

Share this booklet with as many members as you can.

Study it for Great Ideas.

Use it to enhance your reporting for next year.

Send congratulations to your sister clubs.



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What Are GFWC-WI and GFWC Awards?

Annually, clubs are asked to provide a statistical report on the club's efforts the previous calendar year. Statistics are compiled at the national level allowing GFWC to lobby for issues pertinent to the membership, apply for grants and develop affiliations with national organizations. These statistics are important to the continued impact of GFWC. All clubs should make every effort to report.

In addition to the statistics, clubs are encouraged to capture the stories of their programs in narratives used as submissions for award consideration. These narrative award submissions tell the history of a club and ultimately the history of GFWC-WI. Often, these stories are referred to as Reporting. And Reporting is the means by which GFWC-WI is able to recognize and acknowledge outstanding services the clubs provide to their communities.

Awards are presented to clubs who submit reports in special, program, advancement, committee, and contest areas. The awards are determined by the chairs of the program areas, advancement areas, committees, and contest chairs. The chairs are appointed by the GFWC-WI President and serve on the GFWC-WI Board of Directors. The chairs serve two-year terms. Chairs may be reappointed by the next president but are limited to two two-year terms by GFWC-WI Policies.

The GFWC-WI distributes awards at two category levels:

- Category I is for clubs with 30 or more members.
- Category II is for clubs with less than 30 members.

In each category, the chair selects the club which has documented the best overall performance in that area and the club that has the best single project of all the projects submitted in the reports. Thus, each chair reports four award honorees to the Second Vice President. These clubs are then recognized at the annual state convention.

Individual awards based on nominations are granted for Jenny June, Woman of Achievement, Theodora Youmans, LEADS, and Junior of the

GFWC-WI Awards and Contest Chairmen

GFWC-WI is grateful for the thoughtful hard work of the following Chairmen:

Abby Lorenz, President, GFWC-Wisconsin

Standardized Reports Committee

Linda Brown, 2nd VP/Chairman

Suz Hooser, Director-Elect of Junior Clubs

Arts and Culture	Kristina Higbee
Civic Engagement and Outreach	Loretta Caron
Communications and Public Relations; Newsletter and Website Contests	Missy Kimball
Education and Libraries	Julie Riemenschneider
Environment	Karen Ostrowski
ESO	Nancy Schrap
Fundraising and Development	Mary Kaye Ernest
GFWC Signature Program	Kay Salewske
GFWC-WI President's Special Project	Sue Sands
Health Scholarships	Shelly Isely
Health and Wellness	Marianne Potter
Juniors Special Program	Sue Bessert
Leadership	Mary Meek
Legislation and Public Policy	Linda Taylor
Membership	Nancy Dickman
Women's History and Resource Center and 1734 Society	Sue Sands and Diane Zickert
Theodora Youmans Award	Deb Strecker
Woman of Achievement	Ina Trummer
LEADS Candidate	Mary Meek
Jennie June Award	Tari Wallner
Junior of the Year	Suz Hooser/Tammy Welter
GFWC-WI Community Impact Program Award	Carol Wolfenden
GFWC-WI Writing Contest	Alexandra Lerch-Gaggi

Community Impact Program Award

The newly updated GFWC Community Impact Program Award offers GFWC clubs financial incentive to implement projects designed to impact a specific problem in their community. The CIP Award is designed to accommodate the many ways that clubs currently function and to provide added flexibility in the implementation of up to three projects that have a meaningful impact on a particular problem, from “done in a day” efforts to those that could require more rigorous planning and implementation. This award is given once every two year period. This award covers Jan 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2021.

GFWC Amery Woman’s Club

Polk County Recycling Center: The Amery Woman’s Club recognized that the Polk County Administration wanted to close down the County Recycling Center because they felt it was not profitable. The club would not take closing as an answer! Its inspiration came from a club member who also represents club members as a Polk County Supervisor. With the AWC in GFWC red shirts attending a Polk County Board Meeting, the club proposed that the recycling center stay open and be upgraded with available state funds of \$1.6 million. Several members of the club spoke several times at the county meetings. One of the members who is a county supervisor published letters to the editor of the Amery Free Press in support of keeping the center open. With this information on available funding, the Polk County Board voted unanimously to dedicate state funds to upgrade and retain the Polk County Recycling Center. The club’s voice and presence were acknowledged! The Polk County Recycling Center provides jobs, saves the environment, and shows that Polk County can be a leader in Recycling. In addition, the club passed and put in place a resolution to recognize and encourage participation in conservation education and programs.



Year. These awards recognize individual excellence. The nomination process is specified on the GFWC-WI website.

Honors at the GFWC International Level are awarded based on the number of members that a state has reported to GFWC International at the beginning of the two-year term of the current president. Regardless of changes in membership, the state stays in the same category for the full two years. GFWC International places the states in one of six categories in evaluating all award submissions sent by GFWC Special Program, Community Service Area, and Advancement Area chairs. Wisconsin is in Category II for awards presented at the 2021 and 2022 International Conventions.

The GFWC-WI President compiles all of the statistical information from all of the reports in all of the community service, special program, and advancement areas and submits that information to GFWC International. In addition to selecting the state awards, the chair of each area submits two reports to GFWC International: a State Award Entry which is a list, with narratives, of the top ten projects in Wisconsin that had the most impact; and a Club Creativity Entry which is a narrative of one project. GFWC International issues monetary awards for the Most Creative in each State and the Community Impact Awards.

Each year, GFWC accumulates the total number of reported projects, volunteer hours, and both in-kind and dollars donated for the work of its clubs. It also assembles a Top Ten Projects list by area for clubs to reference as an idea generator. The most recent data is available in the 2020 Annual Program Statistics Report which has more detail. See the News & Publications tab at the GFWC website (<https://www.gfwc.org>).

The statistical reporting and narratives become the recorded history of each state and of each club and is also a tool in preserving the history of women in our society. Those annual club reports and narratives are valuable far and wide!

GFWC-WI Community Service Program Awards

Arts and Culture

Category I

Best Overall

GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club

87 Members 12 Projects 741Hours \$8,037 Donated
\$527 In-Kind Donations

1. **Thank you, Essential Workers!** Fifty beautiful folded cards were delivered to health workers, teachers, fire and police.
2. **Potency of Poetry.** Student Shakespeare Experience —Donated \$1,250 to bring actor/teacher to 8th grade students.
3. **Free Summer Concerts on the River.** Donated \$500.
4. **Kindness initiative with local arts and culture center and community.** Club members donated rocks and painting kits and made them available at the art center. Rock gardens popped up around town!
5. **GFWC Creative Writing Contest.** Expanded to include grades 3 to 8.
6. **Hand-crafted centerpieces and favors.** Members of "Jo's Club" a group within the club, hand crafts centerpieces and favors for each meeting.
7. **Supporting arts and culture in the Northwoods.** Donated \$4,250 to ArtStart and \$250 to Northern Arts Council.
8. **Northwoods Choraliars and Rhinelander Male Chorus.** Donated \$500.
9. **Volunteering.** Members volunteer at local plays and performances.
10. **Helen Mears Art Contest.**
11. **Member Art at State Convention**
1. **Chalkfest.** Worked with registration and day of activities.

Best Single Project

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club

Making a House a Home. OJWC partnered with the high school to provide a service-learning opportunity for 25 students as part of the school's Freshman Day of Service. The club purchased art supplies for the students to use to create home décor items for OJWC's Family of the Month. The students created 20 pillows, 30 dishtowels, 20 macrame wall hangings, and 15 paintings. The students were then led through a reflection of the day by high school staff members and everyone learned about service to the community.

Category I is for clubs with 30 or more members
Category II is for clubs with less than 30 members

Commitment to Club Continued

- President of GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club.
- Member of the Lakeshore Past District Officers Club.
- Awarded GFWC Wisconsin's Woman of Achievement Award.
- Awarded GFWC Wisconsin's Theodora Youmans Citizenship Award.
- Gave the GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club an online presence.
- Awarded the First Social Media Award at the GFWC Great Lakes Region Convention in 2016.
- Wrote and distributed the GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club newsletter from 2007 to current.
- She handled the sale of the club property in Hubbard Park.

Commitment to Community

- ◇ Coordinator of Children's Christmas Pageant at Plymouth Church for 40 years.
- ◇ Helped Cerebral Palsy Parents of Milwaukee grow into the Eisenhower Center of Milwaukee.
- ◇ Founding Member of the Urban Ecology Center in Riverside Park and is still a receptionist there once a week.
- ◇ Girl Scout Leader and past Director of Shore Acres Girl Scout Day Camp.
- ◇ Past Publicity manager for Jewish Vocational Service.
- ◇ Sunday school teacher for many years.
- ◇ Supplied coleslaw to feed 100 once a month to St. Benedict's Community Meals for the homeless.
- ◇ The entrance to the sanctuary of Plymouth Church is called the Mueller Garden in honor of the service of George and Pat Mueller.

Commitment to Family

- * Pat is a remarkable 98-year old still living in her family home of more than 70 years.
- * She still drives, does her own shopping, and took care of her 103-year-old husband, George until his passing in 2021.
- * After giving birth to a son disabled with Cerebral Palsy in 1947, she and George began fostering disabled newborns for ten years.
- * Pat is committed to her daughter Ann Mueller Rose, and Anne's husband William as well as Pat's son, Paul. Two other children have passed away.
- * She has two granddaughters: Emily Rose Latimer and her husband Chris, and Elizabeth Rose Arcuri and her husband Nick.

GFWC-WI wishes best of luck to Pat in the competition for the Great Lakes Region Nomination. Should she become the Great Lakes Nominee, she will be honored at the International Convention in New Orleans.

Jennie Award

THE GFWC JENNIE AWARD HONORS ONE CLUBWOMAN FROM EACH GFWC REGION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO CLUB, COMMUNITY, AND FAMILY.

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation’s highest honor. The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC’s founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym “Jennie June.” The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize Jennie’s spirit through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family

One of the two Great Lakes Region Nominees for the Jennie Award is from Wisconsin!



Pat Mueller
GFWC Lakeshore Past District Officers’ Club
GFWC Shorewood Woman’s Club

Commitment to Club

- Pat has been an active member of a GFWC-WI Club for seventy-two years!
- President GFWC Shorewood Junior Woman’s Club
- GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs
- GFWC Lakeshore District President (Fourth District).
- GFWC-WI Community Impact Award Chair
- GFWC-WI Literature Chair
- GFWC-WI Convention Chair
- GFWC WI Parliamentary Advisor
- President of GFWC Great Lakes Region
- President of GFWC Wisconsin

Category II



Best Overall

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman’s Club

3 Projects 36 Hours \$130.90 Donated

1. **Caps Collected for Youth Community Art Project.** The Northwest Side Community Development Corporation was collecting 5,000 bottle caps for a youth-led art mosaic. The club member who donated the most caps received a BDJWC baseball cap.
2. **Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest.** Two Brown Deer students placed at this statewide competition.
3. **Members win.** Two club members earned awards in the Members Art Contest at the 2021 Annual Convention.



Best Single Project

Lakeland Area GFWC

Brandy Park Art Mural Project. In the spring of 2021, this club took on a multi-year project to create a mural storybook walk in a local park. The storybook walk will utilize park buildings to tell a children’s story allowing viewers to walk along reading the story through the mural. The group has done fundraising, created PR opportunities with local media outlets, obtained the support of the Brandy Park Commission, and collaborated with a local artist/muralist to complete mural #1.



Civic Engagement and Outreach

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

13 Projects 1,439 Hours \$4,650 Donated \$2,290 In-Kind Donations

1. **Making International Connections with Like-Minded Women.** The club has made personal connections to the Spittaler Goldhaubenfauren (The golden hat women of Spittaler). They were highlighted in the November newsletter and the club has planned a video joint meeting for 2022.
2. **PAWS PLUS Celebration: Reaching the Dog Owners Community.** A community dog walk event with a bake-sale and concession stand.
3. **Shoe Boxes Full of Love.** Members filled 20 boxes for Operation Christmas Child.
4. **Honor Flight.** WCP supported honor flights for three veterans from the community.
5. **Pewaukee Bell Tower Memorial Organization.** The club has donated toward the building project as well as supporting the events of this group in preserving the country's history through veterans' projects.
6. **Super Senior Open House.** The Pewaukee club staffs an informational booth as well as helping with registration, distributing box lunches, assisting with clean up for this event sponsored by Pewaukee Park and Recreation.
7. **Pewaukee Food Pantry.** WCP supports underserved families in our community. At every meeting members bring nonperishable items for the food pantry.
8. **Animals are Community Too.** The WCP supports this no-kill organization with dollars and some members are volunteer workers here.
9. **Creating a Great Community to Live In.** Positively Pewaukee works toward creating a great community to live in. WCP partners with many of this groups projects and many members work and support both groups.
10. **Supporting Local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.** Club members participate in bake and pie sales as well as dinners. The club advertises their activities on the club's website.
11. **Friends of the Parks of Pewaukee.** The WCP donates \$500 toward this organization for the purchase of trees for the recently created Koeppe Riverside Park.
12. **Halloween Fun Fest.** Club members created 300 Dum-Dum furry spiders and distributed them at this event.

Best Single Project

GFWC Amery Woman's Club

Appreciation Gift Bags for all Amery School District Employees. This club realized that the 2020-2021 school year was a challenge for students, families, and the entire school district staff. To show their thanks and appreciation, the club assembled over 300 gift bags that included a stress ball and other treats and items. Bags were then distributed to all Amery School District employees from the Superintendent to the bus drivers and cooks. The club wrote grants to secure some of the funding for the bags and club members also donated.

"Awarding Pat the Theodora Youmans Award would lift up an unsung hero in our midst and an honor to the heritage of Theodora."

Fr. Steve Brice, Holy Spirit Parish

"Community is very important to Pat. In the neighborhood she has always made the effort to meet and welcome new neighbors. She has always been the person to stay in touch with all the neighbors and to help celebrate or acknowledge life's events."

Cathy Jones Ferck, neighbor

"Pat has been a faithful volunteer at Operation Bootstrap for many years. She has worked in the pantry, putting food orders together and making sure our clients receive everything they need. . . Pat has always been really present to (our clients), listening to their stories and making sure they leave knowing they are cared for. In this, she has been a model that many of our volunteers try to emulate."

Kathy Budelier, Operation Bookstrap

Pat has been a pillar of the community long before she became a member of the GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club. She began her Fuzzy Friends Forever project many years ago. She refurbishes and cleans gently used toys, especially stuffed animals, pairs them with a matching book, and donates them to Operation Bootstrap, a nearby charitable organization whose primary purpose is to meet the basic needs of others. Her efforts toward this project have been featured in two publications: *Catholic Life* -- The Roman Catholic Diocese of LaCrosse and in *Wisconsin Life*. To date, Pat has cleaned and mended over 26,000 animals and books that are then donated to nonprofits including schools and churches to be given to children. In 2021, Pat averaged 21 hours a week and donated an average of \$50 per week in supplies to her mission. Pat began her career as a nurse and she continued at St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. There she quietly took on shifts so that those with young families could be home on the holidays. Even after retirement, she coordinated and hosted meetings with coworkers that she connected to needs in the community. During the COVID pandemic, she took in homeless people to live with her for almost two years. Not only the couple, but their children, dogs, boy-friends and more! She has two adult children.

"The GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club is honored to have Pat Hilpert as a member. She has allowed our members to donate to Fuzzy Friends Forever, but the true benefit is for (the members) to learn from her example. She knows how to share her gifts with others without expecting anything in return. Pat Hilpert embodies the attributes of the Theodora Youmans Citizenship Award."

Marianne Potter, President, GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

Theodora Youmans Citizenship Award

The Theodora Youmans Citizenship Award is one of the most treasured awards given by GFWC-Wisconsin since 1937. At its onset, Mrs. Youmans provided in her will that the award should be made for the most honorable contribution to citizenship. This award recipient need not be a member of a GFWC-WI woman's club. There is only one winner, but it is an honor to be nominated. The award's namesake was born Theodora Winton in Ashippun, Wisconsin in 1863. She was raised in New Berlin where her father was a merchant. In 1889, she married Henry Youmans, Editor of the *Waukesha Freeman*. In 1898 she was elected President of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs. Her influence had a marked bearing on Federation policies and growth for many years. She was a woman who worked tirelessly for women. Following her death in April 1932, a reporter for the *Waukesha Freeman* wrote: "We find a remarkable combination of talents and abilities in one woman that gave her predominance among women and men alike."



2021 Theodora Youmans Citizenship Award Recipient

Pat Hilpert

GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

**Category II
Best Overall**



GFWC Plymouth Woman's Club

3 Projects 42 Hours

\$450 In-Kind Donations

- 1. Project Angel Hugs.** Project Angel Hugs is a non-profit dedicated to nurturing a passion for service in the hearts of our youth while ministering to the emotional needs of children touched by cancer and their families. Members wrapped Christmas gifts for those suffering from cancer.
- 2. Songbird Pond Tree Trimming.** Songbird Pond is a 44 bed assisted living facility in Plymouth Wisconsin. Pre-COVID, the club ran bingo and other activities with the residents. This year the club decorated trees for the holiday season. One of the trees was decorated specifically for the sixteen veterans who reside there -- a patriotic tree. The residents asked for the tree to return to be out from Memorial Day to July 4!
- 3. Quilt of Valor.** A quilt of valor was presented to Bryan Klock. He served two tours in the Army in Vietnam. The quilt was made by members of the club and quilted by an outside source. The quilt is personalized and the club held a presentation ceremony.

Best Single Project

GFWC Amherst Junction Woman's Club

Interactive Therapy Dog and Cat for King Veterans Home. In May the club members donated \$130 to purchase an interactive dog for the residents at the King Veteran's Home. In December the members donated \$130 to purchase an interactive cat for the same facility. The cat purrs when petted. The interactive pets have a calming effect and were needed more than ever with the lockdowns.



Category I is for clubs with 30 or more members
Category II is for clubs with less than 30 members

Education and Libraries

Category I

Best Overall

GFWC Monroe Woman's Club

1 Project 55 Hours

Cursive Writing Legislation. The GFWC Monroe Woman's Club asked Wisconsin State Senator Howard Marklein to attend their monthly November General Meeting. However, the Senate was in session so he provided a handout on the progress of the bill. The handout on the Cursive Writing Legislation was read aloud to the members present, and each member was given a copy of the information. The handout described what the bill does, who are the sponsors, what the bill looks like in the Assembly, and when the bill might be brought to the floor.

Best Single Project

GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club

Reading to Children at Local Day Care Facilities. An ongoing project of the GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club is reading to children at local day care facilities. There were months that club members were not able to participate due to COVID 19. It fluctuated in 2021, yet the GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club read to children at the local YMCA day care one or two times per month for close to 6 months. One member coordinated the scheduling of members and day care centers. Each member reader left two or 3 books that they had read at the day care every month. The books are purchased by the club. Through the experience children learn to sit quietly, listen, and learn skills for school readiness such as recalling the story, details and conclusions. The students respond to the stories and answer with the expected and creative outcomes. These are essential skills for a positive educational experience. A label noting the club donation is attached inside the front cover of every donated book. Members volunteer 33 hours and donated \$225 in books.



LEADS Candidate

(GFWC Leadership, Education and Development Seminar)

The GFWC LEADS program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help these members gain the capabilities, confidence and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction. The LEADS program is held annually the day before the official opening of the GFWC International Convention. Each state is allowed one candidate.

2022 GFWC-WI LEADS Candidate

Deb Strecker

GFWC Kenosha Woman's Club

GFWC Pleasant Prairie Woman's Club



Deb Strecker is the 2022 LEADS Wisconsin Candidate. She has served in many leadership positions at the club, district and state levels. When asked why she wanted to be a part of GFWC LEADS, Deb said she believes in the following quotation: "Leadership is not about a title or designation, it's about impact, influence, and inspiration." Deb is willing to lead by example. Collaboration and compassion are among her most valued qualities. She promises to put forth the hard work of being an effective leader for GFWC Wisconsin. As a GFWC LEADS graduate, she will work to influence all women to be part of the GFWC. Deb has been inspired by the women who have come before her who worked to make a difference locally and internationally. She can and will use her voice and actions to educate and communicate what GFWC is and how and why there is a place for all women in the organization who are willing to make the world a better, safer, and kinder place.

JOY Junior of the Year

This Junior must exhibit outstanding leadership and volunteer efforts with an emphasis on her family and community. She should have the ability to interact positively with other members; the ability to listen and communicate; good attendance at club meetings and events; community participation outside her club; cooperation; dependability; enthusiasm and positive attitude; innovative ideas and creativity; leadership potential; open mindedness; sense of humor; and willingness to share ideas.

The 2021 Junior of the Year



Janine Haar

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club

Janine is an enthusiastic member of the GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club, and is currently president of the club. She is willing to step in when needed and was the driving force of their annual auction, along with figuring out how to proceed with the auction virtually during COVID. She was instrumental in bringing the club together at offsite meetings and drove members to participate in Wreaths Across America. Janine proposed Adopt a Highway program to her club and it was a great success. Janine shows great leadership skills and is active at district and state meetings.

Category II

Best Overall



GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club

Scholarship for Continuing Education. The GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club reviewed their Women's Scholarship for Continuing Education to make the scholarship gender neutral and to make it available not only to residents of Brown Deer over the age of 25, but to employees of the Village of Brown Deer and the Brown Deer School District to assist them in their continuing education programs at local colleges and universities. The Scholarship is now identified as the Scholarship for Continuing Education. In 2021 the club awarded one \$750 scholarship to an employee of the Brown Deer Police Department. The scholarship information and application was made available through the local media, schools, library and the club's website. Committee members met prior to their April general meeting to read and rate the submitted applications. In May the club invited the recipient to attend our May general meeting to be recognized and to share her career plans with club members. The club announced the winner in local media and on its website.

Best Single Project

GFWC Plymouth Woman's Club

Girl of the Month. GFWC Plymouth Woman's Club encourages women to improve their skills, expand their rights, and apply their abilities to the problems of their communities. The club actively looks for high school seniors who embody the attributes of the GFWC motto: Unity in Diversity. Teachers at the school forward names to the guidance department and a girl is chosen each month. Each girl is invited to a club meeting where she tells about herself and is presented with a certificate. An article and picture are also printed in the local newspaper.



Environment

Category I

Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Hartland

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly. Last year the Village of Hartland took out all the foliage on the river bank in one of the parks in an effort to reduce weeds and undergrowth. A citizen came forth wanting to replace the plants that had been removed. The club was contacted by the village to see if would be interested in helping. Five GFWC Woman's Club of Hartland members donated plants from their gardens and on a sunny May morning the river bank was restocked with beautiful perennials and ferns.



Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

Learning About Environmental Issues and Initiatives. The members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee Environmental Committee participated in thirteen webinars or in-person education events. These events were offered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for water monitoring volunteers. Topics included: "Our Native Mussels and What You Might Find in Your Streams," "Something's Fishy: What Our Piscine Friends Can Tell Us About Our Streams," "Comparing Motivations and Actions of Stream Monitors Around the World," and "Water Action Volunteers Data: Where It's Stored and How It's Used."

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GFWC Club Work

1998-2022

GFWC Monroe Woman's Club

Committee Memberships: Christmas Stocking; Education, Press/Newsletter, Fundraising, Fall Social, Conservation/Environment.

Committee Chairmanships: Education, Community Improvement, Fall Social, Press/Newsletter, Spring Social, Fundraising, Nominations, Program.

Offices: 1st Vice President, President, Director

2006-2020

GFWC Southern Prairies District (First District)

Offices: Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, 2nd Vice President, President, Co-President.

2009-2010

GFWC Wisconsin

Corresponding Secretary

1998-2022

Community Work Past and Present

Girl Scout Troop Leader, Main Street Monroe, Monroe Arts Center, Monroe FFA

Personal Life

Mary runs a successful 1,200 acre farm with livestock and cash crops. She manages four employees. She raised three daughters, and now has three grandchildren and two grand dogs. Her daughter Melisa is also an active member of the Monroe Woman's Club and GFWC-WI.

"(Mary) has a knack for honoring members with interesting and nice extra touches . . . She always encourages others to get involved and mentors them, which is selfless."

Marlea Steiner, Monroe Woman's Club, Past President

"I cannot think of anyone more selfless and more enthusiastic about life, family, friends and Woman's Club."

Shelly Isely, GFWC Monroe Woman's Club President



GFWC-WI Individual Awards

Woman of Achievement

This lifetime achievement award is to honor a Wisconsin Clubwoman who has made an outstanding contribution to the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This woman should have received recognition for her work in any of the GFWC Service areas.

2022 Woman of Achievement



Mary Schmidt
GFWC Monroe Woman's Club

"Mary was instrumental in driving our first ever virtual fundraiser. We had one of our best fundraisers EVER in 2020. (Mary's) "out of the box" thinking is exactly what was needed in a year of unexpected and unpredictable circumstances."

Shelly Isely, GFWC Monroe Woman's Club President

"Mary's dedication, commitment and hard work on behalf of GFWC Monroe Woman's Club teaches us all what it means to give back and be the best version of what we can be."

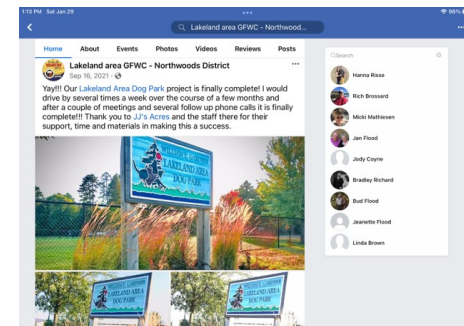
Susan M. Barrett, Monroe Woman's Club, Past President



Category II Best Overall

Lakeland Area GFWC

Dog Park Upgrade. The Lakeland Area Dog Park became a focus for the Lakeland Area GFWC during the spring and summer of this year. Members worked with a local nursery. The treasurer made the connection to see if the club could work with a local nursery for products. The club was willing to do the hard work. The president was able to make a connection with the owner of JJ Acres and they graciously donated all items and the labor for this beautification project at a cost of approximately \$500.00



Best Single Project

GFWC Kenosha Junior Woman's Club

Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute. The Kenosha Chamber of Commerce annual Expo was reimagined in 2021 and moved outside for a one day event during the summer at the YMCA parking lot. Kenosha Junior Woman's Club participated in the family fun event by having the club mascot "Woodsy Owl" make an appearance. The club also had an interactive game for kids to guess how long it took for items (paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and plastic bags) to decompose. Kids and adult were surprised on how long items took to break down.

Health and Wellness

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club

10 Projects 87 members 2,545 hours \$13,507 Donated \$957 In-Kind

1. **Personal Essentials Pantry (PEP).** This club donated \$1,500 to the PEP to purchase personal products for community distribution. In addition, members of the club helped to distribute the items.
2. **Children's Wisconsin.** The club donated \$3,000 to the local family resource center at Children's Wisconsin for a parental support class called "Together Facing the Challenge."
3. **The Table — Feeding Our Community.** The club planned, prepared and served a preassembled meal for members of the community in September.
4. **Let's Go Fishing—Hodag Chapter.** This club donated \$500 to a group who provides free boat rides to seniors, veterans, and the disabled.
5. **Rhinelander Area Food Pantry.** The club donated \$4,000 toward monthly food distribution, in kind contributions of non-perishable items all year long, and financial support for holiday meals, dietary foods and healthy snacks for weekend backpacks for children.
6. **All Kids Deserve a Birthday Celebration.** The club puts together birthday bags for the food pantry for all families with children up to 12 years.
7. **Quilters for Hospice Patients and Assistance to Caregivers.** The club donated \$500 to the local Hospice Quilters to purchase fabric and batting to create quilts for hospice patients.
8. **Partnerships with YMCA of the Northwoods.** For kids, the community and even their own health, members assisted at events, donated handiwork for fundraisers, participated in the walking challenge and donated \$1,000.
9. **Rhinelander 4th of July Parade.** The club donated \$300 to sponsor a high school band for the parade and one member worked with the Kiddie Parade.
10. **Lights of the Northwoods.** Rhinelander donated \$2,000, strung lights and bought an ad in "Lights of the Northwoods" program booklet.

Best Single Project

GFWC Monroe Woman's Club

Christmas Stocking Program Monroe. In 2021, over 900 children in 340 families had a brighter Christmas. It is 100% organized by club members and includes additional support from over 350 adult community volunteers and over 100 youth volunteers, some 75 businesses and several local service organizations. Again this year looked a bit different. The committee made over 500 calls to families, providing and delivering cheer boxes, packing and delivering over 190 lotion and gripper socks to the elderly and providing over 500 food boxes. Maple Leaf Cheese generously agreed to have its employees pack all our food boxes as well as provided use of its building for a drive-thru style pickup. All parents were given two \$25 coupons for any type of apparel, including diapers and wipes. All children in fifth grade and younger received a \$15 toy coupon. Over 1,800 coupons were mailed. Food boxes included a twenty dollar meat coupon, doubling the value from prior years.

Health Scholarships



Rachel Meier
GFWC Monroe Woman's Club
Shelly Isely, President
Southern Prairies District

Rachel is in her final year at Carroll University. She wants to express her sincere gratitude to the GFWC-WI for awarding her this scholarship. She was thrilled to learn of her selection for this honor, and deeply appreciative. She plans to now pursue a career in the Public Health field.

Brooklyn Rasmussen
GFWC Oconto Woman's Club
Polly Exferd, President
Northwoods District



Brooklyn's home town is Abrams, and she is active in gymnastics, Spanish Club, Science Club, FBLA, cross country and is a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend Carroll University with the objective of earning a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Health Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded each year by GFWC-WI to graduating high school and adult students in the state. The scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a career in the health field. The scholarship is effective the second semester of the school year.



Sydney Wolf
GFWC Muskego Woman’s Club
Carla Regini, President
Rolling Hills District

Sydney plans on attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study biology on a pre-medicine track. Then she plans on attending medical school and eventually becoming a medical doctor. Her specific interests include working on dementia diseases including Alzheimer’s.



Alexa Post
GFWC Bloomer Woman’s Club
Shari Berg, President
Northern Lights District

Alexa resides in New Auburn and plans to attend Minnesota State University Mankato in the fall. She plans on an undergraduate degree in biology-biomedical science. Upon completing her degree, she plans to complete a Physician Assistant program.

Category II Best Overall

GFWC Stevens Point Woman’s Club

11 Projects 1,136 Hours \$3,145 Donated \$795 In-Kind

1. Hospice Caregiver Baskets
2. Mammogram Awareness Raffle
3. Friends of Emerson Park Speaker
4. Meals of Hope
5. Holiday Basket
6. Ringing Bells for the Salvation Army
7. Operation Bootstrap
8. ADRC of Portage County
9. Foster Family Support
10. Shot at Life
11. UNICEF

Best Single Project

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman’s Club

Best Bra Contest. As many club activities were affected by the pandemic, this important breast cancer awareness activity and fundraiser was placed on hold until October 2021. A record-breaking event had 33 bras entered and \$2,800 was raised for Cynthia’s Breast Cancer Giving Circle, a 501c3 organization that looks to unite with cancer patients/survivors to assist with basic living and medical expenses. The event began in 2009 when a club member wanted to honor a 31-year-old friend who lost her battle with breast cancer. Libby Wick of Libby Montana Bar and Grill agreed to promote the event by hanging the bras in the rafters of her restaurant during October. Libby also donates the prizes for the award winners. Members donate raffle prizes, sell raffle tickets, decorate bras, and invite friends. To keep the evening fresh, “Pluck a Duck” was added. One husband volunteered his time as a “guest” bartender with all his tips being donated to the cause. While the event culminates with an evening of fun, food, and fellowship, people who go to Libby Montana Bar and Grill in October are reminded of breast cancer prevention and support.



Category I is for clubs with 30 or more members
 Category II is for clubs with less than 30 members

GFWC-WI Advancement Areas

Communications and Public Relations

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Muskego Woman's Club

7 Projects 275 Hours

1. **Member Book.** Each year the club puts together a member book that contains all the contact information for each member also the date they joined the club and their birthday month and day. The book also includes information about the club, GFWC-WI and GFWC. This is a valuable tool for new members especially.
2. **Monthly Newsletter.** The Club Chatter is sent to club members via email or US Mail. Officers and committee chairwomen submit articles, minutes and financials are also included along with important dates.
3. **Website.** All club information is posted on the website.
4. **Social media.** The club maintains a Facebook page with club events.
5. **Dandelion Daze Parade.** The club enters a float every year in the annual parade for this event. There is a theme and the float promotes the club. This a great way for members to bond and create friendships.
6. **Police Department Appreciation.** The club provides an assortment of gift cards from local restaurants during the holidays for police department members and staff, including cards for the K9 officers!
7. **MAA Baseball.** In previous years, the club made a donation to the Muskego Athletic Association. Due to lack of funds this donation was at risk until two members personally donated \$100 in the name of the club.

Category I Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

From the Marketing Department. It was time again for the club to update their PR items, which is why a task force of seven members was formed and the Club's brochure and mug were redesigned. The group met during the summer months and brought their creative and innovative talents into fruition. The final products were introduced to membership with an enthusiastic response. The costs for the new promotional items were covered by the club's treasury. Thirty-four volunteer hours.

GFWC-WI Writing Contest Winners

Student Writing Contest

Category 1	K - 2nd Grade	Short Story
	Maggie Gilman	"The Hidden Teacup"
	<i>GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club</i>	
	K-2nd Grade	Poetry
	Gabriel Wilson	"I Am"
	<i>GFWC Monroe Woman's Club</i>	
Category 2	3rd Grade - 5th Grade	Short Story
	Shalini Menon	"Dakasin"
	<i>GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club</i>	
	3rd Grade - 5th Grade	Poetry
	Zoey Frank	"Sun"
	<i>GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club</i>	
Category 3	6th Grade - 8th Grade	Short Story
	Sabrina Jocker	"Confined in Christmas"
	<i>GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee</i>	
	6th Grade - 8th Grade	Poetry
	Connor Eckdhal	"Happy Day"
	<i>GFWC Monroe Woman's Club</i>	
Category 4	9th Grade - 12th Grade	Short Story
	Nathan Sibila	"The Princess and the Mouse"
	<i>GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club</i>	
	9th Grade - 12th Grade	Poetry
	Noa Biener	"Escape"
	<i>GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club</i>	

Member Writing Contest

Member Poetry

Barbara J. Collignon "Legacy"
GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club



Communications and Public Relations Website and Newsletter Contest

The GFWC-WI Website Contest aims to challenge Wisconsin clubs to employ their websites as membership tools with organized and updated content that presents a professional and credible source of information. This is a great source to spread the word of the Federation on the web. The websites must be user friendly on many platforms.

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

Category II Best Overall

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club

The GFWC-WI Newsletter Contest encourages Wisconsin clubs to establish a strong newsletter program aimed at increasing awareness about ongoing projects, programs, events, and issues that affect GFWC members and communities.

Category I Best Overall -- It is a Tie!

GFWC Oconomowoc Woman's Club
GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

Category II Best Overall

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club

Category II Best Overall

GFWC Lakeland Area GFWC

11 Projects 148 Hours \$157.50 Spent

1. **Focus Month.** The club set up a display in the lobby of the financial institution that holds their checking and savings accounts.
2. **Customer Appreciation Day.** The club also had a booth at the bank's customer appreciation day.
3. **June Bloom Non Profit Arts and Crafts Fair.** Club members hosted a booth where they answered questions and handed out brochures.
4. **Mighty Little Club that Could.** While the club was hosting a Culver's Share Night to fund the Brandy Park Art Mural Project, they came to the attention of a local TV newscaster. A member of the club answered questions in a four minute live interview -- on the mighty little club that could.
5. **Minocqua Area Chamber of Commerce.** This membership enables the club to take advantage of ongoing public relations through the Chamber's channels of communication.
6. **Let's Minocqua Gala.** Four members and a booster took advantage of this event to network about the club and its achievements.
7. **Club Correspondence.** The club sends lots of thank you notes and makes tons of phone calls and writes many emails on the club's behalf.
8. **Facebook Page.** The club finds this a very useful tool for PR.
9. **Community Calendar.** Notices of all the club's activities and meetings are aired daily on local radio stations.
10. **The Lakeland Times.** The club makes a concerted effort to continue communication with the local newspaper.
11. **New Brochure.** The club developed its own brochure this year.



Category II Best Single Project

GFWC Hillsboro Woman's Civic Club

Promoting the logo. The GFWC logo is not widely recognized by the club's community, not even by some of their members. One member's husband repainted the three 30-inch GFWC signs that had been posted at the three entrances to our city. One sign was faded, the second was in worse shape, and the third didn't even have any visible letters on it! The city cooperated by taking down the signs and putting the newly revitalized ones up.

GFWC-WI President's Special Project: Mental Health Awareness

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

2 Projects 86 Hours Total Donated \$850 Total In-Kind \$125

1. **Dementia Friendly Pewaukee: Focused on Dementia.** The Woman's Club of Pewaukee continues to create a community that accepts, understands, supports, and engages persons with dementia, their families, and caregivers. New this year the club designed a retractable banner that will be used at educational seminars and training sessions. Club members support caregivers by encouraging the use of resources found on the newly developed website for Dementia Friendly Pewaukee and visiting the Facebook page and Instagram postings. By collaborating with the local Aging and Disability Resource Center of Waukesha County, the Dementia Friendly Pewaukee Initiative is setting an example for other communities to bring awareness about Alzheimer's disease by offering a free 20-minute education presentation to train individuals and local businesses on the signs of dementia and how to effectively engage with persons with dementia and their loved ones with compassion, understanding and kindness.
2. **Supporting the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).** The club continued its donations to NAMI Southeastern Wisconsin again this year. The club's support led to 10 virtual and in-person presentations for a total of 279 students at Pewaukee High School. The presentations empower adolescents to identify early warning signs and how to access help for themselves or friends who are exhibiting early warning signs of suicide.

Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Kenosha

Surviving Christmas After Loss. The Woman's Club of Kenosha hosted a public event on Surviving Christmas After Loss. The public information specialist of Hospice Alliance led the discussion. There was a question and answer period and refreshments were served. The attendees received a crystal heart ornament that said "Forever in Your Heart." One of the attendees even joined the club!

Category II Best Overall

GFWC Brown Deer Woman's Club

Projects 241 Hours \$6,521.94 Raised

1. **Cash Calendar Raffle.** This was a new fundraiser for the club. It was called "Win \$22 in "22". Tickets were \$10 each and members sold them through 2021. There will be three drawings in January of 2022 to distribute the winnings. The winning amounts will be \$22, \$122, and \$322. Total proceeds were \$2,776.
2. **Corporate Donations.** Three members are retired employees of Northwestern Mutual and chose to earmark their retiree Foundation Grants to the club.
3. **Amazon Smile.** This account netted \$233.63 for the club.
4. **Bunco Bash.** Plans were made for the Bunco Bash to be held in 2022. The club designed and purchased new yard publicity signs.
5. **Fall Rummage Sale.** It was good to have this project back. The club raised \$2,056.50. Leftover items were donated to Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, Pathfinders, Soles for Jesus, and Sleeping Bag Ministries.



Best Single Project

GFWC Oshkosh Woman's Art Club

Fall Fun Foods. For their District Meeting these hostess club members worked together, appropriately garbed, to safely assemble pint jars of soups, cookies, and hot drinks. Recipes were printed and jars decorated in their Fall Theme. Everyone left with something to enjoy at another time.

Fundraising and Development

Category I

Best Overall

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club

8 Projects 675 Hours \$15,113.76 Raised

1. **Festival of the Arts Brat Booth.** 36 members worked together to serve brats, hot dogs, chicken Caesar wraps and more, coming face to face with potential members and community partners.
2. **Handmade Market.** The club sold booths for \$40 and vendors donated one item for a door prize. Door prize tickets asked if people wanted more information about the club and club members followed up. Baked goods, chili, hot coffee and chocolate were sold.
3. **Kid's Closet Sale.** This is a consignment sale of gently used children's clothes, shoes, baby gear, toys, and books. Consignors receive 50% of the selling price. This is the best activity for camaraderie within the club, for gaining new members, and for making the most money.
4. **OJWC Annual Auction.** In 2021 this event moved to an online silent auction. The event was advertised through Facebook. This opened the event beyond the Oconomowoc Area. They had a winner from Florida!
5. **Grocery Receipts Program.** Club members collect grocery receipts and redeem them for 1% of the totals from two participating grocery stores.
6. **United Way.** OJWC can be selected as designated beneficiary of United Way donations. \$243 was raised this way.
7. **Amazon Smile.** Club members and others can designate OJWC as a recipient of .5% of the orders. \$86.67 was raised.
8. **German Christmas Market.** Ten club members worked shifts at this community event as ticket-sellers, door staff, and serving in the beer tent. They raised \$350 for the labors of 10 members.

Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend. One hundred and fifty women gathered at a spring luncheon entitled Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend. Songs were sung by the audience along with Eric Diamond, a Neil Diamond impersonator. A "Bling Contest," a raffle opportunity, silent and live auctions, and door prizes were all part of the fun. Old cell phones were also collected and donated to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Category II

Best Overall

GFWC Plymouth Woman's Club

1 Project 17 hours \$240 In-Kind Donations

Calm Harbor. Calm Harbor is a community based residential care facility that supports an adult mental health population who have recently experienced a crisis in their lives. These individuals are not in need of ongoing medical care, but do require monitoring and support. The Plymouth Woman's Club collected over 66 packages of items from their members. Donations included items for men and women ranging from health and beauty aids such as shampoo, razors and deodorant, to socks and underwear. The club also purchased a 3-hole punch that would accommodate 40 pages as requested by the administrative staff. This was Calm Harbor's response: "Thank you and Merry Christmas! Thank you for the generous donations the Woman's Club made on December 17 to our clients. These donations will be appreciated and utilized by our clients for several months to come. You were even able to leave a little something for the staff in the form of an industrial hole punch. Thank you all."

Best Single Project

GFWC Blanchardville Woman's Club

Basket Raffle. Two members donated items for the basket raffle that was held at the Southern Prairies District Spring Convention in Blanchardville. One member donated a basket with items to pamper yourself. Another member donated a one-night stay at her Bed and Breakfast. The money raised from the raffle went towards the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. One hundred forty -five dollars was raised and donated.



GFWC Signature Program Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention



Category I

Best Overall

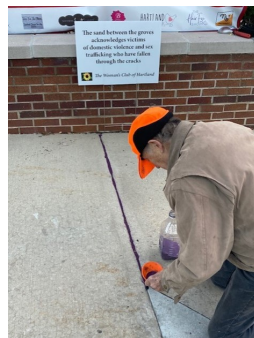
GFWC Woman's Club of West Allis

Purple Ribbons. To raise awareness that October is designated National Domestic Violence Prevention month and to encourage those impacted by Domestic Violence to seek help, members of the GFWC Woman's Club of West Allis tied 328 purple ribbons on trees, light poles and West Allis City Hall property. A city executive thanked the club for performing this service.

Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Hartland

Purple Sand. In the beginning of October, members and some husbands of the GFWC Woman's Club of Hartland poured purple sand (purple being the color for Domestic Violence Awareness) into grooves of sidewalks in downtown Hartland. The sand was a prop to draw the attention of passersby to a sign that read: *THE SAND BETWEEN THE GROOVES ACKNOWLEDGES VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEX TRAFFICKING WHO HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS.*



Individual Award Certificates for ESO

Lakeshore District

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club

Erin Epping - Century Level
Lisa Lyman - Pledge Level
Dorothy Protz - Member Level
Patricia Rosenwald - Pledge Level
Danielle Schmitz - Pledge Level

GFWC Past District Officers Club

Nancy Honadel - Torch and Century Levels
Dee Keiser - Member Level
Nancy Schrap - 6th Century

Northern Lights District

GFWC Amery Woman's Club

Julie Riemenschneider - Pledge Level

Northwoods District

GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club

Diane DeiRossi - Pledge and Member Level
Connie Muckelberg - Member and Star Level

GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

Marianne Potter - Member Level

Rolling Hills District

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club

Tiffany Anderson - Pledge Level
Janine Haar - Torch, Century and 2nd Century Level
Lauren Haar - Pledge and Member Level
Melissa Kimball - Torch, Century and 2nd Century Level
Karen Kjensrud - Member Level
Kelly Witkowski - Pledge Level

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

Barb Butler - Star Level Mary Dietz - Star Level
Fran Holloway - Torch, Century, and 2nd Century Level
Alexandra Lerch-Gaggi - Member Level
Nancy Niedziela - 3rd Century Level

GFWC Muskego Woman's Club

Susan Schwarten - Star Level

GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Hillsboro

Carol Wolfenden -- Pledge and Member Level

Southern Prairies District

GFWC Beloit Junior Woman's Club

Jeanine Froeber - Member Level
Tammy Welter - Century Level

GFWC Kenosha Junior Woman's Club

Suzanne Hooser - Member Level
Michelle Munoz - Star Level

GFWC Pleasant Prairie Woman's Club

Vickie Richardson - Member Level



ESO – Epsilon Sigma Omicron

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman’s Club

This club had five members who reported on 300 books and 2,672 hours. They had three new pledge level members plus 8 other advances. Since they joined they have read and reported on 680 books.

Best Single

GFWC Woman’s Club of Pewaukee

Five club members reported on 250 books with over 3,000 hours. Three members have joined the Century Level group, one read over 100 books, another over 200 and one is reaching Third Century with 388 books.

Club with most new Pledges

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman’s Club -- Three new pledges

Individual with most books read:

Janine Haar of Oconomowoc Juniors reported on 105 books in 2021. She is now at the Second Century Level.

Category II Best Overall

GFWC Past District Officers Federated Woman’s Club

This club reported 239 books with 2,425 hours. They had advances to Torch, Century, and Sixth Century Levels.

Best Single

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman’s Club

The active readers in this club read 152 books for 1,028 hours in 2021. Three new pledges and two other Level advances.

Club with most new Pledges

GFWC-WI Brown Deer Junior Woman’s Club — Three

Individual with most books read:

Nancy Schrap from GFWC Past District Officers Club with 100 books.

Most Out -of -the -Box Book Reporting

GFWC Pleasant Prairie Woman’s Club

One member read 49 books, 461 hours with a personal goal of reading all books on the banned book list according to the Kenosha Public Library. These banned books fit into ESO categories and many are considered classics.

Category II

Best Overall



GFWC Spooner Woman’s Club

Embrace. GFWC Spooner Woman’s Club had a speaker from “Embrace,” the local domestic violence agency. They gifted a generous number of items from the four-page wish list -- an in-kind amount of \$2,000. Fifteen members spent 30 hours shopping for those items on the wish list. The club sponsored a Christmas lunch with ten members plus three “Embrace” guests in attendance.

Best Single Project

GFWC Hillsboro Woman’s Civic Club

Capes for Kids. In April, two members of the GFWC Hillsboro Woman’s Civic Club attended the Spring Rolling Hills District meeting and learned of the Capes for Kids project. They returned to their membership and found several members willing to assist with this special project. Three members went fabric shopping, another member made patterns, four members cut the capes, and another finished the Velcro closures. This group made eleven capes that were taken to the GFWC-WI State Convention to be distributed to a women’s shelter.



Juniors Special Program Advocates for Children

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

2 Projects

1. **Keeping Kids Warm.** Members of the club donated children's winter clothing to the local school district.
2. **Good Old Collecting Turns Media Heads!** Members of this club started collecting new or lightly used clothing for babies and toddlers up to 2 years old at its January meeting. A partnership between one member and Milwaukee's Care Net Pregnancy Center got it all going. When the donated items were dropped off at the pregnancy center, the club received media coverage from Fox 6 News and the club was highlighted during the afternoon's newscast!

Best Single Project

This award was not given this year.

Special Recognition for Efforts in the 2021 GFWC-WI Capes for Kids projects go to:

- GFWC Beloit Junior Woman's Club
- GFWC Amery Woman's Club
- GFWC Muskego Woman's Club
- GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club
- GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club
- GFWC Hartford Junior Woman's Club
- GFWC Princeton Woman's Club
- GFWC Kenosha Junior Woman's Club



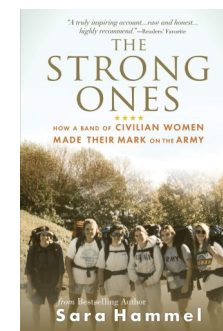
Category I is for clubs with 30 or more members
Category II is for clubs with less than 30 members

Category II

Best Overall

GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

Clubwomen from GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club attended the virtual Women's History presentation by award-winning journalist and best selling author, Sara Hammel. Her book entitled *The Strong Ones: How a Band of Civilian Women Made Their Mark on the Army* is an inspiring story of forty-five civilian women, including the author who volunteered for a controversial seven-month Army strength study in 1995. They proved just how strong women can become.



Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of DePere

What Was Lost Is Now Found! Tucked away on the top shelf of a closet at the local Community Center, this club discovered the long lost 1976 United State Bicentennial hand-made quilt that many hands created with over 450 signatures including dignitaries President Gerald Ford, US Senator William Proxmire and Governor Patrick Lucy. The quilt was gifted in October of 2021 to the De Pere Historical Society and is now proudly displayed at the White Pillars Museum. The presentation resulted in newspaper press and many smiling De Pere clubwomen who presented the "lost but now found" quilt at the Historical Society's annual dinner.

Women's History and Resource Center/1734 Society

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Kenosha

6 Projects

This club reports 6 projects to educate their membership and the general public about the rich history of women. From an elaborate 8 foot library window display about Women's Rights and the 19th Amendment and reenacting suffragists in period costumes, to bringing awareness about Women's History Month and International Women's Day, this club demonstrated a variety of projects to promote the history of not only the 130th Anniversary of their club, but influential women from years gone by who paved the way for modern women living today.

Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

Who Was Mary Stewart? The Woman's Club of Pewaukee enjoyed a Power-Point presentation researched and created by a club member that provided the history of the author of our beloved Club Collect, Mary Stewart, and included a line-by-line analysis of the words she chose to make up our GFWC prayer recited by women's clubs around the world. Clubwomen learned what it was like to be a woman in 1904 and gained a new respect for and greater understanding of one of the great traditions of the GFWC.



Category II Best Overall

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club

2 Projects 65Hours \$384 Donated

1. **Little Lending Library.** Courtesy of this club, there is now a new Little Lending Library in the village park. It was dreamed up, designed and built by a member and her husband, with decorating assistance from other club members. It was designed to be a replica of the historical little white schoolhouse that is currently a part of the park. A dedication ceremony was held in October.
2. **Capes for Kids.** This club went the extra mile with the State's Advocates for Children project, Capes for Kids. The club cooperated with the media at TMJ4 and were featured on a special program. This was a fantastic way to get the word out about GFWC and the Capes for Kids Project.

Best Single Project -- It's a Tie!

GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

Misfit "stuffies" bring new joy for children. This club could have an "island of misfit toys" for all the ripped and dirty collected stuffed toys that they have turned into beautiful giveaways to children. Also, a donated book is matched with each mended stuffed toy. Both the book and the mended stuffed toy is donated to schools, churches, hospitals, needy groups of children, Operation Bootstrap, and more. These clubwomen believe no child should be without these childhood comforts. Broken stuffed animals and books are collected throughout the year, especially during summer rummage sales. Time is spent washing, repairing, re-packaging, and shipping these items for distribution. One member has been working on this project for more than a decade.

GFWC Pleasant Prairie Woman's Club

New Twist to Free Little Libraries. For years the members of this club donated hundreds of books to local elementary schools for free giveaway. During COVID 19, the schools shut down, but the club was still collecting books. A member and her son, looking for something new to read, started going to free little libraries around the area. They noticed supplies were running low, so the club decided to take all the collected books and fill up the little libraries. Printed labels said, "Donated by GFWC Pleasant Prairie Woman's Club" and included a link to their website. They made sure there were both children's and young adult books in each free library. By the end of 2021, 187 books were labeled and given to the free libraries in Kenosha and Pleasant Prairie.

Leadership

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club

5 Projects 87 Members 964 Hours \$4,396 Spent

1. **It's a Team Effort.** Officers, board members and committee members reported a total of 194 hours planning and preparing for meetings and work time in committees.
2. **GFWC LEADS.** This club nominated a LEADS candidate for GFWC and she was selected. The club paid her \$150 registration fee for the LEADS seminar in Atlanta, Georgia.
3. **Reporting is a Project in Itself.** Club members reported 207 hours devoted to tallying hours and writing project stories.
4. **Financial Stewardship is Leadership!** The club reviews its financial records every year as well as its investments. Seven club members dedicate 105 hours toward the club's granting program. In addition, this year the club treasurer devoted 80 hours to creating a treasurer's handbook.
5. **Leadership Beyond the Club.** Five club members are active at the district level. One member led the planning for the Spring 2021 GFWC-WI convention. The club invested \$2,889 for members to attend District, State and Region meetings. Four are members of the GFWC-WI Leadership Committee. Members attended the Winter Board Meeting, the Junior Fall Conference, and the International Convention. Members are also active in the Northern Arts Council, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the district library.

Best Single Project

GFWC Shorewood Woman's Club

Leadership and Citizenship. The club co-sponsored a Facebook Live Voters' Forum that was watched by several hundred in our community. The members handled all technical issues and showed the forum on the club's Facebook Page. School board candidates as well as candidates for the village board were interviewed and gave statements about their platforms.



Category II

Best Overall

GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

4 Projects 59 Hours \$275 Spent

1. **The Leadership Council.** Members surveyed to help begin again after the lockdown.
2. **GFWC Guest Speaker.** Sandy Pecha has participated in all things GFWC, the Great Lakes Region, the GFWC Wisconsin, and the District. A display of articles, brochures, awards, and yearbooks were available for viewing.
3. **Happy Birthday Cards.** Cards are sent to all members.
4. **Socialize, Share Family Pictures.** No business, just getting to know one another.

This club has taken steps to re-evaluate its club projects, meeting schedules, programs, social events, member communication process, and membership dedication. The club wanted to do all it could to continue its impactful legacy in Stevens Point rather than dissolve. And then it started recruiting new members, too. All this work was done in the second half of the year after lifting an 18-month meeting hiatus. Three new club members have been recruited since September.



Best Single Project

GFWC Burlington Woman's Club

This club was literally one meeting away from dissolution -- it was simply a matter of waiting out the notice period. Then it decided one more time to invite community women to its luncheon meetings. The club's singular focus on recruiting efforts have been like a phoenix rising from the ashes. In the last six months of 2021, the club experienced 300% growth from four to twelve members, and it is NOT stopping there! Rebuilding from a nearly dead stop has been challenging. The response of the community women has given the club a new excitement for its next chapter.

Membership

Category I

Best Overall

GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee

6 Projects 900 Hours \$499 Spent

1. **New Member and Long-term Member Appreciation Ceremonies**
2. **New member introduction in monthly newsletters.**
3. **Membership recruit initiative: Bring a Guest to a Meeting**
4. **Keep Playing -- Cards**
5. **Membership Booklet**
6. **Having Fun in the Sun during our Off-Meeting Season**

This club sets aside time at each of its nine meetings to initiate new members and to have them introduce themselves and share their interests. The club formally recognizes long-standing members with a pin ceremony to mark milestone anniversaries. This personal attention and the celebrations along with its "Bring a Guest to a Meeting" initiative have kept the new member pipeline running well for the club. It grew 35% in 2021 and became the largest club in its district! To keep the membership well informed and motivated, it has a full slate of communication vehicles that include newsletters, a detailed membership book, strong website, informative programs, and social events for a variety of member preferences.

Best Single Project

GFWC Woman's Club of Kenosha

Youth Club. In the 4th quarter of 2021, the club set its sights on establishing a Youth Club by systematically inviting students to service nights and sharing the GFWC service mission. The students and club members worked together on three service projects tied to GFWC areas: Purple Pumpkins for Domestic Violence Awareness for Teens; gratitude jars filled with slogans of gratitude for family and friends tied to USO, veterans, and Advocates for Children and microwavable warming pads for shelter animals with a tie-in to Canine Companions. The next step in 2022 will be to formalize the club status. 2021 left the students looking forward to the next meeting and with a commitment to service.

Category II

Best Overall

GFWC Kenosha Junior Woman's Club

6 Projects 920 Hours

To win this award, the club must have the highest total score for all the leadership criteria. The criteria is as follows: Protocol Basics and Strategic Planning; Participation at District and State Meetings; Host of District or State Meetings; Supports Leadership Development (GFWC-WI Mini LEADS) and Sponsored an Applicant for GFWC LEADS; Member Serving on the State Board; Members Serving on the State Executive Committee; Member on the GFWC-WI Leadership Committee and Level of Participation; Community Leadership; Leadership Innovation/Unique Project; Leadership Collaboration.



Best Single Project

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club

President's Office Hours. On the second Tuesday of every month, the club president of the GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club designates two hours in which she will be available at a local coffee shop. She encourages members to stop by to ask any questions they may have of the club, to talk about any new ideas they have for the club, to work together on any club or committee work, or just visit. If no one stops by on a given day, this gives her two extra hours in which she works on projects for the club. She wanted to make sure that all members felt that she is approachable during her term as president.

Legislation and Public Policy

Category I Best Overall

GFWC Amery Woman's Club

2 Projects 45 Hours \$20 Spent

1. **Amery and Polk County Politics.** The Amery Woman's Club has been an active voice in local politics. We have been well represented with members being on City Administration, Alderwoman, and County Board member. Since March of 2020, meetings have been held on line and many of Amery's members tuned in to voice their concerns.
2. **Polk County Recycling Center.** The Amery Club recognized that the Polk County Administration wanted to close down the County Recycling Center because they felt it was not profitable. The Amery Women, in their Red shirts, attended a Polk County Board Meeting and proposed that the recycling center stay open and be upgraded with available state funds of \$1.6 million. With this information, the Polk County Board voted unanimously to upgrade and retain the Polk County Recycling Center. The club's voice and presence were acknowledged.

Best Single Project

GFWC Muskego Woman's Club

Public Forum. The Muskego Woman's Club sponsored and moderated a two-hour question-and-answer voter education session with all six candidates for Muskego Norway School Board. The forum was held at the City Hall, was advertised on Facebook by the City of Muskego and the Muskego Woman's Club, live streamed on the City's YouTube channel and made available to the city residents until election day. The program was a resounding success! The current school board president personally contacted the club by email. "I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Muskego Woman's Club for sponsoring and doing such a great job getting this together so quickly. Absolutely awesome job!" In addition, a voter took the time to email the club and said, "I just wanted to thank you for sponsoring, coordinating, and moderating the Muskego School Board candidate forum. It was very helpful to see all the candidates and hear their positions on various issues. You did a great job and a great service to our community." Initially, the club was hesitant to do the Forum because of COVID precautions. However, the Mayor requested them to reconsider, and in a few short days they invited candidates, wrote a script, scrutinized a list of issues, wrote questions and worked with City Hall tech services to put it together.

Category II

Best Overall

GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club

Cursive Writing Bill. The Stevens Point Woman's Club put an article in their newsletter and members were informed during a meeting of the Cursive Writing bill in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate. Members were encouraged to go to the GFWC Member Portal and subscribe to Legislative Alerts. A link to this site was placed in the newsletter. Three members have signed up for alerts at this time.

Best Single Project

GFWC Past District Officers Club

Cursive Writing Bill. The PDO club supported the GFWC Resolution to return cursive writing to the Wisconsin Public School Curriculum. Member Nancy Honadel has worked very hard on this resolution. She has established relationships with both Senator Alberta Darling, Education Committee Chair, and Senator Joan Ballweg, the co-author of the bill. The club continues to monitor the progress of the bill.



Left to right: Terri Hudziak and Nancy Kangas, Muskego Woman's Club; Candidates Tracy Blair, Joseph Boschert, Terri Boyer, James Bryce, Laurie Kontney, Keven Zimmerman; Nancy Dickman, Muskego Woman's Club.