

**General Federation of Women's Clubs**

**MADISON VALLEY  
WOMAN'S CLUB**

*Organized in 1920 - Federated in 1921*

**2025- 2026 Yearbook**

**Volunteering to Serve for**

**Over 105 Years**



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A

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness,

C

Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

O

Let us be done with fault finding

L

And leave off self-seeking.

L

May we put away all pretense

E



And meet each other face to face,

C

Without self-pity and without prejudice.

T

May we never be hasty in judgement

T

And always generous.

O

Let us take time for all things.

R

Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

C

Teach us to put into action our better impulses

L

Straightforward and unafraid.

U

Grant that we may realize it is

E

The little things that create differences,

W

That in the big things of life we are at one.

O

And may we strive to touch and to know

M

The great, common human heart of us all.

E

And, oh Lord God, let us forget not....to be kind.

N

Mary Stewart, April 1904

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Vurnie Barnett

President Elect - Pauline Baker

Vice President - Kelly Anne Dardis

Secretary - Adina vomBerg

Corresponding Secretary - Karen Chang

Treasurer - Sue Sherrard

With all our diversity

We have one thing in common:

We are all volunteers,

Dedicated to public service

# PROGRAM CHAIRS

Arts & Culture - Lynn Foreman

Civic Engagement & Outreach - Rachel Scott

Education & Libraries - Mary Sedwick

Environment - Abi King & Addison Perryman

Health & Wellness - Tonya Gustafson

- **Note:** Chairs are responsible to Judge at the January Science Fair or obtain a substitute.

# COMMITTEES

**Bylaws: Chair:** Kim Montag, Lynn Foreman

**Calling Committee: Chair:** Pauline Baker

**Courtesy Committee: Chair:** Kelly Anne Dardis, Linda Melugin, and Jeanne Schroder

**Finance: Committee: Chair:** Sue Sherrard, Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Kim Montag

**Hostess Committee: Chair:** Pauline Baker, Jeanne Schroder

**Membership: Chair:** Kelly Anne Dardis, Barbara Gillispie, Sally Beck, Allison Bettendorf

**Nearly New Committee Co-Chairs:** Jeanne Adams (2024-2026) Loine Reinhardt (2025-2027)

**Publicity Committee: Chair:** Wendy Gustin Brauneis, Abi King, Barbara Gillispie

**Scholarship Committee: Co-Chairs:** Martha Klaumann and Sally Beck, Janet Dochnal, Sylvia Carpenter, Mary Ann Dowd-Sussman, Judy Maddox

**Career Enhancement and Other Educational Awards: Chair:** Cynthia Quirk

**Vintage Attic Committee: Chair:** Beth Pugh - Barbara Blomeley, Jen Winkleman, Pauline Baker - Board Liaison

# SPECIAL DUTIES

**Special Projects Committee: Chair:** Kelly Anne Dardis, Adina vomBerg, Jo Campbell, Gale Gough, Sue Sherrard, Allison Bettendorf

**4<sup>TH</sup> of July: Chair:** none

**Inspirational Readings** - Jan Beekman and Susan Hardwick

**Historian** - Shirley Storey Masson, Martha Klaumann  
Reading of past meeting minutes

**Loving Care** - Barbara Gillispie - Jo Campbell  
Outreach to members

**Parliamentary Advisor** - Kim Montag  
Proficient in parliamentary rules and procedures

**Scrapbook/Website** - Sue Sherrard/ Kelly Anne Dardis  
Online - Scrapbook of pictures and published articles and website updates

**Science Fair (January): Chair:** Abi King, Rachel Scott, Judy Maddox, and Program Chairs to judge

**Little Free Library:** Chair: Jo Karen Pennaz

**Wildflower Juniorette Club: Advisor:** Kim Montag, **Sponsor:** Alesia Barnhart, **Board Liaison:** Kelly Anne Dardis

# MEETING DATES

The regular meetings of the *GFWC MVWC* are held at Noon the first Thursday of the month September through May in the Ennis Assembly of God Church 402 Madison Avenue in Ennis, unless otherwise noted.

## **September 4 Fall Roundup Potluck**

**Guest Speaker:** Heidi Worley, Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Sky and Ennis Program Manager

**Hostess Committee:** Executive Board

## **September 11-14 - WSR - Long Beach, California**

## **September 26-28 - GFWC Montana Fall Meeting, Heritage Inn - Great Falls, MT**

## **September 27 - GFWC National Day of Service**

## **October 2 - Civic Engagement & Outreach**

**Chair:** Rachel Scott

**Program:** To be determined

**Hostesses:** Karen Barry (Chair) Donna LaBelle, Diane Laqua, Patricia Vaughn, Loine Reinhardt, Lisa Kuntz, Janet Dochnahl

## **November 6 - Arts & Culture**

**Chair:** Lynn Foreman

**Hostesses:** Jo Campbell(Chair) Adina vomBerg, Mary Sedwick, Sue Sherard, Kelly Anne Dardis, Alison Bettendorf, Kelly McLoughlin, Jenny Rohrback, Jackie Smith

**December 4- Christmas Party**

Hostesses: Executive Board

**January 8 - Education & Libraries**

**Chair: Mary Sedwick**

Hostesses: Barbara Gillispie (Chair) Margie Reck, Elaine Bliss, Connie Owen, Susan Hardwick, Diane Bales, Michelle Merle

**January- Science Fair - Ennis High School - Date to be announced**

**February 5 - Environment**

**Co-Chairs: Abi King & Addison Perryman**

Hostesses: \_\_\_\_ (Chair) Jan Beekman, Patsy Eckert, Barbara Prescott, Beth Pugh

**March 5 - Health & Wellness**

**Chair: Tonya Gustafson**

Hostesses: Adina vomBerg (Chair) Allison Bettendorf, Kelly Anne Dardis, Jo Campbell, Sue Sherrard

**April 2 - Open Topic**

Hostesses: Toni Scully (Chair) Nina Heaton, Lynn Foreman, Kim Montag, Kitty Eneboe, Cathie Clark, Cathey Hardin, Patricia Vaughan, Judy Maddox

**April 17-18 - GFWC MT Biennial Convention - Great Northern Hotel - Helena, Montana**

**April 24 - Federation Day**

**May - Scholarship Awards - Ennis High School - Date to be announced**

**May 7 - Annual Meeting - Installation of Officers & Awards**

**Chair: Vurnie Barnett**

Hostess Committee: Pauline Baker (Chair) Shannon Heckler, Jeanne Adams, Sally Beck, Caren Walker, Jill Gillespie, Cindy Sennette, Cathy Lyons

**June 27-30 - GFWC International Annual Convention - Scottsdale, AZ**

**July 4 - Ennis 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

**GFWC MT Meetings** - If you want to attend a State, Regional or International meeting our Club will reimburse you for one half of a single room charge and all of your registration and meal fees. Just turn in a reimbursement request with receipts to the Treasurer.

**Program Chairs** – Program chairs are appointed by the President and provide a speaker related to their program at one of the luncheons each year(see page 16). They also correspond with the Program chairs and the State and International level and send out information related to their programs. If interested, let the President know.

**Did you know that...**

**We have a new private "members only" section of our website where you can find information about Nearly New Policies and Procedures, By-Laws and a link to our Newsletter?**

Go to our website and select "get involved" in the upper right-hand corner and select "member resources". You will need the password which will be given to you at our meetings or you can ask any officer.

## **HOSTESS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

### **Chair**

1. Contact each of your assigned hostesses - decide theme, menu and assignments- maybe meet after the previous months luncheon.
2. Contact chairs from previous meeting - determine status of supplies in our cabinets in the room and in the barn.
3. Plan refreshments for 50 - 65 people - we are requesting RSVPs
4. Contact Treasurer to receive \$300 club contribution

### **- Hostess Committee Members**

5. Do your best to fulfill your commitment; if a conflict arises, drop off your contribution or ask someone to fill in - be sure to inform your Chair.
6. Arrive at 10:00 a.m. prior to luncheon to organize and set up meeting room; expect to stay at least 30 minutes after the meeting to clean up.
7. Start coffee in MVWC coffee urn by 11am.  
Make hot water for tea in the second smaller coffee maker. Urn and coffee under serving island.
8. Bring

- decorations (there are plenty at Nearly New) and food
  - Half & Half for coffee;
  - door prizes - your choice - see suggestions
9. Use
- Your Committee may choose to use paper/plastic plates or dishes, flatware provided at the church
  - Sweetener & non-dairy creamer are in our serving island.
  - Women's Club has white round table cloths, napkins, paper and plastic cups and plastic silverware.
10. Display on table placed by main entrance these items found in our cabinets:
- Door prize tickets, bowl each for ticket stubs and money
  - Name Badges & Membership Booklets
  - Clipboards with attendance sheet & membership application blanks.
- 11. Please DO NOT perform clean-up during meeting.**
12. At Conclusion of meeting: Please:
- Clean up kitchen area, wipe countertops, stove and tables, load and run dishwashers. We have aluminum foil and clear wrap for your use. Please return our supplies to our cabinet.
  - Take tablecloths and one set of dish towels home and wash, dry and hang back on hangers and return to church.
  - Turn off lights, close windows, lock doors if no one else is there. To lock the doors - see instructions.
  - Take all food and beverage items and make a note of any supplies that are running low.
  - Church members will empty dishwasher and vacuum.

**BUDGET**      **Thank you! Your  
contributions are greatly  
appreciated by those in  
attendance.**

**Did you know that?**

Research shows we become what we do. According to Professor Emerita Phyllis Moen (Human Development and Sociology) and former director of the Bronfenrenner Life Course Center at Cornell University, "Volunteering gives us a sense of ourselves as engaged in meaningful, productive activities that help change the world and a wider view of our possibilities, which benefit our psychological well-being".

(GFWC Montana Woman)

**Receipts**

Nearly New	\$275,000
Vintage Attic	500
Dues	4,375
Revenue, Other	<u>4,364</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$284,239</u></b>

**Disbursements**

**Fixed Expenses:**

Insurance	\$ 8,000
Land Fill/Property Tax	400
Electric	1,900
Propane	3,000
Telephone/internet	1,125

Water/Sewer	825
Security/Alarm	<u>1,150</u>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b><u>16,400</u></b>

**Organization Expenses:**

Outside Meetings	8,500
GFWC "Club Woman"	500
GFWC Dues	3,850
Loving Care	100
Meeting Room Rental	1,200
Recognition Events	2,000
Year Book/Printing	700
Other Organization Exp.	1,000
Meeting Misc. Supplies	325
Hostess Committee	3,600
Website	<u>150</u>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b><u>21,925</u></b>

**Nearly New Expenses:**

Building Maintenance	1,500
Nearly New Supplies	7,000
Contract Labor/Trash	4,900
Contract Labor/Cleaning	6,480
Contract Labor Landscaping	1,000
Snow Removal	800
Credit Card Fees	4,000
Property Improvements	1,000
Dry Cleaning	75
Misc	<u>2,500</u>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b><u>29,255</u></b>

**Other Expenses:**

Equipment/Furniture	500
Quick Books & Fees	880
Office Supplies/Other	250
Postage	150
Tax Prep/Accounting	2,500

Advertisement	<u>250</u>
Sub-Total	<u>4,530</u>

**Total Operating Expenses**      \$ 72,110

**Donations: (Detail available from Treasurer)**

Education & Libraries	115,100
Domestic Violence	6,000
Advocate for Children	7,500
Arts & Culture	3,000
Civic Engagement/Outreach	41,000
Environment	17,500
Health & Wellness	11,019
General Discretionary	<u>10,000</u>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$ <u>211,119</u></b>

**Total Expenditures**      \$ 283,229

**Net Income**      \$ 1,010

**GFWC OF MONTANA**  
**Programs, Special Projects and Fundraising**  
**2024-2026**

**Arts and Culture**

- Arts in the Community
- Promotion of Cultural Awareness
- Photography Contests

**Civic Engagement and Outreach**

- Citizenship Programs
- Crime Prevention and Safety
- Disaster Preparedness

- Helping the Needy
- Supporting our Military and Veterans

### **Education and Libraries**

- Literacy Programs for Children and Adults
- Lifelong Learning Programs
- Reading and Book Programs

### **Environment**

- Awareness of the Natural World
- Recycling projects
- Planting Trees or Beautification projects
- Education about Native Plants and Animals

### **Health and Wellness**

- Our Mind, Body and Spirit
- Nutritional Needs
- Disease Prevention
- Physical and Emotional Wellness

### **GFWC - Special Projects**

- GFWC Signature Project Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention
- GFWC Juniors' - Advocates for Children

### **Fundraising Projects**

- "GFWC Montana Endowment Fund" - interest only used from investments to assist GFWC of Montana with the basic operating expenses.

- Jessie Lee Thompson (JLT) Travel Fund - to assist with travel expenses for the GFWC MT President
- "Pennies for Art" - provides monetary awards for Art Contests and Scholarships.
- GFWC MT President's Special Project: **The Five Points of Light Challenge** - Service, Commitment, Loyalty, Caring, Kindness. Each club is asked to meet the challenges, including supporting literacy on the Blackfeet Reservation through the Glacier County Library Foundation. More information will be in the Montana Woman.

### PROGRAM GUIDELINES

These programs are to be educational and informative and not a venue for political activity or fund raising for any organization. The duration of the program is not to exceed 30 minutes, including time for audience comments and questions. If the program is such that it will exceed this allocated time, please contact the President for guidance. For program suggestions refer to the "Resources Tab" at [www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org).

#### Did you know that?

A collect (Kol'ikt) is a brief formal prayer that is expressly composed for the day or occasion.

**GENERAL FEDERATION OF  
WOMEN'S CLUBS HISTORY**

The *GFWC*, founded in 1890, is the world's largest non-partisan, nondenominational women's volunteer service organization. *GFWC* traces its roots back to Jane Cunningham Croly, an accomplished New York newspaperwoman, who wrote under the pen name "Jennie June."

In 1868 Mrs. Croly and other newspaperwomen were denied admittance to a banquet honoring Charles Dickens at the all-male New York Press Club. It was then that she conceived the idea of forming a club for women only, "that should manage its own affairs, represent the active interests of women and create a bond of fellowship between them." The name chosen for this club was *Sorosis*, a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits, as in the pineapple." Although the founders originally supposed they were starting a new movement, they became aware over the years of the existence of other women's clubs that had formed independently to meet the needs of women in the expanding country. As *Sorosis* approached its twenty-first year, Mrs. Croly proposed a conference in New York that brought together delegates from sixty-one women's clubs. On the last day of the conference, the women took action to form a permanent organization. A constitution was adopted in 1890, and the *General Federation of Women's Clubs* was born.

Ella Dietz Clymer, president of *Sorosis* at the time, gained a particular place of honor in Federation history as the author of the *GFWC* motto, "Unity in Diversity". Speaking to the delegates at the first conference, she said. "We look for unity, but unity in diversity. We hope that you will enrich us by your varied experiences..." The aptness of the motto is evident in the diverse interests of *GFWC* members, who have implemented a board range of programs and projects tailored to meet the needs of their communities. It set the tone for the flexibility that has allowed *GFWC* to grow and adapt to the changing and diverse life-styles and concerns of women throughout a century of volunteer work.

Although women's clubs were founded primarily as a means of self-education and development for women, gradually the emphasis of most local clubs changed to one of community service and improvement. *GFWC* programmatic areas of activity include arts and culture, civic engagement and outreach, education and libraries, environment and health and wellness, as well as various special projects including domestic violence awareness and advocating for children. The Federation also has a distinguished record of legislative activity on issues of historical importance: established of a national model for juvenile courts, spearheading the conservation movement resulting in the establishment of the first Forest Reserve in 1899, turning the tide for passage of the Pure Food and Drugs Act in 1906, support for the eight-hour workday legislation and the first child labor law and endorsement of a resolution supporting equal rights and responsibilities for women.

The small banding together of existing clubs that began in 1890 has grown into the largest organization for women volunteers in the world. *GFWC* now numbers more than 60,000 members in 2,600 clubs across the globe, including members in every state in the US.

Our current membership roster is around 180 (including honorary members). It is interesting to note that the total membership for the *GFWC* of Montana is around 550.

## MEMBERSHIP

Adams, Anneliese PO Box 101  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-3049  
Adams, Cynthia 94 Montana Way  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-4311  
Adams, Jeanne PO Box 282  
McAllister MT 59740 828-308-9808  
Bagwell, Nancy 26 Burnt Tree Lane  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-7852  
Baker, Pauline 25 Diamondback Rd  
Ennis MT 59729 209-636-8287  
Bales, Diane PO Box 1090  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-7460  
Barnett, Vurnie Kaye PO Box 186  
Ennis MT 59729 406-579-9485  
Barnhart, Aleisa PO Box 303  
Ennis MT 59729 406-890-0395  
Beck, Sally PO Box 31  
Ennis MT 59729 913-558-4301  
Beekman, Jan (H) PO Box 1477  
Ennis MT 59729 406-599-9678  
Berke, Lisa PO Box 1721  
Ennis MT 59729 785-224-9641  
Berry, Karen 52 Browtine  
Ennis MT 59729 713-416-5784  
Bettendorf, Allison PO Box 66  
McAllister MT 59740 864-621-8651  
Black, Linda PO Box 845  
Ennis MT 59729-0845 605-490-2309  
Bliss, Elaine 440 Beaverhead Street  
Ennis MT 59729 614-746-8621  
Blomeley, Barbara 83 Antler Trail  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-7782  
Bowen, Toni PO Box 1490  
Ennis MT 59729 406-570-9233  
Brenneke, Kevin 35 Cottonwood Lane  
Ennis MT 59729 406-660-0018

Bricker, David PO Box 7  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-3641  
Bricker, Diane PO Box 7  
Ennis MT 59729 406-682-3641  
Buckley, Patricia PO Box 543  
McAllister MT 59740 703-850-5010  
Burrill, Mary 2745 Acacia  
Walnut Creek CA 94595 925-525-9651  
Campbell, Jo 27 Raghorn Court  
Ennis MT 59729 406-640-1083  
Canterbury, Sage PO Box 1576  
Ennis MT 59729 406-600-8312  
Carpenter, Sylvia PO Box 614  
Ennis MT 59729 406-539-3540

Casey, Joanne PO Box 308  
 McAllister MT 59740 406-210-5803  
 Chalupa, Barbara PO Box 1666  
 Ennis MT 59729 908-619-6225  
 Chang, Karen PO Box 423  
 McAllister MT 59740 415-307-5307  
 Christensen, Corinna PO Box 295  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-570-6742  
 Cignoni, Mia 117 Chowning Street  
 Ennis MT 59729 413-320-8004  
 Claassen, Beverly (H) PO Box 1373  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-682-5598  
 Clark, Cathie Jean 398 Jeffers Road  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-599-9614  
 Clark, Holly PO Box 582  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-682-7474  
 Clark, Joan Y (H) PO Box 813  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-682-7441  
 Cole, Ellen (Elly) PO Box 1245  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-599-7907  
 Cope H-, Sharee PO Box 846  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-682-4592  
 408-828-3823 (M)  
 Corp, Jen PO Box 1221  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-210-3829  
 Dardis, Kelly Anne 11 Lynx Path  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-589-8245  
 Demers, Doreen PO Box 127  
 McAllister MT 59740 802-782-5003  
 Dexter, Laurie 11319 Tarrence Road  
 Louisville KY 40299 502-619-3453  
 Dochnahl, Janet PO Box 764  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-589-7377  
 Dorst, Susan 12 Stubborn Ox Lane  
 Ennis MT 59729 925-683-7253  
 Dowd-Sussman, Mary Ann PO Box 878  
 Ennis MT 59729 770-366-0737  
 Efta, Melissa PO Box 1047  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-596-0208  
 Ellerman, Connie PO Box 674  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-451-3553  
 Ellis, Janice 75 Purteman Gulch Rd  
 Chelan WA 98816 509-682-0640  
 Eneboe, Kitty PO BOX 1471  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-682-5421  
 Ennis, Lucyann PO Box 164  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-682-7023  
 Flinn, Lucinda 35 Depot Road #70  
 Ennis MT 59729 937-532-6613  
 Foreman, Lynn PO Box 647  
 Ennis MT 59729 406-599-3120  
 Fossil, Dottie (H) PO Box 974





1920 - 1921	Mrs. Burt Maynard (Lucy)*
1921 - 1922	Mrs. Myron D. Jeffers
(Florence)*	
1922 - 1923	Mrs. CW. Chowning (Jennie)*
1923 - 1924	Mrs. Henry Buford (Florence)*
1924 - 1925	Mrs. CW. Chowning (Jennie)*
1925 - 1926	Mrs. William Lawton (Ruth)*
1926 - 1927	Mrs. Burt Maynard (Lucy)*
1927 - 1928	Mrs. William Beals (Maudy)*
1928 - 1930	Mrs. James W. Davis (Susie)*
1930 - 1932	Mrs. LD. Piper (Augusta)*
1932 - 1933	Mrs. Frank Conkling (Effie)*
1933 - 1934	Mrs. Joe Evans (Marie)*
1934 - 1937	Mrs. Paul Schoenek (Georgy)*
1937 - 1938	Mrs. Max Matzick (Rose)*
1938 - 1940	Mrs. Peyton Barnett (Bernice)*
1940 - 1941	Mrs. Payton Barnett (Bernice)*
	Mrs. Charles EM Bauer (Karen)*
1941 - 1942	Mrs. Merlin Stock (Moselle)*
1942 - 1943	Mrs. Steve McGuire (Nell)*
1943 - 1945	Mrs. CW. Chowning (Jennie)*
1945 - 1946	Mrs. Glen Bausch (Algean)*
1946 - 1948	Mrs. Claude Windecker
(Georgia)*	
1948 - 1949	Mrs. LM Jeffers (JC)*
1949 - 1950	Mrs. Wayne Cowan (Marian)*
1950 - 1951	Mrs. J. Hal Pasley (Marcy
Francis)*	
1951 - 1952	Mrs. Marge Bowen*
1952 - 1953	Mrs. Theodore Piper (Joanne)*
1953 - 1954	Mrs. Parham Hacker (Pauline)*
1954 - 1956	Mrs. Rose McMaster
1956 - 1957	Mrs. Wayne Osborne (Harriet)*

2009 - 2010	Margie Mason
2010 - 2012	Lynn Foreman
2012 - 2014	Toni Scully
2014 - 2015	Lynn Foreman
2015 - 2017	Lynn Leeming
2017 - 2018	Sandra Perez
2018 - 2020	Mary Sedwick
2020 - 2022	Cynthia Quirk
2022 - 2023	Kim Montag
2023 - 2025	Jenny Rohrback

**Did you know that...**

*GFWC MVWC* has supported the Ennis Library for over 100 years and helped it move to its current location.

**Did you know that**

*GFWC MVWC*, in the 1930's paid 10 cent bounties for every pair of magpie feet received. Today these "beasties" are a protected species

## **Early History and Information GFWC**

### **Madison Valley Women's Club**

Little is known to this writer of the exact origins and history of our Club other than that a group of women, during the early years of the last century, came together in the friendship and joined the Pricilla Club or formed the Pricilla Sewing Circle.

World War I promoted a change of posture from that of social assemblage to a commitment of their time and talent, in conjunction with the Red Cross, to "war work". After the Great War ended, this need or desire to volunteer or provide worth to the community was the impetus founding the Madison Valley Woman's Club in April 1920 and subsequent membership in the State Federation in 1921.

The first President was Mrs. Bert Maynard. Another member at that time was a 16-year-old new-comer to the community, Mrs. Florinda Francesca Womack. Frances, as she was known, remained an active member, though honorary in later years, until her demise in 2005 at the age of 100 years.

Numerous and diverse projects were organized, supported and/or funded by the members. To name a very few: purchasing eleven acres for the first garbage dump; building two outdoor toilets for the school; installing a metal fence, still in existence, around the Valley Cemetery; purchasing an electric saw for the school shop and an operating table for the hospital; a \$500 donation to the Galen Chapel Fund; and we helped start and continue the library with many of our members serving as librarians.

Early fundraising activities included food sales, Commercial Club Dinners, an annual Soil Conservation District meeting luncheon and other "benefits." On January 22, 1971, another fundraising enterprise, the Nearly New Shoppe, a thrift store located in rented quarters on Main Street, opened its doors. Jinny Combs (wife of Peter T) was instrumental in starting this thrift store. The owner of the building, certain this project would not succeed, charged no rent for the first month and the rest is history. The Nearly New Mortgage was paid off in June 2016. Our Nearly New Shoppe has generated over \$1.4 Million in revenue since 2011 and during that same period of time - we have contributed over \$1 Million in scholarships and donations to entities in need in our area. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year the Nearly New Shoppe generated over \$300,000 in sales - our biggest sales year to date.

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving in November 1973, the first MVWC Christmas Bazaar was held in the basement of St. Patrick's Church. In more recent years it was held at the Ennis High School and in 2018 the MVWC donated the Christmas Bazaar project to the Ennis Senior Center.

In 2021, the MVWC was selected as the Grand Marshall of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Ennis. Clubwomen participated in the parade wearing white to acknowledge 100 years since the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States was adopted giving women the right to vote.

### **Did you know...**

On August 10, 2021, The Madison Valley Woman's Club was awarded the **Spirit of Montana** award by Governor Greg Gianforte. This award is given to individuals and groups that have demonstrated a commitment to service to their communities. The Governor presented to the Executive Board - a plaque and a Montana State flag (that flew over the capital in Helena on August 4<sup>th</sup>) at a ceremony in Peter T's Park in Ennis.

**Bylaws of  
GFWC MADISON VALLEY WOMAN’S CLUB  
Ennis, Montana**

**ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of this organization shall be GFWC Madison Valley Woman’s Club (hereinafter referred to as “this Organization”). This Organization, a Montana Corporation, is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Club and the GFWC of Montana.

**ARTICLE II OBJECT**

The objectives of this Organization shall be 501 charitable as defined by Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a unified effort to improve the quality of life in our community through volunteer service; to support educational, literary, artistic, and scientific programs and projects; and to promote leadership development.

**ARTICLE III MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** Active membership in this Organization is unlimited and open to all persons upon payment of annual dues.

**Section 2.** Annual dues in an amount at least sufficient to meet national, state, district and local requirements shall be payable to the Treasurer starting May 1<sup>st</sup> and delinquent after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Following written notification by the Treasurer, a member who is delinquent in dues shall be dropped from the membership rolls and shall be reinstated upon payment of dues for the current fiscal year.

**Section 3.** Honorary life membership may be conferred upon those who have been active members for 50 years or have reached the age of 80. These members are not required to pay dues; however, they may attend meetings and retain their club voting privileges but may not hold office.

**Section 4.** Honorary associate membership may be conferred upon

special friends of this Organization who will have privileges associated with membership but may not hold office or vote.

#### **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of this Organization will be President, President-elect, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary.

**Section 2.** At the regular meeting held in February of each year a Nominating Committee of three members shall be elected by this Organization's members. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the April meeting. The following officers included are: President Elect, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. Because the President Elect will assume the position of President the following year, the person(s) nominated for the President Elect position should be willing to succeed the President. Therefore, the President is not included on the slate, unless the President Elect is unable to serve as President. The Nominating Committee shall report at the meeting in March. Additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted at this meeting in March and/or prior to balloting on the day of election with the consent of the nominee.

**Section 3.** At the regular meeting in April of each year, all the officers named in Section 2 shall be elected for a one-

year term, except the Treasurer, who will be elected for a two-year term. In the event the general membership meeting is cancelled, a ballot will be provided to each member in good standing via email or hardcopy by mail. Installation shall be at the Annual Meeting in May and their term shall begin the following July 1<sup>st</sup>. All officers shall be eligible to be elected for a second consecutive term. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. No member should serve in any office on the Executive Board for more than five (5) consecutive years; after a period of two (2) years a member would be eligible to be nominated again for office. This requirement may be waived with a recommendation of the Nominating Committee and approval of membership when it is in the best interest of the Organization.

**Section 4.** These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by parliamentary authority adopted by this Organization. All officers shall advance the positive image and integrity of the GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club at all times and shall actively promote membership in this Organization.

**Section 5.** The usual duties of these officers shall be:

**(a) The President**

Shall preside, using an agenda, at all regular and special meetings, and at all meetings of the Executive Board; shall appoint with the approval of the executive Board, a Parliamentary Advisor, committees and their chairmen, all departments and special chairmen; shall keep the committee chairmen apprised of pertinent information and duties and shall be an ex-officio

member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; Shall be a member of the Finance Committee, acting as chairmen in the absence of the Treasurer; Shall sign, after approval of the Executive Board and with the Treasurer or another officer, any contract, or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Organization pertaining to the business of this Organization; Shall be one of the officers who may sign checks; Shall see that all books, reports and certificates required by law are properly filed and kept; shall be responsible for maintaining the 501(c)(3) status; Shall be the official representative of this Organization at all GFWC District, State, Region and National meetings; if unable to attend an alternate shall be assigned by the Executive Board.

**(b) The President-Elect**

Shall assume the duties of the President when that officer is absent; Shall be responsible for coordinating all program work with the chairmen; Shall oversee the work of the Calling and Hostess Committee: Shall be the liaison between the Executive Board and the Vintage Attic Chairman; Shall be one of the Officers who may sign checks.

**(c) The Vice President**

Shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of both the President and President-elect; Shall be the Chairman of the Courtesy Committee to ensure all members and guests are welcome; Shall be the liaison between the Executive Board and Nearly New Shoppe Co-Chairmen; Shall oversee the permanent possessions of this Organization, and annually report the inventory has been completed at the annual meeting in May.

#### **(d) The Secretary**

Shall keep an accurate written record of minutes of all regular, special and Executive Board meetings recording the time, place, type, notice given, those present and proceedings therein; Shall maintain accurate membership lists, including address, telephone number and, as appropriate, e-mail address; Shall file or cause to be filed any certificates required by any statute, federal or state; Shall be the custodian of records, including a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended to date, the Annual Report and a book of minutes of all official meetings and a membership book; Shall be one of the officers who may sign checks.

#### **(e) The Treasurer**

Shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities, receipts and disbursements of this organization, except as provided in these bylaws; and shall deposit or cause to be deposited daily all funds in the name of this Organization in appropriate accounts, as approved by the Executive Board, in the First Interstate Bank of Ennis, Montana. Shall accept income and give a receipt for the same; Shall issue and sign, with another officer, all checks for recurring monthly payments and bills. Shall issue and sign with another officer, after receiving a reimbursement request approved by the Executive Board, checks for all non-budgeted and non-recurring items. Shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of this organization's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses. Shall report at least quarterly at a regular meeting an account of receipts and transactions of the previous month; and, shall report at least quarterly to the Executive Board an accumulative profit and loss statement. Shall, at the end of each fiscal year, submit

to an accountant selected by the Executive Board, all books and records for review if not using an outside accountant to prepare the financial statements. Shall cause state and federal tax returns to be prepared by a Certified Public Accountant or licensed bonded accountant approved by the Executive Board. Shall be the chairman of the Finance Committee. Shall be one of the officers who will sign checks.

Shall work directly with an outside licensed and bonded accountant or CPA approved by the Executive Board to complete computer entry of all transactions occurring in the Organization's bank accounts, and who will produce all reconciled financial reports, as required. Shall be available to the incoming Treasurer for up to six months for counsel.

**(f) The Corresponding Secretary**

Shall conduct the general correspondence or as Directed by the President.

**Section 6**, The Parliamentarian Advisor shall serve as an advisor to the President, all chairmen and committees; Shall be available, upon request, to the President at all Executive Board, regular and special meetings.

**Section 7**. All officers shall, at the expiration of their term of office, transfer to their successor within thirty (30) days all books, papers and other property of this Organization in their possession.

**Section 8**. If the President vacates her office the President-elect will serve as President until the end of the term and the Vice-President will serve as President-elect until the end of the term.

The Executive Board can appointment a replacement for the Vice President position and any other officer position

vacated, with the approval of the membership at the next general meeting. Appointed Officers will only serve out the term of the officer they replaced.

## **ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1.** The elected and appointed officers of this Organization shall constitute the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Organization, including the Nearly New Shoppe and the Vintage Attic. They shall have the power to fill vacancies in any office (subject to the requirements of Article IV, Section 8) and to make recommendations to the Organization. They shall review recommendations from the Finance Committee. They may transact the business of this Organization between business meetings and shall approve any changes in the time and place of the regular meetings. They shall be responsible for all property of this Organization including the preservation of the building located at 324 East Main Street. They shall review the annual budget prior to the Annual Meeting in May and shall perform other such duties as specified in these Bylaws.

**Section 3.** The Executive Board shall meet monthly. Special meetings of this Organization and/or Executive Board may be called by the President and shall be called upon by the written request of three members of the Executive Board.

**Section 4.** All members of the Executive Board shall assist the President in preparation of the annual Yearbook of this Organization and the annual GFWC reports.

## **ARTICLE VI MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Regular meetings shall be held the first Thursday of each month, September through April, unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** A special meeting shall be called by the President or the Executive Board upon written Request of five members of this Organization. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least three days' notice shall be given.

**Section 3.** The Annual Meeting shall be held each year in May.

**Section 4.** QUORUM-Twenty members of this Organization shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII STANDING COMMITTEES**

No standing or ad hoc committee chairman shall be appointed to serve more than two consecutive years.

**Section 1.** The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, who shall be the Chairman, the President, and another member at large. The Committee shall develop and review financial policy and procedures and submit to the Executive Board for review and final approval; Shall prepare an annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, which shall be submitted to the Executive Board for review, and to the membership for approval at the Annual Meeting in May; and, shall carry out all financial duties commensurate with sound financial practices.

**Section 2.** The Nearly New Shoppe is a thrift store owned by and the primary fund-raising entity of this Organization. This thrift store shall be administered by two Co-Chairman and Day Chairmen sufficient to cover each work shift. The Co-Chairman shall not be elected officers. These Chairmen are responsible for employing the guidelines of the “Nearly New Shoppe Procedure Manual”. The Co-Chairman are responsible for updating the “Nearly New Shoppe Procedures Manual” for approval by the Executive Board. The Co-Chairman are responsible for the successful operation of the Nearly New Shoppe and shall report directly to the Executive Board Liaison and work in concert with the Executive Board.

**Section 3.** The Vintage Attic, a component of the GFWC Madison Valley Women’s Club is a limited collection of period attire from the Madison Valley maintained for this Organization. This collection shall be administered by a Chairman and at least two members. This Chairman shall not be an officer. This chairman, employing guidelines of the “Vintage Attic Procedure Manual”, shall be responsible for the successful operation of the Vintage Attic and reports directly to the Executive Board Liaison who works in concert with the Executive Board.

**Section 4.** The Membership Committee shall consist of a chairman, and two other members. They shall actively promote the recruitment of new members and retention of current members. They shall, in a timely manner, present each new member with a Membership Information Packet and shall conduct at least one new member Orientation Meeting a year. They shall mentor and encourage all members to work actively in this Organization.

**Section 5.** The Courtesy Committee shall consist of a chairman, that being Vice-president as stated in these Bylaws, and two other members. They shall insure that all members and guests are welcome at each meeting or function of this Organization.

**Section 6.** The Calling and Hostess Committees shall consist of a chairman, that being President-elect as stated in these Bylaws, and members sufficient to perform duties. The Calling Committee shall notify, in a timely manner, all members who do not have email of meetings and any other events. The Hostess Committee shall provide refreshments for all regular meetings.

**Section 7.** The Publicity Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two additional members. They shall promote and publicize the full name, nature, purposes and contributors of this Organization throughout this community, GFWC of Montana and the GFWC. They shall prepare or review all advertisement and articles for publication, maintain the website, and shall work closely with the Executive Board.

**Section 8.** The Scholarship Committee shall consist of a Chairman and four other members. Providing funds are available, they shall, employing guidelines of the “Academic Scholarship Procedure” manual, select qualified applicants for financial assistance.

**Section 9.** The Bylaws Committee shall consist of a Chairman and one other member. They shall receive and review all proposed changes to the bylaws and submit recommendations, consistent with Robert’s Rule of Order

Newly Revised, to the Executive Board for review and members for approval.

## **ARTICLE VIII FINANCES**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year of this Organization shall be July 1 through June 30. Only and all items scheduled to be paid within this time period, providing funds are sufficient, shall be paid within this time period and there shall be no carry-over of unspent funds.

**Section 2.** Any change or expenditure in excess of \$5,000 not contemplated in the Budget shall be submitted to the Executive Board for review and subsequently to members for approval.

**Section 3.** All checks shall be signed by two officers who shall include the Treasurer, and may include the President, President-elect and/or the Secretary.

**Section 4.** No new or change of any financial Procedures or policy shall occur without review of the Finance Committee and authorization by the Executive Board.

**Section 5.** This committee shall assure the Organization has funds available sufficient to provide at least six months of funding for routine expenses and approximately \$50,000 for building maintenance.

**Section 6.** Members can submit requests for reimbursement to the Treasurer for expenses contemplated in the Budget under \$1,000, with proper documentation. Members shall submit prior written requests for expenses over \$1,000, stating purpose and reasonable estimate to the Executive

Board for review and approval. Without prior written approval, the member may not be reimbursed by the Treasurer. The requirements of Article VIII, Section 2 should be followed for any expenditure not contemplated in the Budget.

Section 7. Only the President or an officer who has assumed the responsibilities of the President shall sign any contract or execute any instrument in the name of or on behalf of this Organization with approval of the Executive Committee.

**Section 8.** This Organization shall not award monetary donations to any individual.

**Section 9.** This committee shall insure appropriate surety bond coverage for officers.

## **ARTICLE IX CORPORATE BOOKS AND RECORDS**

This Organization shall keep at its principle office located at 324 East Main Street, Ennis, Montana; minutes of all regular, special and Executive Board, and, if appropriate, committee meetings; adequate and correct books and records of account, including accounts of properties and business transactions and accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements; a record of members; and a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended to date and any Annual reports or tax returns. Current year books and records of account can be maintained by the Treasurer until the year is completed.\_

## **ARTICLE X PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this Organization in all

cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent

with these bylaws and any special rules of order this Organization may adopt.

### **ARTICLE XI AMEMNDMENT OF BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of this Organization, where a quorum is present, by a two-thirds vote of those attending, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting, mailed or e-mailed to each member no later than ten days prior to voting.

### **ARTICLE XII DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1.** The dissolution of the GFWC Madison Valley Women's Club may only take place following two-thirds favorable vote of all members.

**Section 2.** In the event of dissolution of the GFWC Madison Valley Women's Club, the Executive Board shall make provision for the payment of all the liabilities of this Organization. The remaining assets shall be distributed only after approval of two-thirds of the members to organizations qualified as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code with purposes similar to those of this Organization.

(Revised November 3, 2022)

### **Did you know that ...**

#### **Symbolism of GFWC Emblem**

*GFWC's emblem depicts a circular band signifying eternity. In the center of the circular band, the crusader's shield emerges from a darkened world (represented by the field of darkness), which*

represents enlightenment. The enameled colors - red, white, and blue - are the colors of the United States of America. The red implies courage, the white equals purity, and the blue stands for constancy.

*WWW.GFWC.ORG* August 2014

## **STANDING RULES**

1. All items owned by this Organization shall be stored on the property located at 324 East Main Street. Any item of this organization may be loaned to another member for a period of no longer than seven days provided prior written approval is obtained from a member of the Executive Board.
2. Annual dues will become delinquent if not paid by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year in order to comply with GFWC of Montana fiscal year.
3. The outgoing President shall obtain a new Club's President's pin and present it to the incoming President at the Annual Meeting.
4. The President-elect shall obtain a gift, the sum of which shall not exceed the budgeted amount, and present it to the outgoing President at the Annual Meeting.
5. Annual subscriptions to the GFWC Club Woman periodical shall be provided to all officers.
6. This Organization shall encourage members to attend GFWC meetings including District, State, Western States Region and National Delegates shall give a report of the meeting, sharing the knowledge and

training gained. The expenses incurred at these meeting shall be the responsibility of the members and delegates; However, this organization shall budget an amount annually to participate, on a partial basis, in these expenses as funds allow.

7. Each fiscal year, charitable donations by this Organization shall approximate at least 50 per cent of total disbursements.
8. The Executive Board shall endeavor to have the new Membership Booklet available each year for the September meeting.
9. The established order of business shall be: Call to order, Collect recitation, Pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Introductions, Chaplain reading, History Reading, Read and Approval of Minutes, Financial report, Officers/ Standing Committee reports, Old business, New business, Announcements, Door prize drawing, adjournment.
10. The regular monthly meeting shall begin at noon and include a lunch and program.
11. Members shall submit prior written requests to the Executive Board for expenses greater than \$50.00.
12. All volunteers working at the Nearly New Shoppe and/ or the Vintage Attic are required to be a member of the GFWC Madison Valley Women's Club, and by

written agreement must comply with all Policies and Operating Procedures.

13. In keeping with the Internal Revenue Service's Compliance Guide for 501 (c) (3) Public Charities, this Organization shall have written guidelines for conflict of interest, documentation retention and destruction, and public inspection and disclosure policies and procedures.
  
14. The Membership Listing of names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses is not to be shared with non-GFWC organizations.
  
15. Groups wishing to use the Nearly New Shoppe for after hour parties must complete and submit to the Executive Board a User Agreement Form (obtained from the Board) at least 30 days prior to the date of use for approval by the Board.

(Amended July 2017)

**Did you know that?**

GFWC MVWC has a video, script and yearbook for 1989-1990 buried in a time capsule under the Montana State Capital Building.

**Did you know that?**

This Organization is the only Club in Montana that earned the distinction of a GFWC Centennial Club. Founded in 1890's the General Federation of Women's Club set up rigid criteria in 1990 to earn the coveted GFWC Centennial Club award. Frances Womack, who had been an active member continuously for 70 years, was chosen as the "GFWC of Montana Centennial Member"

**Did you know that?**

The GFWC structure allows members to address the emerging needs of the individual communities and the nation, and respond quickly to calls for help. Local clubs have both the ability to tap into expertise available at national, state and district levels and the freedom to shape programs to suit their needs. (gfwc.org, September 2006)

**Did you know that?**

## **My Notes & New Member Updates**

GFWC members contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance for use by the New York Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001

### **Did you know that?**

MVWC held its first annual Federation Day dinner in April 2011, which includes spouses or a guest of our members. The event is hosted by The Executive Board. It is a way of showing appreciation for all the members who volunteer their time and service. In the recent past the Board has held a volunteer appreciation week for Nearly New volunteers.

# **My Notes & New Member Updates**

**GFWC**

**Madison Valley Women's Club**

**P.O. Box 122, Ennis, MT 59729-0122**

**Web Site: [madisonvalleywomansclub.org](http://madisonvalleywomansclub.org)**

**[madisonvalwc@gmail.com](mailto:madisonvalwc@gmail.com)**

Registered Agent: Marcia Zankowski  
Tax Identification Number: 52-1620849

Our Motto:  
**"Volunteer to Serve Our Community"**

***Nearly New Shoppe***  
324 East Main Street, Ennis, MT  
406-682-7647

**Days of Operation:**

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat  
October through May**

**Monday - Saturday  
June through September  
(Hours vary - check website)**

GFWC International: [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)  
GFWC of Montana: [www.gfwcmontana.org](http://www.gfwcmontana.org)