

GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
IOWA

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"Dramatic Cliffs of Sagre, Portugal"
by Karen Martinek

1st Place Award Winner, Natural Wonders, Photography Contest

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2024-2026 GFWC/Iowa Executive Committee

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Subscriptions

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This newsletter is distributed to members of the GFWC/Iowa Board of Directors via email, and regular mail if necessary. Members of GFWC/Iowa may request to be added to the email distribution list by submitting an email address to GFWC/Iowa Headquarters at gfwciowa@qwestoffice.net.

A complete version of the *GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman Newsletter* is available on the GFWC/Iowa website: www.gfwciowa.org.

GFWC/Iowa Executive Board Members, GFWC/Iowa Club Presidents/Officers and GFWC/Iowa Standing and Special Committee Chairmen and members contributed to the content of this newsletter. Future articles and photographs may be submitted at any time to GFWC/Iowa Headquarters and are subject to the approval of the Editorial Committee.

Message from the President

GFWC/Iowa Sisters:

The past two years have passed quickly. I am deeply grateful to everyone who believed in me and gave me the opportunity to serve as your state president. I also appreciate all who supported my areas of focus through meaningful projects. Thank you to every club and member for your dedication to the Domestic Violence and Women's Health programs.

The district conventions I attended throughout my administration were both engaging and informative. Serving as your GFWC Iowa President over the past two years has given me the chance to travel across the state more than ever before. It was a joy to meet more members and learn about the outstanding work clubs have done in communities throughout Iowa. I am proud that GFWC Iowa continues to make such a meaningful impact in so many places.

The reports I have reviewed reflect the worthwhile projects

completed by clubs across Iowa during the past two years. I am confident that these efforts have made a positive difference in the lives of members and non-members alike.

The experiences I have had during my administration have broadened my perspective and created memories I will always treasure.

I congratulate Ann and extend my best wishes to the new Board of Directors for a successful 2026–2028 administration.

Mickey Coonfare



GFWC/Iowa State Convention, April 2026

Award Winners

Community Service Programs

Arts and Culture

Silver — Granger Women's Club
Chairman's Choice — Friendship and Service Club, Akron
Creativity — Doon Women's Club

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Silver — Granger Women's Club
Chairman's Choice — Cedar Falls Woman's Club
Creativity — Woman's Club, Maquoketa

Education and Libraries

Silver — Solon Women's Club
Chairman's Choice — Friendship and Service Club, Akron

Environment

Silver — Friendship and Service Club, Akron
Chairman's Choice — Peterson Tuesday Club
Creativity — Woman's Club, Maquoketa

Health and Wellness

Silver — Yorel Study Club, LeRoy
Chairman's Choice — Woman's Club, Maquoketa

Special Projects

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

Silver — Woman's Club, Maquoketa
Chairman's Choice — R.A.R.E. Club, Walker
Creativity — Woman's Club, Maquoketa

Advocates for Children

1st Place — Bancroft History Assembly, Creston
Chairman's Choice — Rural Woman's Study Club, Jesup
Creativity — Bancroft History Assembly, Creston

GFWC Advancement

Communications & Public Relations

1st Place — Solon Women's Club
Chairman's Choice — Adel Women's Club

Fundraising

1st Place — Friendship and Service Club, Akron
Chairman's Choice — Adel Women's Club

Leadership

1st Place — Solon Women's Club
Chairman's Choice — Woman's Club, Maquoketa

Legislation & Public Policy

1st Place — Rural Woman's Study Club, Jesup
Chairman's Choice — Solon Women's Club

Membership

1st Place — Adel Women's Club
Chairman's Choice — Rural Woman's Study Club, Jesup

Special Program

Women's History & Resource Center

1st Place — Woman's Club, Maquoketa
Chairman's Choice — Bancroft History Assembly, Creston

GFWC/Iowa State Convention, April 2026

Silver Award Photos



Arts and Culture Silver Award being presented to *Granger Women's Club*



Environment Silver award being presented to *Friendship and Service Club, Akron*



Civic Engagement and Outreach Silver award being presented to *Granger Women's Club*



Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Silver award being presented to *Woman's Club, Maquoketa*



Education and Libraries Silver Award being presented to *Solon Women's Club*



Advocates for Children Silver award being presented to *Bancroft History Assembly, Creston*

GFWC/Iowa State Convention, April 2026

1st Place Award Photos



Communications and Public Relations 1st Place award being presented to *Solon Women's Club*



Legislation and Public Policy 1st Place award being presented to *Rural Woman's Club, Jesup*



Fundraising Chairman's Choice award being presented to *Friendship and Service Club, Akron*



Leadership 1st Place award being presented to *Solon Women's Club*



WHRC 1st Place award being presented to *Bancroft History Assembly, Creston*

Award Winners

Photography

Our World Close Up

- 1st Place** — Rebecca D. Shrimpton, Granger Women's Club, "Milkweed on Display"
2nd Place — Ann S. Olson, Phoenix Club, Muscatine, "Flatheaded Apple"
3rd Place — Linda Hueser, Granger Women's Club, "After a Rain"

Natural Wonders

- 1st Place** — Karen Martinek, Solon Women's Club, "Dramatic Cliffs of Sagre, Portugal"
2nd Place — Bette Kuboushek, Quad Cities Woman's Club, Davenport, "Lavender Fields"
3rd Place — Mickey Coonfare, 5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids, "Tree in the Middle of the Road"

Reflections

- 1st Place** — Anne S. Olson, Phoenix Club, Muscatine, "Water Lilies Reflections"
2nd Place — Linda Hueser, Granger Women's Club, "30 Years of Light"
3rd Place — Lisa Cunningham, Peterson Tuesday Club, "Reflections of Colorado"

GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit

- 1st Place** — Georgina Valle, Granger Women's Club, "Storybook Trail in the Park"
2nd Place — Linda Hueser, Granger Women's Club, "Lasagna Love"
3rd Place — Karen Martinek, Solon Women's Club, "Hope Lodge Dinner"

Creative Writing

Category 1 — Essays (500 Word Max)

Special Category—Spreading Your Wings

- 1st Place** — Janice Drzycimski, Peterson Tuesday Club, "Alaska Trip"
2nd Place — Ann Tell, Aurelia Women's Club, "Think for Yourself"

Essays — General

- 1st Place** — Marsha Fisher, Adel Women's Club, "Winter in Iowa"
2nd Place — Barb Long, 5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids, "My Dad's Sayings"
3rd Place — Judy Shimek, R.A.R.E. Club, Walker, "Memories"

Category 2 — Short Stories (2,000 Word Max)

- 1st Place** — Mickey Coonfare, 5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids, "50 Years WOW"

Category 3 — Poetry (8-50 Lines)

Special Category — Spreading Your Wings

- 1st Place** — Daina Powers, Peterson Tuesday Club, "Like a Bird"

Poetry — General

- 1st Place** — Dorothy Powers, 5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids, "Circle of Life"
2nd Place — Marsha Fisher, Adel Women's Club, "Where Do I Fit?"
3rd Place — Carine Schroeder, Doon General Federated Women's Club, "Accident"



Photography Award & Anniversary Photos



Pictured above are 1st Place winners in the Photography Contest: (L to R) Georgina Valle, Rebecca Shrimpton, Karen Martinek, Sandi Street-Potter receiving the award for Anne Olson.



Audubon Federated Women's Club being recognized for 50 years of GFWC Federation.



Solon Women's Club being recognized for 75 years of GFWC Federation.

Award Winners

Creative Writing (cont'd)

Category 4 — Limericks (5 Lines)

1st Place — Dorothy Powers, 5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., "Acronyms"

2nd Place — Marsha Fisher, Adel Women's Club, "Remember?"

3rd Place — Shirley McAdon, Adel Women's Club, "The Lady in Pink"

YOUTH CONTEST

(All entries were submitted by Friendship and Service Club, Akron)

Category 1 — Short Stories (2,000 Word Max)

Grade Level K, 1 & 2 — 1st Place — Jessa McKee, "Arachne the Weaver"

Grade Level 3, 4 & 5 — 1st Place — Avery Hass, "Two Bunnies Get Lost"

Grade Level 6, 7 & 8 — 1st Place — Lilly Allaway, "My Wildest Dreams"

Grade Level 9, 10, 11 & 12 — 1st Place — Isabella Waterbury, "The Last Order"

Category 2 — Poems (8-50 Lines)

Grade Level K, 1 & 2 — 1st Place — Emery Waterbury, "Summer Senses"

Grade Level 3, 4 & 5 — 1st Place — William Kluender, "The Forest Trail"

Grade Level 6, 7 & 8 — 1st Place — Adalai Davies, "What Makes the Sky Beautiful?"

Grade Level 9, 10, 11 & 12 — 1st Place — Ellie Mathieson, "Hey Hey, Hey"



GFWC/Iowa State Convention, April 2026

More Convention Photos



Pictured above are first-time attendees to the GFWC/Iowa Convention: (Front row L to R) Donna Kluesner, Shari Piper, Sandi Street-Potter; (Back row L to R) Kathy Haultmeyer, Marty Severance, Dorothy Thompson, Mary Fistler, Lin Schulte, Joyce Halverson, Ann Novotny, Bobbi Peterson.



Pictured above are clubwomen from five GFWC/Iowa clubs who received recognition for being Dementia Friendly. The clubs are Grundy Center Woman's Club; Exira Study Club; 5 Seasons' Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids; Peterson Tuesday Club; and R.A.R.E. Club, Walker.

40-'s 50's Night, Thursday, April 23



Convention attendees were encouraged to dress for this night in 40's and 50's attire — they did not disappoint!



40-'s 50's Night, Thursday, April 23 (cont'd.)



The evening's entertainment was provided by a t trio of exceptionally talented singers, "The Ladybirds" — a group that specializes in 1940's and 1950's music.



GFWC/Iowa State Convention, April 2026

Installation Banquet, Friday, April 24



Past Presidents Club (PIPS) past presidents shown above seated at the Installation Banquet: (L to R) Betty Wade, Sandy Phillips, Karen Martinek, Sue Hass, Carma Bisinger, Eileen Hageman. Bette Kuboushek was taking the picture.



Pictured above are the GFWC/Iowa 2026-2028 Officers: (L to R) Sue Hass, Parliamentary Advisor; Linda Hueser, 2nd Vice President; Lisa Gottschalk, 1st Vice President; Ann Zlabek, President; Cindy Hansen, Vice President; Mary Adams, Secretary; Meredith McHone-Pierce, Treasurer.

Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center Donation



During state convention, GFWC/Iowa President Mickey Coonfare presented KaceyBarrie-Miner of Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center, Adel, with a donation of money, gift cards and basic needs items from the women of GFWC/Iowa. Below is a thank you received from Kacey.



Mickey and the Incredible
Women Leaders of the
GFWC Iowa,

Thank you, for being exactly
who you are. Thank you for all
the basic needs items you gave—
almost all of it has gone back
out to the community already!
The money raised and the gift
cards—these will change the
healing journey for so many. When
survivors ask us if anybody cares
we are able to say yes because
we think about you all. You all
are just brilliant women making
positive changes all around you.

You remind us to be bold and
honest and lead with integrity. We
are forever grateful to befriend you
and this group. Nothing can
stop the power of women
uniting for a cause—a shared
mission. We imagine each of you
with linked arms in a long line
with us—all together to support
survivors all around us. Thank
you for inviting us to speak and
share our message. You give
us hope + fill us with gratitude.

♥ Your Crisis Intervention
& Advocacy Center
friends!
+ Kacey

GFWC/Iowa Club Highlights

National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness

Rose Dory, Granger Women's Club



The GFWC/Iowa Granger Women's Club's project to raise awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention month in April was done by tying blue ribbons, some with little blue ducks, on a pine tree outside the



GFWC/Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs

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