



Western Vistas



From Patty Benskin

The first issue of the newsletter was a learning experience for the editor. Apologies to those that could not open the Publisher format. Copies in PDF were sent to those that requested a different format. This issue is being sent in both formats.

The editor inadvertently left Past Western States Region President Joann Wheeler out of the first issue, due to an email error. Deepest apologies to Joann for the oversight. Please enjoy her article in this issue.

The intent of the newsletter is keep clubwomen in the Western States Region informed and connected. Anyone that would like to submit an article can send them to Patty Benskin at wbenskin@msn.com. Submissions may include humor, pertinent information, historical perspectives and any other items that might be of interest to clubwomen in the region.

2020 WSR Conference News

Hello GFWC Western States Board of Directors,

The Executive Committee has had a few meetings and we have decided that the Cheyenne meeting is moving to a virtual platform. There is much uncertainty regarding COVID at this time and many have expressed concerns about travel, social distancing, and the required two week quarantine that some states are imposing for travel. GFWC does not want to add to the load many of our members are carrying right now, but we plan to be together again in 2021. Meanwhile, what does this mean for you?

We do not have all the answers yet, but when I have all the specifics I will get that out to you via email. I am counting on you to spread the word to those you know. We will be using Big Marker to conduct the meeting with the help of GFWC. The meeting will not be two and a half days. There will be a registration fee, but I don't know what it will be yet. We still have business to conduct, so we are counting on your participation and encouraging others to join in. There will be workshops, fundraising, reports, and entertainment. I can't wait to see how it turns out.

I'm optimistic that a virtual meeting can reach more members who do not regularly travel to our region meetings. However, this may depend on the help of our more tech savvy members to help them get set up or setting up small "watch groups" to view the meeting together. Think of it as an Education project for those members who have been hesitant to jump in the technology pool. COVID has many of us feeling isolated, but this is a chance to reach many. Keep being flexible, curious, and thank you for your support!

Stay safe! Stay healthy!

Stay tuned,

Kate LeMere

WSR President 2020-2022

WSR VIEWS OF EXPERIENCE

Joann Wheeler
WSR President
2004-2006

June 2020

Well, who would of thought we'd all still be in the craziness of this COVID-19! However, like most all GFWC Members, life must go on with our families, our responsibilities, and our communities. We just need to be more creative and keep a positive attitude that things will improve!! I am amazed at reading about the good will and volunteerism that continues on.....and that is what is keeping me going! So stay positive my friends.....we will survive this. Be safe, be kind and hang in there everyone!

A few administrations have passed since I served WSR in 2004-2006! And WSR continues to share great leaders from our states with GFWC, each one adding her touch of leadership style and passion for GFWC volunteerism. And how great it is to have elected a WSR club-woman to the position of GFWC Treasurer....congrats to Mary Beth! Our region should be proud of our growth and contribution to our great organization, GFWC.

As many of you have stated, I, too, really miss seeing all my GF friends, from all over our country as well as the ladies in my local club. Zoom or Facebook help us stay connected, however I am sure almost all of us yearn for our local meetings, state and national meetings....those 'clubwomen hugs' are genuine and truly missed!

Take care each of you and thank you Patty for this opportunity of one more way to connect.

In Federation Love,

Joann Wheeler, Oregon

NOTES FROM INTERNATIONAL PAST PRESIDENT CARLENE GARNER

When Patty invited me to submit an article for this newsletter, I thought long and hard about what I would like to share with you. Maybe this should be fun and light, maybe poignant, maybe enlightening. After a great deal of thought, I decided I would write about the most pressing issue we face as an organization, our declining membership and how we can reverse it.

Let me begin by saying that membership is the concern of every GFWC member. We must all take responsibility to grow our wonderful organization with as many interested women as we can. We must all believe enough in our future that we are eager to invite family, friends, and acquaintances to a club function.

Those you invite do not have to be your best friend, only someone who is interested in making life better for a neighbor, either near or far.

I would first ask you to think back to when you were a new club member. How were you welcomed into your new club? What made the idea of joining a Woman's Club appealing to you? How did you start to become involved in club activities? How did you learn about the club's membership in GFWC?

Now, look honestly at how your club welcomes guests. Does everyone take the opportunity to meet and greet them? Do chairmen offer a special invitation to participate in projects, both those in place and those being planned? Is your club well run and mindful of members' busy lives?

Do all your current members know and understand GFWC? Are current GFWC resources used and made readily available to all members. Does your club invite a district or state officer to visit to provide an update on both local and GFWC concerns?

Do your members make a concerted effort to invite both members and guests to upcoming GFWC meetings?

If you can answer yes to all these questions, you and your fellow members should be applauded, for you are doing well in preserving GFWC and in growing our membership.

But...if you honestly answer no, you and your fellow members have some work to do. Plan a special membership study session where you talk about meeting and greeting guests, as well as the kind of club you want to be. Be sure every member has a clear understanding of GFWC and its resources.

Encourage your members to invite others to a club activity. Share ideas of how an invitation could be issued. And make sure that every member understands her role in growing the club's membership, both today and tomorrow.

If we all take our membership responsibilities seriously, GFWC will grow and flourish. We COULD become the organization that women throughout your community will clamor to join. We do incredible projects with our current membership...just think what we would accomplish if we were to double that number...it is up to you.

Carlene Garner

International Past President

2010 - 2012

WSR LEADERSHIP CORNER

LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Phyllis Salzburg, 2018 – 2020 WSR representative to the committee

The work done in the area of Legislation and Public Policy by you, WSR members, during the 2018 – 2020 administration was amazing! President Mary Ellen Brock's passion for this area was shared and enthusiastically supported by WSR members.

At our 2018 Region meeting in Las Vegas we discussed and debated which two bills should be made GFWC legislative priorities. Members spoke out and voiced their opinions in lively debate on what should become GFWC Resolutions, garnering the power of GFWC behind issues important to us. The results were tallied from all GFWC regions and Miranda's Law and the 3D Printer Gun Safety Act became **Brand Initiatives #1 and #2** for the 2019 campaign.

At that same Region meeting members were encouraged to support **Grand Initiative #4**, adding our numbers to the goal of 1000 who signed up for the Legislative Action Center. In the first year that goal was met handily with 1594 GFWC members signing up and the new goal of 2500 members was set for June 2020. Have you heard? The total number of sign ups was **2776**!

In Boise in 2019, members were charged to call, email, write (in red) their Senators and Representatives urging them to vote for our two bills. On September 23 and October 23, 2019 and Federation Day 2020 they knew we were serious! The total number of contacts in 2019 and 2020 was **8,947** for Miranda's Law and **7,633** for the 3D Printer Gun Safety Act!

Keep using the Legislative Action Center, encouraging members to sign up, responding to updates and sharing information with members and friends as we continue to make our voices heard. Thank you WSR members for working hard these last two years, supporting GFWC's legislative priorities as we've done for more than a century, and working to rebuild the GFWC name into a brand that lawmakers and other recognize. You did it – Yes You Did!

NOTE: As of January 2020, there were 1040 members from WSR states signed up for the Legislative Action Center. This number includes those who were signed up prior to the Grand Initiative #4 campaign.

WSR LEADERSHIP CORNER

WSR Parliamentary Advisor

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. I'm following the rules by Sheltering in Place, but I have not finished as many quilts nor read as many books as I had hoped. I have a couple of suggestions to pass along. GFWC Parliamentarian Deen J. Meloro has suggested that clubs and states amend their bylaws by adding a new article that could be titled "Emergencies." This year's unforeseen challenges have caused us to improvise on how to handle elections in a new way, hold meetings remotely and change administrations smoothly. Now is the time to figure out what has worked for you (and what has not) and write a "Plan B" while it's fresh in your minds. An example of how to word the article can be found in the June 4th *GFWC News & Notes*. Future officers will thank you!

Most of our clubs, districts and states use *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* as their parliamentary authority. *Robert's* is revised every ten years and this is the year. The 12th Edition will be available September 1st. Order your copy now so that your

FINAL PERSPECTIVES

Good luck to all of you and I hope to hear from you soon! Please enjoy this newsletter and forgive all of the editorial mistakes!