

The Woman's Club of Olympia JOURNAL

March 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February was a hard month. With the regular challenges before us with the pandemic, keeping ourselves and family safe, we then had to contend with more than a foot of snow!!! What's up with that?

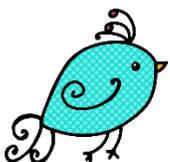
I for one am so looking forward to spring, I cannot wait. I want to see buds come out on trees, flowers coming out of the ground, plants in the stores to buy to brighten our gardens. I know those days are coming, but I am impatient. I noticed that the daffodils and some tulips are coming up at the Abigail Stuart House where we planted them (at least the ones that weren't stolen by squirrels!). There is water in the basement at the house, but not standing, it's just wet. The new blinds for the windows will be installed on this week, so that is progress.

There are a lot of events coming up and happening now throughout the state of Washington with GFWC clubs and I wish we could do more. I am so proud of what we accomplished in 2020 through the pandemic as our reports on projects show. We accomplished more than I thought we had and I commend you. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more on our project numbers!

Sandra Groves, President

MARCH IS SPRING CONFERENCE FOR PENINSULA DISTRICT

March 27, 2021 is the Spring Conference for Peninsula District. It will be held virtually so you don't have an excuse not to attend. There are going to be raffles, awards, a speaker and fun. If you can do so, please attend and show the flag for WCO! The official Invite will come out soon for registering.



PLANNER

NEXT MEETINGS

General Membership
March 2, 2021 at NOON
Program – Women's History

Evening Meeting
March 10, 2021 at 7 p.m.

**BOTH MEETINGS WILL
BE CONDUCTED ON
ZOOM**

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Search Facebook for:
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VOLUNTEER CORNER



REPORTING – By Mary Siddell

The Reports have been submitted to GFWC Peninsula District chairpersons and GFWC-WS. We can all be proud of our accomplishments during this COVID year. We reported on projects in thirteen areas. Many members turned in their volunteer hours. We look forward to celebrating our accomplishments at the next general meetings. Your hard work is making a difference in our community.

The following chart shows the projects that WCO reported on and how many hours, dollars donated, and in-kind donations we logged. Congratulations everyone for this accomplishment during a pandemic year!

	# Projects	Volunteer Hours	Dollars Donated	In-Kind Donation
Community Service Programs				
Arts & Culture CSP	3	82	\$340.00	0
Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP	7	114	\$636.78	\$30.00
Education & Libraries CSP	7	784	\$7,470.00	\$125.00
Environment CSP	5	612	\$541.11	\$70.00
Health & Wellness CSP	4	755	\$168.00	0
Advancement Area Programs				
Legislation and Public Policy	4	4	\$150.00	0
Leadership/LEADS	5	56	\$5.00	\$5.00
Women's History	6	165	\$105.00	0
Communication	4	21	\$50.00	\$5.00
Membership	6	59	\$225.00	\$15.00
Fundraising	4	57	\$290.00	\$200.00
GFWC Signature Projects				
Advocates for Children	1	77	\$700.20	0
Domestic & Sexual Violence/Awareness/Prevention	4	84	\$755.05	0

WE ARE COLLECTING SOCKS AGAIN!



WCO is continuing to collect socks for the Little Red Schoolhouse project. If you want to purchase socks for this worthwhile project, we would be happy to have them. (Dani Lewis has pledged to get 300 socks.) We always have fun looking for unique and fun socks, so get out there and find some over the next few months. If you don't want to go out to the stores, you can order socks online!

If you are interested in Leading! – By Sandra Groves

I am the LEADS chairperson for the State of Washington GFWC clubs and if you are interested in possibly attending the June Conference of GFWC and taking the Leadership Training, please contact me and I will provide you with the necessary application. The deadline is March 15th for you to apply. I attended the conference in Austin, Texas in 2019. The 2020 Conference was cancelled so the 2020 person will be attending in 2021 along with this year's candidate.. The national committee is working on a place to hold the conference and it may be somewhere you want to visit. The Toronto, Canada conference was cancelled due to Canada's restrictions so it will be held in one of the lower 48 states.



HOUSE REPORT – By Mary Siddell

This is a quiet time at the Abigail Stuart House. Our dance group is taking time off, and groups are still unable to gather. Only the AA group continues to meet twice a week. We look forward to restrictions being lifted soon, hopefully by spring. Linda and Luellen will be contacting contractors to look at our upstairs porch to decide if repairs are needed. Sandra is working with Brittany on the costs of a security system. Our blinds, the main floor lights, interior painting and the hot water system to the kitchen will be on the next round of grant projects. We hope to complete them in the next few months. Our clubhouse looks amazing. We are also expanding the wi-fi capabilities for the house by upgrading through Century Link. This upgrade should provide better wi-fi throughout the house and enable use where it is now very spotty or not usable.



EVENING GROUP

The Evening Group met via Zoom on February 10 and focused on Homelessness. The speaker, an employee of The Olympian who researches and reports on this important topic was informative and engaging. Callie Wilson led the group and Linda Wolfe initiated new member Darcy Huffman. Darcy received her pin, membership book and related documents prior to the meeting and she will sign the record book as soon as we are able to meet. Callie Wilson, Fran Beard and Darcy will all need to sign the book of names dating back to the beginning of the Olympia Club in 1883. Callie led a Washington State Trivia contest and everyone participating learned a lot about our State that we did not know!!!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scholarship Committee members are excited to announce our recipients of the Florence Brewer Memorial Scholarships and the June Martinson Scholarship. Our First Place winner is Keyona Tartt, a student at River Ridge High School. Keyona has a GPA of 4.0 and she is graduating with an AA degree from SPSCC. Keyona plans to attend the University of

Washington in the fall, majoring in Psychology. She

hopes to become a criminal justice lawyer. Heer Patel is our second place winner. She is a student at Black Hills High School. Her GPA is 3.99. Heer will attend University of Washington in the fall, studying Computer Science and Engineering. Our third place winner is Allison Holder, a student at Olympia High School. Allison's GPA is 3.98 and she is graduating with an AA degree also. Allison plans to attend the University of Washington, graduating in Education. Our June Martinson Scholarship winner is Haven Barnes, a student at North Thurston High School. She is a Running Start student with a 3.55 GPA. Haven earned a CNA at new Market Skills Center. She plans to attend Centralia College where she will major in nursing. We are proud of these young women. They are inspirational!



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE IS A DISTRICT PROJECT

The Peninsula District is sponsoring a project for its Spring Conference that will be held virtually on March 27th. The Sleep in Heavenly Peace project builds wooden beds for children and teenagers so no child has to sleep on the floor. The nonprofit will be speaking at the Conference and as a project all clubs in the District are collecting **twin size bedding, sheets, pillowcases, quilts, and stuffed animals** to accompany the beds.

From their website:

Sleep in Heavenly Peace had its start like many other charities, in a garage. It was Christmas time, a time of joy and happiness, a time of giving and love, but also a time of bitter, cold weather and snowstorms. A project, that was started with the build of one bed for a single family developed into something a whole lot more. With wood left over from the first bunk, another idea was created. "Who else could benefit from this bunk"?

A simple post on Facebook sparked an unexpected response. What was thought would be a litter of requests from needy families, turned into a litany of local people eager to help and volunteer. The generosity of these volunteers was so surprising that it was no longer a search for one who needed a bed, but a question of how many beds we could provide. From there, the idea grew into reality. We can make a difference.



If you would like to participate, please purchase twin size items, and we will collect them at the Abigail Stuart House on March 24th between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The District President, Cindy Bassage, will be collecting all the donations after the conference. It is a worthy project and you can learn more by attending the Conference.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

February 2, 2021



The meeting was called to order at 12:03 by President Sandra Groves followed by a reading of the Collect by Dianne Weaver. Fourteen members and three guests attended virtually.

MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on January 5, 2021 were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sandra Groves provided us with the Profit and Loss Statement for the Club and House for January 2021. We also received the Balance Sheet as of February 1, 2021. Sandra paid for our new blinds and our liability insurance during this time period. Rental requests are coming in. Our dance group is meeting now, as well. Our Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

SPEAKER: JENNIFER DUNLAP, WS FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Jennifer Dunlap, niece of Gail Crump, joined us today to speak about the needs of our foster care system. She is a social worker for Youth and Family Services. Jennifer works in Pierce Co. now, but she worked in Tumwater for years. How can we help? May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month. All foster parents are invited to a special dinner in their honor. Gift baskets, raffles, and child care are provided. Our services would be appreciated. Reunification Day is celebrated for families who want to be reunited with their children. Outdoor play, movie nights and gift baskets are part of the celebrations. Can we help? Community partners are always welcome. Supporting foster parents is a focus always. It is a difficult role. Office Moms and Dads is a program in place. It is volunteer based. Watching kids while waiting for placement is necessary. This is a great program. First Night Backpacks are available for a child's first night in care. They are needed for every age range. Books, a night light, blankets are just a few items placed in the backpack. Every child in care gets a new quilt. Volunteers write encouraging notes to foster parents, they provide meals to families with new children, they provide day respite, and they provide games, coloring books, craft items, cards, anything to enrich the lives of the foster child. The South Sound Foster/ Adoptive Clothing Bank needs volunteers to sort and clean the clothing that is donated. Shelton also has a new clothing bank for the foster system. The foster care program always needs clothing, meals, formula, wipes and diapers. Also in need are suitcases, backpacks and duffel bags. There is an average of 250-300 children in foster care in Thurston County. Our help is definitely needed.

THANK YOU'S

We received thank you notes from Salvation Army, SafePlace and Fisher House for our December donations of \$100.00 each.

PENINSULA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Peninsula District Conference will be held virtually on March 27. All are welcome to attend. The Peninsula District Board Meeting will be held on February 16, at 6:45. It will be virtual. Everyone is welcome to attend. Cindy Bassage is the President of the Peninsula District. Her special project is Build a Bed. We will collect twin size bedding, pillows, and blankets for this project. As a club, we can also participate in building a bed to donate. More information will be given at the conference.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Luellen Charneski reported that Dani Lewis spent hours trying to get the email addresses of art teachers working in Thurston County High Schools. Only two responded to her question asking about interest in participating in our art scholarship program. We will put this project on hold until next year.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We will be discussing as a club what we can do for the foster care program. Our speaker today gave us lots of ideas. We have collected some toys for our Value Village fundraiser which we can donate to foster care programs.

EDUCATION

We have collected books for our Lending Library. Anna suggested we can donate any of our children's books to foster care. Sandra Groves took five boxes of books to ½ Price Books in Tacoma. They paid \$30 for them.

ENVIRONMENT

Linda Wolfe made some bouquets for physical therapists working with her following her knee surgery.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Please remember to donate socks for the Little Red School House distribution day. They can be left down at the clubhouse.

HOSPITALITY AND REMEMBRANCE

Pat Keith has sent cards to Bruce and Mary Siddell following his recent surgery. Gail and Pat suggested we send valentines to Fieldstone, where Dody Saeger is staying, to be distributed to folks living there. They will contact the Activity Director for instructions on how to proceed. Frances Hanna, member of WCO since 2003, passed away recently. Many of us remember her and will miss her. Linda Wolfe moved that we donate \$25.00 to our Scholarship Fund in her name. This motion was passed.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

We are in need of a custodian. Brittany has some contacts she will talk to about their interest in this work. She is also looking into the Security Alarm System for us as part of our grant project. We need to boost our wifi system through Century Link because we don't get a strong wifi signal in our parlor. Our blinds have been ordered for the main meeting room. Reliable Electric will rewire our lights in the meeting room and the parlor, and Sunset will run a pipe for hot water to our kitchen.

WOMEN'S HISTORY

Luellen Charneski is working on setting up a speaker for our general meeting in March. We are hopeful that we will soon be able to meet in person.

MEMBERSHIP

New member packets are finished and ready for distribution. On Feb. 10, Darcy Huffman will be initiated at the Evening Meeting. Welcome!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our interviews for scholarship candidates are scheduled for Friday, February 5. We have 9 candidates to speak with. These will be virtual. Thank you to Denise for all her help in preparing for these interviews.

ESO BOOK CLUB

Our ESO book club will be held on Tuesday, February 23, at 1:30, virtually. All are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16.

Submitted by Mary Siddell, Secretary





In honor of Women's History Month

A History of Women on Stamps

By Carolyn Forbes, WHRC Committee

The history of postal services began with the delivery of stampless letters. Stampless letters paid by the receiver and private postal systems were gradually phased out after the introduction of adhesive postage stamps, first issued in 1846. The use of stamps became mandatory in 1855.

Queen Isabella of Spain was the first woman featured on a postage stamp in 1893. Since then, the U.S. has issued hundreds of postage stamps honoring the accomplishments and achievements of women in America. The post honored Martha Washington in 1902 with her very own stamp. In 1907, Pocahontas became the first Native American to be featured on a stamp. In 1978, Harriet Tubman was memorialized; and in 2001, Frida Kahlo became the first Hispanic woman to be honored.

Listed below are some of the famous women pictured on the stamps featured in the above photo.

1936 and 1955: Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was a leader of women's rights and the women's suffrage movement, and founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902).

1948: Clara Barton (1821-1912) was the founder and first president of the American Red Cross. She was key in getting the U.S. to sign the Geneva Convention in 1882.

1963: Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) was the first woman to fly solo, nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean.

1963, 1984 & 1998: Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was an American diplomat, writer, social reformer, and First Lady to Franklin D. Roosevelt. She was a leading activist for women and the poor.

1968: Lucy Stone (1818-1893) founded the American Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. She is thought to be the first American woman to continue to use her maiden name after marriage.

1971: Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) helped pave the way for modern poets and authors by writing poems about problems in society, as well as her beliefs on love, family, death, and nature.

1980: Frances Perkins (1882-1965) was the first woman to be named to the U.S. Cabinet. She was appointed Secretary of Labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

1980: Emily Bissell (1861-1948) was a leader in the fight against tuberculosis who also introduced Christmas seals in the U.S.

1980: Helen Keller (1880-1968) was a crusader to improve the treatment of people with disabilities. Anne Sullivan, her dedicated personal teacher for many years, is pictured with Keller.

1982: Dr. Mary Walker (1832-1919) was the first woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. A leader in the women's rights movement, Walker promoted women having the right to choose the types of clothes they wanted to wear, regardless of society's expectations.

1983: Dorothea Dix (1802-1887) was a 19th century crusader for the poor and those with mental disabilities.

1985: Abigail Adams (1744-1818) influenced American politics through her letters to her husband, President John Adams. She was an advocate for women's rights.

1986: Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) was the first black woman to speak publicly against slavery.

1990: Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) worked for equal rights for African Americans. She was a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1910, and a leader in the women's suffrage movement.

Women throughout history have helped influence the story of humanity. Some have been visible while others worked behind the scenes to make this world a better place. Many have been honored with the public distinction of being placed on our postage stamps throughout the years; those mentioned here are only a fraction of the great women in history.

Community Service Volunteer Hours and Contributions

Member Name _____

Enter your total hours and contributions. Projects will be reported to the State GFWC.

PROJECT	NOTES	VOLUNTEER HOURS	\$ DONATED	IN KIND DONATIONS
ARTS & CULTURE				
ENVIRONMENT Federation Forest Recycling Gardening				
EDUCATION & LIBRARIES				
HEALTH & WELLNESS				
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH				
MEMBERSHIP				
FUNDRAISING				
COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS				
WOMEN'S HISTORY				
LEADERSHIP				
GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECTS Domestic violence awareness & prevention				