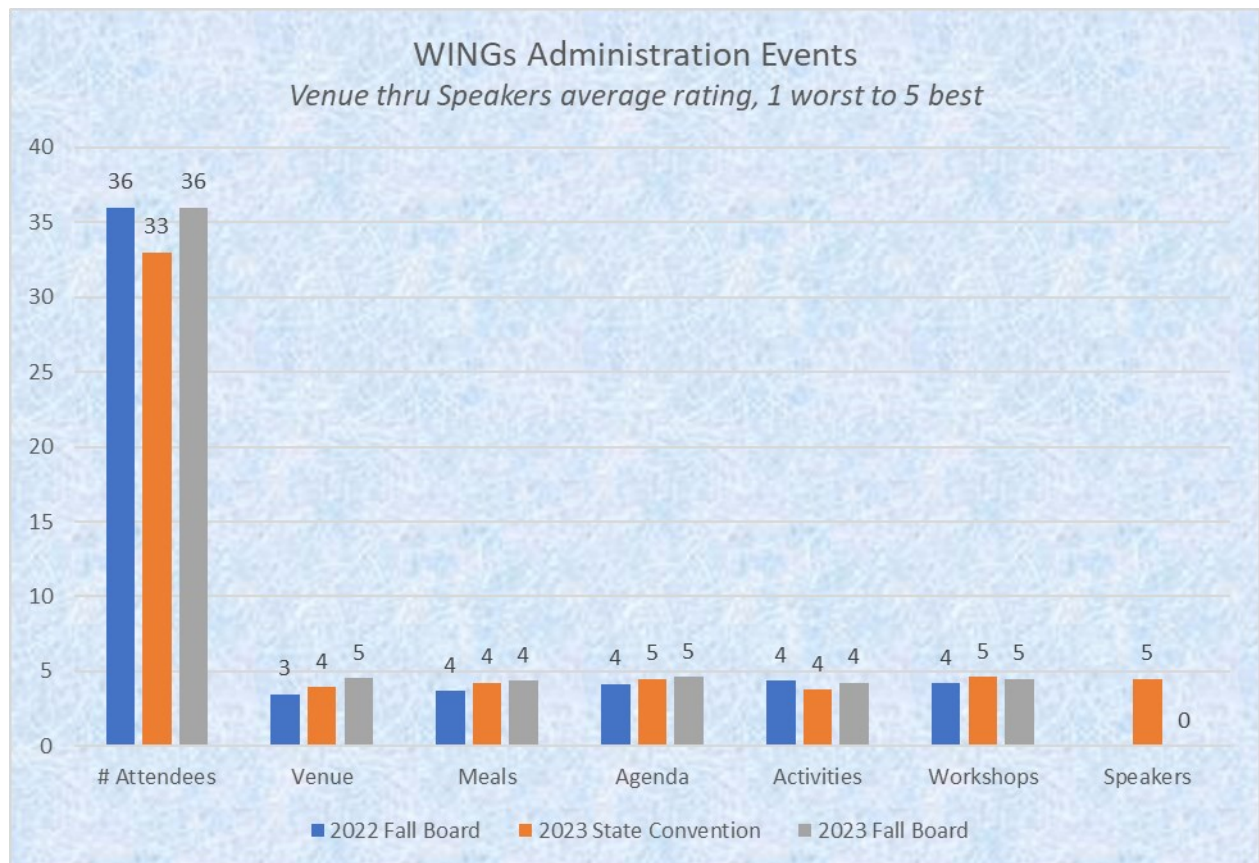


“Living the Volunteer Spirit”



## WINGs to Adventure!

I received several emails from attendees of our GFWC-WS Fall Board Meeting who were pleased with the robust and open discussion regarding declining membership and meeting attendance. The Membership workshop received several positive comments and while we have work to do on that front, attendees generated several creative ideas for events involving “micro volunteers”.



Comments on what went well reflected the ratings on the evaluations – some of the comments below:

- one day meeting was a hit
- membership workshop, information, handouts
- all kids win food for Thurston county. Really liked the membership breakout.
- allowing so much discussion from members

**(Continued on next page)**

## Continued from previous page

- Beautiful historic building/ the tour was great. Membership - great ideas to implement
- Lunch was ok - not too much.
- Meeting moved along and on time.
- Less random talking during speeches
- Thought it was a good place. Good agenda and food.
- the timing
- Length of time at the meeting.
- Like the short meeting
- Lots of laughter
- everything - very well done
- fun and laughter
- really liked it being one day. Hope state convention can be shortened and there is no downtime and that we can go straight thru agenda.
- flow of the day

### Ideas for improvement:

- free to cheap rooms
- if we can have single day fall board hopefully we won't need zoom.
- Making things fun and informative like today's meeting

I do not see any reduction in number of days for the 2024 convention as there are several agenda items that are required (GFWC officer visit, installation, wrap up of 2022-24 administration) . I am working to obtain speakers from the Suquamish tribe, have several hands-on activities and workshops in mind, and attendees will have the opportunity to meet Mary Beth Williams, GFWC Secretary. If you can't make the entire Convention I encourage everyone to attend for at least a day. This meeting is an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, renew friendships and make new ones!

Thank you to everyone who filled out the evaluation. It really is helpful, especially when it comes to planning the next meetings.

Susan Tyler

GFWC-WS President 2022-24



Dear Washington Clubwomen,

Welcome to fall! Our one day fall board was a success (see article on evaluation results from the meeting). We conducted some important business including a Bylaws change to the number of people needed for a quorum and approving the GFWC-WS budget for 2023-24. We also had fun at a Membership Workshop where participants were asked to self-select into the group of their choice (gardeners, cooks, pet parents, crafters or readers) and brainstormed a member activity designed to involve micro volunteers and get our name out in the community. I loved the creativity from each group, especially the pet parents who came up with the idea of a dog wash.

I hope all of you will circle April 18 through 21 on your 2024 calendar and plan to attend the GFWC-WS convention which will be held at the Clearwater Casino in Suquamish. It's a ferry ride from Seattle or a drive around the Peninsula to get to the Casino which sits above Agate Pass. We'll have speakers, hands on activities, an opportunity to share our GFWC histories, awards and best of all the election and installation of the 2024-26 Elected Officers. There will be something for everyone, so even if you can't attend the entire convention, come for a day! The Call will be sent out in early March with registration details.

My wish is for wonderful holidays surrounded by those that you love. I'm looking forward to a trip to Boise to see my brother, sister-in-law and all three nieces. If you happen to be in the neighborhood of the White River Museum in Auburn make plans to come see me. I'm the yellow house with a white picket fence across the street from the museum.

See you next spring if not before!

In Federation,

Susan Tyler

GFWC-WS President

### **Home for the Holidays at our home in Washington DC**

Each administration selects a theme for decorating our home away from home located at 1734 N Street NW in Washington DC, and this administration chose "Home for the Holidays". Each state federation was asked to send a house representing their state and the houses will be on display at the



annual Open House.

For Washington state, I sent a collection of things related to Washington state. We provided a Starbucks coffee shop and small Space Needle surrounded by lit evergreen trees, and a festive Orca with a Santa hat frolicking in the water offshore. My daughter Allie took my ideas and turned them into reality. I hope you enjoy the pictures! —Susan Tyler

My daughter Allie took my ideas and turned them into reality. I hope you enjoy the pictures! —Susan Tyler

## President-Elect Kim Skagen's report from GFWC-WS Fall Board Meeting, September 23, 2023

This officer had the pleasure of representing GFWC-WS, along with many others, 10 total, at the annual GFWC convention in Louisville, KY the second week of June. Opting out of the provided tours, we had our own "Tour of Louisville" on the Louisville Trolley with a fantastic tour guide [forgot his name] who had much to tell us about the city, its origins, and the many wonderful sights and museums! We saw the 70ft tall baseball bat, located in front of the Louisville Slugger Museum, the Mohammed Ali Museum, and a 30ft tall gold statue of David. We even got to have a quick stop at Churchill Downs and spend some time (and cash) in the Gift Shop before getting back on the trolley for a ride thru the older garden district which included amazing old homes, including the Pink Palace, a former home of ill-repute painted bright pink to "keep folks away"... didn't sound like it worked well! Today the historical society keeps it painted a shade of pink as a nod to its history.

Thursday night a few of us ventured out and found a small quiet bar to try out a flight of bourbon and the famous Hot Brown sandwich. YUM! Sliced deli turkey meat served open-faced on sourdough with a bechamel sauce, shredded cheddar, bacon bits, and tomatoes on top. Friday, myself and my sidekick headed out for a cruise on the Missouri River aboard the historical Belle of Louisville! Built in 1914, the Belle is the only remaining authentic steamboat from the great American packet boat era.

Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday found us in general session meetings. And Sunday evening we headed out to sample the local fare and enjoy more bourbon sampling. Not going to lie, I'm not yet a bourbon fan but there was at least one that was tolerable.

In August, 23 of our state members ventured south for the Western States Region meeting, hosted by our friends in Oregon at the beautiful Eagle Crest resort in Redmond. Again, we opted to make our own plans and tours for the two early days... we ventured to Sisters, OR for shopping, sustenance, shoes, and shakes! And Friday we visited the Faith, Hope, and Charity winery for wine tasting and a lovely lunch on the lawn. Not part of the plan, but we got to drive by a huge alpaca farm, 100's of babies in all colors and sizes in the fields. So fun!

Working with our 2024 Western Region chairman, this officer has been helping on all necessary things to make our hosted event amazing! Many opportunities to help are still available (more on that later today) We have selected our location (its great!) and begun the bigger planning items – tours, goodie bags, VIP and menu planning.

A quick plug as our state Leadership/LEADS chairman for this administration, please consider nominating someone from your club to be our State LEADS candidate next June at GFWC Convention. And to close, this officer has begun planning for the next administration and starting to fill positions and make plans as we close in on the end of President's Susan's second year. Thank you all for your time and presence.



Who is your club's Molly?

Let's crown her **Club Woman of the Year!**

Nominations are due to  
Pres Elect Kim Skagen  
– [daiziedot@yahoo.com](mailto:daiziedot@yahoo.com) –  
no later than **March 1<sup>st</sup>**



Ladies! I have a **HUGE** Help Needed!!  
Does anyone have one of these older  
GFWC t-shirts they would be willing to  
part with?

I would be forever grateful!!  
Thank you, Kim

## **Leadership and LEADS**

Hello current and future leaders of our state and our clubs! What kind of experience has the first year of your administration been for you? Did you struggle? Did you enjoy? Were you able to put your goals into action and help your club be successful this past year? Were you able to log into the Member Portal and re-view any of the information provided by GFWC Leadership and staff? Did you find any tools to add to your club's ready reference documentation? Remember all those tools are there FOR US! We want everyone to be supported and successful in their journey through leadership.

As we enter the second half of the second year of our administrations, are your clubs preparing for the new administration? Is your club big enough that you utilize a Nominating Committee, similar to how our State operates? Do you have the conversation during a club meeting over coffee, tea and treats? Whatever it looks like, it's so very important to your club's future! Setting the pace for the future, making sure there is a direction, and a plan is what your club needs to succeed.

Our membership is hurting, we all understand this. We must have the difficult discussions about how we operate and move in the next few years, myself and the Executive Committee included. As the incoming President, it's my honor to build our State's Board of Directors. I won't lie, I am struggling. Our members are aging, finding it more and more difficult to travel and attend in-person meetings, and are frankly tired of 'serving' and want to be 'served'. I understand all of this. Myself, Vice President Cindy, and even our outgoing President Susan are engaged and working to find options and solutions to navigate this and make sure our State Federation continues for many years. How can YOU and your club be a healthy part of this?

Don't forget, we have support... LEADS! The GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in their own state federations or beyond. Participation in LEADS can help these upcoming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction.

The due date for applications is March 15! Talk to your members who show an interest, encourage them to grow by considering the opportunity. Is YOUR application complete? Consider submitting one today, now is the time for all interested parties to take the next step! Reach out to myself or your District Presidents for help. We are all here to assist! Training and Convention this year will be in Chicago! More details and the application are available on the website in our WS Club Manual.

Best of holidays to you and yours!

Kim Skagen

GFWC-WS President Elect

GFWC-WS Leadership Chair



# **Special Project: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**

**Barbara Murray, Chair**

Domestic Violence in our society is increasing and we should all be concerned and find ways to help even if it is to be better educated about the issues, and lend a helping hand when we can. Domestic Violence is in all walks of life and it is important to have the knowledge of what help is available to share with those we might meet or encounter through others.

It is very important to have our members educated on this issue so they can feel knowledgeable if approached by someone in need. One way is to have a speaker from your local domestic violence organization or a member of the police department speak. Both will be helpful to the members. Remember teenagers are subject to domestic violence, also.

The domestic violence organizations have literature available to distribute to people who may need it or are suspected of needing it. *Consider a club project to support your local organization.*

If your club needs help in finding a speaker or information, please feel free to call me and I will connect you with someone who can work with your club. —Barbara Murray 425-582-0098

## **Top Projects from 2022 —From our GFWC online Manual**

### **Keep Our Girls Safe at College**

GFWC California – GFWC Oak View Women’s Club

Safety kits for High School seniors leaving for college. The college safety kits included personal alarms and door and window alarms for dorm room personal safety, and two pamphlets were included in each kit: one with teen dating and the second with the CFWC College Safety pamphlet. Everything was placed in a clear plastic zippered bag. Over two hundred kits were distributed to college freshman students at several local Universities. The Clubs also used social media, bulletin boards, word-of-mouth, and all they could think of to get the kits to their local seniors heading to college.

### **Flashlights for Domestic Violence Victims**

GFWC Delaware – GFWC Past Presidents Club

This project collects and distributes small flashlights to shelters and organizations that work with victims of Domestic Violence, including Human Trafficking. When the victims decide to escape their circumstances, it is often in the middle of the night, and they leave quickly and with no time to pack items. Small flashlights can easily fit in your pocket. The flashlight allows a person to see hazards and street signs. The flashlights were donated to three nonprofit organizations in the county.

# Community Service Program Reports

## Civic Engagement & Outreach

Gail Crump, Chair



Hopefully all club members are keeping track of all their hours, money, and programs for reporting purposes, since the year end is quickly approaching. I'm looking forward to reading about what everyone has been doing. You know last year we won at the international level of Civic Engagement and Outreach. Let's keep Washington State on the map at GFWC. Reports are due February 15th, and I would appreciate them coming in the mail, if possible.



Club members have been working on Operation Gratitude through the summer and have mailed boxes to the organization's headquarters in California. As a member of Peninsula District, I was overwhelmed by the number of items that came in at

our Fall Conference. I hope all districts were able to do the same. Operation Gratitude will know who we are when they receive the boxes. There is so much happening in our world right now and I'm getting emails from Operation Gratitude more often. The latest email I received today shared that October 26<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of the Deployed, which is today that I am writing this article. We want to express our support and gratitude towards all the brave troops who are deploying to the Middle East and other parts of the world. Thousands of additional service members are heading towards the Israeli waters and surrounding areas. Thousands more are on standby. Due to the rapid deployment, Operation Gratitude has received over 10,000 additional care package requests to cover by the end of the year and need to raise \$300,000 to cover the additional requests. They expect the number to grow to over 12,000. It costs Operation Gratitude \$25.00 to assemble and ship each care package. They are asking for monetary donations to get through these next few months. If you are so inclined, please respond to their need.

Remember Civic Engagement and Outreach covers lots of areas to report: Essential Workers, Citizenship, Crime Prevention, Safety and Disaster Preparedness, Needy, Hungry and Homeless, Military Personal, Veterans, and Women Veteran Support and Outreach.

# Community Service Program Reports

## Environment

Sally Larson, Chair



Fall is here and the environmentalists in the know are out to rid you of most of your fall clean up. Here are 5 jobs to skip to help our insect population

Don't clean up you flowerbeds. Living in the fallen leaves are very important insects needed to maintain bio diversity

Don't trim or pull out old stalks. Many dead stems provide winter homes for bees and insects. Goldenrod provides homes 2 years after plant has died.

Avoid pruning. Wildlife needs those leftovers to survive the winter

Avoid chemical fertilizers. Chemicals go into our ground water making water less safe

Avoid chemical pesticides. They kill unwanted insects but also beneficial insects.

Don't over mulch (use those leaves you did not rake). Over mulching encourages unwanted pests.

Of course there are jobs we can do to help our flower and fauna.

Get rid of invasive plants including English Ivy, Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberries (birds don't eat them), laurel

Great time to plant natives, trees, bushes, flowering plants and ground cover

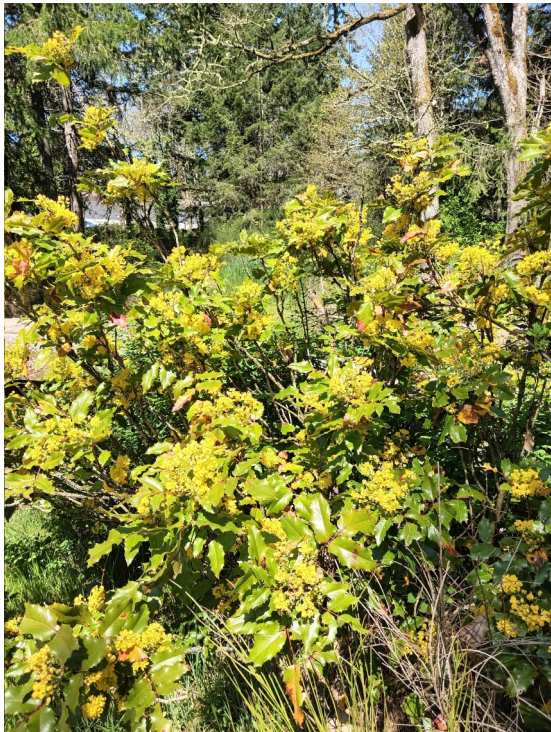
Replace all white outside lights with yellow lights that don't attract insects.

Put water out for birds and mammals.

Make bush piles in your yard from fallen tree limbs.

Hook up with a local environmental group that is active in your community.

Get rid of English Ivy growing up trees. It greatly increases the weight of the tree and the tree is more likely to fall.



***Please remember my challenge. Each club plant 2 native trees.***

And plan on coming to Fed Forest to plant some Western Red Cedar to replace downed trees.

### Spotlight on Native Tree:

#### Oregon Grape

Slightly moist, well drained and acidic soil. Some shade. Tall grows 4 to 8 feet tall; shorter plant grows to 2.5feet tall.

Bright yellow flowers January to May

Green berries that turn blue late summer.

Flowers attract hummingbirds, bees and insects

# **Women's History and Resource Center**

**Linda Butcher, Chair**

**Here are the answers to the quiz that was published in the Fall Edition:**

1. In what year did women in the United States win the right to vote?

**1920**

2. How many years of constant effort had supporters devoted to the woman suffrage campaign?

**1848-1920 = 72 years**

3. What suffrage leader was arrested, tried, and fined for voting in the 1872 election?

**Susan B. Anthony**

4. Which was the first state to grant women the vote in presidential elections?

**Wyoming, in 1890**

5. Why were women arrested and force-fed in prison in 1917?

**They were arrested for peacefully picketing the White House for woman suffrage.**

6. What was the margin of victory when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was finally passed by the U.S. Congress?

**Two votes in the Senate and forty-two votes in the House of Representatives.**



## **Clubs in our State**

### **Battle Ground**

How can a year's work toward a booklet detailing the early history of Battle Ground Lake be squeezed into a tiny thumb drive? Louise Tucker, right, project chair, hands the 'magic' to Kendra Laratta, owner of Ink Ability. Laratta will transform the



prose and photos into a fifty-page, durably-bound booklet. Finished books will soon be presented to the Battle Ground Lake State Park Ranger, James Dunnellan, for the lake's permanent files. Watch for the booklet's availability to the public.

### **Life Saving Equipment for School Buildings**



Linda Gellings and Colleen O'Neal, longtime leaders in the Battle Ground Education Foundation, point to the type of life-saving equipment the organization is furnishing for school buildings throughout the district. GFWC-Battle Ground's first meeting of the club year

was an ideal time for the pair to review the many benefit to the community offered through BGEF. The GFWC club strongly supports the Family Community Resource Center, which operates under the umbrella of BGEF. The Foundation is revving up for its fall fundraisers, including online and live auctions.

# Clubs in our State

## Battle Ground

### Ongoing Project:

GFWC-Battle Ground continues to make “Birthday Bags” for the Family and Community Resource Center. Wendy McDaniel and Mary Eastman displayed the variety of products that will provide for a happier birthday for less fortunate children in three age groups.



Speaker for our September 28th meeting was Master Composter, Pete Dubois, who told the group all about the benefits of composting as one way to recycle and at the same time have a positive effect on climate change. A simple compost pile or shed worm composting can cut down Clark County’s 44,000 tons of fruits and vegetables that end up in a landfill each year!



### **Birthday Bags for Family & Community Resource Center**

### **Master Composter Pete Debois**



# Clubs in our State

## GFWC Camas Washougal



Pictured above: (left) club members gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our club. (right) Washougal Mayor David Stuebe and Camas Mayor Steve Hogan jointly reading proclamation declaring Saturday, May 20, Camas-Washougal Day, as President Christina Kamps looks on.

GFWC Camas Washougal Past Presidents: Tina Bair, Christina Kamps, Betty Haight, Jeanette Jester, Alma Ladd, Carol Styles Pat Suggs.



"Living the Volunteer Spirit"

# Clubs in Our State

## GFWC Cathlamet

GFWC-Cathlamet Woman's Club, as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, participated in the town's Neewollah Festival. The Ladies wore costumes and decorated a member's car trunk. Members prepared candy-filled gloves with spider rings for the children. The Chamber of Commerce awarded the club a blue ribbon for best-decorated trunk. The GFWC logo was included in the sponsor banner. Participating members included: Kathy Briggs, Connie Kyser, Anna Quick, Maureen Zacher-Bockius and Caroline Walton.



"Living the Volunteer Spirit"

# Clubs in Our State

## GFWC Cathlamet

### GFWC-WS Fall Board



**Left:** Gathered on the steps of The Abigail Stuart House owned by Women's Club of Olympia and the site for our state meeting are four of the five members who attended. Those who attended included Pearl Blackman, Hanna Bjorlin, Margaret Glaser, JoAnne Prestegard and Caroline Walton.

**Right:** Sandra Groves (left side in dark jacket), member of Women's Club of Olympia, poses on the stairs of the clubhouse with GFWC Cathlamet members after taking them on a tour of the historic Abigail Stewart House. The house remodeling was completed several years ago with updating of the kitchen, meeting area on the main floor as well as the rooms upstairs.



## **Clubs in our State**

### **GFWC Chamber's Bay Woman's Club**

Chamber's Bay Club is off and running after the summer hiatus. However, many on going activities continued during the summer. We meet twice a month to cut material for menstrual pad kits that went to Bolivia and Tanzania, we helped at My Sister's Pantry three Mondays a month, we met twice to restore Gilmur Park and since we planted 45 trees in April we had to water them over the summer at least every week and a half, and we also had a planting party with over 40 daycare children at Tacoma's Multicultural Center. The kids got to decorate the pots with stickers, paint and colored pencils. Another holiday craft party is planned for late fall. The planting was a hit. We continue to provide 15 -20 Cases of food 1-3 times a month to Caring for Kids.

This fall we have attended a fundraiser for Coffee Oasis, an organization that provides housing and care for up to 6 months for displaced teens, and Amara. Several of our members participated in The National Day of Service packing food bags at a Pierce County Emergency Food Network. We will be doing our first fundraiser of the year participating in a craft fair November 4. All items sold must be handmade. Soon we will be in the holiday season and our club will be active in providing devices and needed items for people in need. And of course we will be getting together for some holiday fun.

Sadly, we lost Kathleen Geller, one of our longest-serving members. Kathleen had a great sense of humor, was very politically active, and multi-talented. Her pies could sell for over \$50 at any fundraiser and we were racing to be the last one on the auction list. Whenever we had an outside cleanup activity, we could be sure Kathleen would be signing up to help. We have an apple tree we take care of in the Curran Apple Orchard. Kathleen would climb up into the tree every year so it would be properly trimmed. We now have a professional trimmer. Kathleen will be missed by all of us and we are so lucky having had her as a part of our lives.

Sally Larson, President

# Clubs in our State

## **GFWC Chamber's Bay Woman's Club**



### **Chamber's Bay Women's Club Giving Back**

What better way for past educators in our club than to spend two hours at a time with 60 to 83 kindergarten through fifth graders in an after-school and summer camp program?

The Multi-Cultural Child and Family Hope Center of Tacoma provided that reminiscent past life memory to six of our members over these past several months.

These ladies (and one 15-year-old grandson of one of our members), volunteered to combine art with nature to these children, with our club donating all the supplies for the event.

The first project as a three-day drawing class which resulted in a youth bird drawing contest. Because the students were SO GREAT at drawing, the contest was an after thought.

On day one, we introduced drawing nature, which resulted in most kids drawing birds. Day two was showing photos of different kinds of birds and the colors that made up that particular bird. Day three included finalizing their bird drawings with the appropriate colors and habitat for that bird.

The result was that over 80 students entered their bird drawings in the contest, to be judged by several Hope Center teachers and directors and several of our club members. Two second graders from the Hope Center won the contest and were awarded a \$20 gift certificate to the Artist and Craftsman Supply Store and their bird photos were framed for them.

The second project involved having the students paint a small terra cotta seedling pot with water saucer. The kids were provided paint,, stickers, markers, brushes and stamps to decorate their pots and saucers. After decorating, the students filled their pots with potting soil, the seedling, and a bit of water. They were given directions that once they got home, they should keep the soil moist ad place it in a sunny window to help it grow and thrive. We correlated this with, "give it water and sun, then watch it grow, much like we parents do for our children!"

We will continue to donate new clothing to the Hope Center. So far, we have donated 36 coats, 143 packages of underwear, 54 pairs of socks, 42 packages of Pull-ups and many bags of a variety of new clothing.

# Districts in our State

## Columbia

GFWC Columbia District held its Fall Conference on October 21st hosted by the GFWC Camas -Washougal clubwomen. President Paulette Stinson presided. The keynote speaker was James Dorce, the current Program Manager at the Portland VA Fisher House located in Vancouver, Washington. Mr. Dorce served in the military for 22 years and has a passion to serve others. GFWC Columbia District presented him with a check (\$100.00) to help re-stock the pantry at Fisher House. **(see photo below on left)** In conjunction, clubwomen were invited to support Operation Gratitude at this Fall Conference. Three large boxes containing men's crew socks, women's socks, hats, scarves, gloves, para cord lanyards, beef jerky, individual wipes, stationary packs, blank cards, Christmas cards, calendars and beanie babies were mailed to the Operation Gratitude Center in California. **(see photo below on right)**

Jeanette Jester gave a Leadership/Membership report and encouraged members to consider filling a district office in the next administration. Paulette Stinson was endorsed by GFWC Columbia District for the office of GFWC-WS Vice-president.

GFWC Columbia District voted to send \$25.00 to the GFWC-WS Endowment Fund in Memory of Charlene Jeffers from Cathlamet.

Thirty-six clubwomen were registered for the Fall Conference. The Farmer's Market and 50/50 Split netted \$210.00 for the district treasury. All five club presidents gave excellent reports on their clubs' activities. The GFWC Columbia District Spring Conference will be hosted by the Cathlamet Clubwomen on March 16, 2024.

President Stinson encouraged members to plan on attending the GFWC-WS Convention to be held April 18-21, 2024. It will be held at the Clearwater Casino in Suquamish, Washington. Everyone went home with either a door prize or centerpiece and wonderful memories of a day spent with fellow clubwomen!





# Districts in Our State

## King County



King County District held its Fall Board meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The district members met at 12:30 p.m. at GFWC Kirkland Woman's Clubhouse for a brief social gathering before we started. All four district clubs were represented, and we had a very informative and productive meeting.

Each club president presented reports on what their club was doing for the upcoming year as well as what projects they had completed since we last met. Membership is the major focus of each club as well as the district. CSP Chairmen reported as well and offered suggestions for additional projects.

During the board meeting, the attendees were also involved in a special project for Operation Gratitude. Greeting cards were distributed along with colored pencils to color the designs on the front of blank greeting cards. The cards will then be sent to Operation Gratitude to be included in the care boxes sent to our military. The cards can then be used by the recipients to send messages and greetings home to their loved ones. Everyone enjoyed the project and had a great time. We will do it again.

Nancy Larsen  
King County District President

# Districts in Our State

## Peninsula District

**GFWS Fall Board, hosted by GFWS Kitsap Peninsula, was held October 21, 2023, at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Bremerton. Speaker was Rosie Barbe, Executive Director of Scarlet Road whose mission is:**

*Through holistic care Scarlet Road offers the hope of freedom to those who have been sexually exploited.*

*Through our program, each person can begin right where they are, first having basic needs addressed, and then building further upon emotional & physical health, future goals, boundaries, spiritual discovery and self-awareness. We seek to offer each individual a network of trusted resources, mental health and treatment resources, employment assistance, educational advising, housing support services and much more, in order to create the best opportunity for healing and lasting change. Scarlet Road provides investment in a way that is relevant to the individual, based on personal needs, struggles and strength, which offers, not just a program for healing, but the foundation for sustainable change and a promising future to build upon. Working together with our community, Scarlet Road is breaking through the stigmas that many victims face, providing a safe and manageable road*

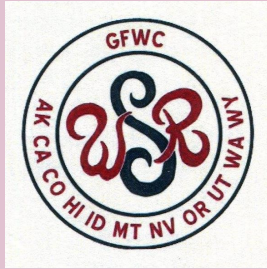
**As a group, we assembled welcome packets for the clients of Scarlet Road—a small**

**bag with hygiene items: deodorant, moisturizer, shampoo & conditioner, soap, toothpaste and tooth brush, hairbrush/mirror. In addition, attendees brought individual items.**

**Members also brought items for GFWS President Susan Tyler's project, Operation Gratitude, for a group mailing of them. Operation Gratitude is a project where boxes with items that will uplift the morale of the person receiving it are sent to deployed troops,**



**first responders, recruit graduates, veterans and military children. Each box is filled with handwritten letters of gratitude, snacks, hygiene products and hand-made items, like hats, scarves and crocheted amigurumi critters.**



**The Western States Region Conference 2024** is less than 10 months away and GFWC Washington State is hosting it. Start saving your money so you can join in this exciting event. As I have said before, we need your help.

You can make your reservations now.

**Western States Region Conference September 5-8, 2024**  
**Embassy Suites by Hilton Seattle-Tacoma International Airport**  
 15920 West Valley Highway, Tukwila, WA 98188  
 Phone -(425) 227-8844

Room Rates:

2 room suite- 1 king with sofa bed \$189 plus taxes

2 room suite 2 double bed w/queen sofa bed - \$189 plus taxes

Call 1-800-Embassy (1-800-362-2779) Reference **Group code GFW**

**Or by using the booking link**

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[cityhocr=SEATUES&groupCode=CESGFW&arrivaldate=2024-09-04&departuredate=2024-09-08&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhocr=SEATUES&groupCode=CESGFW&arrivaldate=2024-09-04&departuredate=2024-09-08&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)

**Group cut-off date is: 08/07/24**

Airport Shuttle and Complimentary Breakfast

We are offering an opportunity to win 3 meals and registration paid for—a **\$200 value**. You can purchase an opportunity for \$10 from Kim Skagen or Cindy Bassage. The drawing will be held at the GFWC International Convention in Chicago, next June.

We will have a meeting August 17<sup>th</sup> at the Auburn VFW Hall to finalize details for WSR. At that time, we will need all the items for the welcome bags as we will put them together. We need to know ahead of time what you are planning to donate. Please let Cindy Bassage and Nancy Burdick know what you are donating. We need 160 of each item as we will be filling 160 bags.

**Country Market** - We are looking for items we can sell, homemade items or new items. If you have items you are donating, please send a list to Julie Thompson and a copy to me, Nancy Burdick. Items we are looking for are handmade cards, jewelry, small paintings, scenic photographs of Washington, scarves, hats, pottery, candles... If you are a crafter, do you make something that you would be willing to donate? Quantities of an item needed are one to 12. Many of the ladies will be flying so nothing too big. Items are needed by September 5<sup>th</sup> at the hotel.

One more thing, I am looking for short funny stories about traveling to a GFWC meeting or convention—something you would let me share with others and I would delete names. Maybe it happened 20 years ago or maybe last year. Email me your story.

Nancy Burdick



## GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS

### The Washington Clubwoman

Is published by

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5426 Windemere Dr. SE  
Olympia, WA 98501-5044

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### 2022-2024 GFWC-WS Executive Committee:

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#### **President Elect:**

Kimberly Skagen

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#### **Parliamentary Advisor:**

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Nancy Larsen

#### **Endowment Trustee:**

Cheryl Holman

#### **Administrative Secretary:**

Martha Curwen

May you have a joyful day  
this Thanksgiving. May your  
holiday be full of blessings,  
love, and an abundance of  
happiness.  
Happy Thanksgiving!



### **Events & Special Days**

Nov 1 Dues are due

Nov 11 Veterans Day

Dec 1 Dues are delinquent

Dec 25 Christmas Day

#### **2024**

Jan 1 Happy New Year

Feb 15 Reports are due

Apr 18-21 GFWC-WS Convention, Clearwater Casino - Suquamish

Aug 17 WSR Final Planning Meeting—Auburn VFW

Sept 5-8 WSR Embassy Suites by Hilton, Tukwila

Happy Holidays

