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Pine Tree Notes (September October 2017)

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General Federation of Women's Clubs - Maine Chapter

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Pine Tree Notes

GFWC Maine Newsletter
September / October 2017



Living the Volunteer Spirit with Sparkle & Shine



President's Letter

Mary K. Libby

"Our Time To Shine" was the theme for the 2017 General Federation of Women's Clubs Convention held in Palm Desert, California, that your president attended. Also attending from Maine were Libby Wiers and Marge Pfeiffer. The Marriot Resort and Spa was beyond description. Set in the desert between mountains with average daily temperatures, while we were there, of 115 degrees was an experience by itself. There is some truth that dry heat is different from the humidity we experience in Maine, however, 120 degrees is hot even without the humidity. It was an outstanding convention from the very beginning to the very end.

The State of Maine won the State Creativity Award for the Arts! Sue Ellen Lexier of the Skowhegan Woman's Club won 2nd place in the photography contest. Congratulations, Sue Ellen. Your president was extremely proud to accept these awards from International President Sheila Shea.

We received accolades from the New England Region and for our President's Project. Attendees at the NER luncheon were amazed by the work you have done in such a short time to support our school.

It seems impossible as your President that her term is at the half-way mark. We have accomplished much with much ahead of us left to do.

This President encourages everyone to support and attend your fall district conference. It is hoped by your President and your District Presidents that there will be a large attendance at each meeting. This way of meeting has some challenges but we hope that by keeping travel and cost to a minimum more of the members will be able to participate. There will be more information soon from your District President.

As troubled as our times are let's say "I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free".

In Federation love,
Mary K. Libby, GFWC Maine President

Proud member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs



Spring Convention at Hollywood Slots in Bangor



100th Anniversary Celebration of the Lubec Woman's Club



**Maine Retired Teachers' Convention – Dr. Radis, Laura Neal, Membership Chair,
Mary Libby, President**

REMINDERS

Fall Conferences

District 1 – September 23, 2017 the location is Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church, Westbrook. Registration is from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. There is a fee of \$20.00 per person which includes a registration fee and lunch. Send fee payable to GFWC Maine – address Norma Manning, 124 Austin St., Westbrook, ME 04092. Contact Norma Manning at NManning@Maine.rr.com.

District 2 – October 28, 2017 the location is the Margaret Chase Smith Library, Skowhegan. For specific details contact either Joyce Noonan (JANoonan@beeline-online.net) or June Nickerson-Hovey (judoma2@gmail.com).

District 3&4 – October 14, 2017 the location is Central Hall/Methodist Church in Dover-Foxcroft from 9-3. There is a \$5.00 per member registration fee. A soup/sandwich luncheon will be provided at a cost of \$8.00. Checks made payable to GFWC Maine and mailed to Marjorie Pfeiffer, District President, 496 N. Dixmont Rd., Troy, ME 04987. Contact at DMGoodwin2@live.com.

Pine Tree Notes

The articles for the holiday edition of the Pine Tree Notes are due to the Corresponding Secretary, no later than, **September 20, 2017**.

Directory

Those that have ordered a Directory they will be available for pickup at the fall Conference in your District.

Dimes in a Bottle Still Continuing

To all Clubs please keep putting your Dimes in a Bottle at each meeting to collect the dimes for Mary's special project. Also, keep bringing in the school supplies to go to the school in Kit, South Sudan, Africa. It is important that we, who are so fortunate, can generously support our President's special project. Each Club working together will make this happen!

UPDATES

Suzanne Raymond, PO Box 26, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426, 207-717-4139– straymond72@gmail.com

Marjorie E. Pfeiffer, 496 N. Dixmont Rd, Troy, ME 04987, 207-426-8870 - dmgoodwin2@live.com

GFWC/Dexter Women's Literary Club has a new Club Secretary – Wanita Grant, #6 Bishop Hill, Dexter, ME 04930
Telephone 207-717-3466

Hurricane Harvey

The images of our fellow citizens are devastating in the southern part of our country. Thoughts and prayers are needed for those facing such a tragedy. Members give thought as to how we can help!

President Elect

Nancy Ames
Ames76@gmail.com



Vice President

Carol Jarvais
RJ Jarvis@myfairpoint.com



Recording Secretary

Wendy Bowler
WendyBowler@gwi.net



Treasurer

Sheri Walsh
Swalsh1964@gmail.com



Corresponding Secretary

Beth A. Turner
lincbethturner@gmail.



Parliamentary Advisor

Libby Wiers
mnlbby49@gmail.com



Vice President's Message

Greetings and welcome to the beginning of the 2016-2018 administration. I am excited to be serving as your Vice President and looking forward to what this term has in store. Becoming better acquainted with your clubs and members is one of my goals over the next two years. President Mary has selected a project close to her heart which will benefit the educational needs of children. I can't wait to see what you ladies do to support it.

Which brings me to the main responsibility of my office – reporting. Everyone dreads the process but we so benefit from the results. We get to tell everyone how great we are and how much we accomplish for our clubs and for our communities. We have to “toot” our own horn “cause no one will do it for us.” If we don't report no one knows who you are or what you are doing. Your reports put Maine on the map at GFWC headquarters and tells them loud and clear that we are alive and thriving. I see us as being like the residents on the speck of dust in the Dr. Seuss book, “Horton Hears a Who”. If we don't report (toot our own horns) no one knows who we are here. So, I look forward to reading the wonderful things you will “toot” to me in your reports.

Yours in Federation –
Carol

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District 1 Norma Manning
NManning@maine.rr.com

District 2 Joyce Noonan
janoon@beeline-online.net

June Nickerson-Hovey
judoma2@gmail.com

District 3 Marjorie Goodwin Pfeiffer
DMGoodwin2@live.com

District 4 Marjorie Goodwin Pfeiffer
DMGoodwin2@live.com

CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT 1

GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club

Sadly to say we had to cancel our first February meeting due to weather. So our scheduled silent auction was put on hold but our members are very flexible so we decided to continue both February meetings. This proved to be very busy but also interesting.

The refreshment committee had everything decorated with a Valentine theme. On each table was a lovely centerpiece. Under one chair at each table was a heart sticker. The lucky person sitting in this chair got to take home the centerpiece.

One member, who could not attend, made a Valentine gift bag with many various goodies for each attendee. A potluck luncheon was served. A great assortment of casseroles, salads, and desserts was furnished by the members. Impossible to describe how great everything was, however, one thing was certain no one went home hungry but maybe a little too full.

The auction started out with three tables filled with items but due to the continuous generosity of the members we had to add two more

tables. There were so many great items it was hard to decide what you wanted. Even though it was a small auction our total earned was \$310.00. This money was donated to a local group to purchase bread, peanut butter, and jelly for their "backpack program" which discreetly provides less fortunate children with some food for their weekends and school vacations.

Our guest speaker was Mary Libby, GFWC State President. She first talked about some of the meetings and other clubs she recently attended. Then she gave us an update of her project, Nyolo School In Sudan. Telling us of the many hardships and problems both the teachers and children experience. This gave us a better understanding of not only what the teachers go through but also what the children encounter.

Welcome March - for our first meeting Pat Currier, refreshment committee chairman, came up with a unique idea to help support the Nyolo School Project. For a \$5.00 roll of dimes any interested members could enjoy the luncheon of homemade soups and chowders and cookies (made by her committee plus a couple of other members) plus rolls, fruit, and cheese. I was told that the cookies were greater than great! Total raised was \$160.00.

Due to the Presidents absence the meeting was lead very effectively by Vice President Beth Turner who also was our guest speaker. Her topic was famous women. This started with back as far as Cleopatra right up to current. Many members commented on how interesting and informative the subject was.

The final March meeting will be the annual art show for Westbrook High School students. Approximately 40 students will be displaying their art pieces. Many proud parents will come to support their child hoping he or she will be one of the four winners. Refreshments will be served.

Looking ahead in April our annual meeting will be on the 18th. April 22 we will host the District Art Show at Westbrook Warren Congregational church.

May will find us looking forward to attending the Spring Convention in Bangor.

The first weekend in June we will be participating in Westbrook together days (this was started 39 years ago by our club).

There will be no meetings in June, July, and August but some of our committees will be busy making preparations for the coming club year.

Hope to see you at the convention!

Have a happy and healthy summer.

Marian Sturtevant, President

GFWC Maine Research Club Of Limerick

April

Two weeks before our April meeting the Local high school told us that they didn't have art to have us review for our annual Art Contest. Former Club President, Jeannine Housley, didn't panic. She called the other high school in our county and the art teacher was delighted to have her students submit their art. Jeanine picked up 7 pieces of art!!! Local artists, Diane Snow and Frank Jedrychowski were our judges and picked the top three pieces.

At the District 1 meeting two of our art submissions were picked for first and second place and were then to be taken to the May G.F.W.C. Maine Conference.

May

Our May meeting was a very special time. The focus was a celebration of our 24 past living presidents. Each

was either given or mailed a special invitation and asked to be prepared to share a remembrance or two of their time as President. The evening was very special with 14 past presidents attending and letters from 3 others. Each past president attending was given a corsage of a white Carnation with gold bow which is our club's flower and color. A special cake was enjoyed by all. It was a fun evening!!

5 Club members attended the G.F.W.C. Maine Spring Conference in Bangor. It was a delightful time seeing old friends and listening to other club's achievements. One of our art submissions was selected for second place.

June

We enjoyed a Progressive Supper. Lots of good food and chatting was enjoyed by all. Despite a rain storm everyone kept dry and had lots of fun. Our now annual yard sale was held on the last Saturday in June. A beautiful day contributed to our raising over \$300.00 to help us fund our various projects. A representative of Sole Hope came to the president's home and ladies from the club cut out fabric to be made into shoes for children in Uganda by the Ugandan people. This is one of our International projects. Using recycled materials for these shoes is a wonderful use of things that would add to land fills.

July

Our program was another fund raiser. The theme was a mystery auction of everything strawberry. Items ranged from strawberry bread, strawberry candles and even a strawberry piñata! A fun way to raise money.

DISTRICT 2

Waldoboro Woman's Club GFWC

The April meeting found members of the club celebrating 110 Federated Years with a Birthday Luncheon. Organized as a literary club in 1890, the group moved to one of service shown through the present emphasis on scholarships and community outreach. The 110th Federated Anniversary was celebrated in a poem by member Jean Lawrence which won the GFWC first place award for 2017, and a review of the history. Special guests included Food Pantry Chair Louis Cook who brought the address, Miller Elementary Principal Levensaler and Waldoboro Public Library Director Skov. President Judi Lawrence served the cake and ice cream.

The annual May Luncheon was held at Schooner Cove Dining Room on May 9, and featured a surprise birthday cake and ice cream to celebrate the 90th year of member Bette Hilton. Bette's faithful service to the club over the years has been exemplified in her handwork skills of quilting and knitting. She was most surprised and had to fight back the tears as we all sang "Happy Birthday!" Plans were made following the luncheon for our Whale of a Sale which took place on June 24. The proceeds of the sale support the high school and continuing scholarships which we present each year.

At the June meeting, members were engaged in selling tickets for Made in Maine Baskets and our Wacky Lap Quilt, made by member Claire Wingren, and collecting items for the Silent Auction. One basket was taken to the Friendship Days Celebration in July, and all other activities were shared with the public on the day of the sale. Co-chairs Eleanor Krause and Deb Stout led a very enthusiastic membership in this endeavor. At the same meeting, President Judi gave an overview of the GFWC Spring Conference, presented Jean Lawrence with her first place poetry award, and announced that Jean's article on Maude Clark Gay "A Waldoboro Woman" has been

published in the spring 2017 edition of the *Maine Memories Magazine*. Maude Clark Gay served as Maine GFWC President from 1937-39, and was selected in 1940 by the Ninth District as the Pioneer Club Woman. Gay's medal presentation was a part of the Golden Jubilee of Federated Women's Clubs and is a part of an exhibit for her state and national leadership at the Waldoborough Historical Society. Treasurer Charlotte Gulezian listed the names of five graduating seniors each of whom received \$1,000 scholarships from the club. Six more scholarships will be presented to Continuing Education students.

Jean Lawrence, Secretary

GFWC Livermore Falls Women's Club

In December of 2016, \$1,125.00 was donated to the local Spruce Mtn. ski area. Funds were raised from the November. 8th 2016 voting bake sale. They have a special ski program for local children and are repairing equipment to stay open. It has been in operation for 60 years. When International Paper was sold locals stepped in to keep the ski area running. It has produced one Olympian skier.

January meeting was at LaFleurs restaurant in Jay. We call it Doris's Brunch. Donations of food items or cash we're received for the food pantry. A Literacy Volunteers representative was our speaker.

In March we had a luncheon and business meeting at the Green Ladle in Lewiston's Culinary school dining area. Tour of Bates Mill L.A. Museum took place afterwards. In March we had a luncheon and business meeting at the Green Ladle in Lewiston's Culinary school dining area. Tour of Bates Mill L.A. Museum took place afterwards.

April's meeting was held at the Livermore Community Building.

Guest speaker was Mary Martin Cowan, award winning author of children books. She takes real life situations and writes stories on them in a form that children understand. Her famous real life character "Captain Mac, arctic explorer" is her favorite. Children love it. She is a Main native living in Standish. She is the sister of one of our club members. She visits schools throughout the Northeast and speaks to a variety of community groups. Her presentation was informative and entertaining at the same time. Refreshments were served afterwards.

An indoor yard sale was held at the Livermore Community building on May 20th. \$221.85 was generated.

At the June 13th election, we had our bake sale. \$710.20 was raised. It will be donated to the restoration of the Deacon Livermore house site.

Three of our members attended May convention in Bangor.

June 7th the 2017 award night was held at Spruce Mountain high school for graduating Students. GFWC awarded the Scholarship of \$1,500.00 to valedictorian Camryn Berry. It was presented by Roberta Morrill. Four of our members attended.

The Harris House partnership is on going. A meeting of this committee was held on June 8th. A number of officer meetings were held throughout the club season which is always helpful for keeping communications open.

A group of 23 will be going to lunch and the play Bullets Over Broadway at Lakewood on August 23rd.

Wishing everyone a great summer.

Marion Hogan-Posa. President

GFWC Dexter Woman's Literary Club Dexter

The GFWC Dexter Women's Literary Club held their annual high school art show/contest at the Abbott Memorial Library at the end of March into April. Two of the entries won second and third place at the district 3 meeting. At the April meeting, club members discussed ways to celebrate their 125th anniversary. The guest speaker for that meeting was Lisa Dunning, Health Programs Manager, from Eastern Area Agency on Aging.

Club president Laura Neal and GFWC Maine President Mary Libby had an information booth at the Augusta Civic Center on May 4 for the Retired Teacher's Association's annual convention. There was a display showing the location of all the clubs in Maine, and information on the president's project. There were a lot of people there and it was a lot of fun!

Two club members attended the GFWC Maine spring convention. Our club collected and donated \$73.50 in dimes for the president's project. We also made \$67.50 in commissions for selling directory ads.

At the May annual meeting, a special ceremony was performed honoring the 25+ and 35+ year club members. Each received a rose and their silver pins. In celebration of the club's 125th anniversary as a GFWC club, members played games and received prizes and had cake and ice cream. The club also received a 125th anniversary certificate and letter from GFWC international president Sheila Shea. An article with photos was sent to all the local papers.



From left to right: Joanne Prescott (37 years), Corinne Neal (25 years), Mary Mordancies (25 years), Jane Gilbert (25 years), and Peggy Kaufman (34 years).

On June 21, club members will be going out to lunch and on a field trip to the Harrigan Learning Center and Museum in Milo.

GFWC Dexter Women's Literary Club just started a Facebook page.

Laura Neal, President
GFWC Dexter Women's Literary Club

GFWC ARTS Club Pittsfield

The Pittsfield ARTS (Always Ready to Serve) club has enjoyed their meetings since the last Pine Tree Notes.

At their January meeting, one of the club's honorary member's granddaughter, spoke about the Heritage Tour her school went on to Washington, DC and New York City. The club had given her a donation toward her fundraising for the trip.

In February ARTS club members contributed toward Valentine bags that were delivered to the Pittsfield Community Home on Valentine's Day. Cupcakes and punch was also provided to the residents and games were played. Valentine bags were also given to staff at our local library and a few friends in town.

DISTRICT 3

At the March meeting, the guest speaker was a representative from the local hospital. A new program has been implemented which brings forth comments and concerns of the patients to the hospital so that they can be addressed and taken care of. The hospital wants to support their patients and take care of any concern they may have. Club member Connie Thies is on this committee.

At the club's April meeting, the guest speaker was the local fire chief. He spoke on home safety and information on what the department has been able to do in the area. He spoke about their equipment and also the restoration of an old fire truck the department is trying to restore. The club gave them a \$200 donation toward this cause.

The Pittsfield ARTS club is pleased to announce that a piece of art from MCI student Georgy Khvitisairishvili from Georgia, Russia won first place at the District Art Show in April here in Pittsfield. His art went on to win first place at the GFWC Maine 2017 Spring Convention and was presented a blue ribbon, a certificate and a check for \$175.00. We were pleased that a student from our area was awarded this honor this year. In May the annual meeting was held at an area restaurant. A wonderful meal was enjoyed and annual reports were given.

The club now is planning the Annual Cheesecake and Quiche Contest that is held in conjunction with the Central Maine Egg Festival on July 14th.

The club will start up their club meetings in September.

GFWC MIOSAC Club Dover-Foxcroft

The GFWC Miosac Club gals hope you all had a wonderful and fun-filled summer!

We had a busy spring filled with many activities. On March 21st we

enjoyed a program entitled, "Supporting the American Legion", from club member Roxy McGlaulin. She spoke of the many veterans in her family tree and all they did to support our country over the course of many years. Two days later, ten members gathered for a "field trip" to play bingo at the local American Legion Hall. A good time was enjoyed as we ate our evening meal, shared fellowship, and played BINGO! Three of our club members had the opportunity to shout "BINGO" and won cash prizes.

The Club held our local High School Art Show on March 26th at the Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church. Suzette East, a local well-known artist served as judge. Art from Foxcroft Academy and Piscataquis Community High School in Guilford were the two schools participating this year. The winning art submissions were held to take to the GFWC District 3 art show.

Anne Cress, Minnie McCormick and Wendy Hutchins attended the GFWC District 3 Meeting and High School Art Show held in Pittsfield on April 8th. The meeting was informative, the art display was wonderful, and the food was delicious!

On April 12th, club members met at the Dover-Foxcroft United Methodist Church and placed 158 pinwheels on the lawn at the entrance to the church. This display of pinwheels supports National Child Abuse Prevention month. What a meaningful and beautiful display it was!

On April 18th, members heard from Karen King, Operations Manager from the local Food Cupboard. Currently, this food cupboard serves between 70 and 75 families. The need is great, and it is anticipated the need will continue to grow. It was decided to give \$200 each to the Food Cupboard, Center Theatre and Senior Commons, an adult day care program that will open within the year after the completion of

renovations at the old Central Hall building.

Club members enjoyed a picnic meal May 2nd prior to the start of our regular meeting followed by our annual meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting is to give and receive reports. Reports were read by the Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditor. The Treasurer then presented the proposed budget for 2017-2018. The evening was delightful!

Six members of the GFWC Miosac Club attended the GFWC Maine Spring Convention held May 11th and 12th at Hollywood Slots Casino & Hotel. Those attending were Minnie McCormick, Suzanne Raymond, Rheba Michaud, Dot Tonick, Anne Cress and Vicki Moschella. The Convention was very informative and we all had a great time!

The Club held its 81st Birthday Banquet at the Bear's Den in Dover-Foxcroft on May 16th. Following a wonderfully delicious banquet meal, games were played before enjoying a tasty 81st Birthday cake! It is always hard to say, "See you later," as we do not have regular meetings again until October.

On August 30th, we once again gathered for the first time since May, to catch up with each other about our summer "doings" at the home of Barbara Austin. Mouths were going a mile a minute as hors d'oeuvres were served on the porch before enjoying a delightful smorgasbord meal. An ice cream cake was served as everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Roxy McGlaulin. This "porch party" began several years ago prior to the official beginning of our club year to pass out new club program booklets for possible corrections. Actually, it is done because we just can't wait another month to be back together. Not only are we a Club, we are a family.

Anne Cress
GFWC Miosac Club President

DISTRICT 4

CASTINE WOMAN'S CLUB

The members of **Castine Woman's Club** have been busy as bees filling these past sunshiny summer days with fun meetings and activities!

CWC members eagerly gathered for the Annual Tea and End-of-Year Reports at the Wilson Museum on Tuesday, June 6. Members of the community joined with the Club enjoying the use of the Club's silver tea service and the museum's fine china housed at the Wilson Museum. The tea was topped off with a captivating performance by Castine's Johanna Sweet who took us back in time by portraying a friend of Ellenore Doudiet, the daughter of the founder of the Wilson Museum. CWC Vice President Patty Hutchins and her museum staff did a truly lovely job hosting the Tea. Potted flowers were presented at the close of the Tea to outgoing CWC President Jeannie Reed and other outgoing executive officers and chairs in appreciation for their years of incredible dedication and service to the Club.

On June 7, the Club participated in the annual Maja Trivia competition hosted by Wilson Museum for Blue Hill peninsula middle school students. Instead of the usual cookies and brownies, the Club surprised the students with a birthday cake and cupcakes in celebration of Brooksville's 200th birthday!

The CWC danced the night away on the Town Dock once again while hosting the ever popular Flash in the Pans steel drum concert on June 26. Flash was a fun way to break in our new and very capable CWC Treasurer, Maine Maritime Academy Professor Jill Schoof. This event is one of the Club's best fundraisers to raise dollars for area scholars.

In June, CWC awarded \$3,000 in scholarships again this year to local area high school seniors to assist with college expenses! In a new initiative, CWC has set up a scholarship fund in perpetuity for local students attending Maine Maritime Academy in Castine.

Each summer the community looks forward to the Club's 4th of July Pie Sale, another great fundraiser. Other summer activities are in the works. The Club is excited to co-host along with the Witherle Library a talk on Kenyan baboons by Castine's own young researcher Molly McEntee on July 27. Ultra-creative CWC Secretary Marjie Wheeler will inspire the Club and the community to capture their memories in a workshop on August 22 at the Wilson Museum by creating photo memory books using computer applications. More planning is in progress by our invaluable and dedicated Vice President Patty Hutchins for the Club's 2017-2018 meetings and activities!

Wishing you all a colorful Fall!

Val Taub
CWC Past-President

The GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. Participation in LEADS can help these members gain the capabilities, confidence and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction. The LEADS program is held annually the day before the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. It is a full day of activities, and includes breakfast and lunch.



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

Reminder

Support the Fall Conferences!!!

Small things, done in great love, bring joy and peace.

Upcoming Events GFWC Maine:

Fall 2017 – District Conferences

District 1 – Sept. 23rd at
Westbrook Warren Church.

District 2 – Oct. 28 Margaret
Chase Smith Library, Skowhegan

Districts 3 & 4 – October 14
Methodist Church, Dover-Foxcroft

Specific details for District Meetings to come.

February, 2018

Mid-winter Executive Meeting,
Westbrook, ME

May 10 & 11, 2018

Spring Convention
Best Western, Waterville, ME

GFWC Maine Arts Community Service Program

"The "Earth" without "Art" is just "EH".

The results are in! The GFWC Maine Creativity award went to Castine Woman's Club for their work in preserving their local Alamo Theater with a 'chick flick' movie night! Good luck to them in at the GFWC Convention in California! Also representing Maine in the photography contest is GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club member Sue Ellen Lexier and GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club Elaine Brickman. In the Creative Writing Contest, Jean Lawrence of Waldoboro Woman's Club earned 1st place as well. Thank you to all clubs who contributed reports!

The High School Art Contest had 8 entries this year with 1st place Georgy Khvtisavrishvili of MCI in Pittsfield, 2nd place Autumn Heil of Gorham High School and 3rd Kelsey Hastey of Bonny Eagle High School.

Thank you District President for the work involved in support of clubs local high school art shows!

Thank you shout out to Castine Woman's Club for their donation to the High School Art Contest fund. Please remember your club donations as well and mail to me:

Maureen Provencal
7 Daisy Lane
Skowhegan, ME 04976

President's Project

First of all I want to thank all of you for your contributions of school supplies and monetary donations. You have done so much to help the school. Very Impressive!!

Now I am calling on all you ladies who like to sew!! It has come to our attention that the young ladies at the school miss approximately 45 days a year. This is due to their menstrual periods. They have a limited supply of sanitary pads and underwear. That is our calling to support these young ladies. Our service for the coming year.

Each club president will receive a letter with a pattern for washable sanitary pads. These washable pads are better for them than disposable. Their trash pickup is spotty so disposable pads are not a good option. So ladies get out your sewing machines and help contribute to their need!!! Donations of underwear (cotton) and feminine hygiene products are also in need.

Many thanks in advance, you always come through. Don't forget school supplies and of course fill your bottles for the Spring Convention.

Sincerely,
Pat Currier
Chairman- President's Project

Maine GFWC supports the people of South Sudan

In April of this year, Dr. Chuck Radis delivered school supplies donated by the Maine GFWC to the children of South Sudan whose families have fled civil war and are now in the Kiryandongo United Nations Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. The trip was taken with a heavy heart. Many families have lost loved ones in the fighting and the number of orphans in the community has risen sharply.

The conditions in the Refugee Settlement are surprisingly good. The United Nations and the country of Uganda have partnered to welcome more than 60,000 refugees. Each family is given one acre of farm-land to grow their own crops. The water is of good quality. Security is excellent. Refugees are allowed to come and go from the settlement and are encouraged to develop small businesses or to work in the nearby town of Bweyale.

My organization, the Maine-African Partnership for Social Justice (MAPSJ) is grateful for the support of the Maine GFWC. The school supplies and financial support for the orphans who formerly attended the Nyolo School in South Sudan are now in the capable hands of our coordinator and teacher, Robert Owot, who has rallied his fellow South Sudanese. After only 4 months in the refugee settlement, the 350 children from the Nyolo School are now attending the Bedong Primary School. Funding for the orphans to go to school has been provided by the Maine GFWC and MAPSJ. A parent-teacher organization is active and raises a small amount of money for the school. The health needs of the community are provided by a nearby United Nations funded clinic.

Much remains to be done to ensure that the next generation of South Sudanese is able to succeed. Keeping the children in school in a stable environment is the key to their future. The Maine GFWC is excited about sewing reusable menstrual pads for the young girls at the school. Up to now, when a young woman begins her period, she may stay home for 5-7 days because of the lack of feminine hygiene supplies. This increases the risk of her dropping out and continuing the spiral of illiteracy and poverty. A simple project such as the reusable menstrual pads may help reverse this trend.

The current school does not have electricity. Robert Owot and his support staff want to change that. They have priced an inexpensive solar system (similar to a system at a nearby school) which includes two solar panels, a converter, and batteries. This system can recharge computers, a printer, and cell phones. Once again, Maine GFWC has generously supported the development of the solar system which ultimately will lead to a computer lab in the school.

I am proud of the work that Robert Owot and his staff are doing at the Refugee Settlement. They believe strongly in success through education and self-sufficiency. But there is another factor which will help them reach their long-term goal, *peace building*. I experienced this first-hand when I delivered the school supplies. At the meeting, Robert set aside one quarter of the supplies for the *host community*. By this, he meant a school in Bweyale, outside the refugee settlement. The next day, we went to a very poor school of 80 students. At an emotional ceremony he explained that his goal was give *all children* access to a good education. "It promotes peace. All tribes need to work towards peace through sharing and friendship." No-one could have said it better.

Through the efforts of the Maine GFWC and the Maine-African Partnership for Social Justice, we are helping plant the seeds for success. I am hopeful and confident that our efforts in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement will lead to a new generation of educated citizens for the country of South Sudan.

Sincerely,

Chuck Radis



Fundraising

Our GFWC Maine auction was a wonderful success, thanks to all of you. Not only was it a success, but it was also FUN.

We raised a total of \$1302.75, which brings the total raised for the 2016/2017 year to \$2511.75. This was only possible because you made it possible. I thank you for your donations; I thank you for your purchases.

As I said, I only organized this, you made it a success. A very special thank you too everyone that so graciously helped me. You're the best!

Joyce Noonan,
Fundraising Chairman

Leadership PTN – Fall 2017

Leadership is action, not position. It is the challenge to be something more than average. Leadership is much more an art, a belief, a condition of the heart, than a set of things to do. The visible signs of artful leadership are expressed, ultimately, in its practice. Leadership is getting someone to do what they don't want to do, to achieve what they want to achieve. One of the true tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency. Another test of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there.

Most people think of leadership as a position and therefore don't see themselves as leaders. Leadership is a matter of having people look at you and gain confidence, seeing how you react. If you are in control, they are in control. The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible. The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.

Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It is about keeping your clubwomen focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine.

Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about impact, influence and inspiration. Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion you have for GFWC, and you have to inspire clubwomen and all potential clubwomen to come. GFWC clubwomen have made history, and continue to make history, not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things. It is unlocking people's potential to become better. Leadership is about taking responsibility, not making excuses. A good leader takes a little more of her share of the blame when a problem arises, and a little less than her share of the credit when things go right.

In Federation Love,
Anne H. Cress
GFWC Maine Leadership Chairman

Mary Libby at GFWC Palm Desert, CA



With President Elect Mary Ellen Brock



Libby Wiers, Marjorie Pfeiffer, Mary Libby



Art Achievement Award for GFWC Maine

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