

September 17, 2011

Greetings GFWC-WI Clubwomen,

It's beginning to cool down and the colors of autumn are around the corner. Thoughts are beginning to turn towards our clubs and what they will accomplish this upcoming year. I wish you great success with all your projects and especially with your membership drives. Autumn always feels to me like new beginnings are about to start. Make yours be an amazing time for your club.

You have seen the GFWC-WI Clubwoman by now and I hope you enjoyed the colored version. There were so many beautiful photos; we decided to share them with color. The GFWC 120th International Convention is now history, but the memories are forever. Thank you again to all Wisconsin clubwomen for their donations and help. We could not have done it without you.

Now as long as we're on the subject of conventions, don't forget the Great Lakes Conference will be in Madison, Oct. 14-16. Again, if you are available to help work registration, help with the centerpieces or anything else, please be sure and give me your name or give it to Paula Schlice who is the conference chairman.

This is another event in which we have a lot of spectacular things going on. Friday's tours are to see the campus of UW, Lake Mendota, the State Capitol, Indian effigy mounds, Chamberlain Rock, a glacial erratic, then on to the Frank Lloyd Wright First Unitarian Society historic landmark with a lunch break at Quivey's Grove, a 4 acre historic sight full of antiques. After lunch you will go to Olbrich Gardens, where there will also be a quilt show. This will be a fantastic start to the weekend.

In the evening the conference will begin with our State Night. At the region conferences state night usually features the hosting state president's special project, so we will be featuring the Quilts of Valor. It's a nice way to keep spreading the word to everyone about this wonderful project.

Saturday and Sunday will feature great speakers and workshops for everyone. Sunday morning the motivational speaker will be John Powers, who was at our Summer Workshop last year. He was such a joy. If you weren't able to be there last year, come to this one. He will be speaking at the Sunday morning breakfast and you will all be on your way by 11:30.

You don't want to miss my and Michele's state report that morning. We have something special planned for everyone. Let's just say, after John Powers is done speaking, the laughter won't end for a while yet!

You will be glad you came to this conference. We will also be celebrating in the nomination and election of Paula Schlice to the Great Lakes Executive Committee as their new treasurer for the next administration.

GFWC International President, Carlene Garner, would also like to have an informal get together with club presidents to have a chat about your issues and concerns. A personal chat with her really gets your voice heard. Take this opportunity to do so. All the details and agenda about this conference are in the latest WI Clubwoman and also online.

I just returned from Seattle, where I was attending the GFWC board meeting. They asked that we please stress the importance of using the correct GFWC logo/emblem on all club correspondence or signs. They are no longer using the "glow" emblems that were red, white and blue. Only use the traditional emblem or the black or blue outlined one, or the white outline if you are using a dark background. Also, be sure the "R" registered trademark is in the corner.

The GFWC Clubwoman from headquarters is always looking for articles, just as we do from Wisconsin. Send your projects or pictures to headquarters (and also to our Clubwoman) and share with everyone the success of a certain project.

Another thing to note, if your club has a special anniversary, such as GFWC Amery Woman's Club just celebrated 90 years, be sure and let headquarters know. It will be published in the next Clubwoman issue.

In the current GFWC Clubwoman are 10 pointers for having a successful club year. There are good ideas for everyone. The success of a club is everyone's responsibility, not just the officers.

Don't forget to check the GFWC.org website to see if there have been any updates or changes to the current Community Service Programs. If they have been updated in anyway, it will be posted there.

Domestic Violence Awareness has an interesting project for this next year. It is the GFWC Sock Project called "Step Away From Abuse". In a 1 qt. size zip lock baggie, place a pair of new socks (any size). Put a label on the front along with your club name and deliver them to your local domestic abuse shelters. The GFWC website has info regarding the 2 x 4 in. sticker labels that can be downloaded from GFWC for free.

October is domestic violence awareness month. This would be an easy and worthwhile project that everyone could do over a cup of coffee and a donut. Do it at your club meetings, or on your own. When finished be sure and report it under Domestic Violence on the report form.

Good luck in this upcoming year and I look forward to visiting your clubs and districts. Don't forget to ask any of your GFWC-WI officers to come. Let me close with this poem from the GFWC-NC booklet entitled "The I's Have It":

Are you an Active Member?
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you just satisfied to be
The kind who "just belongs?"

Do you ever work on committees
To see there is no trick
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the cliques?

Do you come to the meetings often
And help with hand and heart?
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

Think this over seriously,
You know right from wrong,
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

You decide, what kind of member are you?

In Federation Friendship,
Ellen Weber
GFWC-WI President