

GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman



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The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

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2022-2024 GFWC/Iowa Executive Committee

State President	<i>Nancy Tabor</i>
President Elect	<i>Mickey Coonfare</i>
First Vice President	<i>Bonita Baughman</i>
Secretary	<i>Ann Zlabek</i>
Treasurer	<i>Meredith McHone-Pierce</i>
Parliamentary Advisor	<i>Carma Bisinger</i>
NE District Director	<i>Mary Adams</i>
NW District Director	<i>Julia Thoele</i>
SW District Director	<i>Cindy Hansen</i>
SE District Co-Directors	<i>Eileen Hageman</i> <i>Mary Cash</i>

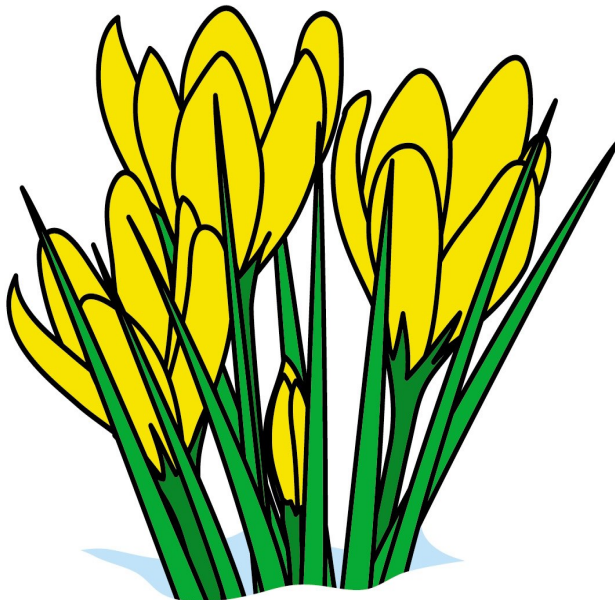
Subscriptions

GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman Newsletter is published twice a year: Fall and Spring.

This newsletter is distributed to members of the GFWC/Iowa Board of Directors via email, and regular mail if necessary. Members of GFWC/Iowa may request to be added to the email distribution list by submitting an email address to GFWC/Iowa Headquarters at gfwciowa@qwestoffice.net.

A complete version of the *GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman Newsletter* is available on the GFWC/Iowa website: www.gfwciowa.org.

GFWC/Iowa Executive Board Members, GFWC/Iowa Club Presidents/Officers and GFWC/Iowa Standing and Special Committee Chairmen and members contributed to the content of this newsletter. Future articles and photographs may be submitted at any time to GFWC/Iowa Headquarters and are subject to the approval of the Editorial Committee.



Message from the President

Greetings, Members:

I have had the pleasure of reading the club reports submitted to headquarters and state chairman. Iowa clubwomen have made me proud. All across this state, communities have been made aware of the needs of those who suffer with mental illness and those who are victims and survivors of human trafficking. Programs have raised money to support programs providing services for these individuals; in-kind donations have provided needed essentials and many other items. Statewide in all CSP, Advancement and Special Program areas, 26 clubs reported 560 projects with 16,017 volunteer hours, \$84,243 in donations and \$50,367 worth of in-kind donations made.

We have lost some members but have gained new, enthusiastic ones to take their place. Even though our number of members has decreased to 617 statewide, I remain confident that GFWC/Iowa will continue to make a difference in the lives of the members of their communities. While we need to continue growing our members, don't forget to nourish and support the members we already have.

Each member is an asset to our clubs and our state and national organizations.

Spring seems to be sprouting early, so take advantage of the nice weather to let your hearts shine. Great opportunities await the volunteer spirit and energy of GFWC/Iowa clubwomen.

All members are invited to the 96th GFWC/Iowa Annual Convention being held at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Center in Coralville, Iowa, on April 11-12, 2024. Your convention committee and host SE District have been working tirelessly since October to make this convention a fun, informative and interesting event. Please join us on Wednesday April 10 for a pre-convention dinner and program. The convention programming begins on Thursday April 11 at 1:00 p.m. and continues through the Installation Dinner on Friday evening, April 12. I am honored to host our GFWC International President Debra Strahanoski, who will be joining us starting on Wednesday evening for the entire convention. We have awards to present, music to listen and dance, photo booth opportunities, basket auctions, shopping and don't forget the



Cheerleading Contest featuring your federation sisters. This is a great time to reconnect with Federation friends you haven't seen in a year, meet the International President and meet and make new Federation friends. These connections will last a lifetime, and you will be amazed at how supportive our GFWC/Iowa Federation of Women's Club family really is. Come join the fun and I hope to see you there.

Nancy Tabor
GFWC/Iowa President



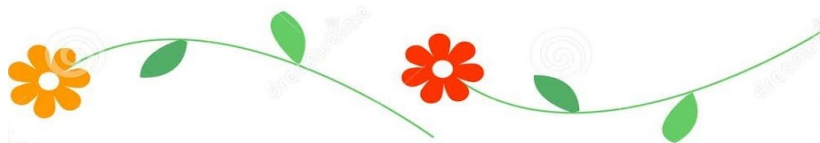
GFWC/Iowa Officer Candidates

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa President — Mickey Coonfare



I am honored to be the candidate for GFWC/Iowa President. I have been married to my husband, Jim, for 49 years and have one amazing daughter, son-in-law and grandson. I have held many positions with GFWC, both on local and state levels. I am honored that many amazing people who I respect feel I am capable of being the GFWC/Iowa President. I enjoy the

many new friends I have gained, both in Iowa and from other states, and the new ideas I have learned; and I truly enjoy traveling around the state, meeting club members and hearing about wonderful projects in their communities. I promise to do my very best for the GFWC organization and be available to all members. I look forward to being your GFWC/Iowa President.



Candidate for GFWC/Iowa President-elect — Ann Zlabek

I am running for the position of President-elect of GFWC/Iowa. I joined GFWC 30 years ago and am currently a member of the R.A.R.E. Club of Walker, where I am club president. I have also served as SE Vice-Director, District Director and Secretary. In 2021, I attended the national convention as the LEADS candidate from Iowa. I am currently serving on the Executive Committee as the

GFWC/Iowa Secretary. I enjoy staying involved in my community and my church.

I live in Walker with my husband John, who is a great source of strength for me. We have been married for 53 years and have three daughters and one son and four wonderful grandchildren. I retired from the Walker State Bank after 25 years. We now enjoy traveling and spending time together.



GFWC/Iowa Officer Candidates

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa First Vice President — Cindy Hansen



I am running for the position of GFWC/Iowa First Vice-President. I have been a member of the Town & Country Jr. Club of Avoca since 2009. I have served as president, vice-president and treasurer in my club and am currently on the state board of directors and am the SW District Director. I am a retired social worker and live in Avoca with my husband, Don, a retired veterinarian. We are the

parents of Adam and Vanessa and the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren. We enjoy spending time with family and going to children's activities.

I really enjoy being a member of GFWC/Iowa and participating in our club projects and activities. It's great to see what we can do by becoming involved and improving our communities through volunteerism.

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa Second Vice President — Lisa Gottschalk

Lisa is running for the position of GFWC/Iowa Second Vice-President. She resides in rural Maquoketa in Jackson County, where she has served as President of the Maquoketa Woman's Club and was Vice-Director of the NE Iowa District. She has also served on the Friends of the Library Board, as well as having served 14 years on the "Glimmer of Hope" fundraising committee for the Dubuque-based YMCA/YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter (now known as the Crisis Services Program).

Lisa has been a member of the Maquoketa Woman's Club since 2016, joining after she

retired from McGraw-Hill Higher Education, after a 31-year career. While at McGraw-Hill, she was Director of Marketing Systems and Operations. She also was instrumental in establishing a mentoring program for women in the organization and was awarded the Vanguard Award on three separate occasions from McGraw-Hill. In 2010, the Tri-State Women's Leadership Network awarded her with their "Woman of the Achievement Award" for the impact she had in the community and within McGraw-Hill.

Lisa and her husband, Ray, enjoy spending time at their



"river house" ...their little slice of heaven along the Mississippi River in Bellevue.

GFWC/Iowa Officer Candidates

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa Secretary — Mary Adams



I am running for the GFWC/Iowa position of Secretary. I am a member of the Rural Women's Study Club of Jesup, where I have served as vice-president and president. I am currently the District Director of the NE District and have also served as vice-director.

After my husband retired from the service, we returned to Jesup where I currently live. I retired after a 30-year career as

a trust officer for Regions Bank and was invited to join GFWC by my mother-in-law, who was a 50-year+ member. I have one son and one daughter and wonderful grandchildren.

I stay very active in my community serving on many boards and committees. I enjoy traveling, watching movies and reading.

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa Treasurer — Meredith McHone-Pierce

I am running for the position of GFWC/Iowa Treasurer. I have been a member of GFWC Iowa for over 30 years. Initially, a 13-year member of the Coon Rapids Women's Club before it dropped Federation in the mid-1990s, I joined the Adel Women's Club in 2003. I served as treasurer, vice-president and president of both local clubs and also as SW Vice-Director and Director. As your current GFWC/Iowa Treasurer, I also serve on the Executive and Finance Committees. I first joined the GFWC Iowa Board of Directors in 2018 as Adventures in Reading Chair.

After graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Communications, I was an editor and then an advertising and communications manager, first in the dairy industry, and then for a nationwide hybrid seed company. Before retiring, I owned and operated my own freelance writing and marketing business. I have been married to Dennis Pierce for 42 years and have two stepdaughters and five grandchildren. I am also a member of Iowa Questers, a garden club, and serve as a docent at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. I value GFWC's many beneficial



programs and volunteer opportunities and the incredible women I have met, and appreciate the opportunity to serve all of you as treasurer.

GFWC/Iowa CSP Chairmen

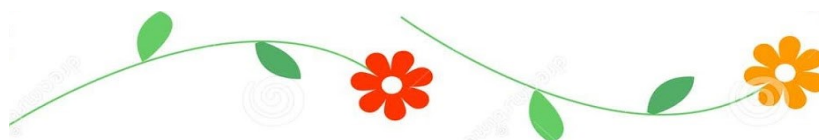
2023 Reporting Overview

Nancy Tabor, Arts and Culture

GFWC/Iowa club members continued their long tradition of supporting Arts and Culture programs in their communities. Seventeen clubs reported a total of 58 projects. Community service hours totaling 1,741 were provided, \$2,963 dollars were donated and \$2,130 of in-kind donations were given. Clubs reported volunteering at local community theaters and art venues. Clubs donated money to student music and

arts scholarships and provided funds for students to attend and participate in theater and musical productions and competitions. Many clubs made cards to be used for Christmas and Valentines Day at local and state nursing homes and the Iowa Veteran's Home. Clubs participated in community festivals that highlight the Arts. Clubs "adopted" local art venues and provided ushering, clean-up and greeter services.

Clubs reported members participating in our GFWC/Iowa and GFWC creative writing and photography contests.



2023 Reporting Overview

Nancy Tabor, Environment



GFWC/Iowa club members made Environmental concerns a priority this reporting year,

enhanced their communities and helped sustain our world for future generations. Sixteen clubs reported a total of 38 projects, 921 hours of volunteer service were provided, \$3,524 dollars were donated and \$2,282 of in-kind donations were given. Clubs reported volunteering in their communities by recycling and supporting local parks and recreation areas, both by clean-up efforts and beautification.

Clubs learned how to conserve energy and be more energy efficient in their personal lives. Clubs supported classroom education for local school children and partnered with local 4-H clubs. Clubwomen also took legislative action on environmental priorities. Several clubs donated trees to school children and to be used in local public parks and other areas.

Reporting in 2023 and Encouragement

Lisa Harris, Civic Engagement and Outreach



Happy spring! The robins have returned, and we are already seeing lots of signs of the season. I hope you have had a great beginning to 2024 and have started stacking up

many volunteer hours in the area of Civic Engagement and Outreach!

In 2023, 113 projects or programs were completed, while the volunteer hours of service accumulated reached 3,440 hours. Contributions of \$11,773 were given, and in-kind donations of \$24,898 were recorded for the calendar year.

I would like to encourage you to login into the GFWC Member Portal and participate in a myriad of resources available for your club. This will enhance your work in all CSP areas and make so many opportunities available to you that you may not otherwise be aware of.

If you do not have plans to attend the upcoming state convention on April 11 and 12, please make plans NOW. Awards will be given; lots of learning opportunities will be available; and, of course, there will be the chance to enjoy great networking and fellowship amongst your friends in GFWC/Iowa.



GFWC/Iowa Standing Committee Chairmen

Keep Posting on Facebook

Bette Kubushek, Communications and Public Relations



Thank you to the clubs who reported in this area for 2023.

I enjoyed reading the reports and hearing how you get the word out about your clubs to the community. Most of the publicity reported was on Facebook, newspapers, radio and marquee signs, GFWC apparel, parades, etc. Club program books with the information needed for the club year, such as officers, members, programs and projects, are utilized by most clubs.

I encourage you all to keep posting events/programs/

projects on Facebook. If you don't know how to do this, send me the information; and I will be glad to put it on the GFWC/Iowa Facebook page. If you do not follow our Facebook page, please do so and encourage your club members and family members to do so!

If there is anything I can help you with in your clubs as far as CPR goes, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing lots of you at our state convention in April.

New Bill to Examine Tech Abuse

Cheryl Einsweiler, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

In November of 2023, Bill H. R. 6173 "Tech Safety for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Act" was introduced in the House of Representatives. Its purpose would be to establish a pilot program to address technology-related abuse in domestic violence cases.

With all of the digital technology that has become available, technological abuse has become increasingly prevalent and pervasive among victims of intimate partner violence. According to a recent study, 97% of the programs providing support to victims of

intimate partner violence have indicated that abusers are making use of technology to stalk, harass or control victims. Technological abuse runs from the most basic social media platforms and phone-based apps to specialty stalkerware apps. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly clear that it does not require huge financial resources or a complex knowledge of technology. However, the integration of trained technology experts into survivor support networks has been successful in preventing and shielding survivors from technological abuse.

This bill is only in its "infant"



stages; but if passed, the pilot program could set the stage for a better understanding of ways to combat technological abuse. GFWC/Iowa will be keeping an eye on this bill over the next two years!!

Fantastic Teamwork!

Sue Hass, Membership



Hello spring! Here in north-west Iowa, it has been feeling like spring nearly all winter; and this club year has brought something even more welcome

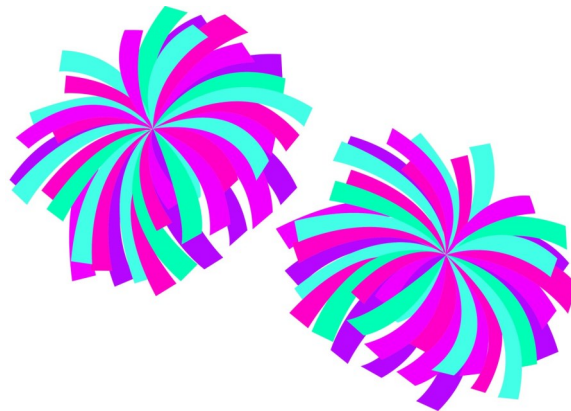
than spring – 54 new members! All four districts have reported new members, with the NE District taking the lead with 26 new members. This is fantastic teamwork! My final challenge for all of our clubs is to ***start off the 2024 club year next fall with at least the same number of members that you have at the end of this club year.*** In other words,

**RETENTION,
RETENTION,
RETENTION.**

Just a reminder, club presidents, that your team checklist is due to me by April 6th. We want to recognize all your team efforts at state convention. Also, I need to hear from you if you plan to have a cheerleading team in the cheerleading competition at state convention.

I look forward to seeing everyone at state convention and cheering about all of your membership recruitment efforts.

Go TEAM GFWC!



GFWC/Iowa Special Chairmen

LEAP into Reading

Linda Hueser, Adventures in Reading / ESO



LEAP Year means an extra day for reading your favorite books, newspapers and periodicals. Remember to record and then REPORT what you read in December. In '24 read just one more!

If you are looking for ideas for something different to read, check the GFWC/Iowa website. There is a suggested reading list including websites, popular authors, celebrity book clubs, Iowa connections and additional resources on the "Other Programs" tab.

Also included on the same tab is the **ESO** 2022-2024 reading list, and the **ESO** Handbook with membership and reporting information. This information is available to everyone. Review it; and if you find it challenging or compelling, please consider joining **ESO**. It is a structured reading program exploring various categories and topics of interest. You may find you are already reading from many of the categories, making it easy to get started. LEAP into **ESO**.

Many thanks to those of you

who take the time to report and to our district **Adventures in Reading** chairwomen who compile the annual reports: Cindy Lellig (NE); Terri Jedlicka (SE); Gloria Terrell (NW); Cindy Hansen (SW).

The table below summarizes the **Adventures in Reading** data for 2023.

2023 Reading Reported in 2024	No. Clubs	Clubs Reporting	No. Members	Members Reporting	Books Read	100% Clubs
Northeast District 70%	10	7	255	109	3,701	3
Southeast District 100%	6	6	79	66	2,192	4
Northwest District 63%	8	5	111	91	4,466	2
Southwest District 89%	9	8	150	131	4,998	6
Members at Large 22%			14	3	126	
2023 State Totals	33	26	609	400	15,483	15
2022 State Totals	37	26	605	369	17,403	14

Congratulations to these 15 GFWC/Iowa 100% reporting clubs:

NE District

Tuesday Study Club, Hudson
 Woman's Club, Maquoketa
 Rural Woman's Study Club, Jesup

SE District

5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids
 Quad Cities Woman's Club, Davenport
 Keystone AOK Club, Muscatine
 Phoenix Club, Muscatine

NW District

Lake City Monday Club
 Peterson Tuesday Club

SW District

Audubon Federated Women's Club
 Town & Country Jr. Club, Avoca
 Bancroft History Assembly, Creston
 Exira Study Club
 Granger Women's Club
 Yorel Study Club, LeRoy

LEAP to it! Keep reading. ENJOY what you read.
 Join ESO. REPORT in December for **Adventures in Reading**.

Club Highlights

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Program Grundy Center Woman's Club

The Grundy Center Woman's Club held their regular meeting on January 15, MLK Day.

We "Zoomed" with Kellie Markey, Founder & Executive Director of Dorothy's House in Des Moines. Dorothy's House is a Safe House for survivors of human trafficking, exploitation and prostitution where they can discover their healing journeys through the practice of life. They help survivors from throughout the state of Iowa find safety so they can create change in their lives. Director Markey spoke at the 2023 GFWC/Iowa Convention last April.

Following the program, the Grundy Center Woman's Club voted to make a monetary donation to Dorothy's House as our 2024 MLK Day community service project.

To further our MLK Day community service, we had invited several of our local service providers to join the Zoom program so they could become familiar with this resource should the need ever come up for clients within their agency. We invited the Grundy Center Police Dept., Grundy County Sheriff, Grundy County Public Health Nurse, Grundy

County Social Services, Grundy County EMS/Emergency Mgt., Crisis Intervention Services (Domestic Violence Agency), Grundy County Memorial Hospital Emergency Dept. and the Grundy Center High School Counselor.



PINK SHEET CLUB OFFICER INFORMATION

Please elect your officers promptly, complete the pink sheet (Directory Blank) and send to GFWC/Iowa Headquarters **by April 15th.**

We will need the information in order to complete the new administration's Bluebook timely and keep our membership records correct.

Your prompt response is appreciated!!



Join the \$100 Club!

The \$100 Club is ongoing. Clubs, districts or individuals may contribute as often as they wish. The money is placed in the GFWC/Iowa general operating fund to be used toward operating expense.

Those who have donated since the last convention will be recognized at the 2024 GFWC/Iowa State Convention in Coralville, April 11 and 12.

Many thanks to those of you who have already contributed! Checks should be made payable to GFWC/Iowa and designated for the \$100 Club **by April 1st**.

See you at state convention!



*Betty Wade
Finance Chairman*

A Friendly Reminder

If your club was a silver winner at last year's state convention, we need to have the tray returned so it can be awarded to this year's recipient.

If you are unable to attend, please arrange to have the silver returned by someone from your area who will be coming to convention or another event prior to that time.

Thank you!



Proposed By-Law Change

PROPOSED AMENDMENT REGARDING THE STATE TREASURER

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Their Election Section 4.2 Term.

CURRENT BY-LAW: “The term of office shall be two years. Officers, with the exception of the treasurer, shall serve from the close of the state annual meeting at which they are elected until the close of the state annual meeting at which their successors are elected. The current president shall continue to serve after her successor is elected until the close of the following GFWC international convention for the purpose of completing the required tasks of her administration only.”

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Amend the first sentence by adding the phrase “with the exception of the treasurer” after the word “office.”

TO READ IF ADOPTED: The term of office, with the exception of the treasurer, shall be two years. Officers, with the exception of the treasurer, shall serve from the close of the state annual meeting at which they are elected until the close of the state annual meeting at which their successors are elected. The current president shall continue to serve after her successor is elected until the close of the following GFWC international convention for the purpose of completing the required tasks of her administration only.

RATIONALE: Pursuant to Article 5, Section 5.6, the term of office of the treasurer shall coincide with the GFWC/Iowa fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. A newly elected treasurer will take office July 1 following the election. Having a treasurer serve more than a two-year term would allow consistency in the bookkeeping and financial reporting. It would also provide for a smoother and shorter transition between administrations. There would, however, be no requirement that the treasurer continue to another administration if she does not wish to do so.

The treasurer duties require the current treasurer to continue duties until June 30 to complete the books. However, that process of completion generally continues into the next fiscal year due to bank and other records not being available until after the beginning of the fiscal year. Also, learning the state bookkeeping program and spreadsheets often takes many months of reviewing bank and office records. Therefore, typically it takes almost a complete year of budgeting cycle and board meetings for the new treasurer to adequately familiarize themselves with the books and reporting requirements. Checks and balances for the treasurer duties are already in place in the by-laws by providing that the treasurer be fully bonded, and our state accounts and books are audited yearly by an independent auditor who also takes care of filing the IRS required documents. Further, By-law Article IV, Section 5.6(c) requires the treasurer to “meet monthly, or as necessary, with the headquarters secretary for the purpose of reviewing bills received, signing checks for payment, entering financial data and preparing financial statements. The headquarters secretary shall countersign and mail the checks.”

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