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Pine Tree Notes (November-December 2011)

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General Federation of Women's Clubs - Maine Chapter

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PINE TREE NOTES

GFWC Maine Newsletter
November/December 2011



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



President's Letter

Dear Federation Friends,

Fall conference in South Portland was a **wonderful** experience. I want to thank each and every one of you that participated in some way to help make it the success that it was. There is much that goes into the preparations for our meetings, and without willing volunteers, it just couldn't happen. So again, thank you everyone – for sharing an inspiration, leading us in song, giving thanks before our meals, presenting a workshop, doing a presentation, giving a report, being a speaker! You name it, you did it!! Thank you for coming and sharing your time with us.

We welcomed some first time attendees which is always a favorite, and this year we also were very pleased to welcome a new club to the GFWC Maine membership – Welcome GFWC Southern MidCoast Woman's

Club! At our state meetings I especially love the time we have together chatting with our Federation friends at mealtime. What a splendid time we had at the Character Building Banquet. Some of our members were so "in character" it was difficult to recognize who was under the disguise! Such fun! I will be remiss if I don't share much appreciation for all the children's books that were donated! Robin Chibroski, Executive Director of the Portland Ronald McDonald House was so pleasantly surprised when we gifted them to her after she spoke to us at the Friday luncheon.

Babs Condon, GFWC First Vice President is such a delight and all in attendance loved her presentation as she shared her experience going on an Operation Smile mission to the Philippines. The following day she captured our attention once again when she delivered a very inspiring message entitled "Where would the world be without GFWC?" I am very pleased to share that you can read her wonderful answers to this question by going to our website.

Go to www.gfwcmaine.org and check it out. Click on the GFWC link on the left hand side of the homepage.

It is a beautiful time of year and it has been my pleasure to be travelling around the state visiting clubs this fall. Thank you for the many kindnesses and hospitality I received at the following meetings as of this date:

- Acadian Woman's Club
- GFWC/MFWC Narraguagus Woman's Club
- GFWC/MFWC Westbrook Woman's Club
- Livermore Falls Woman's Club

Thank you all once again, for your generosity and outpouring of support for the special project - Operation Smile. The dollars you are donating are changing children's lives, the items you have donated (many of them made with tender loving care) to help make the child's life a little easier when they have their surgery, and your constant promoting of the program will continue to reach out into our communities for support well beyond this administration.

Home Sweet Home . . . Reaching
Out Beyond Our Own.

Thank you all so much. . . for all
you do to make this world a better
place. ☺

In Federation Love,
Suzanne Raymond, President

President's Schedule

November 3 - GFWC Lubec
Woman's Club

November 10-13 - Arlington, VA
for GFWC BOD 2012- 2014
Orientation

November 14- ARTS Club

November 15 - 21 Club with
GFWC Research Club



President-Elect

Anne Cress
jkhranch09@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive the Pine
Tree Notes, we will all be getting
into the holiday season. I hope
each of you take the time to relax
and enjoy your family and friends.
Please remember your local food
cupboards during this season.

I don't know about you, but after
that fabulous GFWC Maine Fall
Conference in Portland, I am still
on a "high!" What an informative
and fun time we had! If you

missed the two presentations by
GFWC 1st Vice President, Babs
Condon, you missed a lot! She
can get you stirred up in a positive
way and make you proud to be a
part of GFWC!

I am looking forward to receiving
more LEADS applications prior to
the GFWC Maine deadline date of
November 15th. What an
opportunity this is to become an
ambassador for your state. You
will enjoy the 121st GFWC
International Convention which
will be held June 14th-17th in
Charlotte, North Carolina. The
seminar for Leadership, Education
and Development will be held the
day prior to the official opening of
the Convention on June 13th.
Come to our Spring Convention
May 10th and 11th in Orono at the
Black Bear Inn, to hear who the
lucky ambassador will be. It
promises to be a wonderful
Convention!

This fall is, and has been, a busy
time for this officer. I attended the
New England Region Conference
in Mystic, Connecticut September
23rd– 25th. That was an event
where you laughed until you
cried, and garnered much
information along the way! It was
then on to our own GFWC Maine
Fall Conference. As I write this
article, I am preparing to leave for
Washington, D.C., on November
9th for additional incoming
leadership training. I look forward
to this trip and will be touring the
GFWC Headquarters while I am
there.

I would like to say thank-you to
all the wonderful gals who

accepted a position for the 2012-
2014 GFWC Maine
administration. I am thrilled to say
that all positions and
appointments have been filled.
You are a devoted group of ladies
and I look forward to working
with all of you as our organization
continues into the future.

Happy Holidays!

Anne Cress
President-elect



Vice President

Marjorie Goodwin
dmgoodwin2@live.com

As I write this column, there is
snow on the ground and the
temperature hovers at 38 degrees.
It is far too early for all this white
stuff!

The Conference in South Portland
was great! Sixty eight people
attended and I am sure that "a
good time was had by all". The
session was informative,
educational and entertaining.
What more could a clubwoman
ask for? Babs Condon, Vice
President of the GFWC was a
most inspiring speaker. She did a
terrific job.

The holidays are almost upon us
and we will soon be very busy
cooking, shopping, etc. However,
be sure to mark your calendars for
report writing as soon as possible
after Dec. 31, 2011. The deadline
for club reporting is January 23,
2012. I hope to get reports to
MFWC chairmen by February 13,
2012. Then, their reports have to

be sent to GFWC and postmarked no later than March 15, 2012.

Time seems to fly "when you're having fun" and it will be time to make plans for the Spring Convention at the Black Bear Inn in Orono before we know it. Mark your calendars for May 10-11, 2012. Let's see if we can have 100+ clubwomen there. As I said earlier, our sessions are informative, educational and entertaining.....please come and take part.

I hope that the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will be enjoyed by each of you with family and friends.

In Federation,
Marjorie Goodwin

Recording Secretary



Laura Neal
ljneal@gmail.com

Treasurer



Gloria P. Leveille
793-8389
gleveille@roadrunner.com

Corresponding Secretary



Sheri Walsh
swalsh@hpcme.org

Reminder to all the next deadline for the Pine Tree Notes is January 3rd.

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. 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.

Now that you have your directories, could you please email me any corrections in your address, email or telephone number.

Thank you,
Sheri Walsh

Parliamentary Advisor



Sally Manchester
sallyhcf@roadrunner.com

CLUB NEWS

District 1

District 1 Clubs are excited to welcome a new Club to the District - Southern Midcoast Woman's Club. These ladies have had a busy summer doing all the paperwork that is required to be a part of Maine Federation and GFWC. Their goal was to be recognized as a club at the Fall Conference and they accomplished it. They meet in Brunswick and their president is Megan Libby; vice president/secretary Samantha Ricker-Goad; treasurer Brenda

Ricker. They have added to their membership and want to continue to bring more women into the club.

Their first project was a speaker, Janet Tuttle, from the Rocking T Equine Rescue. The club presented her with a check and "treats" for the horses. Their next project will be a canned food drive to benefit Hunger Prevention Project in Brunswick. They are partnering with a local Boy Scout troop.

Hats off to Gorham Woman's Club. One third of their membership attended the Fall Conference. Can you imagine the attendance if all clubs could do that ? The club is still without a president and vice president but their club is running smoothly and they hope to increase membership.

The Cosmopolitan Club of Bath has had a busy and interesting fall. They had a program on Bead for Life. Women in Uganda make and sell jewelry. It is an outstanding example of women in business meeting the needs of their families and villages. A club member, Michelle Ober, made a trip to Bali with International Habitat for Humanity. Lucky Jenny June Bear was able to go with Michelle ! That Jenny June certainly gets around. Don't forget the Gingerbread Social sponsored by the Cosmopolitan Club on November 26 at their club house.

Westbrook Woman's Club began their year with a potluck luncheon followed by committee meetings. They were very pleased to have Kathy White, New England

Regional President and Suzanne Raymond GFWC Maine President as their guests. The Westbrook women will have completed another lobster roll luncheon by the time you read this. Their goal is to sell 900+ rolls- this is something they have done before. The profits from this sale go to scholarships for Westbrook High School students.

District 1 presidents will meet November 12 to work on the Art Show scheduled for April 21.

District 2

As usual, the ladies of District 2 are busy with their club projects, fundraisers, and recruitment events. Here's hoping they are all successful with "raking in new members". It was good to see some of you at Fall Conference and we hope you came away with as many new things to share with your clubs as we did. Babs Condon was such an inspiring speaker and to see her pictures of the Operation Smile Mission she was a part of really brought it all home.

The **GFWC/Semper Fidelis Club** had summertime participation from our club members in the Trek Across Maine for the American Lung Association, the Pine Tree Paddle for Pine Tree Camp, and Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society.

We met at the Heritage House Restaurant for our annual fall banquet where it was announced that our own Davida Barter has

been selected as the Jennie Award recipient for the state of Maine. Our guest speaker was Jason Cooke of Maine Huts & Trails. He spoke to us about the 30 miles of hiking, biking and cross country skiing trails beginning at Carrabassett Valley and ending at Grand Falls. There are currently three "Huts" (beautifully appointed lodges) along the trails that offer meals and overnight accommodations. There is definitely a snow shoeing adventure to be planned for our club!

The club just finished our largest yearly fund raiser, which is the Community Birthday Calendar. This year we chose the Skowhegan History House to be featured as the photo on our calendar. We are now starting a new fund raiser for our Scholarship Fund, which is selling poinsettias for the Christmas Holiday Season.

Davida Barter & Nancy Ames attended both the GFWC NER & the GFWC Maine Fall Conferences. They brought back valuable information to the club from both of these meetings along with plenty of interesting photos!

We take on a Domestic Violence Awareness project each fall. This year we teamed up with Main Street Skowhegan and the Family Violence Project. We decorated boxes with purple paper and distributed them to area businesses as drop off locations. We have a sign on each box asking for donations of pajamas, socks, toothbrushes & toothpaste,

washcloths, pillowcases, coloring books & crayons and story books to donate for children at the Somerset County shelter. A local school group got involved & donated drawstring tote bags and filled them with pencils, note pads, bubble soaps and other items and Nicole Ames, daughter of a club member donated her stuffed monkey collection, one for every bag. We are hoping to fill 20 bags for the children. Many of the children that arrive at the shelter do so with only the clothes they are wearing, so we are in hopes that our project will bring a little bit of comfort to them. We were thrilled when Nan Bell of the Family Violence Project called this a true "Collaboration" of the Skowhegan community!

GFWC/The Dove Society of Skowhegan is off to a successful start again this year. Members enjoyed the annual kickoff banquet at the Heritage House in September and on October 19 held our regular monthly meeting at the Margaret Chase Smith Library. Our program for the evening was a presentation by the Director of the MAIN STREET Skowhegan project, Jennifer Olsen. She spoke about past accomplishments of the project and what they would like to do in the future. We viewed a detailed Power Point presentation of several before and after images of recent improvements in the downtown. An informative question and answer session followed. Who knows, there may be new volunteer opportunities available to us! We then enjoyed

pie, coffee, and cold drinks followed by our business meeting.

The club is currently participating in our annual RADA cutlery fundraiser. RADA is a popular kitchen knife and utensil product line that is one of our best fundraisers. We have also started taking orders for custom-decorated Christmas wreaths.

Our next gathering will be our Muffins for Membership recruitment event in November.

GFWC/Livermore Falls Women's Club has had a busy fall! Our yard sale and bake sale with the Livermore/Livermore Falls Historical Society was a great success. Shortly after we had packed up some left over clothing to use for next year's sale we got word of a family of nine being burned out of their home. We jumped into action and sent not only those clothes but also seven quilts (one for each child), soaps, lotions, shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrushes, other donated clothes, and since they were home schooling, notebooks, colored pencils, crayons, and markers. The telephone is a marvelous invention!

We hosted our State President, Suzanne Raymond, at our September meeting and had a lovely time. Our Co-President, Jackie Deshaies, even convinced a local reporter to come and he did! We presented GFWC Maine President Suzanne with a bear in a smiley face hospital gown, complete with miniature smile doll and no-no band plus extras as

a memento of her project. We also gave her two checks which were enough for two smiles.

Several of us attended the Fall Conference and enjoyed it thoroughly. Ideas are born at State Conferences and Conventions! One idea was presented by Minnie McCormick for the GFWC Signature Project called the Sock Project. We implemented it at our October Membership Tea in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Month. We also welcomed aboard two new members. A beautiful tea was served with a big thank you to all who baked and contributed toward making it a success.

As we take a break from monthly meetings in November and December, activity will continue with an afghan learning workshop in November and our joint Holiday Luncheon with the Historical Society in December which includes bringing donations for our local food pantry.

Through the **Waldoboro's Woman's Club's** membership in the Lincoln County Union of Women's Clubs (the last Union in Maine) a number of us volunteered at the Lincoln Home Thrift Shop and have provided birthday flowers for some residents of the Assisted Living Facility.

In October we had an Orientation Meeting as we have a number of new members.

November brings our Election Day Bake sale followed by our

meeting. The speaker will be Les Fossil who will speak on Historical Preservation and Restoration of Homes in the area. We will also be donating food to the Food Pantry.

December we are looking forward to lunch at a local restaurant and possibly a gift exchange or donations to the toy drive run by the Fire Department.

We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a happy holiday season.

District Two sends warm Holiday Greetings to all and wishes you a very Happy New Year!!

District 3

The **Cosmopolitan Club of Dover-Foxcroft** opened the club year with a "welcome back luncheon". We ate well, did a little planning and then it was time to play. Using 10- 2 liter empty soda bottles and a ball a bowling lane was erected. Once again, Suzanne Raymond won with the high score but this time she had to win in a play off!

October came and we were asked to participate in a program against "domestic abuse". This effort was led by Minnie McCormack of the Miosac Club who is also the GFWC/Maine chairperson for the state signature program. Fighting Domestic Abuse. She got Woman Care, Miosac, Cosmopolitan, County Government and the Maine Governor's office involved. A banner hangs over a main street in Dover-Foxcroft for the month of October stating

"Help Break the Silence, Speak Out about Domestic Violence". At the Piscataquis Court House a proclamation was read by a County Commissioner and a representative of the Governor's Office.

Two members attended Fall Conference in South Portland and we were rewarded with a motivational speech by GFWC First Vice-President, Babs Condon. I'm only sorry we didn't record it so you all could see or hear it.

The Miosac Club of Dover-Foxcroft club year started out again with our Souper Supper in October with members coming back together after the summer break to part take in some delicious homemade soups, salads and desserts. DVA Chairman and member Minnie McCormick spearheaded a DVA event in Dover on Sat, Oct 1st with GFWC /NER President Kathy White, GFWC/Maine President Suzanne Raymond, GFWC/President - Elect Anne Cress and members of the club in attendance. Also attending were Andrianne Bennett, press secretary to Gov. LePage, County Commissioner Tom Lizotte, and Cindy Freeman Cyr, director of Woman Care, the domestic violence awareness support agency located in Dover-Foxcroft.

A banner was erected across Main Street in the town and remains there throughout the month of October stating, " Help Break the Silence - Speak Up Against Domestic Violence" The GFWC logo is also featured on the

banner. Proclamations were read from Gov LePage and the county Commissioners. Over 70 purple ribbons were made by club member Carol Kilpatrick and distributed to local business around town. Our sister club, the GFWC/Cosmopolitan Club of Dover-Foxcroft also assisted in the event. Light refreshments were served afterwards.

To continue with the DVA theme for Oct, our second meeting was a silent auction among members with the proceeds going to WomanCare. Over \$125 was raised for this worthy organization. November will find the club holding a Pampered Chef Party to raise funds for our ongoing projects and Dec will find members , once more, helping with The Community Christmas Project in town - providing needed warm clothing, boots and a toy to the children in Dover-Foxcroft.

Pink tulips were planted by member Leona Dow to freshen up the Breast Cancer Awareness Gardens planted two years ago by the club and the annual fall clean-up of the club sponsored park, The Marion Doore Park, will be held once the leaves have all fallen! HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!

The Pittsfield Arts club members enjoyed a very informative meeting with Victoria Alexander Lane, CEO and President of Seabasticook Valley Health on Monday October 10th at the new SVH conference room on Leighton Street in Pittsfield.

Victoria spoke on the staff and services available at our area hospital and their exciting plans for the future and how the changes that are being planned will benefit the area.

Our next meeting will be Monday November 14th and our own state president Suzanne Raymond will be present. Club members are excited about this upcoming meeting and look forward to hearing about the recent fall meeting and Operation Smile. The club has been working on johnnies and dolls which will be donated to Operation Smile. Tuesday club members are welcome to join this meeting which will be held in the new Warren room at the Pittsfield Public library at 6:30PM.

The club will host their annual Christmas craft auction on Sunday December 4th at the Congregational Church Memorial hall. This is one of our continuing fundraisers and all are welcome to attend.

The **GFWC/Dexter Women's Literary Club** held a Secret Auction and membership social in August. Members were excited to see a photo of their club working on items for Operation Smile in the Club Woman magazine. At September's meeting, club members voted and approved to provide an annual scholarship for a student to attend the Maine Summer Youth Music camp at UMO. Jane Strauch, a junior at Dexter Regional High School, spoke about her experience at the Maine Youth Leadership seminar and at the Maine Summer Youth

Music Program. The annual public baked bean supper was also held at the end of September with great success. At the October meeting, Guy Dow from the Piscataquis County Sheriff's Dept. spoke about identity theft and recent crime in the community. During refreshments, Jane Snyder was initiated as a new club member! Welcome, Jane!

The **Pittsfield Tuesday Club** held their October meeting at the Pittsfield Library. Each member gave a report on books that they enjoyed as a child. Reading at an early age gave the members a life-long love of reading. Club members will be doing a luncheon for the Welcome Table at the Universalist Church in the near future. This church program has provided a free lunch for people every Friday for nearly two years. Various businesses and clubs in the area have been very generous in providing the weekly luncheons. The Tuesday Club's November meeting's program will be "Life Histories". Each member will give a report about her "history". The Tuesday Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Pittsfield Library at 1:00 pm.

GFWC Newport Woman's Club started off this club year with a pot luck dinner in Sept. District #3 President Rae Hersey was the guest speaker. Member are still creating items for "Operation Smile" and comfort and care items at Hospital Chaplaincy in Newburgh.

Again this year the club partnered with SVCC (Chamber of Commerce)'s fundraiser "Sparkle" as one of 8 non-profit partners. Profits realized from this Nov. 5th. social event are distributed to the eight partners. This popular fundraiser benefits all of Seabasticook Valley.

Four prospective new members were introduced at the October meeting.

Sadly, for the first time in MANY years no members were available to attend the annual convention. We hope to correct this in the Spring.

The GFWC/Outlook Club in Hartland has become rather laid back lately, as our membership has declined to one honorary and thirteen regular members. We made three blankets for Operation Smile at a meeting last winter; one member and her five-year-old niece collected items for smile bags to be sent off soon. Donations are made annually to support our district's high school art contest, Maine Youth Leadership, the State President's Project and to purchase flowers to plant at the local library. Our main project is support of our library. A book is donated in memory of members who have died (one honorary and two regular members in the last two years, sadly); and members donate a quarter for each book they read for a monetary donation each year. Our first meeting of this club year was a well-attended potluck in early October. Several members shared books they had read and it was decided to do this

more often as it takes us back to our roots as simply a literary club.

District 4

The October meeting of the **Castine Woman's Club** was a luncheon held at the Manor Inn. The speaker was Martha Bell from the Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI) located in Blue Hill. Her very interesting talk was publicized as "Overview of MERI Programs Available for All Ages." At that meeting, the new club directories for the 2011-2012 year were distributed to members. This directory is compiled by Sharon Biggie, a past CWC president, who always does an excellent job. Innisbrook fundraiser catalogues were also distributed at the meeting.

Members were all saddened to hear of the passing of dear member Suzanne Snapp. A card was signed by members to be sent to her devoted husband, Lloyd. On October 15, it was wonderful to see so many Woman's Club members from all parts of Maine at Suzanne's services. For those of you who did not know Suzanne, she was remarkable. She was president of the CWC during the periods 1983-1985, 1989-1990, and 1998-2000. She also served as State President from 2000-2002. Suzanne was a highly valued member of the CWC and of the Castine community. She will be greatly missed.

The November 1 CWC meeting was held at Emerson Hall and featured speaker Sue Loomis,

Professor of Humanities and Communication, Maine Maritime Academy. Her topic was "Students Today." As is done each year around the holidays, cash donations were collected from members for Next Step. On Election Day, the club will hold its annual Election Day Bake Sale fundraiser.

The December 6 meeting will bring members together to make holiday centerpieces. Members will also be treated to a talk by reflexologist Alta Gross who will be sharing her ideas on "Feeling Better in the New Year."

The **GFWC/ Lubec Woman's Club** held the first meeting of the 2011-2012 year on Saturday, October 1, at the community room of the Quoddy View Apartments. Sherry Evers-Jenkins, publicity chairperson, placed notices in local papers and on local TV announcing the meeting and the need for new members. The Club also held the meeting on a Saturday to accommodate those who could not meet during the daytime or in the evening. The Club also made this meeting very informal and without structure for the enjoyment of all. Six new ladies came to the meeting and four became members before they left. Two of the ladies were from a neighboring community (Cutler) and might bring more new members.

On Thursday, October 27, the Club held an impromptu beano game and surprised Noni with a

birthday cake for her 90th birthday. She was quite surprised and grateful for all the cards she's been receiving, too!! Thank you to everyone who remembered her special day.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. with a very special guest, wonderful state President Suzanne Raymond. Dee Scull, owner of "Wags and Wool," will also speak about her unique shop in Downtown Lubec. Knitting and pets make a good combo for the winter months.

The Club hopes that you all saw the article in the recent "Club Women" magazine about the Club's float for the Fourth of July and Lubec's Bicentennial. Sherry Evers-Jenkins wrote that article as well. She is a very talented writer who will make "our little club" known!!!

The first meeting of the new club year of the **Narraguagus Women's Club** was held at the Milbridge Historical Society. Sheila Wallace-Leighton from the Milbridge Fire Department Auxiliary was the guest speaker. She reported that the Auxiliary was collecting warm hats to give out when Santa visits the homes of the elementary school children on the fire truck before Christmas. She asked if the group would be willing to furnish hats for their project by the middle of November. The members thought this was a nice idea and members are busy knitting, crocheting or purchasing hats for the Auxiliary's project to be delivered to Mrs. Wallace-Leighton.

The club is meeting on Saturdays this year. Members are hoping by having the meetings on Saturday mornings that more working women may be interested in becoming involved with the organization. The Club did receive a new member at the September 17 meeting.

President Suzanne T. Raymond was the guest speaker at the September 17 meeting. She gave an update on the state organization and then gave a presentation on her president's project --Operation Smile. There weren't many dry eyes after viewing the presentation.

Members and their spouses traveled to Fort Knox in Prospect to visit the Observation Tower. It was a gorgeous day for such an event. Later the group traveled to Swanville to have lunch at the Treworgy's camp on Swan Lake. After lunch the group visited Forest Hart's studio in Monroe. Forest Hart does sculptures in bronze. He has moose sculptures at the entrance of Point Lookout in Northport, the bucking bronco at Hampden Academy, and many more throughout the state. If one has the opportunity, a visit to his studio in Monroe is suggested.

The elementary school teachers (who the Club sponsors with the KIND News) will be the guests at the November 5 meeting. Joann Beal, a teacher from Steuben's Ella Lewis Elementary School, will update members on the new format of the KIND News and how she uses the newspaper in her classroom.

Michelle Potter from The Next Step, the abused women's center in Machias, will be the guest speaker at the November 19 meeting. Members will be presenting donated items for the center to Ms. Potter. The club members donate to the center yearly.

The Club's yearly Thanksgiving Pie Sale will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at the local supermarket in Milbridge. The pies are usually all sold within the hour.

The Club's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held Saturday, December 10 at a restaurant in Harrington. Members will be bringing gifts for children in Washington County. The Club coordinates its efforts with the Washington County Children's Program in the Machias area.

ARTS

Art Sampler

It's time to think about the art shows in each district and get a head start on the project. Check your directories for the rules.

We focus on the visual arts through the sponsored programs of high school student art shows and club woman photography contests, but there are many other arts that we can spot light as Art Samplers in programs and projects. Your club could have programs on theater, music, and poetry and short story readings. Fiber arts are now often seen at

the Common Ground Fair where a variety of fibers are displayed with an item as an example. Maine Fiberarts, location in Topsham, provides education in fiber arts, knitting, dying, needle felting, and wheel spinning, celebrating fiber art in a craft and farm environment.

Several club women are Quilters. Quilting can be a fun individual or group project where the finished item could be used for a raffle fund raiser. Scrap booking is also an art where creative cutting, arranging, and layering enhance the pages for a professional look. Add a little music to round out the Art Samplers. Does your club have a member that can play an instrument or sing? Encourage her to share her musical talent with the group. Please consider adding an art program to your club calendar.

The art department will continue an art fund raiser at the spring convention. Several people have donated items for this project and more are welcome. The items can be your own art work or art work of someone else. Items can be any thing that is artistic and could include paintings, craft, fiber and cloth items, jewelry, pottery, and sculptures, to name a few. Please let me know if you have a donation. We raised over \$100 last time and would like the proceeds to go to an art scholarship. Thank you to all those that helped with donations for the raffle and to those who purchased tickets.

Barbara Hathaway, Arts
Collaboration Chairman
bhaway@myfairpoint.net

EDUCATION

As we begin another exciting and productive club year, I hope you can incorporate some of the following educational suggestions into your clubs' programs.

There may be use for volunteer work at your local library, as most are operating on a very limited budget. You might learn about some great books that you would want to read while helping there. Some members have provided books and decorated book bags to a children's story hour at their library.

Many of our club members are retired school teachers, and we certainly enjoy visiting where we enjoyed our teaching days to read to groups of children. Even if your weren't a teacher, most of us are mothers and grandmothers and reading to our children and grandchildren is always such a joy. Some members have shared their local community's history with certain classes of school children studying about their community. One club donated school supplies to a lucky elementary school.

Raising monies to provide scholarships for graduating seniors is a great way to help students further their education and increase awareness to the school and community of your club's outreach project.

Hopefully these suggestions will give your club some ideas to use or to expand on. Good luck, and I

will be anxious to read about your particular educational projects which will be reported soon. Remember if you use your own ideas please report them under collaboration, but if the programs are sponsored by GFWC, as listed in the manual, then these will be reported under partnership.

**COLLABORATION AND
PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Roberta Dutton Morrill

854-8117

rjdutton36@aol.com

HOME LIFE

As I mentioned in the last PTN, GFWC clubwomen respond to needs with ingenuity and generosity. Though Maine won no awards in the 2010-2011 competition, we did gain new project ideas from other project applications. A few fresh ideas include: 1. Organize a "smear campaign" to distribute information on the importance of annual pap smears. 2. Hold a "senior shower" at a club meeting and invite representatives of a local senior service agency or facility to speak on the needs of seniors in your community. Present the shower items to the speaker to be distributed. 3. Investigate whether there is a backpack program in your local school system to provide food to needy children on weekends and holidays when school lunches are not available. Visit www.FeedingAmerica.org to learn more about its backpack program. This is only three of the many ideas taken from the reports sent

to GFWC. You can see how important reporting is in sharing project ideas. Please keep this in mind as we approach another reporting season.

Gerry Richardson
Home Life Collaboration
Chairman

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Hello ladies. I am filling in as Chairman for International Outreach and as this is the first time I have needed to write an update, I am at a bit of a loss as to what to write. With Halloween over and lots of trick or treaters collecting for Unicef, it dawned on me that many of our own Maine Federated Clubs may also have a special project that they undertake to help those abroad! I am looking forward to reading all of your club reports and learning about the wonderful help being offered out there! I already am very familiar with the work being done to support Operation Smile and can't wait to hear of the other worthwhile projects going on in our great State of Maine!

Barb Austin

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

I had a wonderful time at fall conference. The costume party was fun. Sorry some of you had to miss it. It didn't seem right that some of you weren't there. Hopefully by now all clubs have gotten the booklet "Rose's New

Shoes" and are putting it to good use. Women are of Dover-Foxcroft received theirs at the Domestic Violence Awareness Event on October 1. They will be using them in the area schools.

I also hope you got a copy of the "Step Away From Abuse" project. I am sure the socks will be much appreciated now that cold weather is on the way. Be sure you report what you do with both these projects and please let me know as well. Keep doing what ever suits your club for the DVA program.

GFWC/Miosac Club had a silent auction at our last meeting and raised \$127.50 in just a short time. See what you can come up with to raise awareness as well as funds. Have a wonderful holiday season and a warm and cozy winter. Look forward to seeing you all in the spring and to see what new things are happening with your clubs.

Yours in Federation,
Minnie McCormick Domestic
Violence Awareness Chairman

LEADERSHIP

In my last article I left you with some food for thought. I ended the article with this, "If you are a volunteer **you** are a leader", and I asked you to think about it. Well, I will share my thoughts with you now.

What is the meaning of the word volunteer? According to the World Book Dictionary, to volunteer is to offer one's services

of one's own free will; to offer to do, undertake, give, or show (something) without being asked. This is what GFWC clubwomen do all the time. We offer our services, at no cost, for the betterment of our communities. We plant gardens in local parks, we donate food to our community food cupboards, we knit blankets and sweaters for infants and mittens for juveniles, we hold art shows for high school students, we provide necessities for families at domestic violence shelters, we make cards for residents at healthcare facilities, we provide needed items to veteran's homes, and the list goes on and on.

What is the meaning of the word leader? According to the same dictionary, to be a leader is to show the way by going along with *or* in front of; to guide. This is what GFWC clubwomen do all the time. We are leaders by being committee chairs, by holding an office at the club, district, state, regional, or international level.

But, I think being a leader is so much more than taking on a leadership position. I believe, as GFWC clubwomen, in our volunteer capacity, that we are ALL leaders. The minute we joined a club we became leaders. Not everyone volunteers their time and services. As members of a club we have stepped up, made our voices heard through our projects, and helped our fellow clubwomen make our communities better places in which to live. Not everyone does that, but we do. As soon as we

made the decision to become GFWC volunteers we also became leaders. Why do I think this? The answer is simple. Volunteers do things others won't or can't do. They see a need, take it on, and show that through hard work and determination that need can be addressed and taken care of. Each of us helps with these needs in our own way. We **volunteer** for club projects, each giving of our time, our expertise, our money, or in-kind donations. Each of us helps guide (**lead**) the projects along with our time, our expertise, our money, or in-kind donations. Do you see what I am saying, ladies? Volunteer/Lead – not much difference is there? So, don't just think about taking on a leadership position in your clubs because, as I see it, you have already done it. You just need to realize that you have been a leader just by being a volunteer. You are all leaders and you have the ability to do it.

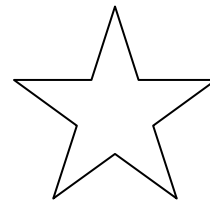
Remember – If you are a volunteer you are a leader!!

Carol Jarvais
Chairman



Kathy White, GFWC NER President and Babs Condon, GFWC 1st Vice President attending GFWC Maine Fall Conference Character Building Banquet (Rapunzel and Madeline)

JENNIE AWARD



WE found our STAR!!!
It is---

Davida Barter
GFWC/Semper Fidelis
Club

GFWC/Maine Honors a clubwoman for outstanding commitment to Club, Community and family. Davida Barter received the Jennie Award for Maine at the GFWC Conference in October 2011 in South Portland.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of our organizations founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers and authored books under the pseudonym "Jennie June" in the late 1800's.

Commitment to Club: GFWC/Semper Fidelis Club of Skowhegan, ME have enjoyed her leadership over the years as Director, Treasurer, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President.

Commitment to Community: Skowhegan has had the honor of Davida as a Selectperson serving as Finance Officer, Vice President and Chairman. Other Skowhegan organizations include the Economic and Development

Committee, Budget and Finance, Recreation Advisory, Ordinance Committee, and Coburn Park Commission. Also a variety of Boards including Margaret Chase Smith and Sebasticook Farm among others.

Commitment to Family: Davida is close to her family. She is married and has two married daughters and four grandchildren. Davida loves her grand children so besides working full time as a legal secretary she has her grandkids overnight most weekends. She loves taking the family to town events and has taught the kids to snowshoe and ski. Family, Friends and Volunteerism- that's what Davida is all about.

Barbette Schafer
Chairman

MAINE YOUTH LEADERSHIP (MYL)

**Leadership – Volunteerism –
Character**

www.mainejuvenileleadership.org

MYL is hoping for your generous support of a student in your area high school once again this year. The Seminar is scheduled for May 17-20 at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham. We are anticipating the usual 120 or so sophomores to participate in this life-changing experience and fundraising is underway to guarantee that it all takes place. Your generous and constant support is of great urgency and importance, more than ever before. We need to continue making a difference in motivating

our future leaders.

THANK YOU Clubs that contributed towards the 2011 seminar.

Livermore Falls Women's Club
GFWC/Dexter Women's Literary Club
GFWC/MFW Westbrook Woman's Club
GFWC/Newport Woman's Club
GFWC/Gorham Woman's Club
GFWC/Lubec Woman's Club
Waldoboro Woman's Club
GFWC/The Dove Society
GFWC/Cosmopolitan Club -DF
Skowhegan Woman's Club
21 Club
GFWC/Narraguagus Club
GFWC/Semper Fidelis Club
Pittsfield Tuesday Club
Patawa Club
Livermore Falls Women's Club
Acadian Community Woman's Club
Castine 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**

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

OPERATION SMILE... MFWC 2010-2012

Thank you to all the club members who donated items for Operation Smile and who also bought raffle tickets for the

beautiful fall arrangement! The raffle garnered \$144 dollars and the lucky winner was, well, ME! I bought tickets too! The Cosmopolitan Club of Bath donated \$240 from their concert held last Spring and the Westbrook Women's Club made a \$25 donation from their club. Pres. Suzanne made a donation in honor of Babs Condon, GFWC 1st Vice President which made the total money collected for Operation Smile at Fall Conference was \$429!! Way to go Ladies!! Stay tuned for the total on the items donated. This Chairwoman has not had a minute to tally and pack it up since the fall conference! I know you all can understand how our lives can speed up at the drop of a dime!

Please consider having your club make a donation to Operation Smile - many clubs include the President's Special Project in their yearly budget and for that I am truly grateful! Also individual pledges of a Quarter a Week are also welcome. \$19.50 covers the pledge for Pres. Suzanne's term and again, many of you have already turned in your forms and money!! SUPER!! And THANKS!! For those still waiting pledges can be mailed to me or brought to the Spring Convention this May.

We as the Maine Federation ARE making a difference in the world - one smile at a time - and so far we have funded 9 smiles!! Congratulations, ladies!! Keep up the good work!!

Barb Austin
Operation Smile Chair

Public Relations

Communications ~ Identity Public Relations

Question 1: Have you taken the time to read the wealth of information that is provided in our GFWC Club Manual in regard to Public Relations? This is available to all our members right from the GFWC website. Check it out by doing the following:

Step 1: Go to www.gfwc.org

Step 2: Select [Click here](#) "The 2010-2012 Club Manual"

Step 3: Select GFWC Public Affairs Advancement Guide (Communications, Identity, Public Relations, and Public Policy). Enjoy reading!

Question 2: Are you taking advantage of the weekly updates available from GFWC by subscribing to **GFWC News and Notes**? This is GFWC's weekly e-newsletter which helps keep clubwomen and friends up-to-date on GFWC activities. It's the best way to stay current! GFWC provides us with up-to-date pertinent information and also promotes various club activities happening around our country. You can also read about 6 months worth of back issues. It's free and it's a wonderful way for us to stay connected to GFWC. Sign up if you haven't done so already.

Step 1: Go to www.gfwc.org

Step 2: On the menu bar, click on Publications for the drop down menu

Step 3: Click on News & Notes

Step 4: At the top of the web page you will see "GFWC's weekly e-newsletter keeps clubwomen and friends up-to-date on GFWC activities. To receive *News & Notes* by e-mail, [click here](#)." So click on "click here" and then follow the steps to provide your contact information.

Should you need some additional assistance, give me a call and I will walk you through it.

Staying connected,
Suzanne Raymond
Public Relations Chairman
564-8817

GFWC Maine Dues Increase

Acting upon the recommendation of the Budget/Finance Committee, the Executive Board approved the proposal to increase the GFWC Maine dues to \$6.00 per capita member, effective with the 2012 administration. To clarify, this will NOT affect dues payments for this coming club year.

Costs are spiraling out of control with every aspect of our lives, so please know that we gave this very serious consideration before making our decision. We do our very best to keep the operating cost of this organization to a minimum and I think you will agree that not having a state dues increase in over 20 years demonstrates that. Membership numbers are down considerably in the past 20 years as well, so this adds to a loss in revenue, in addition to the increased costs due to 20 years of inflation.

This important announcement was shared at our fall conference and also has been sent to club presidents. It is being published here as additional outreach to help insure all our club members are informed in timely fashion. Again, this will go into effect when dues are being collected for the 2012 Administration. Thank you!

Suzanne Raymond
Maine President

Fall Conference Pics



Gail Pooler, Carol Jarvais
and Nancy Ames



Ann Marie Withee-Heald

The Benefits of Belonging to the:

GENERAL FEDERATION *of* WOMEN'S CLUBS



This is a compilation of a few of the many reasons why you and all the women you know should belong to a GFWC club. Read them, learn them and share them with everyone who asks why they should belong.

1. Lifelong friends with women all over the country, the world, your state and in your town, whom you might never have met.
2. Networking with 49 other states, 3,000+ clubs, and over 100,000 women across the country on project ideas that work and benefit your communities.
3. Opportunities for growth and personal advancement, learning valuable leadership skills, gaining self confidence and learn more about our world.
4. As part of an international organization – you have more clout with legislators. Your vote makes a huge impact when working together.
5. GFWC can reach all 50 states and over 100,000 women easily to distribute information about any time sensitive issue.
6. Opportunities to make a larger impact on our country – when all members and all clubs focus on the same issue (like Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention – our Signature Project).
7. Opportunity to learn about many diverse topics and to gain a broader perspective on how each one effects people differently.
8. Opportunity for Community Service and the satisfaction of working together to help those in need and improve our environment, and our communities.
9. Opportunity to stay active in my community and to make a difference, without restricting my free time. Every time I help – my club appreciates my time, talent and efforts.
10. Opportunity for fun, social activities along with all of the Community Service our club does for our town.
11. Opportunities that provide you with training, contacts and experiences to put on a resume to help you advance in the workforce.
12. A built in “emotional” support system. Women nurture each other and our clubs are like circles of friends – always there when we need them.
13. Opportunities to meet other women who are passionate about many of the same issues that you hold dear.
14. Opportunities to travel and see the country. The GFWC annual meetings and the region meetings are held in different states each year with fun, informative and reasonably priced tours offered before the start of these meetings.
15. Opportunities to hear world renowned speakers at these large meetings.

16. Opportunities to win monetary awards, receive financial grants, and utilize the free materials provided by other organizations.
17. Opportunity to say you belong to an international organization of women who has such a proud 121 year long history of serving our world, our country and our communities.
18. Opportunities to network with other organizations that enjoy working with such an amazing organization of women. They give GFWC clubs educational materials, and readymade club projects and club programs.
19. Access to an incredible selection of projects, programs, speakers, emblematic items and a wealth of educational materials – all geared to our clubs that are adaptable to our specific needs and are easily located on GFWC’s website or through GFWC’s marketplace.
20. Access to the Women’s History and Resource Center – located at GFWC headquarters which collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the GFWC and women volunteers. The WHRC documents the social and political contributions of GFWC clubwomen from 1890 to the present through the GFWC archives, related special collections and publications.
21. Opportunity to advocate for special legislation with the backing of the delegates at our annual conventions. Each year over 100 resolutions are reviewed, updated or left unchanged on a wide variety of topics. You can be notified on these opportunities to advocate if you sign up for the legislative updates.
22. LEADS – a leadership, education and development seminar sponsored each year during the annual convention by GFWC with monetary assistance to one candidate from each state to aid in the development of leaders at the club, district, state, region and GFWC levels.
23. Being able to claim the legacy of accomplishments of the women who came before you, who made such a tremendous difference in the lives of our citizens and in the history of our country, states, and communities.
24. Satisfaction of knowing that everything you do with your GFWC club helps someone else.
25. A great vehicle for women – empowering them to reach higher and achieve more than they thought possible.
26. GFWC pays to send their officers to every state once a year to share their knowledge, resources, educational workshops and enthusiasm.
27. Providing an opportunity for middle school and high school ages girls to learn about volunteering, and to gain self confidence and leadership skills through the GFWC Juniorette program.
28. Some states offer a 501c3 tax status to their membership. Each state varies and state regulations differ – so check with your state to see if you qualify.
29. Opportunities to participate in discount programs, travel and tour programs and other affinity programs.
30. Opportunity to be a part of a fun organization. We have fun doing amazing things for people every day and make history too.
31. Knowing that your club’s small donation for a project supported by the entire GFWC network really makes a difference and helps.
32. The ability of your club to work independently on an issue that only applies to your community – but with the resources from GFWC to aid in the structure of your project and help getting started.
33. Reporting these types of projects, create a valuable tool for other clubs to benefit from your experience and possibly add a new dimension to this project for the future. Networking is an amazing tool of GFWC.
34. Awards presented and recognition given at all levels of GFWC provides powerful positive support to our clubs and individuals.
35. People are depressed about our economy but it has been proven to help you feel better if you join a volunteer organization. Volunteer participation not only improves our society and helps alleviate a recession, but it raises the spirits of the new volunteers and those they help. To get happy - simply keep busy – and help others by volunteering.

36. Simply being a member of GFWC is empowering. We teach each other, we care for each other, we work together to better our world.
37. Volunteering allows us to feel needed and valued.
38. Being a member of GFWC opens doors to other organizations allowing easier access and collaboration on many volunteer opportunities.

Women are amazing creatures. We love fiercely and will fight fiercely for what we believe in with our last breaths. Where would our country be without these strong women? Our founders were women who are willing to give up almost anything to stand together and fight for what they knew was right. They knew the value of a national organization and they felt a sense of responsibility. Are we the same type of women today? How important is it to you to belong to a group where clubs just like yours annually donate over \$40 million dollars to help people who are in need?

Our vision for the future - continues as it started - a means of self-education and personal and professional development for women. GFWC Women tend to think big and get big results. Are you proud to be a member? Do you enjoy helping others each and every day and making history along the way? That's what being a GFWC member is all about. GFWC – It's a Volunteer Thing!

**Pine Tree Notes
Next Deadline
January 3, 2012**

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

Sheri Walsh
Corresponding Secretary
PO Box 555
Winter Harbor, ME 04693-0555