

GFWC Iowa Top GFWC Advancement Programs by Area

Communications & Public Policy – Chairman Bonita Baughman

1. The Maquoketa Women's Club has monthly articles outlining the club's activities and meeting summaries are published in the newspaper. Whenever they have events for the public, the newspaper, Maquoketa Sentinel Press runs a promotional story and then follows that up with a post-event recap. KMAQ radio invites the club to be on their "Just Talk" program for 30-Minutes whenever they have an event that is open to the public. This allows them to reach hundreds more people about upcoming events. The Facebook page is kept up to date and an average of 53 visitors look at our FB site each month. The website keeps our members and community up to date with the latest and greatest about the club. In 2024, 412 people visit the site.
2. Solons Women's Club used Mediums including the Program book which was distributed to each member which included the programs selected to appeal to a wide variety of member interests. E-mails were sent at least a week in advance stating meeting agenda, treasurer's report, monthly minutes and announcements for coming meetings. Text messages and Signup Genius were added to improve visibility and accessibility to members. The club has a Facebook page, club members personal Facebook sites are used to promote upcoming projects, events and the GFWC local, state, regional, national and international organizations. The local weekly newspaper is used to promote club activities and fundraisers.
3. Iowa Quad Cities Woman's Club is keeping members informed. The club president emails and texts members each month to remind them of the upcoming meetings, projects, etc. The Facebook page is updated frequently with news from GFWC and /or GFWC Iowa. The projects and programs are posted on Facebook to let the public know of the club's activities. The club president forwards updates and monthly newsletters from the state president, GFWC and GFWC committee chairmen. Club president is also GFWC Iowa Social Media Chair.
4. Adel Women's Club, local Adel Living Magazine and Adel Living Weekly do a good job showcasing businesses, organizations and people in the community. They publicize the salad luncheons and club activities, and information on the GFWC Scholarships. Our members are often highlighted as leaders in the community.

Adel Women's club had articles in over 10 issues. The club also started a Facebook to showcase club activities and get their name out in the community.

5. Lake City Monday Club's two projects were featured in a local newspaper-the community awareness Gridshock on human trafficking in the state of Iowa, and an old-fashioned Tea Party for residents of a nursing home. They had partnerships with other community groups and other organizations as local food bank, food pantry, hospital and public library. The club joined the Lake City Betterment, the local equivalent of Chamber of Commerce. Betterment has a website and an e-newsletter to help inform others and to be informed of community activities. This will lead to more opportunities to work together and to channel to foster volunteerism, one of their four goal areas.

Membership – Chairman Bette Kuboushek

1. One club created a new tri-fold brochure for all club members.

12 hours \$30 spent

2. To encourage members to attend district and state meetings, one club pays for up to five (5) members to attend one of these meetings.

\$50 spent

3. To help retain members, an interest survey was distributed to the members, which included all the projects they participate in. They encouraged all members to sign up for at least one project.

10 hours

4. Another club recognized all their members for their years of service at one meeting, including one 65-year member! Those that could not attend were visited by the president or another member. Any member who could not attend the regular meetings got a visit from a club member, who brought minutes or any other information that was shared at the meeting.

5 hours \$25 spent

5. A local singing group was invited to one club's meeting at Christmas time and they invited friends and potential members. After the concert, refreshments were served. The club then had a presentation on the club's programs and history to entice some of the attendees to possibly join.

29 hours \$110 spent \$263 donations

6. To celebrate adding 3 new members, one club held an orientation for all members. The club president dug back into the archives and found a Membership program from about 15 years ago. With the help of some of the members, a program highlighting GFWC history, the local club history, and a summary of accomplishments, programs and opportunities was presented which was enjoyed by all.

2 hours

7. Going out for dinner as a group was one way to celebrate the holidays for one club.

14 hours

8. Recruitment activities before the September meeting helped one club increase their membership. They advertised in the local newsletter from the city, on social media and put flyers up around town.

1 hour

Legislation and Public Policy – Chairman Eileen Hageman

1. The GFWC/Solon Women's Club consults with a Congressional staffer prior to planning their club program to identify possible legislative program topics. The club was encouraged by the staffer's promotion of the "one man, one vote, and that each vote counts" philosophy. Representatives and senators at the state and national levels need and welcome input from their constituents. The club avoided topics this year that could be partisan due to a contentious political climate.
2. The GFWC Solon Women's Club works closely with city officials. They frequently fundraise with the city as a benefactor. They consult with the City Manager, Directors of Public Works and Parks and Rec to find areas of greatest need. Some recent requests have included money for the splash pad, lighting along a trail, and a new dug out on a baseball field.

The same club purchased a tree as a memorial for a past president. The city provided input into the type of the tree, size of tree, and planting location. They were able to add our tree to a large tree order that they were placing with a local nursery, giving the club a substantial discount and free planting. They also recommended possible vendors for a memorial plaque purchase. The city will mow and maintain the area where the tree has been planted.

3. The GFWC/Iowa Rural Woman's Study Club of Jesup has an Educational/Legislative Chairman that brings up topics at club meetings for discussion. Some of the topics included Area Education Agency Funding, accomplishments of women during International Women's Month, transparency in land ownership, as well as other bills that are under consideration at the state and national level. This has helped to inform and to educate club members on local, state, and national legislation.
4. The Jesup Club also had a member who brought her computer to a club meeting and signed people up on the spot for the Legislative Action Center. These members have actively participated in the center. Several other clubs reported using the QR code feature for easy LAC sign up with club members. This along with promotions at our 4 district conventions has given the state an overall increase in Legislative Action Sign up.
5. The GFWC/Iowa Yoral Study Club changed their November Club program topic to "Presidential Executive Orders", a topic that was in the news that month. They wanted to know what these were and their effect on the political climate.
6. Several members of our Creston area clubs, the GFWC/Iowa Progressive Chautauqua Study Club, and the Iowa Bancroft History Assembly Club participated

in legislative teas in their community, worked as poll workers during the voting process in addition to exercising their right to vote.

Leadership - Chairman Amy Hall-Haney

1. GFWC/Iowa Baldwin Woman's Club, Baldwin, Iowa, one of their members, Christine Gent, is the club president but also the 2024 LEADS candidate. She speaks every meeting about something that she has learned from LEADS. She has inspired newer members to take on roles by her positive comments and energetic leadership style. She takes it on herself to be sure that members have the tool to complete jobs and personally engages with members who miss a meeting. Christine is also the Northeast District Health and Wellness Chairman and the GFWC/Iowa Advocates for Children Chairman.
2. GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club, Solon, Iowa This club has 3 members that have state positions, 3 members that plan district conventions, 3 members presented at Mississippi Valley Region (MVR) convention and L member presided at MVR. Two members serve on GFWC international committees and attend the international board meetings. Local club leadership, the past president serves as a mentor for all new officers, the current president works with other clubs and organizations to not duplicate service and help determine what is needed and also transmits all state and international correspondence to club members.
3. GFWC/Iowa Adel Women's Club, Adel, Iowa. The club board gets together throughout the year. The board spends time doing reports, minutes, paying bills, creating agendas, planning activities, planning meetings, and creating newsletters, contacting visitors and sending our emails and letters.
4. GFWWC/Iowa Quad Cities Woman's Club, Davenport, Iowa. Two members are on the GFWC/Iowa board of directors serving in several capacities; three members are on GFWC committees and attended 6FWC orientations, as well as Board of Directors meetings in June and August; two members attended the Southeast district planning meeting and the annual meeting; three members are past state presidents (two from Iowa and one from Illinois). Having leaders at all levels benefits the club members, bringing their knowledge and information for the greater good of the club, and then, to the community,
5. GFWC/Iowa Five Seasons Club, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Six members attended the installation of club member, Mickey Coonfare, as president of GFWC/Iowa at the state convention in April. Several club members have roles in the state administration
6. GFWC/Iowa Exira Study Club, Exira, Iowa One member, serves as the Southwest District Treasurer, four members attended the SW District planning meeting. Three

members attended the MVR convention in Des Moines while one member attended the state meeting/convention. The president and 3 members plan the clubs' programs for the years. All members step up and chair a committee and report regularly at club meetings. Strong leaderships are needed to maintain a club and district as well as the state and district.

7. GFWC/Iowa Progressive Chautauqua Circle Club of Creston, Iowa
Officer/Committee/program Leadership: The club encourages members to participate in various club, district and state leadership roles. Three club officers assumed their duties as outlined in the by-laws and served the office for one year. Members held positions at the district and state levels, also. These positions were district secretary and district and state Health and Wellness chairperson.
8. GFWC/Iowa Bancroft History Assembly, Bancroft, Iowa Leadership activities; the club encourages member to participate in various club, district, and state leadership roles. One member served on the state board. Other members served as club officers, committee members and program presenters.

Fundraising – Chairman Amy Hall-Haney

1. GFWC/Iowa Friendship and Service Club of Akron, Iowa-24th annual scarecrow Festival. The Akron city Park was transformed and fully decorated to become the sight of a fall festival. The club of 40 members has 2 overall chairs and subcommittee chairs. The festival includes kids' games, a scarecrow train ride, glitter tattoos, bounce houses, face painting, and a petting zoo. Vendors sell a variety of products plus a food tent sells homemade desserts along with tacos and sandwiches. Music and trivia are played throughout the day. The trademark of the event is the scarecrows that are created by club and community members and the contest where all the scarecrows are judged and awarded prizes. At the end of the event, scarecrows are sold to the highest bidder in an auction form. The net profit for this event was \$12,970 which is used to support the projects of the club.
2. GFWC/Iowa Doon General Federated Women's Club of Doon, Iowa-Christmas Tour of Homes. The Club of 19 had 5 families agree to show their homes. The club advertised this through the local paper, community board and Facebook. In spite of the icy weather conditions, the club sold 80 tickets. The club raised \$1,000. They used the money to support projects to better their community. They also gave each family that showed their home a \$25 gift certificate to the local coffee shop.
3. GFWC/Iowa Peterson Tuesday Club of Peterson, Iowa. This club of 18 members worked with the local volunteer fire departments for their annual "Peterson Fire Day's." The club provided the Friday evening meal which kicks off the weekend of activities. They serve a meal of beef wraps, hot dogs, and dessert. This project netted a profit of \$1,456.
4. GFWC/Iowa R.A.R.E Club of Walker, Iowa. This club of 17 helped celebrate with the local Pickle Days Celebration. The club started by baking, frosting, decorating, and packaging pickle shaped cookies. They wrapped, large dill pickles were individually wrapped and sold along the parade route. After the parade, they set up a booth where they sold more pickles plus pickle shaped key chains, stress balls and other items. A member of the club generously donated a pickle print quilt that was offered as an opportunity drawing. At the booth, they set up signs that indicated that the proceeds of the sales would go toward food insecurity relief at their local schools and that the sponsoring group was the GFWC/Iowa R.A.R.E. Club. Their efforts generated \$577 in profit.
5. GFWC/Iowa Solon's Woman's Club of Solon, Iowa. This club of 24 members had a project called "Egg-My Yard" Seven of their members stuffed approximately 1500

plastic eggs with small toys and candies, other members took orders from 33 families that wanted to participate. Later, 4 members delivered and /or hid eggs on Saturday night before Easter to 24 of the families. The other 9 families picked up their eggs. Members had a great time going into the yards and sneaking to hide the eggs. This was especially popular with young parents. Advertising for this service was posted on Facebook and in the local newspaper. Registration for this service via Facebook worked impressively well. This project netted a profit of \$1,104.

6. GFWC/Iowa Adel Women's Club of Adel, Iowa. This club of 56 members launched its first year of luminary sales as a community event and fundraiser. The club sold Luminary kits at \$10 each which included 5 luminary bags, 5 LED votive candles, and 5 bags of sand. They also sold luminaries as a memorial to be displayed at the courthouse on December 15th for 52 each. They sold the luminarias at different locations and events around town. They were able to raise a net profit of \$1,452.
7. GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club of Solon, Iowa. This club of 24 members held an Amish hanging basket sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day. The club attended an Amish flower auction held at a nearby town. They purchased 176 plants in hanging baskets or in pots in variety of colors and sizes and delivered them to the Solon Public Library where they were sold. They advertised on the town's message board, on Facebook, and in the local newspaper. All members took shifts to selling the flowers for \$25-\$30. Net profits of \$1,251 went to the Solon Public Library.
8. GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club, Solon, Iowa. This club of 24 members hosted their largest fund raiser, a Solon Beef Days food booth. This involves much planning including planning the menu, attending Beef Days committee meetings to assure that the club is aware of new regulations and/or requirements, setting up the booth, buying food/beverage items, and obtaining a temporary license to sell food. Using slow cookers and roasters, they keep hot dogs, bratwursts, and taco meat hot. They also sell walking tacos (a bag of crushed Doritos topped with taco meat, shredded cheese, lettuce, salsa, and sour cream). They sell cans of soda pop and bottles of water which are kept cold. Club members each work one or more two-hour shifts wearing GFWC aprons, visors, or shirts. They also had some volunteer help from the Solon Lions Club and the Solon High Schoolgirls wrestling team. The club's hard work netted a profit of \$4,669.
9. GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's club of Solon, Iowa sponsored, along with the Solon Public library, a Christmas Tree and Wreath Decorating contest. The trees were displayed for one month in the library where the public could see them and later vote on their favorite. Judging took place December 3-6. A silent auction began

following the judging. Opening bids were for \$30 with a buy it now price attached. Trees were entered into various themes for the judging; Creative/original, Seasonal/holiday, Sports/sports team, Book/Game/Movie, or nature/animal. Judging was by local appointed judges, Winners of the judging in each category received \$10 and the best overall winner received \$25. This event netted a profit of \$1,080.

10. GFWC/Iowa Granger Women's Club of Granger, Iowa a club of 26 members, hosted a Walkline Taco Sale during the Highway 141 garage sale in August. Club members donate their time, money, and work for this annual event. The Walking Tacos are sold in an air-conditioned building where locals and people from nearby communities come for a respite from the heat and a tasty meal of a Walking Taco, a homemade cookie, and a bottle of ice-cold water, The club advertises on social media as well as signs on the streets. They netted a profit of \$2,146.
11. GFWC/Iowa Burt Federated Women's Club, a club of 11 members, held two bake sales along with the local Lions Club breakfast that netted a profit of \$1,301. Later, they sold root beer floats at the Burt Summer Celebration which netted a profit of \$161.