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General Federation of Women's Clubs - Maine Chapter

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PINE TREE NOTES



November/December 2018



President's Letter

Winter is in the air—I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm not ready for it yet!

Wow -what a wonderful GFWC Maine Fall Conference! I want to thank each and every one of you who attended this one day celebration; I know for some of you it was a stretch, after having attended the GFWC NER Conference just a few weeks earlier. I also want to give a big "thank you" from the bottom of my heart to the clubs and individuals who donated household items for the "Veteran's Welcome Baskets". I am truly overwhelmed by your generosity, and our guest speaker, Melissa Cowing, echoed this thought.

Know that the GFWC Maine Executive Committee is listening to you, the members, when planning our GFWC Maine Conferences and Conventions. We want you to be fulfilled, engaged and excited when attending these meetings. If you have any suggestions for content, speakers, or table talks, please feel free to email any of your State Officers with ideas. We want to make this about you!

I hope we were able to stir up some enthusiasm for fundraisers towards the President's Project, "Honoring those who Serve". Just as a reminder, the following organizations are the focus for the 2018-2020 Administration:

Operation Hope: Heroin Opiate Prevention Effort (We already met this goal & gave a donation!)

Honor Flight of Maine – Sponsor one complete bus trip for Maine Veterans while in Washington, DC

Travis Mills Foundation – Sponsor one week of camp for a female veteran

Woman's Suffragette Memorial in Arlington, VA

Dr Seuss Books – Donation of books to underprivileged children in Maine

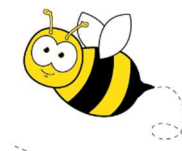
GFWC Maine Elder Abuse Scholarship – Given to one high school senior to raise awareness.

GFWC Clubs around the State of Maine have always had a great impact on the lives of others, not only in our own communities and state, but in the world. We all strive to make our world a better place - in thought, in word, and in deed. So let's continue to "Be the Change" in the lives of others by creating positive changes through our volunteer service and acts of kindness, both large and small.

In Federation and in Friendship,

Nancy Ames

GFWC Maine President



The Suffragist History



Gloria Leveillee NER Suffragist Hat
Contest winning entry

School history books rarely mention that the suffragist movement lasted 72 years or include the story of the scores of suffragists who were imprisoned at Lorton, VA., in 1917 for picketing the White House demanding the right to vote. These women were arrested, tried, convicted, and imprisoned for terms of up to seven months, ostensibly for blocking traffic on the sidewalk. The reports of inhumane conditions, beatings and force feedings electrified the country and became a major “turning point” in the struggle for voting rights for women.

Their sacrifice is a reflection of the hundreds of thousands of other suffragists who planned, organized, donated, marched, petitioned, lobbied, lectured, and wrote as they broke new ground. Women and men of our time are living the legacy of women’s rights won in this nonviolent revolution which brought the largest expansion of voting rights in American history.



The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3), volunteer-led organization committed to raising funds to build a national memorial to honor the suffragists who fought for and won women’s right to vote.

The memorial will be located in NOVA Park’s Lorton, VA., part of the historic grounds where the women were incarcerated. Once built, you will enter the grounds through replica White House gates into the Turning Point Plaza featuring a Jail Door/Shackled Suffragist Sculpture. Interactive informational stations sending a message of “empowerment” will encompass meditation garden and an early 20th century rail car like the suffragists traveled throughout the country advocating voting rights for women for you to experience.

Honor these women and preserve the suffragist’s legacy for future generations.

To help: visit www.suffragistmemorial.org and newly appointed board member Libby Wiers at 207-938-4684 or mnlbby49@gmail.com to schedule a club presentation.

Informational websites:

www.gfwc.org

www.gfwcmaine.org

<http://www.waterville-me.gov/police/operation-hope>

www.honorflightmaine.org

www.travismills.org/foundation

US Department of Veterans Affairs –

TOGUS VA Homeless Veterans

Housewarming Baskets

Maine Voluntary Service e-mail:

Melissa.Cowing@va.gov or

VAVSMaine@va.gov

Text: VAVS to 22828

www.sewmuchcomfort.org

www.shotatlife.org

www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

www.soles4souls.org

www.clynk.com this program through local Hannafords bottle redemption – if all Maine Club members participate bringing a couple of bags we could fund a Veteran for Honor Flight Maine; get your Clynk bags today!

Dates to remember:

November 6th VOTE

November 12th Veterans Day

January 9th PTN submissions due

January 10th REPORTS Due

January 21st Martin Luther King Day

May 2nd-3rd GFWC Maine Spring Convention in Freeport, ME

June 29th-July 1st GFWC International Convention in Austin, TX



Northern District News

GFWC Newport Woman's Club

kicked off the 2018—2019 club year in September with its annual Membership Pot Luck Dinner. We were busting at the seams with 20 members present and 3 guests, two of whom applied for membership that night! President Jane Briggs and the calendar committee reviewed the ambitious list of projects and programs for the annual club year and proudly unveiled the Carolyn Lombardi Trophy engraved with the GFWC Newport Woman's Club name. In keeping with GFWC Maine President Nancy Ames' Special Project, the "Be the Change" jar was introduced and will be circulated at each meeting.

The October meeting invited our membership to bring "Gently Used Purses" filled with personal care items to be delivered to the Betsey Ann Ross House of Hope, a homeless shelter for female Vets located in Augusta—our second year of adopting this service project. Three of our members were invited to tour the historic house and met two of the house members. Their mission states that they will establish a support system for female veterans that creates a feeling of community by providing housing for the veteran and their children, aiding in access of services, and finding opportunities for training, education and employment to achieve independence. It's a program worth sharing. GFWC Maine President Nancy Ames was our speaker and brought the membership up to speed on her exciting program of work.

2018 GFWC Maine LEADS graduate and GFWC Newport Woman's Club member, Linda Lougee has been working overtime to foster club interest at the "Juniorette Club Level." To that end, Linda has been talking with Nokomis Regional High School Principal Mary Nadeau and has the okay to talk with and start the process of a Juniorette Club at NRHS. What an exciting concept!! Six club members attended the always informative and exciting Fall Conference in Hallowell. Our plans for November and December are no less exhilarating. Joy Asuncion, a retired Senior Chief Petty Officer, the Maine Ambassador for the Women In Military Service and Honor Flight Maine Board of Director, will speak on Honor Flight Maine...one of GFWC Maine President Nancy's signature projects. And, at our December meeting we will slow down for the Holidays with a Yankee Christmas Ornament Swap...this can get a bit rowdy if more than one member takes a liking to a particular ornament. All members help with delicious seasonal refreshments at this meeting proving that we are amazingly good cooks!!

In closing, all I can say is "It's going to be a GREAT year!!"

Jane Briggs, President

GFWC Semper Fidelis Club

members took most of the summer months off from club work to rest and prepare for the new club year. August was the beginning of activity with members attending a planning meeting and mapping out speakers, events and other activities for the upcoming year. And what a year it will be!

The Fall Banquet was held at Lakewood Inn Restaurant where we caught up with each other and with club business. Our 2018-2019 Program was presented, the annual community calendar fundraiser was started and diapers were donated to be presented to KVCAP. Members participated in the Annual Paddle for Pine Tree Camp, the Pink Ball Golf Tournament and the Trek Across Maine raising funds while having a good time. GFWC President Nancy's fundraising projects were discussed and the "Be the Change" jars and the CLYNK bottle redemption programs were implemented. The food was good and the company was better! Members attended GFWC International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, GFWC New England Region Conference in Newry, Maine and GFWC Maine Fall Conference in Hallowell. With funds from the basket raffle we have at each of our meetings we were able to supply two complete housewarming baskets to Togus for their homeless veterans' project. We congratulate GFWC Maine President for putting together and hosting a fantastic New England Region Conference.

Club member Davida Barter once again turned the gazebo at Coburn Park purple with lights she hung to raise awareness for Domestic Violence month and the annual vigil.

Everyone is busy selling items for our RADA cutlery and poinsettia fundraisers. An interesting and informative presentation on an African Safari was attended by members at the Skowhegan Public Library prior to our meeting. The pictures were

wonderful and we learned about a part of the world we have only seen in movies or in magazines.

We are all looking forward to the holiday season and the joy it brings. Wishing you all holidays full of love, family, friends and whatever makes you happy.

Carol Jarvais, President

GFWC Pittsfield Arts (Always Ready to Serve) Club hosted a Cheese Cake and Quiche contest as part of the annual Egg Festival. Everyone enjoyed the goodies and judges sampled each one to choose their favorites. Prizes were awarded to the winners and funds were raised for our club by selling the cakes and quiches. In the Fall, members met for a delicious dinner in September at Poponover's Restaurant on Main Street. A new member was welcomed and we all caught up on everyone's summer. The October meeting was very informative. Heather Holland spoke about Outland Farms. Members learned about the Community Garden at the farm and how it all works. The Community Garden allows folks to work in the garden a few days a week and have all the produce they need at harvest time. She and her husband have owned and run this lovely farm for six years. They raise and sell organic meat, vegetables and fruit. Next year they plan to open a brewery. They will brew their own beers and have a café too. The farm is family oriented with activities for the children. October 24th was our annual Candidates Night which was held at the Pittsfield Town Hall. State and local candidates were invited to speak to the people who attended. It was very thought provoking and gave everyone a chance to hear them speak and ask questions. Bev

Rollins organized the event and Mike Gray was the moderator. It was well attended.

The club has several interesting programs planned for the upcoming year which include breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Santa in December and making Valentine Baskets for the local boarding home residents in February. Our November meeting will be held at the Pittsfield Public Library and the speaker will be a representative of SKILLS INC. This organization is involved with helping adults in Maine who are intellectually challenged and have special needs.

Carol Ouellette, President

GFWC Lubec Woman's Club has been very busy this Autumn. On Labor Day we drew the winner of our 500 Raffle. Local resident Davis Pike won over \$500 in gift cards, many of which were donated by local businesses who support us in our endeavors. The profit from this sale will be used for scholarships for our graduating high school seniors. In September we enjoyed the 'Fun Tour' of the Roosevelt Cottage on Campobello Island, NB. We learned some interesting facts about our neighbor island and their famous residents. For our October meeting we invited Downeast residents to a presentation by Karen Benn, the owner of the Eastport Fabric Emporium, that featured women's dress in the years 1820-1850. Her fabulous presentation was enjoyed by 63 attendees, including ladies who reside at the Machias VA home. Karen Benn, attired in period dress herself, displayed a variety of period clothing, explained how they were worn, interchanged, and adapted for different occasions,

answered questions, and graciously posed for pictures.



It was a very entertaining and educational program!

Julia Brady, President

GFWC Winterport Woman's Club 2018-19 season began with our September membership meeting held at the Old Winterport Commercial House. Proprietor Ann Ronco welcomed us warmly, held a tour of the historic inn, and led a very informative, fun talk on collecting and identifying antiques. We were fortunate to welcome two new members that evening and a few interested guests. In October we met at the new location of Tea Maineia on Main Street, and enjoyed hearing about their business plans, while sipping delicious Sweet Pumpkin Spice tea in their lovely new tea lounge. November and December will be busy months for our club. On Saturday, November 10 we will hold our 3rd Annual Turkey Drive to assist The Neighbors Cupboard in Winterport. This local food pantry needs 50 turkeys to feed the hungry in Winterport and Frankfort at Thanksgiving this year. Our members will be at the Winterport Memorial Library on Main Street from 9:00 a.m. until noon collecting turkeys, checks, cash or grocery store gift cards in the amount of \$10. We will also welcome donations of any non-perishable food on that day. We reached our goal last year due to the generosity and support of our neighbors, families and friends and hope to do the same this November!

One of our club's special interests is to address food insecurity in our community. The club's 2019 Community Calendar, which is our major fundraiser, is hot off the press! For just \$5 local folks support our community projects by purchasing this calendar at the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6. The calendar sales go a long way towards our monetary support of the town fuel assistance fund and the "Santa's Helpers" at Leroy H. Smith Elementary School. Our November meeting will be a workshop to create decorations for our donated Christmas tree to the Wagner Middle School Christmas Fair festival of trees, scheduled for December 8. Their festival of trees supports the school food and supplies pantry for students. December will find our members gathering greens, decorating town planters, and lighting the wreaths along Main Street in the village with the help of our volunteer fire fighters. Our annual Christmas Social will be held on Wednesday, December 12 at the home of club president Gloria Aurelio. As always, we invite any and all interested women to join us for an evening of good friends, good food, and good cheer. The \$10 Yankee Swap is always a highlight! Our honorary lifetime member and town historian, Teddy Weston, has moved to an assisted living apartment. If you would like to drop Teddy a note or card, her address is: Teddy Weston, Ross Manor apt. #24, 758 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401.

The Winterport Woman's Club GFWC wishes all a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season!

Gloria Aurelio, President

GFWC MIOSAC Club is off to a great start for another active year. October brought members together for the first business meeting of this administration. For starters, a "souper supper" was organized and prepared by the advisory committee. This has proved to be a great way to begin the year - an opportunity to break bread together and then settle down to the business aspects of the gathering. General discussion was held reviewing plans for the year ahead. Something new and different for the members, this year they will be participating in the Builders Club Parade of Christmas Trees. The Builders Club is the middle school age group of Kiwanis International. There will be more on this in a future issue of Pine Tree Notes, but the club is excited to be preparing for their part in this event; a committee was formed and plans are well underway! Another new project to work on, the club has jumped right in when an opportunity arose to assist Pine Tree Hospice in their "Trivia Night" event - this will take place in March. Minnie McCormick, Club Historian, provided a delightful program at the second meeting. Ms. McCormick expounded upon the many accomplishments and volunteer efforts demonstrated by the MIOSAC (Modern Ideals of Service and Culture) Club since its formation in 1936. This club has a very rich heritage and looks forward to continuing its varied service activities (and fun!) well into the future. One member was fortunate to attend the New England Region

Conference held in Bethel. What a fantastic time it was. GFWC NER President Mary Baird (Massachusetts) and GFWC Maine President Nancy Ames planned a great event - food, fun, networking, speakers, dancing, s'mores at the fire pit - it was a smashing success! There was no stopping there! Four members attended the sensational fall conference held in Hallowell. Word has it that the club president was feeling very proud to deliver a complete "Veteran's Welcome Basket," a collaborative effort by all the members donating selected items to fill the basket. How wonderful to be a part of the **huge** donation that was made by GFWC Maine clubwomen - eleven complete kits plus more!! Melissa Cowing, VA Volunteer Specialist, was overwhelmed to be sure (and the van looked more like the "Beverly Hillbillies" as she drove away.) Awesome! We've only just begun (that is, club year 2018 - 2019) Peace to all this upcoming holiday season.

Suzanne Raymond, President

The GFWC Skowhegan Women's Club had seven club members had the opportunity to attend the NER Convention held in late September in Newry, Maine. Three ladies: Joyce Noonan, Wilma Sherman (aka, Billie) and June Hovey were in charge of table decorations and favors for all four meals throughout the convention with one hundred twenty-seven attendees. They were supported by other Skowhegan Woman's Club members and GFWC officers

but they were the creative sparks to pull off such an endeavor.

One of the table centerpieces I particularly enjoyed and want to describe for you is the "Hike with ME." The middle of each table had a brown paper mat base decorated with leaves, pine needles, moss, bark, pine cones and acorns to look just like a trail anywhere in Maine. A pair of New Balance sneakers was artfully placed on top of the mat trail along with a bottle of water in one of the sneakers. The other sneaker held a package of trail mix and a sign naming a trail to hike in Maine with location and difficulty. (A footnote to this and many of the other decorations and favors is that contents were donated by Maine Businesses and this shone a light on the quality of goods Maine has to offer).

On the right you will be able to read a poem written by Billie Sherman. Each bookmark was placed at the table setting of each attendee, a little reminder of their Maine experience.

If you know of a high school senior attending Skowhegan High share with them the Skowhegan Woman's Club is offering scholarships. Encourage the student to drop by the Guidance Office and pick up the proper form and apply. The money will be awarded after the completion of their first semester grades are verified by our Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Vi Ferland.

Domestic Violence Month has just passed however the members of the Skowhegan Woman's Club know the struggles go on daily throughout our state and nation. This topic has been on our minds over the past few years as three of our members have had life altering crisis in their lives. We

brainstormed this summer possible ways of continuing the conversation and the education that needs to continue twelve months of the year. Improving communication skills at all developmental levels are critical and knowing resiliency techniques help.

Two of our members attended the October 10, 2018 Vigil in Coburn Park, Skowhegan. We then walked to the town office building where the conversations about Domestic Violence continued. We watched two members of the Resilience in Action Interactive Improvisational Theater perform a domestic violence skit. Afterwards trained Family Violence Counselors and Therapists shared important facts about resiliency and then

Take a hike
Take a walk
Take a drive
Find a park
Run some rapids
Salt a sloop
Fish alone
Or with a group
Eat a lobster
mussel or clam
Pick some berries
Make some jam
Ski a mountain
See a play
Spend a week
or a day.
Of all the things you can do
In spring, summer, winter or fall,
say "Hi" to those who live here
for they are the best of all.

asked the public how the victim could handle the domestic

violence situation we just saw staged.

This was the springboard our group needed to continue our efforts in shedding a light on domestic violence throughout the year. Channel 11 has been contacted as well as the Improv Theater Group to collaborate together. Stay tuned to read about our next steps in the spring issue of Pine Tree Notes.
Deb Burnham, President

The Patawa Club is looking forward to another exciting club year ahead. Over the summer, we were able to raise 630.00 by selling wristbands at the Darlings VIP tent for the Ray Lamontagne concert. \$200.00 of this money was then donated to the Penquis Cap backpack program that offers backpacks full of school supplies to children in need. In October, we had a guest speaker come and talk to our group about stroke prevention and awareness in women which was very helpful and informative. As we move closer toward the holidays, group members will be participating and fundraising for the Big Brother/Big Sister Bowl for Kids' Sake. We will also be doing a purse project for the Partners for Peace organization (formally known as Spruce Run) where we will be collecting gently used purses and filling them with full size personal toiletry items to donate to domestic abuse victims. And to close out 2018, Patawa will hold their annual holiday dinner and silent auction to raise money for local area charities, we look forward to this each year where our members gather to celebrate the giving season.
Jen Spencer, President

The **Castine Woman's Club** has been as busy as the squirrels these past colorful fall days

prepping for a long winter filled with interesting programs and fun events.

CWC meetings for the 2018-2019 membership year will again be generously hosted by CWC Vice President Patty Hutchins and her Wilson Museum staff at the Hutchins Education Center. Meetings are open to the community with host-provided refreshments. The Club is also experimenting with providing some evening programs to attract wider attendance.

On September 18, after a short business meeting, CWC and other community members traveled on a visual journey to Havana with CWC's Sue Hazlett, MMA adjunct professor. Sue's talk "Hola Havana!" provided attendees valuable tips on traveling to and within Cuba in today's political climate.

CWC's Annual Meeting was held on October 2 with a new twist. Members met for an evening Soup Supper Social followed by a short business meeting and brainstorming session for program planning. Members were treated to good conversation and delicious homemade chicken soup, biscuits, and fresh apple crisp. Ideas were bubbling over! On Monday, November 5, members gathered for a pie-making workshop led by CWC officers and bakers extraordinaire Marjie Wheeler and Patty Hutchins. Open to the community, the workshop was held for the afternoon in the barn kitchen at the Hutchins Education Center. Fresh apple and pumpkin pies were made to sell at the Club's annual Election Day Bake Sale on November 6. Many hands made light work! The Club's December 4 Holiday Meeting is in the planning stages.

The CWC wishes everyone the Jolliest Holiday Season and the Happiest New Year!
Val Taub, President

Southern District

The Waldoboro Woman's Club

began the fall season with a birthday luncheon on Tuesday, September 11, for Elaine Robbins, Marilyn Andrews and Dona Williams, three of our members who turned ninety years old during the month.



The menu included two different quiches, delicious salads and County Bread along with two beautifully decorated cakes and ice cream. The officers were also celebrated with gifts of hardy chrysanthemum plants as appreciation for their service. The budget process began and a profit of \$5,340.20 from the Whale of a Sale was announced. The October 8, meeting was highlighted by an informative presentation by Principal Linda Dolloff Pease, of Medomak Valley High School. Mrs. Pease explained the goals of the high school whose students annually receive scholarship grants from the club. She accompanied her speech with visuals that explained the Vision, Core Values, Program of Studies and the challenges which face the staff and 570 students of the school. Several of Linda's old friends were delighted to have her at the meeting, and all present appreciated her answers to our many questions. Presently the school and the club are investigating a way to create a closer relationship in

the future with some of the students.

Newly designed yearbooks were distributed with thanks to the Hall Funeral Home for its Community Outreach Program which assisted with the printing. The club has investigated assisting with Red Cross Blood Drives, agreed to support the GFWC President's project as well as the Nyolo school. Our Bake Sale for Scholarships is scheduled for Election Day, November 6, at the polls, and once again we will support the Toys for Tots local drive with Christmas gifts.

Jean Lawrence, Secretary

GFWC Research Club of

Limerick

Despite the hot and humid weather this summer the Research Club met aided by a couple of fans for cooling. Pets for Vets was the feature of our July meeting. Gary Mortensen told of his group supplying Veterans with dogs. These dogs help Veterans readjust to society. Pets for Vets is well funded and we were glad to hear that this organization is able to fulfill Veteran's needs. The August meeting was entitled "G.F.W.C. – A year in Review". Gloria Leveillee and Sally Manchester gave a history of G.F.W.C. and The Research Club's participation. We felt that some of the members needed to know this information, especially new members.

As usual our September was our annual Pot Luck Super. This year's theme was International. Our special speaker was Syeira New, the 2018 Maine Dirigo Girl's State participant. Hearing Syeira tell of her experiences

encouraged us that our money is well spent to help girls realize their full potential.

Five of our club attended The N.E.R. Region Conference. This was a fun conference as we met women from other New England clubs and got to know them better. One of the events was an authentic hat contest which was won by Gloria Leveillee who also dressed as a suffragette would have done in the 1800s.

October was an extremely busy month. Our meeting's program featured Sole Hope presented by Tara Pierce. Sole Hope is an organization that gives shoes made from recycled blue jeans and tires that are given to children and adults in Uganda. These shoe's parts are cut out here in the United States but put together in Uganda.

Wearing these shoes help prevent infections made by the Jigger insect to invade feet. Tara went to go to Uganda this past year so she was able to give us a personal account of what is being accomplished by Sole Hope.

Four of our members were able to attend the G.F.W.C. Maine Fall Conference. We totally enjoyed the conference.

The month was finished by attending an event sponsored by the 21 Club of Kezar Falls.

We listened to the history of Silas Hagartey's involvement with the rejuvenation of the Kezar Falls Playhouse Theater.

Silas is a film maker by profession and was able to purchase The Playhouse Theater 10 years ago which he has been restoring ever since.

He showed a film made by local high school kids in only a week's time. Silas has friends in the film business who help these students learn film production. He showed us the film and then told us it is entered in a film completion that is to be held in Boston soon. He is taking the students to the competition, many of whom have not been to Boston before. This was a great evening and some of us who attended didn't know that this Theater existed.

Lovedy Alexander, President

GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club started the 2018/19 year when 38 members and guests gathered at DiMillo's Restaurant on Tuesday, September 4 to enjoy a delicious lunch and social enjoyment. The Club yearbook, for the upcoming year, was distributed to the members. Members were enthusiastic to start our new year.

The September 18 meeting had 33 members and 2 guests. It was a welcome back with a make your Italian sandwich lunch. A vacancy occurred over the summer with the position of Second Vice President. Vivian Newton was installed into this position, as well as, Pat Currier as Corresponding Secretary. President, Beth Turner presented to the Club certificates for Home Life Reporting and Elder Abuse presented at the Spring Convention. Also, our very own Past State President, Mary Libby was recognized and received the Emerson Award at the GFWC International meeting in

June. Mary was one of 20 State Presidents awarded this honor. Westbrook Woman's Club is very proud of this special recognition for Mary! The year of 2019 is a very special year for our Club. We will be celebrating 100 years. How special!!! Plans have been started and Club members have been asked to sign up to help make the celebration one to be remembered. The date will be October 26, 2019 with more details to come. We are off to a busy start.

Our October 2 meeting had 32 members and 2 guests. Jennifer Drouin, a Westbrook High School Nurse spoke with us about food insecurity and its effect in Westbrook. She informed us about programs to be of assistance to help those in need such as Good Shepard Food Bank, The Locker Project, and the peanut butter and jelly program. We took a monetary collection to purchase items for the homeless veterans' project at the upcoming fall conference. The Club will be supporting the Honor Flight veterans on October 26 at the Portland International Airport. Members will be supporting the Salvation Army bell ringing over the holidays. Also, our lobster roll lunch sale will be November 7. Our members are very busy in preparation for this fund-raising event. We are hoping to sell 1,000 rolls. Funds raised from this project support scholarships for Westbrook High School and the Regional Vocational School students. Westbrook Woman's Club had 12 members attend the GFWC

New England Conference. What a great time we had sharing time together as well as meeting members from other Clubs. Great GFWC information received.

Our October 16 meeting had 42 members and 2 guests. Our members wore pink to celebrate Breast Care Awareness month. We enjoyed a delicious spaghetti lunch. Our President, Beth reported on the funds collected for the Homeless Veterans. She will be taking the following items to the Fall Conference: toaster oven, inflatable bed, 2 blankets, set of sheets, silverware, and set of pots and pans. Our Club will again have a tree at the Festival of Trees held at the Westbrook Warren Congregational Church. We will continue to do our donations to Spring Harbor Hospital. A reminder was announced to remember deadline for orders for the Lobster Roll Lunch was October 30. Keep selling!!! A highlight of our meeting was welcoming 2 new members. Our special guest was Wendy Bowler, GFWC Maine Vice President. She shared pictures of her and her husband, Paul's trip to Cyprus. It was enjoyed by our members and we appreciated Wendy sharing time with us.

Westbrook Woman's Club had 13 members attend the Fall Conference. It was exciting to have some new members attend and some members that have never attended before. We all enjoyed the Maple Hill Farm. The food was delicious and it was a very comfortable

place to spend a day. We enjoyed meeting members from other Clubs and sharing ideas. The speakers regarding drug addiction and homeless veterans were very informative. Our members were proud to have made such a wonderful contribution to the items needed for the homeless veterans. We came home feeling glad we had attended such a fine conference. Westbrook Woman's Club is working hard to "Be the Change".

Beth A. Turner, President

GFWC/Livermore Falls

Women's Club had their installation of officers for 2018-2020 at their September meeting. The presiding officer conducting the installation was Lucille Lavoie the "Collect" installation was used.



She installed Parliamentarian, Frances Berry, President, Ellen Young, Vice President, Susan Sylvester, Secretary, Bonnie Perkins and Treasurer, Christine Fournier.

Marjorie Black, ESO Chairman presented, Ruth Gammon with her Torch Certificate, Nancy Conant with her Century Certificate and a Certificate for reading 300 books to Muriel Bowerman. A special award was given to Muriel Bowerman, by Vice President, Sue Sylvester, of a framed photograph of Muriel, Secretary of State, Matt Dunlap, and our State Rep. Tina

Riely, presenting Muriel the "Spirit of American Award" for her many hours as a ballot clerk in the town of Livermore.

A number of committees were formed: Harris House, Chair, Bonnie Perkins, Ellen Young, Chris Judd, Betty Forbes, Madeleine Winger and Sue Sylveste; Election Bake Sales, Chair, Ghislaine Berube, Lucille Lavoie, Barbara Letalien, and Betty Forbes; Raffle Baskets, Chair, Muriel Bowerman, Ruth Gammon, Bette Nichols and Lisa Townsend; By-Laws, Chair, Ellen Young, Ruth Gammon and Barbara Letalien and Membership, Chair, Ellen Young, Chris Fournier, Ghislaine Berube and Sue Sylvester.

The membership committee gave an update of what was happening on the upcoming "Bring a Friend"/Open House for the October meeting. Flyers were being distributed to area businesses on the event and all were urged to bring a friend to the meeting. The membership committee is busy making posters and working on the agenda for this meeting.

At our October meeting the room was decorated with posters of GFWC and what Livermore Falls Women's Club participated in over the many years they were a club. Posters depicted outreach, donations, speakers and Harris House. As guests arrived they signed in and were greeted by Chris Judd who directed them to look at the displays and enjoy something to eat. Ellen welcomed the guests and opened the meeting with the Collect and Pledge of Allegiance

to the United States of America. Those who had invited a guest introduced their guest and spoke to why they became a member, who introduced them to GFWC/LFWC and what they like best about being a member. After introductions, Lucille explained the poster with donations, Muriel explained the poster about outreach, Ellen explained the poster about speakers and Bonnie Perkins explained the poster on the Harris House. Ellen then gave a brief history of GFWC and LFWC. She then open it up for questions. Before and after coffee and conversation were enjoyed.

Since September the Club members have been very busy with various projects throughout the community and attending conferences: Ruth, Muriel, Ellen, Betty and Ghislaine attended the New England Conference; Muriel, Ruth and Ellen attended the State Conference; Chris Judd and Ellen presented the Spruce Mtn. Primary School with 20 pairs of mittens they knitted over the summer; several members of the Club baked for Literacy Volunteers booth at the Apple Pumpkin Festival. We continue to support the Harris House with personal care items, sending cards to residents and staff and bake goods whenever the need arises. Betty, Madeleine, Chris Judd, Ellen and Sue still continue to read weekly to the residents.

We also shared a basket for Togus VA Medical Center Homeless Veterans program with the Waldoboro Women's

Club. Muriel and Ruth donated a basket and Gail and Mel Slade donated a basket as well as an inflatable mattress and blanket. We are now getting ready for our Election Bake Sale which will benefit the Livermore Fire Department.

Ellen Young, President

21 Club of Kezar Falls

year runs from September to June with no meetings in July and August.

The program/meeting plan for the year is reviewed at our first meeting in September.

Our first meeting is always a pot luck at a member's home with everyone bringing whatever they want and we never seem to have duplicates or a lack of deserts. We all share news from our summers.

Our September program meeting was a presentation by Joan Hadlock on "Legacy through Writing". She spoke as a life coach on the benefits of writing down stories from your own life, to share with younger family members and as a form of life review. Sharing, if you will, the hard-won wisdom you may have learned as well as the happy times.

In October some of the Limerick Research Club members joined our program meeting held at the restored 1880's Kezar Falls Theater. Silas Haggerty, who grew up here, had the vision and hard work has made possible the preservation of a gem in this small community. However, it is his ongoing work with young people in the area that is making the biggest impact. His presentation was about work he does each summer with young people, teaching them to formulate, shoot and edit a video project that is then played in the theater for the community.

There is no question that this has a big impact on the lives of the youth involved in his projects.

He played this year's new film and answered questions in this very interesting presentation.

His film company is ***Smooth Feather Productions***. He has also established a 501(c)(3) by the name of ***Smooth Feather Youth*** to enable funding this ongoing work with young people of this community. If you want to know more, I recommend you check out this link to a story about the film school done by Channel 6 Portland, on their 207show www.smoothfeather.com

Click on *youth* and then *film school* when you get to the site.

Our fundraiser this fall was an indoor rummage sale and all our members contribute items to be sold to raise funds to enable our donations to local Thanksgiving food baskets and Christmas toys for local children.

We are looking forward to our November program on Tai Chi for Seniors which will be open to the public.

Mary Hannaford, President

The GFWC Gorham Women's Club

after a busy 2018, slowed down a little for the start of the fiscal year. At our September 13, 2018 meeting we had a very interesting speaker, Linda Griffin who spoke on "Old Architecture in Gorham". During the presentation Linda showed different houses from early (mid to late 1700's) periods, progressing up to the early 1900's. All of the houses shown were easily identified by the members, some of them because our members actually live in the houses. It was very interesting to hear different

features in the houses and renovations that were done to them during later periods. Some of us attended the New England Regional Conference in Newry, Maine which increased our pride in being Women's Club members.

At the October 11, 2018 meeting we had a pot luck luncheon and an open house. While, we did not get as many visitors as we had hoped most of our members were present and we sure had a great time. There was plenty of food available and we got to sample several different dishes of chicken, as well as shrimp, cheese & crackers, salads and desserts (mostly of the chocolate variety). We were very well fed and most of us left the meeting to go home and take a nap.

On October 20th six of our members journeyed to the GFWC Maine Fall Conference at Maple Hill Farm Inn in Hallowell, Maine. What a great time we had. It was fun meeting members from all over the State. We particularly liked the funeral for "We've always done it like that". I tried to bring that back to Gorham but it didn't meet with the enthusiasm that it did in Hallowell. Maybe it was the costumes and the weeping! At our next meeting on November 8th we will be honored to have Nancy Ames, GFWC Maine President as our speaker.

All our meetings are held at the First Parish Congregational Church in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments are served at 12:30 followed by a program at 1:00 p.m. and then our meeting. Please come visit us some time!

Brenda Caldwell, President

Community Service Programs

Membership

Why People Volunteer???

A. Fellowship with others

B. Be part of a team.

C. Make a difference.

D. Become a voice for those who have none.

This fits all women. We are the care takers. With this in mind just say to a friend, coworker, someone who is pleasant in line at the grocery store.

"You are just the kind of person the club I belong to is looking for." I would love to have you join me and a date and time. Here is my email and phone number what is yours??? I will get in touch with you so we can meet up and go together.

Newport took in 3 new members in September.

I am only a phone call, email or text away.

lindamlougee@gmail.com

207 341-1538.

I look forward to hearing from your club.

Linda Lougee, Chairman



ARTS

The Art Department is going to 'Be a Change'. The Executive Committee



has voted for a rule change to the High School Art Contest. Refer to the GFWC Maine Directory page 86, There will be

4 best entries, 1 Honorable Mention, and 2 Awards of Merit. This would bring the number of entries to 7 for each District. Award of Merit is an entry to notice as 'very close' in the judge's decision and would receive a Certificate of Merit.

The Judges will place awards for Best Entries of: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th and are given ribbons and a certificate. (Ribbons can be Blue for 1st, Red for 2nd, Yellow for 3rd, and White for 4th, and certificates for Honorable Mention and Awards of Merit.)

Contact your District Presidents for guidance. Southern District Co-Presidents: Norma Manning and Patricia Currier, Northern President: Libby Wiers.

At the GFWC Maine Spring High School Art Show, Awards would be 1st Place \$175, 2nd place \$100, 3rd place \$75, and 4th place \$40.

The GFWC Creative Writing Contest and Photography Contests for Clubwomen, it is time to 'Be the Short Story Writer'; 'Be the Poetry Winner'; 'Be the Photographer'. **'Be Creative'**. Let's see what you can do.

Creative writing entries need to be mailed by March 1, 2019 to:

Roberta Morrill, 4 Emily Lane,

Windham, Me 04062

rjdutton36@aol.com

Thank you to those Clubs that have made donations to the High School Art Contest and I would certainly accept any others as we offer an opportunity to those students to 'Be a Change' in the Arts. Clubs can also 'Be the Change' by offering an art program for your community.

Barbara Hathaway, Chairman

EDUCATION

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." - William Butler Yeats

GFWC Maine has always understood that basic knowledge, and fundamental skills are fundamental human rights. We supported programs that provide the education necessary to help individuals gain skills to prosper. We have supported libraries, literacy, and schools both at home and in under developed countries.

GFWC President Mary Ellen Brock presented "7 Grand Initiatives" as goals in her administration. One of the initiatives asks members to donate 1,000 Dr. Seuss books by March of 2020. It has been suggested that the books collected be donated to classrooms and libraries.

We are challenging GFWC Maine clubs to reach the goal of 1,000 Dr. Seuss books by March 2020. The club that collects and donates the most Dr. Seuss books will receive a monetary award at the May, 2020 Convention.

Don't forget to continue your own education by reading. GFWC has an extensive reading list that should be checked out. Set aside a time during the upcoming holiday season to fix a cup of tea, sit in a comfortable chair and read.

Mary Libby – Education Chairman



INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Oftentimes, I hear some people question whether or not we should be helping out the international community when we have so much need here in our own country. I'd like to put forth reasons why we should.

The US per capita income - what can be attributed to each individual, man, woman or child - is about \$60,000 a year. Now we know all people do not generate that income, but that's what it amounts to when we divide the total income by the general population. Compare that to the per capita income of Costa Rica - considered the wealthiest nation in Central America - which is \$16,100, or the per capita income of Uganda which is \$1,820. Very significant differences, and as a result one can easily see how resources are significantly different.

Because more than anything that is why many of the people in countries other than the US need help. In this country we have infrastructure - government programs, churches, established banking, a medical community, legal assistance - not always easily accessible to people, but at least in place. For many of the poorer people of the world, this is not a part of their lives.

That there are needs in our own country, there is no doubt, but the level of need is just so much greater in many other places in this world. I hope your club will consider being part of the solutions for our international brothers and sisters. There are so many great programs which assist people not only by giving, but by helping them develop sustainable beneficial constructs.

Take a look at Heifer International (www.heifer.org), one of our GFWC partners, and Sole Hope (www.solehope.org), a small charity that I just recently learned about - these are both organizations that assist people, but make the people themselves a part of the solution.

Whatever you decide as a club, I hope that you will send me reports of your efforts when you do your club reports at the beginning of the year. Many of you have done so much, but unfortunately, there is still so much to do.

Gloria Leveillee, Chairman



HOME LIFE

Happy Holidays, Ladies!! Time is winding down quickly (more quickly than we realize!) Just wanted to remind you to give a look in the GFWC Club Manual at the Home Life Community Service Program. There are some great ideas for programs and projects on pages 2 and 3 that you can tailor to your club's needs and interests. Go to www.gfwc.org

Don't forget the GFWC Partnerships! They are Easter Seals

(www.easterseals.com), The Heart Truth (www.hearttruth.gov), Canine



Companions for Independence (www.cci.org), and Inside Knowledge: Get the Facts About Gynecologic Cancers (www.cdc.gov/cancer/knowledge) all important topics.

Let me know if I can be of any assistance. Have a wonderful, blessed season ahead and I look forward to seeing you all in the spring!!!

Sally Manchester, Chairman



ESO Epsilon Sigma Omicron



I am happy to report ESO packets were requested and delivered to the following clubs; GFWC Winterport Women's Club, GFWC Livermore Falls Women's Club and GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club. Also updated information was sent to a member of the GFWC Semper Fidelis Club.

In September I attended the GFWC Livermore Falls Women's Club to award a Torch certificate to Ruth Gammon, a Century certificate to Nancy Conant and a 3rd Century certificate to Muriel Bowerman. Congratulations Ladies!

Remember this is something your club can promote for self-enrichment. I look forward to receiving requests for ESO packets. Send your requests to Marjorie H. Coburn Black, PO Box 503 Skowhegan, ME 04976 or email MHB770@outdrs.net

PUBLIC ISSUES

For this month's message, I will use a piece of Leadership thoughts that I found in the Fall GFWC Clubwoman magazine that Henri Belcher-Stack, Leadership Committee Chairman submitted. This message applies to Legislation/Public Policy also.

"Leadership has many faces: mentoring, guiding, and educating. But there is one face of leadership that is so important in today's environment. We all must become stronger advocates for Congressional activity that is consistent with GFWC's mission. Together as clubwomen, we can lead our sisters in educating and mentoring about the GFWC Legislative Action Center, a key vehicle for getting involved in the legislative process. It is very easy and effective because of the women of GFWC and the great leadership we possess."

To sign up for Legislative Action Center alerts:

1. Go to www.GFWC.org
2. Click on "What We Do," then on "public Policy" and then on "Legislative Action Center."
3. Click on "Join the Legislative Action Center" and complete all requested information.
4. **Be sure to select the "Opt In" box.**
5. You're signed up!
6. Respond to Action Alerts that come from program@gfwc.org.



Right now, there is an "alert" about the STOP School Violence Act, a bill that will help schools and communities stop violence before it happens. This bi-partisan bill has already passed the US House of Representatives with overwhelming support. (407-10) Contact your Senators today and urge them to pass **S.2495, The STOP School Violence Act.**

Visit the Legislative Action Center regularly; your voice counts!

If your club would like to have me visit and speak to them about the Legislative Action Center, please contact me at 426-8870 or dmgoodwin2@live.com.

Marge Pfeiffer, Chairman

Are you a GFWC leader? As you strive to attain your goals, developing good leadership qualities is absolutely essential to your success. These skills help you surmount obstacles, take risks, and find ways to live joyfully and thrive even during the most challenging of times.

Don't hold yourself back thinking that leadership is something you're either born with or not. Leadership isn't something people are born with – it's a skill that can be cultivated. The following are six basic leadership qualities that everyone can refine in order to be a more productive GFWC leader.

1. **CONFIDENCE** - More than half of human communication comes from non-verbal cues. Know how to set the right tone as a leader by letting your confidence show. Confident leaders win over and inspire others because everyone else wants to embody confidence too. Practice strong non-verbal communication by standing tall, making eye contact, and learning to control your fidgeting.
2. **FOCUS** - Those who embody strong leadership qualities keep their eyes on the prize. They are very organized and plan well ahead while still remaining spontaneous enough to handle unexpected challenges. Like a grandmaster in a chess game, a leader thinks out each strategy and understands how each of her actions will affect the rest of any given scenario. Don't lose sight of your endgame by cultivating your ability to focus. Having a clear purpose allows you to not only achieve your goals, but to lead teams of people to success as well.
3. **HONESTY** - The strongest leaders treat others just as they expect to be treated – in an honest fashion. The truth is that every clubwoman looks to your own honesty and code of ethics to set her own bar. Make sure each member knows what your core expectations are, and show them how much you value honesty in your everyday interactions with others through setting a valuable example.
4. **POSITIVITY** - Great leaders have an abundant positivity that energizes everyone around them. Choose positive beliefs that will propel you forward, not negative thought patterns that will weigh you down. When you practice positive thinking it becomes your powerful cognitive habit and allows you to reassure and motivate those clubwomen around you.
5. **DECISIVENESS** - Every single person in a GFWC leadership role of any kind has to make difficult decisions from time to time. The ability to be decisive can mean the difference between getting through tough times and folding under pressure. Making these kinds of calls doesn't always mean you will be well loved, but when you use good judgment to make decisions, it will earn you the respect of your fellow clubwomen. Even if you make a wrong decision and need to correct it, showing decisiveness is a better leadership quality than waiting around for something to happen.
6. **INSPIRE** - One of the secrets to success is honing your leadership vision and communicating it to others. Inspiration is what pushes people to plow through difficult times – and to work on achieving their goals even when times are simple and undemanding. You define yourself with your identity. Refocus and sharpen your identity often so you will inspire those in your Clubs.

The best leaders have a clear sense of purpose and are able to take their clubs in the right direction. Additionally, as they lead their group, they create a supportive sense of community for all who are involved. Becoming an inspirational leader is about not only creating something that's better for the club, but encourages those around them to embrace their strong leadership qualities as well.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy and plentiful Thanksgiving, filled with many blessings that will continue on throughout the Christmas season. May God Bless YOU, for all you do for others!

Anne H. Cress, Chairman \ jkhbranch09@gmail.com



Dear MGFWC,

What a rewarding 2 years we have had together supporting South Sudanese refugees in the United Nations Refugee Settlement in Kiryandongo, Uganda. I am so thankful for the leadership of your recent President, Mary Libby, and the critical contributions of Maine GFWC clubs and individuals. This project has had many facets, all of them critical to the journey the refugees are traveling towards self-sufficiency. The Maine connection they have is strong: There is now a GFWC chapter in the settlement, and products have been sold here in Maine. The group has received the first shipment of reusable menstrual pads from GFWC clubs and are learning how to produce them locally. More than 30 orphans from the recent civil war in South Sudan are now attending the Bidong primary school. A computer lab has been up and running for more than a year. Eleven teachers are now trained in how to use a computer in their lessons. Your school supplies: pens and pencils, note-books, coloring books, chalk, and stickers are in constant use at the settlement school.

Although the official 2-year project championed by your former President, Mary Libby, has now ended, the work goes on in the Refugee Settlement. Dr. Radis will be travelling to Kiryandongo next month to deliver computers, menstrual pads, and school supplies. He will be returning with Kam Kwoki Women's Club products and honey from a newly formed honey cooperative. From our organization---The Maine-African Partnership for Social Justice, to the Maine General Federation of Women's Clubs, I thank you for your help in this important project.

If any of you wish to continue your involvement with our work, we welcome your help, either in the form of donated school supplies, or funding towards the education of the orphans in the coming years. To do so, check out our website at mapsj.org or make out a check to the Maine African Partnership for Social Justice and send it to P.O. Box 16, Peaks Island, Maine 04108.

Sincerely

Doctor Chuck Radis

Update: Past President Mary Libby's President Project, The Nyolo Hope Primary School in Kit, Sudan, raised more than \$4500, in-kind donations over \$4000 which included 748 feminine pads, 107 bags, 227 pairs of underwear, \$600 in hygiene and school supplies. "Great sewing ladies!!" – Pat Currier Chairman



REPORTS - please all clubs, let's get this done.

Reporting is important to Clubs, GFWC Maine and GFWC. We need the numbers to be able to show everyone just how wonderful we are and to apply for grants and donations. We want the narratives; the more wonderful projects your club shares the more ideas you can provide for other clubs. The BEST narrative receives the state's Creativity Award per category and is sent on to GFWC for review and possible selection as one of the BEST in the organization. The numbers and narratives are compiled by each chairman and sent into GFWC for consideration for the Outstanding Program Awards.

Be proud of your club & tell us about it!

Be proud of GFWC Maine and let us tell everyone about us!

Be proud of GFWC and let us tell the world!

Report deadline - postmarked by January 10, 2019

Thank you all!

I look forward to be able to share with you lots of great programs & ideas.

Wendy Bowler, GFWC Maine Vice-President



Military Women Initiative

One of the Seven Grand Initiatives for the 2018-2020 Administration is a focus on women in the military. Their role has expanded immensely over time, and as more opportunities open up, more women join every year. With Labor Day being a month away, let's recognize the contributions made by women who serve and also those who have made sacrifices so their spouses can serve. Women in the military truly hold some of the most important jobs! Here are a few ways you can give women in the military the honor they deserve:

Create Mommy Bags – Most VA Hospitals are not equipped for mothers-to-be. You can help pregnant women veterans feel supported and loved by donating mommy bags to military hospitals. The bags can hold items she'll need for the baby, such as diapers and wipes, but also items like lotion, nail polish, and candy so she can feel a little TLC during her pregnancy.

"Thank You, Your Bill Has Been Paid." – A little kindness goes a long way. If you see a woman in a military uniform, ask the waiter if you can pay for her meal. Your club can create accompanying cards that read, "Thank you, your bill has been paid!" so the soldier will feel appreciated.

Cinderella Closet – Collect ball gowns and formal attire for women living on military bases. Whether they are active duty or married to someone who is, women on military bases deserve luxury once in a while. There are many formal military functions, and not every woman who lives on a base has the time or means to dress up. By giving them access to a Cinderella Closet, they can have a night of their dreams.

Women have worked hard to earn their place in military roles, and you can help honor that with projects that will make them feel even more respected and acknowledged.

7 GRAND INITIATIVES

The "7 Grand Initiatives" each have 1,000 as a goal.

1,000 Clubs to do a service project on
Martin Luther King Day

January 21, 2019 | January 20, 2020



Plant 1,000 trees on Arbor Day

April 26, 2019 | April 24, 2020

Donate 1,000 pairs of used shoes to
Sole4Souls or Nike "reuse-a-shoe"



Donate 1,000 Dr Seuss books
by March of 2020

1,000 Members join the
Legislative Action Center



1,000 projects devoted to
women in the military

1,000 Members donate \$1,000
To the Capital Campaign



Plan your projects now.

NOTES:

**Coming soon* A New GFWC Maine 2018-2020 Facebook Page! Look for an 'invite' and share your pictures & events!*



GFWC New England Region Conference

Sunday River Resort Hotel Newry, Maine

EXPLORE ME! From gondola rides, ziplining, a hootin contra-dance, ukulele music and cruising on the SS Minnow to Gilligan's Isle, there was also, donations to 'Take A Shot' for *Shot at Life* with a photo op shot or a shot of Moxie, (say that five times fast...) marshmallow roasts, the 'Suffragist' Hat Contest, won by our very own Gloria Leveillee!, children's backpacks and snacks, boxer shorts that could line the hallway, shopping kiosks were there!, raffles galore, great food, beautiful centerpieces, wonderful presenters and memories were made.

342 Pairs of boxer shorts sent to *Sew Much Comfort*, \$20 sent to *Shot at Life*, and with the help from Marion Sturtevant from the GFWC Westbrook Women's Club, \$620 was raised for the Maine Made basket to support GFWC Maine! (Our own Rosemary Holleman from GFWC Westbrook Women's Club was the winner!) The backpacks that were generously filled and approximately \$400 in money raised, went to the *Skowhegan Food Backpack Program*.

Thank you to GFWC Maine members who stepped up to contribute to the success of this conference! GFWC Skowhegan Women's Club for the beautiful table centerpieces, GFWC Westbrook Women's Club manning the registration table and GFWC Maine Executive Board.

Thank you to Marion St.Clair GFWC President-elect, Mary Baird GFWC New England Region President and Nancy Ames GFWC Maine President

GFWC Maine Fall Conference

Maple Hill Farm Inn Hallowell, Maine

"Be the Change" and GFWC Maine is on its way already! GFWC Maine President Nancy has us moving! Her 'Special Projects' are worthy of our participation, "Honoring Those Serve"! Lively presentations with appearances of the 'White Rabbit', the catchiest tune to REPORT by, and we now know how to start a 'Movement' – check out LEADS!, we know our GFWC Maine Recording Secretary has a lot of hats, and the speakers.....Police Chief Joseph Massey gave an eye opening presentation on the opioid epidemic and what *Operation Hope* is doing to change things, and the afternoon presenter Melissa Cowing from the VA Maine Volunteer Service Specialist gave quite a compelling presentation as well, but to visually see the donations from GFWC Maine clubs was astounding! But more to come with Leadership talks by the 2018 LEADS graduate Linda Lougee, a sorrowful funeral from 'funeral director' GFWC Maine Past President Anne Cress was not to be forgotten, and Megan Libby putting the 'fun' in Fundraising!

Operation Hope is a respected program to aide police departments to find assistance with those addicted to opioids; a \$250 donation was given.

An overwhelming support for the *Togus VA Medical Center Homeless Veterans Housewarming Baskets* was met with gratitude; 11 complete baskets and wish list items (inflatable mattresses, blankets, toaster oven, pots & pans, comforter, et.) was amazing. Thank you to those clubs and individuals who participated:

GFWC Semper Fidelis

GFWC MIOSAC

GFWC Winterport

GFWC Lubec

GFWC Skowhegan Women's

GFWC Research Club

GFWC Newport

GFWC Gorham

Waldoboro

GFWC Westbrook

Livermore Falls Woman's Club, and with members Muriel Bowerman & Ruth Gammon donating one, Gail & Mel Slade donating one

