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PINE TREE NOTES



GFWC Maine Newsletter
January/February 2012



Home Sweet Home.....Reaching out beyond our own



President's Letter

Dear Federation Friends,

Let me begin this New Year with a note of thanks I received by email from Robin Chibroski, Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald House of Portland. It arrived on December 19th, and it certainly warmed my heart, and I know it will yours as well. . .

"The House is very busy and your books are going into the Holiday Shop where families can go and "shop" for gifts. All items are donated and the joy they feel when they are still able to have a holiday even with all of the stress they are dealing with is magical. So THANK YOU sooo much . . . ☺ Robin"

Robin had already sent a formal thank you note to me shortly after our fall conference, so this

personal follow-up note from her really was **very** thoughtful to let us know the impact our donation of books made. Truly ladies, your generosity was overflowing - the laundry basket I had provided to contain the books could have been twice the size! Again, THANK YOU!!!

The outpouring of support you have shown for Operation Smile has been sensational and because you have embraced this president's project, I hope you will not mind my taking the liberty to update you with some information that I have received from Operation Smile.

Operation Smile ~ Year 2011 in Review:

- 164 medical missions
- Medical volunteers from 80 different countries
- Medical missions in 124 sites around the world
- 31 **new** mission sites
- 330,000 medical evaluations performed
- 18,086 free reconstructive surgeries!

Did you know that Operation Smile is also dedicated to increasing local medical capacity and training the local doctors to reach out to even more children and their families? That is amazing!

Did you know that GFWC Maine has sent another check from the combined effort of our local clubwomen pooling together our resources? This check was in the amount of \$1, 094.00. This is fabulous! To date we have donated \$ 3,102.50. **This is the actual amount that we have sent in to Operation Smile.** Wow!!! Thanks to you!! We are a part of changing the lives of 13 children (and their families lives as well.) Keep up the great work! This is AWESOME!! Thank YOU so very much!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Spring Convention! We will have a great time together, celebrating the many successes of the entire year! May 10-11, 2012 is the date and the place will be in Orono at the Black Bear Inn. More details will be provided in the months ahead; for now, reserve the date to come join in

the fun and fellowship. We will be sure to have a great time together! You certainly will want to be with us as the officers for 2012-2014 administration are installed with Anne Cress leading us into the future!

In federation love,

Suzanne Raymond
GFWC Maine President
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President-Elect

Anne Cress
jkhbranch09@gmail.com

Happy New Year everyone!!! May 2012 be filled with joy, happiness, health and love for you and your families.

It is with great pleasure I announce GFWC Maine DOES have a selected candidate to represent us as a LEADS ambassador for 2012. The candidate herself will not be notified until the GFWC Maine Executive Board meets in Augusta for our winter meeting in February. This clubwoman is an extraordinary lady and very dedicated to our organization. She will be attending this informative seminar in Charlotte, North Carolina on June 13th and bring back to Maine, to impart with all of us, what she has learned. This is a very exciting opportunity for her. You will need to come to our GFWC Maine Spring Convention on May 10th and 11th to learn who

this most worthy LEADS ambassador will be!

This officer must say that the incoming leaders training session in Alexandria, Virginia November 10 -12 was a most enlightening event! Like all GFWC events, you just can't help but have a great time and meet more new friends every time you attend a GFWC function. The trip to visit GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. was phenomenal! What a spectacular building with so much of our organization's history right before our eyes! It was decorated for the holidays which made it seem all the more grand! This is a place that every GFWC clubwoman ought to have the opportunity to visit at least once.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Convention at the Black Bear Inn in Orono in May. It promises to be another fantastic Convention as you renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. Don't delay, mark your calendars today!!

Until we meet again, I leave you with this New Year's blessing---

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,

and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

In Federation,

Anne Cress
President-elect



Vice President

Marjorie Goodwin
dmgoodwin2@live.com

As I write this column, I am looking outside at green grass and the thermometer has been in the 40's all day. Is this really January 1? Alas, reality sets in quickly and now that the holidays are over we have to get back to basics. At the risk of sounding as though I am repeating myself, reports are due! Please try to get your year-end reports to me by January 23, so that I can send them to the State chairmen by February 13.

I am looking forward to reading about the activities in our GFWC Maine women's clubs. I always find new ideas (and ways to do them) in the narratives you enclose with the report. That is the reason why narratives are so important. By sharing ideas, we grow and accomplish more things in our clubs in our respective communities.

Let's make 2012 a year of new beginnings for our clubs. Let's step "outside the box" and try new ideas (while keeping on with the old ideas that work well). The winter months can seem to drag but Spring will be here before we know it. Spring brings the District Art shows and the convention in Orono, among other events, and those require a lot of planning and participation by Clubs.

I went to a meeting this afternoon and I want to share the words I heard as I think they could apply to GFWC Maine clubwomen.

Together we Stand..
 Backs together....
 facing outward...
 Leaning on...
 Depending on...
 One another...
 Seeing all obstacles before us..
 Together
 WE CAN do anything..
 Tap my Strengths...I'll tap yours...
 We are...Women's Initiative.

This is a new organization in Waterville and as the speaker spoke to us about the Women's Initiative, I thought of our clubs. We all are different, yet still the

same. As women, we CAN do great things!

Looking forward to seeing each of you in Orono.....let's try for 100 clubwomen.....we CAN do it.

In Federation,
 Marjorie Goodwin
 Vice President

Recording Secretary



Laura Neal
ljgneal@gmail.com



Treasurer
 Gloria P. Leveillee
 793-8389
gleveillee@roadrunner.com

Corresponding Secretary



Sheri Walsh
swalsh@hcpcme.org

Reminder to all the next deadline for the Pine Tree Notes is March 1st. This is a firm deadline with no wiggle room due to the call to Spring Convention. I will be out of the area from March 1st to March 7th and will work furiously via email on my laptop while away to compile the newsletter and upon my return take the newsletter to the printer by March 9th.

It would be very helpful to me and save me a lot of time if you could type your Pine Tree Notes submissions in **Times New Roman 12 Font, Justified in**

block format as you see it in this newsletter. Also, when submitting them **please write them in 3rd person, example....instead our club holds a fundraiser say something like The club's annual fundraiser was held.... It will save a lot of editing time.**
Thanks so much.

District 1 did theirs perfectly this issue. Much appreciated.

Thank you,
 Sheri Walsh

Parliamentary Advisor



Sally Manchester
sallyhcf@roadrunner.com

CLUB NEWS

District 1

Happy New Year from District 1. Several clubs are on winter break at this time. Members of the Research Club of Limerick met with the 21 Club of Keezer Falls to enjoy an evening with State President Suzanne Raymond.

The Research Club also held their annual Red Bow sale. They also collected socks for Caring Unlimited and articles of new clothing for the Maine Veteran's Home.

The Cosmopolitan Club of Bath held their annual Gingerbread Social. They also enjoyed a presentation from the young

workers who have been renting rooms at the club house.

Our newest club, Southern Mid Coast Woman's Club partnered with a local Cub Scout group for a food drive for a local food pantry. They also made and delivered over 50 hand made Christmas cards to the Skofield House, an assisted living facility, in Brunswick.

The Westbrook Woman's Club held their annual lobster roll sale. They had orders for over 900 lobster rolls! They also hosted the Mad Hatter's Tea Party for 100 nursing home residents. It is the highlight of the year. They also held a Christmas luncheon for members and guests. A silent auction was held with donated items. The proceeds from the auction were given to the State education Loan Fund.

District 2

The GFWC/Livermore Falls Women's Club had a very productive November Afghan learning workshop. The club members standardized the instructions for the knit squares so they can be assembled easier and more uniformly. It should make crocheting the squares together and the strips together much smoother. One baby afghan for Newborns in Need was completed because of sharing encouragement and information about assembly. They experimented with different size needles and learned to crochet the edges around the squares. Printed instructions on a

standard 4" square are now available.

Their annual Holiday Luncheon with the Livermore/Livermore Falls Historical Society was a delight. It was held as support for the Tri-Town Ministerium local food cupboard and once again club members provided both packaged goods and money to help with the ever growing need in the area. Music by Jerol Ellis and Bryce Libby was just what they needed to put them into the holiday mood. Now, as the holidays wind down and they look forward to more time together helping others, club members wish you all a wonderfully Happy and productive New Year!

GFWC/The Dove Society had another successful fund raiser in November selling Christmas wreaths. They purchase undecorated wreaths and garland, meet in Carol Jarvais's garage to decorate them, and then deliver the wreaths to the buyers. Also, this year, they set up a table during the Holiday Stroll in downtown Skowhegan and sold more wreaths. It was a great success and lots of fun.

On Wednesday, December 14, everyone all got together in their pajamas to enjoy a delicious collection of holiday goodies and enjoy a Yankee Swap which is always fun and exciting.

The group sponsored a family at Christmas again this year through the Family Violence Program. They provided gifts for a mom and her 3 teenage children who

had been displaced due to violence in the home. Members truly enjoyed helping this family in crisis. Even though they budget money each year for this project, club members added money from their own pockets too.

At their January meeting they will be finishing up their Operation Smile dolls and getting them packed and ready to ship out. Members enjoyed participating in this worthwhile cause.

Busy...busy...busy is how one would describe the members of the GFWC/Skowhegan Woman's Club.

Their crafts and spice mixes were a success at the Fall Conference as well as at local Christmas Craft Sales. Now members are busy making more "one-of-a-kind" items. They have also had two "make-and-take" jewelry sessions for our members and have assisted residents with various crafts at the Redington Memorial Home. Club members decorated a tree to honor our troops at the Redington Memorial Home and involved the residents with making some of the decorations. Holiday cards were sent to veterans.

At their November meeting, they had a program on other local organizations who also provide service to our community. The December meeting was their annual "Yelling Auction". Club members are looking forward to programs on "Skowhegan Main Street" accomplishments, a historical view of "Life in early

Skowhegan", and on a community "gem", the Lakewood Theatre.

Members are still working on their "Skowhegan Three" Library Renovation Project 2012, stuffing Smile dolls, and, of course, our 2011 Reports. Club members are very busy.

On Election Day the Waldoboro Women's Club held their annual Bake Sale to raise monies for scholarships. The sale was a success and they even had cookies left to freeze for their Christmas cookie donation to the Lincoln Home residents, the Waldoboro Food Pantry, and a home bound past member. Their November program had Les Fossil speaking to them about home restoration and pitfalls to avoid.

Their December meeting was held at Damariscotta Lake Farm where members had a great meal and were joined by two new members. Everyone brought additional cookies for the Christmas baskets and mittens and hats for Head Start.

The New Year brings Waldoboro author Jean Lawrence to speak about her book "Citizens Who Heard the Call to Political Service". Two of the people mentioned in the book were past members of the club. Happy New Year to everyone!

The GFWC/Semper Fidelis Club has had a very active few months. In November, the club attended a private Zumba class at Somerset Fitness. Members held their annual Thanksgiving Day Pie Sale

at Bangor Savings the day before Thanksgiving, and, in spite of the weather that day, did very well!

The club wrapped up their Domestic Violence Project in early December. This was a two month long project from start to finish. Nicole Ames, daughter of Nancy Ames, donated 20 monkeys from her stuffed animal collection, thus the name of the project, "Monkey Business." The club "collaborated" with Main Street Skowhegan under the direction of Jennifer Olsen and arranged to have decorated purple boxes distributed to local stores and banks for collections of pajama's, coloring books, crayons, story books, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and other items for children. The Jobs for Maine Futures, a student group at the local high school, also got involved. They donated 20 draw string nap sacks and a few other goodies. We placed a monkey in each bag and put them in the boxes that we set in the various businesses. Nicole added a personal note attached to each monkey. The local newspaper did a story on their project and invited Nan Bell from the Family Violence Project along with a local Pastor, who serves on their Board, to participate in the article.

Members were able to fill all 20 bags with items for the children entering the Somerset County Domestic Violence Shelter plus had six additional boxes full of clothing and other assorted items that they were able to give the shelter due to the generosity of donators. Nan Bell joined

members Dot Lacasse and Nancy Ames to deliver everything to the shelter.

The club donated funds to help purchase lights for a Christmas Tree in the down town sponsored by Main Street Skowhegan. The club also decorated a tree at the Redington Memorial Home and received a check for second place for their efforts. They wrapped things up for the year with their annual "Yankee Swap" Christmas party.

Warm wishes for a wonderful 2012 to all from the clubs of District 2!!

District 3

The GFWC/Dexter Women's Literary Club held their annual bake sale at the polls on Election Day. This fundraiser was a big success netting the club \$252.70. At their November meeting, members brought unwrapped teenage Christmas presents that were given to the Sunshine Club to distribute. Plans are already underway for the annual high school art contest, which will be held April 6-13, 2012 at the Abbott Memorial Library in Dexter. President Laura reminded the local high school's guidance counselor to submit applications for sophomores to attend next year's Maine Youth Leadership conference. It is a good idea for all clubs to contact their local high school and remind them to submit the Maine Youth Leadership applications because it can easily be overlooked. One member, Carmen Zanzucchi, decided to set

up a Face Book page in an effort to make people aware of who they are and what they do as a club. The guest speaker for that meeting was Donna Kraft-Smith of Therapeutic Bodywork, teacher and therapist, who spoke about yoga, natural healing techniques, and demonstrated how to use essential oils. A Christmas party and potluck luncheon was held in December at President Laura Neal's house. Members did a cookie swap, played Christmas games, and signed Christmas cards to be distributed to local nursing and boarding homes. Congratulations to Mary Morancie for winning Dexter's fruitcake bake-off contest!

GFWC Newport Woman's Club is growing! They welcomed 4 new members in November and another in December. Another "guest" took home an application. It is exciting to have fresh enthusiasm and new ideas. A check for \$1600 was received from "Sparkle," the S.V. Chamber of Commerce fundraising event. Members collected ads, auction items, (live and silent auction) sold tickets to the event, cooked, and did whatever was necessary to help make the event successful. The club is well on its way with its application for nonprofit status with the IRS.(501(c)3. This has been a work in progress for some time and is expected to make a difference as the club applies for Walmart grants in the future.

The Winterport Woman's Club GFWC would like to wish all our GFWC Maine members a very Healthy and Happy New Year.12!

The Winterport Woman's Club ladies have been busy and having interesting programs since the beginning of the new club year in September. The program in September was with speaker Becky Mallory. She presented an informative talk on the project "Made By Survivors". This is a program of the production and sale of handmade items made by survivors of human trafficking and how it all came about. It was very interesting and club members are interested in learning more about how to become involved.

The October program was with guest speaker Kim Watson. Kim talked about Exploring the Paranormal.

November's meeting was a Holiday Cooking Show, put on by Shirley Philbrick. Shirley is a board member in the club. A delicious time was had for those who were in attendance. Kathy White wants to thank Shirley Philbrick for filling in for her as Club President for the last two meetings due to other obligations. December's meeting was the Club's time to Celebrate and celebrate they did. They had their third annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Memorial Library with caroling ~ then a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. The children were delighted with the festivities as well as the adults. Hot chocolate and cookies were served. Members added a special touch to this celebration that included the GFWC Sock Project as a part of the event. The Club created and distributed to the Smith School, 230 flyers for the

children to take home telling a little about the Sock Project club members were planning for the Christmas Tree Lighting. Information was also given to explain where the families could drop off the socks. Several locations in town that included the Library, Town Office and two local businesses. Club members also were fortunate enough to get a little publicity on Channel 5 News telling of the event and in a local newspaper. Approximately 500 pair of socks was donated! members were thrilled to say the least. They are being bagged and then are going to two local shelters ~ New Hope for Women in Rockland and Spruce Run in Bangor. Both of the shelters were excited about what club members had accomplished and said what a wonderful project. Spruce Run shared they were in dire need of socks and that it couldn't have come at a better time. Members are grateful to their community for helping with making this such a huge success.

WWC has Winter Break in January and February. The Officers and Board will be getting together in January for reporting. In March they will begin planting seeds of thoughts for our spring activities so to have a new burst of energy and growth.

The Pittsfield ARTS club enjoyed the visit of State President Suzanne Raymond on Monday November 14th. She spoke of the recent fall conference in South Portland and Operation Smile. Donations of johnnies and dolls along with donations were presented to President Suzanne.

The meeting was very informative and enjoyed by all.

A successful Christmas craft auction was held on Sunday December 3rd. This helps the club to continue giving to area organizations and a scholarship each year.

The club members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party at the home of vice president Donna Chale on Monday December 12th. Gifts were exchanged and collected for an area Domestic Violence Women's Shelter, a yearly project for the club. Our January meeting will be held at the library and the speaker for the evening will be Hazel Mitchell, author/illustrator.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this club update. Our dear Merna Dunham passed away on Dec 28th after a brief illness. Many of you knew Merna for more years than me so you know what a loss her family, GFWC Miosac Club and the Maine Federation has sustained. She was a true lady in every sense of the word and shall be missed very much.

The club will continue through the winter with their planned programs, the annual Ice Out Contest (once ice finally forms on the lake), A Linus Blanket Day of quilting and the High School Art contest this spring. Until Spring Convention, take good care and stay warm and healthy.

District 4

The **Castine Woman's Club** held the annual Election Day Bake

Sale on November 8, 2011. As always, it was a great success. The proceeds of this sale go toward the CWC Scholarship Fund.

Sadly, on November 9, Marge Wood passed away. We all lost a dear friend and one of the mainstays of the community and the Club. For those of you who did not know Marge, she was extraordinary. Marge served over the years as both MFWC State Treasurer and CWC Treasurer. In honor of her tireless efforts and devotion to others, many individuals along with the Bagaduce Ambulance Corps have made donations to the Club's scholarship fund in honor of Marge. The Club will now be giving scholarship money to a student each year from the Marge Wood Scholarship Fund, which has been established in her memory. She will be dearly missed.

On December 6, members gathered to make centerpieces of fresh greens to use for the holidays. One such arrangement went to CWC member Marta Bowes who had suffered a stroke. Sadly, Marta passed away a week after the club sent her a card and arrangement.

The speaker at the Club's December meeting was Alta Gross on reflexology, "Feeling Better in the New Year."

The Club does not meet in January and February, but that doesn't mean the CWC won't be busy. On January 19, the CWC

will host its Winter Bridge Luncheon. On January 24, the Club will have the first of many "closet cleaning parties" to go through old records of the Club. The goal is to organize Club history to prepare for CWC's 100-Year-Anniversary in 2013. Also, January 31 will be the first of three 2012 winter Dinner-at-Noon lunches to benefit the Community Improvement Project. This event was initiated and implemented by Marge Wood and the Club will honor Marge at all three lunches this winter.

The December meeting of **GFWC/Lubec Woman's Club** was held on December 1 at the community room of the Quoddy View Apartments. The Club had a pot luck luncheon with delicious food and great camaraderie. The guest speaker was Michelle Potter (no relation to Harry) from "The Next Step" group in Machias. This group helps women and children who are suffering from spousal abuse. She presented lots of literature and books for adults and children. School abuse (bullying) is also a big problem for the children. Members brought supplies and gave monetary donations for Michelle to use for her clients. The Club would like to become more involved with helping these families and has asked Michelle to call if they need anything specific. The extra food was left in the community room kitchen to be given to the people who attend the Meals for ME the next day.

On Friday, December 16, the members sang Christmas carols at

Ocean View Nursing Home and everyone had a great time.

Our most sincere wishes for you all in 2012!

The **GFWC/Narraguagus Women's Club (NWC)** was updated this fall on the services available to the clients of the abused women's center in Machias, "The Next Step," by Michelle Potter, a representative of the organization. A question and answer period was held after her presentation. Ms. Potter was presented with personal hygiene items for the center donated by Club members and a former member. This organization is one of the Club's yearly projects.

The NWC had a busy fall getting ready for the Club's community projects. One of the projects was collecting warm hats for the Milbridge Fire Department Auxiliary to be given out at the Fire Department's "Meet and Greet Santa" event. The club donated over 50 hats, mittens and gloves. The club donated \$100.00 to the Milbridge Area Merchant Association's "Breakfast with Santa" held for the area children. Admission to the event was one non-perishable item to be donated to the local food pantry. Over 400 Christmas gift bags were given to three elementary schools for their Christmas Gift Store.

The NWC decided to purchase gifts for needy children in Washington County instead of having a Yankee Swap among themselves. This is the second year the Washington County

Children's Program in the Machias area has furnished (at the Club's request) the names of children and their wish lists. The Club membership did a beautiful job of making three children have a great Christmas with items of warm clothing and toys.

The annual Christmas Luncheon was held at Scovils Millside Dining in Harrington with nine members and former Maine Federation of Women's Club President Jane Shaw in attendance. Three supportive "better halves" were present in another room enjoying a day out. Pat Treworgy read a letter from Carlene A. Garner, GFWC International President. Jane Shaw read the recognition and appreciation of distinguished service certificate for the Club's 60th Anniversary as a member of the Federation. A Happy Anniversary cake was presented to the group. Happy Anniversary was sung and also Happy Birthday was sung to member Barbara Kneeland and to Frank Fredenburgh, a supporter of the Club's activities and the husband of NWC 1st Vice President, Christine Fredenburgh.

Members will give a Valentine Party to two area residential homes for the elderly. The club meetings will recess until April.

Our club wishes all the clubs in Maine a Happy and Successful New Year in your club activities.

ARTS

We are all saddened that Merna Dunham, MFWC Art Partnership Chairman, has passed away.

She was such a wonderful person and dedicated to the MFWC High School Student Art Contest and MFWC Clubwomen Photography Contest. She was a joy to work with. I will miss her encouraging smile and words, as well as her hugs. She was such a gracious person that will be dearly missed and always remembered. Merna was truly a blue ribbon winner.



This photo is of Merna at the May 2011 MFWC Art Show.

Her smile reflects her dedication to the art department. She was always excited to see who won the blue ribbon.

Please continue your district student art shows, Clubwomen Photography, Short Stories and Poetry writings, in dedication to Merna and all her efforts to promote the arts.

Barbara Hathaway, MFWC Art Collaboration Chairman
bhaway@myfairpoint.net

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year. Keep working on your Domestic Violence Awareness Projects. I hope everyone is collecting socks. GFWC/Miosac has collected almost 50 pair. I have taken them to Women Care and they will share them with Spruce Run and other homeless shelters. Don't forget to report anything that relates to Domestic Violence.

I am working with Bev Lassiter of GFWC on a hand out sheet on "How to Help Your Neighbor". or anyone you know being abused. This was suggested by Gail Slade, GFWC/Livermore Falls Women's Club at Fall conference. I have shared the need with Woman Care and received valuable input from them. We should have a draft brochure by spring.

Have a safe and warm winter. Spring will be here before we know it.

Yours in Federation,
Minnie McCormick Domestic
Violence Awareness Chairman

EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

District Presidents and Club
Members:

With the start of a new year, we begin to look forward to the spring of 2012, and programs which are a part of

GFWC/MFWC. Our committee will again be offering interest-free loans and the Maude MacKenzie scholarship. The present interest on our investments will likely curtail the number of awards given, however small in amount or number, we will continue with assistance for our high school graduates as they enter college.

We again ask for your assistance in spreading the word to our high school guidance offices that applications for both the loans and scholarship can be downloaded from our website. I will be mailing further information and application forms to the District Presidents later this month.

Thanks for your assistance in continuing this important MFWC project which dates back to the 1920s.

Alida L. Coates
Committee Chairman

LEADERSHIP

The holidays are behind us and what a magical time they were. Hope you all had time to spend with family and friends and are ready for the trials and tribulations that a new year will surely bring. As we pack away the decorations and set our houses back in order let us be sure to take time to remember the wonderful GFWC friends and fellow clubwomen we lost this past year.

As we get back into our volunteer club work we should focus on leading new ladies into our organization. Our numbers are

dwindling at an alarming rate. Let's all make a concerted effort in 2012 to increase membership in our clubs. As volunteer leaders we can do this by letting people know who we are, what we do, why we do it, and that we have fun. I know you have heard this all before, just as I have, but unless we do something about our numbers, we will cease to exist. I wish there were an easy solution to this dilemma. I wish we had an answer as to why it is so hard to recruit new members. All I can say is, "Volunteer leaders, we need to ignite a new flame among your members making them want to go out and tell their friends, co-workers, family members, fellow church members, neighbors, whoever will listen that we want to share a wonderful experience with them and ask them to attend a meeting or club function to see firsthand who we are and what we are about." So, let's all delve into 2012 with our volunteer service and lead the way by adding to our membership!

Carol Jarvais
Chairman

MAINE YOUTH LEADERSHIP (MYL)
Leadership – Volunteerism – Character
www.maineyouthleadership.org

Maine Youth Leadership inspires today's youth to think about their impact on their communities in hopes they will become active members of Maine's positive change for the future. Our mission is simple. It is to inspire high school kids to make good

choices, become leaders in their communities and to make volunteering a part of their lives.

"MYL was life-changing for me. It was the point at which I realized I could be a leader, and that it was a special gift that would allow me to make a difference in the world."
--- 2011 MYL ambassador

Maine Youth Leadership has conducted Leadership Seminars in Maine since 1980, and has been making leaders out of Maine sophomores ever since. Leadership does not happen by accident, and our goal of reaching young people early in their development has remained unchanged for over 30 years.

Your support of MYL is vital to its continued success. Thank you for your consideration in keeping your club's unwavering commitment to our Maine sophomores! Your gift is most appreciated.

**THANK YOU - Clubs
contributing to date towards the
2012 seminar:**

GFWC/Newport Woman's Club
GFWC/MFW Westbrook
Woman's Club
GFWC/Gorham Woman's Club

**A full scholarship is \$250, but
any amount given is greatly
appreciated. Contributions and
questions may be directed to:**

**Gloria Tewhey
MYL Chairman,
3 Valley View Dr.,
Gorham, ME 04038 (207) 839-
4157 gtewhey@maine.rr.com**

ENDOWMENT FUND

Happy New Year to each and everyone and may 2012 be the best.

Thank you to the following Clubs who have generously donated to the fund for this year.

GFWC/MFWC Miosac Club,
Skowhegan Womens Club,
GFWC Newport Womens Club,
GFWC/The Dove Society and the
GFWC/MFWC Westbrook
Womans Club.

Also a big thank you for all who participated in the Raffle at Fall Conference. We raised \$107.00. As you know we use the interest of this fund to help defray some of the expense for Convention and Conference, so every little bit helps.

Have a healthy winter
Nancy Kenty, Chair.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

GFWC/ Lubec Woman's Club
OPERATION SMILE...
MFWC 2010-2012

Op Smile and International Report - nothing new to report. The boxes from the Fall Conference were sent to the Operation Smile warehouse in Norfolk, VA in late Nov. If clubs are collecting items through the winter and spring, the address they need to be shipped to will be included in the next Pine Tree Notes as I am away from home visiting family in Virginia

and don't have the address at my finger tips. Thank you again to all who have contributed to this worthwhile organization.

Barb Austin
Operation Smile Chair

Public Relations

Communications ~ Identity ~
Public Relations

A little PR goes a long ways – this is a list compiled by this chairman from a variety of GFWC resources, including the GFWC history that GFWC 1st VP Babs Condon presented to us in October 2011 (currently available on our website – www.gfwcmaine.org).

Following is a snapshot of some of the amazing things we have to boast about as we share with others the things that make us proud to be a members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Let's raise the banner and blow the trumpets! Look what we have done!!

1898: GFWC convention attendees unanimously passed a resolution against child labor.

1910s: GFWC supported legislation for the eight-hour workday, workplace safety and inspection, and workmen's compensation. Members also supported prison reform legislation.

1916: GFWC worked with the Children's Bureau to promote National Baby Week. Over 2,000 clubs participated by focusing on infant and maternal mortality, birth registration, and public health facilities.

1919: Under the direction of the YMCA, GFWC created the Overseas Service Unit and sent 100 young women to Europe to assist wounded soldiers in the aftermath of World War I.

1924 - a GFWC California club woman came up with the idea of painting a white line down the middle of the roads as a safety measure! History tells us that she was almost run off the road by a large truck - which started her on the road of many long years of dedication to road safety. When she finally accomplished her goal of getting lines painted on her state highways to mark the center of the road - other states soon followed suit - because she had enlisted the aid of her fellow Federation members across the country. How many lives did GFWC clubs save with this idea?

By the 1930's GFWC women's clubs were credited by the American Library Association with establishing 75 percent of America's public libraries - - and as you well know, supporting local libraries continues to be a Federation priority today.

During WWII - in 1944: GFWC had a Buy a Bomber campaign where state federations sold war bonds worth over \$154 million -

enough money to purchase 431 planes.

In 1945: GFWC was one of the five women's organizations chosen to participate in the conference to form the United Nations. At the conference, GFWC representatives supported the ratification of the United Nations Charter.

In 1960: Brighten the Night was a nationwide Federation campaign for street lighting to prevent crime and accidents.

In 1961: GFWC's Women's Crusade for Seat Belts program resulted in the installation of more than one million seat belts over the course of one year.

In 1984: GFWC founded the Women's History and Resource Center dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting all of the histories, contributions and records of our proud 121 year history of volunteer service.

1990s: GFWC actively supported the passage of the Violence Against Women Act; the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Family and Medical Leave Act; and legislation supporting handgun control.

1997: GFWC renewed its commitment to libraries with a project called Libraries 2000. Over the next five years, GFWC clubwomen raised and donated \$13.5 million to public libraries and public school libraries across the nation.

During the 2000-2002 administration, GFWC members contributed over \$200,000 to fully fund an Operation Smile Mission to the Philippines. Babs Condon, GFWC First Vice President shared with us about her experience on the mission as she was the GFWC chairman for this and saw the amazing transformation of over 1000 children's lives - one smile at a time - which resulted from GFWC members donations.

Did you know that since 1984 GFWC clubwoman have funded more than 10 complete Operation Smile missions to fix cleft lips and cleft palates of young adults and children in developing countries? Where would these children and young adults be without GFWC?

During the 2004-2006 administration, GFWC members contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance for use by the New York Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered during 9/11.

GFWC has earned a reputation as a powerful force in the fight against domestic violence. During the 2006-2008 administration, our members donated over \$15.9 million dollars to DV shelters and organizations who work towards eradicating domestic violence.

GFWC clubs have donated over \$60 million dollars to Domestic Violence Shelters across our country. We have adopted

Domestic Violence Awareness as our Signature Project.

We have a such a rich history . . . and the *future* will be impacted as well, by the things that GFWC members do to enhance the lives of others through community service!

Suzanne Raymond
Public Relations Chairman

INTERNATIONAL HQ ROAD TRIP?????????

Possibly late summer

3-4 days

Handicapped equipped bus
need to fill 50-55 seat bus

If you may be interested, please contact Megan Libby and she will see what she can arrange and how affordable it may be. Please pass this along to all club women at your meetings. e-mail Megan at southernmidcoastwc@gmail.com with the subject Washington DC Or you can call Megan at 207-766-6642.

AVAILABILITY OF BOOKS THAT WERE DISCUSSED AT FALL CONFERENCE

Maine in History and Romance:

This book is a reprint of the 1915 edition, published by the Lewiston Journal, the first ever published by a federation of women's clubs in the United States. It came about through the publication of a series of articles in competition for prizes offered by the Lewiston Journal, and confined wholly to members of the women's clubs comprising the Maine Federation. The decision to publish these articles in book form was made at

the annual meeting of the Maine Federation at Biddeford in October, 1915.

The stories that were selected for publication almost a century ago stand out as among the best which includes not only the history of the State of Maine, but also show the character and writing style of that day, and are truly a grand selection of historical fiction.

The Trail of the Maine Pioneer:

This book is a reprint of the 1916 edition, published by the Lewiston Journal. In "The Trail of the Maine Pioneer," the club women of Maine offer a second book of Maine historical stories, a companion volume to "Maine in History and Romance." Like the first book, "The Trail of the Maine Pioneer" is a collection of prize stories resulting from a contest conducted by the Lewiston Journal in 1916 and open only to the club women affiliated with the Maine Federation.

The stories that were selected for publication almost a century ago stand out as among the best which includes not only the history of the State of Maine, but also show the character and writing style of that day, and are truly a grand selection of historical fiction.

These books are currently (as of this writing) located in Mr. Paperback stores in Waterville, and soon to be Dover-Foxcroft. The publisher has not heard from yet, the manager of the Ellsworth store, but expects they will want

to place them there as well. That being said, any Mr. Paperback store can get them, even if they do not carry them.

They are also available from my the publisher's web site: www.samteddypublishing.com, click on BOOKS. If anyone orders them from the web site the price is (\$18.95) plus Maine tax (\$.95) as well as \$3.00 postage (both books are the same price). Customers who reside outside Maine would not pay the sales tax of course. PayPal button is available for those who wish to pay by credit card; otherwise the publisher does accept checks mailed directly to him. All of the instructions are right on the web site.

"I was actually a bit surprised when I searched the Internet and found out that the Federation still exists. I was searching to see if there were any other books done, or, more importantly (and maybe you can help here), I was searching for where the stories that were not selected for publication might be. I am very curious about the stories that were not selected by the Committee, as I would like to have read them. I am sure, though, that they are long gone. If you ever find them, please let me know.

As for mentioning them to your general membership, please do!

Jeffrey Linscott,
Sam Teddy Publishing

MEMBERSHIP

Rae Hersey, Chairman

GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

www.GFWC.org



GFWC Members are the HEART of Federation!

January/February 2012

By: Patrice Booze

2010-2012 GFWC Membership Committee Chairman

GFWC Great Lakes Region

“Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful; and since we've no place to go, Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” This song was created by lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne in 1945. The words and lyrics convey feelings of warmth and security, which is how we want our members to feel about GFWC! If we are having problems retaining *current* members, then actively recruiting new members is useless. We must make the effort to show that we KNOW our GFWC members are the HEART of Federation.

In many parts of the country the months of January and February are cold and dreary— the perfect time for clubs to get warm and cozy and focus on rekindling the sparks and renewing the Federation passion. The holidays have taken a toll on many of our diets and January is the time to take back control. Clubs could use the weekly celebrations of “Healthy Weight Week” or “Diet Resolution Week” and sponsor a friendly weight loss competition. Divide into teams and support each other's diets, take exercise classes, or go on long walks. The wager could be that the team that was NOT the biggest losers would make the healthy snacks for the next meeting. This project would not only have health benefits for members, but be a great way to build stronger working relationships within the club.

How about planning a trip to the spa to celebrate “Hunt for Happiness Week”? Oh, how nice it would be to pampered, and how fun to share the experience with club friends! What about a new “Secret Sister” project to put into action “Random Action Month”? Are all your club members as computer savvy as they would like to be? How about arranging a basic computer class to acknowledge “High-Tech Month” or “Reaching Your Potential Month”? Contact the local high school and ask for a recommendation of a student to be your teacher. Many students need volunteer hours to graduate, which could lead to interest in a new Juniorette club.

To commemorate “National Mentoring Month,” develop a “Big Sister” or “Federation Buddy” program. Pair an experienced member with each of your newer members for at least their first year. These relationships allow new members to feel comfortable asking questions and current members to gain renewed pride in GFWC.

One way to make your members more secure is to host a community-wide women's self-defense class for “Women's Self Empowerment Week” or “Personal Self-Defense Awareness Month.” The classes will not only help your members feel safer, but are a GREAT way to recruit new members.

February is also a gold mine of celebrations and observances such as Valentine's Day, “Heart Month,” and “Chocolate Month.” Heart disease is the #1 killer of American women. Host a “Red Dress Heart Campaign” event and make a difference in women's lives by spreading *The Heart Truth*® to your members and in your community. Be sure to serve healthy snacks and treat your members to a Valentine of dark chocolate to show you care. Retention and recruitment events could easily be built around “Friendship Month,” “Send a Card to a Friend Day,” and “Make a Friend Day.”

Many of our clubs already KNOW that their members are the HEART of Federation and show them they care.

Secret Sister or Pal Programs

GFWC Seneca Junior Woman's Club, South Carolina, established a Secret Sister Program. Each

Secret Sister sent small treats or cards to let her “Sister” know she was thinking about her throughout the year. Gifts are given for a member’s birthday, holidays, and other special occasions. At the last meeting of the year, the identities of the Secret Sisters are revealed.

GFWC Carlsbad Junior Woman’s Club, California, instituted a fun Secret Pal program for its membership. Everyone really looks forward to receiving their little gifts and cards.

GFWC East Springfield Junior Women’s Club, Ohio, retains members with their Secret Sisters program, and by taking time before business meetings for “sharing time.”

Mentor Programs

GFWC Illinois State Membership Chairman Shelli Fehr reports that their leadership recognizes the value of mentoring and included a goal to develop a **Club Mentors Program** into the 2010-2015 State Federation Strategic Plan. Several of their clubs have already incorporated mentoring into their membership retention program, such as the **GFWC Hinsdale Junior Women’s Club**, who maintained a group of ten New Member Advisors to guide members through their first year. The **GFWC Woman’s Club of Aurora** assigned the sponsoring member to the person she recruited, and the **GFWC Woodridge Junior Women’s Club** members paired up with new members to help them learn the ropes their first year. **GFWC Woman’s Club of Plainville, Connecticut**, initiated a “Mentor Program” for new members, pairing them with long term members for a seamless transition into the organization.

Unique Meetings

Ten potential members attended the **GFWC Boardman Poland Junior Women’s League, Ohio**, membership meeting in January, which was called “New Year, New Friends, New Stuff.” Vendors set up tables with interesting items for sale, and then donated a portion of their profits to the club. Even though the **GFWC Western Pocono Women’s Club, Pennsylvania**, did not have regular monthly meetings in the winter due to the weather, they met for lunch or had workshops in members’ homes.

GFWC Woman’s Club of Duquesne, Pennsylvania, held a Family Night to thank family members for supporting club members. A catered dinner, entertainment, and gifts for the children were part of the evening.

GFWC Paradise Valley Junior Women’s Club, Arizona, invited guests to a “Wear Our Hearts” membership social. Club members showcased their projects in a video that was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. Potential members also helped fill Valentine bags for the local St. Vincent DePaul. The beginning of a New Year is the perfect time for clubs to take on the revitalization challenge. Get creative and seize this opportunity to pamper the very heart of your club—your members! Take the words of entrepreneur Mary Kay Ash to heart: “Pretend that every single person you meet has a sign around his or her neck that says, ‘Make me feel important.’” You know your members deserve no less than the very best!!!

A program I presented once to an organization that was in strife - I share it with you because I feel it has an important message and I needed one page of filler for the PTN - Sheri Walsh

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water, at the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

There is an Old Danish folktale about a spider that dropped by a long thread from the rafters of a huge barn and landed in a dark corner of it. There the spider set to work and spun himself an elaborate and beautiful web. When he had finished he stepped back to admire his handiwork. He caught sight of a single strand stretching up and out of sight. He thought to himself that this strand was out of place and sort of ruined the visual display and since he could not see what it was connected to it probably wasn't needed. So he cut off that one strand. Instantly the whole intricate web shriveled and collapsed. There was nothing left of his web without that fine connecting strand, even though the spider could not tell where that strand went.

Everyone brings their own special qualities. When we discount the importance of one (be it a strand in the web, a beam in a building, member in an organization) we weaken the whole. There was nothing left of his web without that fine connecting strand, even though the spider could not tell where that strand went. You personally may be more connected to one member than you are to another but it does not mean that you are not connected to the whole unit or any less vital to the strength of the unit. Let's remember that each of us has value and that we are valued by one another for various reasons and carry this lesson with us to other aspects of our lives. We all make a difference to someone.

These two stories were placed here to remind us that no one is perfect. That we each make contributions and although we may not see the significance of that contribution right away - it is still a part of the framework and fabric of the club and is an important part of reaching the club's goals.

**Pine Tree Notes
Next Deadline
March 1, 2012**

**GFWC/Maine Federation
of Women's Clubs**
118 years of Volunteer Service

Sheri Walsh
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