

2025 Top 10 Advancement Projects

Communication and Public Relations – Bonita Baughman

1. **GFWC/Iowa Granger Women's Club** had a community Christmas Display Contest. A Christmas Display Contest using recycled pallets to build a Christmas tree adorned with spheres in various colors, surrounded with garland, and placed along presents decorated with colorful Christmas wrapping paper. All was surrounded by Solar Christmas lights and signs that showed the several activities that the club participates in to help the community. The community voted for the best display and they obtained Second Place. They collaborated with the Granger Economic Development Association. To promote the event they used Facebook, flyers and the city newsletter. This was a good way to get their presence in the community noted. They had 19 volunteer hours and \$113 in monetary donations.
2. **GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club** utilized and implemented ten communication tools.
 1. Annual Program Books were created and distributed by email, posted in the Solon Women's Club Google Drive Annual Program Book Folder which is new this year and in a physical booklet to each club member.
 2. Meeting Agendas provided via email at least two days prior to the monthly meeting including the agenda and GFWC/Iowa state, regional, national, and international correspondence.
 3. Treasurer's Reports provided via e-mail at least two days prior to monthly meeting. Are posted in the Treasurer Reports on the Solon Women's Club Google Drive.
 4. Monthly Meeting Minutes created after each meeting posted a week in advance in the Meeting Minutes Folder of Solon Women's Club Google Drive.
 5. GFWC/Iowa Logo included on all internal and external correspondence.
 6. Solon Women's Club uses text messages to expedite communication and accessibility to members.
 7. Sign-up Genius is used for online scheduling, volunteer and member management, event planning and fundraising systems.
 8. Facebook is used to promote upcoming events.
 9. Solon Economist, the local weekly newspaper is used to promote club events and fundraisers.
 10. Solons Women's Club g-mail/drive is a recent communication tool added dedicated to Solon Women's Club Google Email address and Google Drive to house the clubs' documents and correspondence.
3. **GFWC/Iowa Maquoketa Women's Club** has a solid relationship with their local newspaper and radio station. Monthly articles outlining the club's meeting summaries whenever they have an event are published in the newspaper. The radio station invites the club to be on their "Just Talk" program for 30 minutes whenever they have an event that is open to the public. This allows them to reach hundreds of people about upcoming events.
4. **GFWC/Iowa Adel Women's Club** uses the monthly magazine called Adel Living for upcoming events to inform the public of upcoming events by the club. The monthly magazine goes by mail to every household in Adel. Ade living weekly is published

weekly and distributed to local businesses. Articles and pictures of all activities are listed such as our scholarship donations, salad luncheon's, Boardwalk and Luminary sales and event.

Membership- Bette Kuboushek

1. To encourage members to attend district and state meetings, one club pays the registration fee for up to five (5) members to attend one of these meetings. spent \$60.
2. To help retain members, an interest survey was distributed to the members, which included all the projects they participate in. They encouraged all members to sign up for at least one project. 10 hours.
3. Long time members shared information about GFWC, such as our founder, Jennie June and the early days, Legislation over the years influenced by GFWC, and a review of the programs we are active in today. There are several 50+ year members, but also several new members who wanted to learn more about GFWC.
4. As a tribute to long time members who have passed, this club purchases and dedicates a book to the local library in honorarium.
5. Another club recognized all their members for their years of service at one meeting, giving out membership milestone pins. Those that could not attend the regular meetings got a visit from a club member, who brought minutes or any other information that was shared at the meeting. 5 hours, \$10 spent.
6. Going out for dinner as a group was one way to celebrate the holidays for one club. 14 hours.
7. In order to accommodate the members who are still working, one club starts their meetings at 6 pm with a meet and greet, along with a light supper. This way the members can come straight from work. The speakers are invited to join them at this time as well. Meetings are generally adjourned by 8 pm.
8. In this town, another organization was having a farewell gathering. This club attended and worked on recruiting new members.

Legislation and Public Policy – Eileen Hageman

1. **Jesup Rural Woman's Club** at each monthly meeting, members are informed about current legislation and recent events. The club's legislative developments are the local, state, and national levels.
2. **Bancroft History Assembly** attended candidate forums, city council meetings, legislative teas, and caucuses in addition to responding to Legislative Action Alerts. They want to be informed and knowledgeable in their community.

3. **Solon Women's Club** members have learned to work cohesively with city officials. The club does at least one fundraiser for the benefit of the city, usually the parks and recreation department. The club requests a "want" list from city officials. Club members choose a project they believe will be popular and benefit from the fundraising efforts. It works well because Solon is a fast-growing community, that has many needs and desires that need to be prioritized. Since the item is needed by the city, they are willing to maintain or provide upkeep for the item or area. This year we were able to raise over \$600 for a sand park and playground equipment. The project was very popular. Another town organization and a memorial donated to our cause. With our help, the recreational park has received several updates, landscape, tables, parks, dug outs, etc., making it very entertaining and user friendly for families.
4. **Progressive Chatauqua Circle Study Club** actively participated in their community's political scene. They joined informational events, debates, and legislative coffees along with others in the community.

Fundraising – Amy Hall-Haney

1. **GFWC/Iowa Friendship and Service Club** hosted the 25th Annual Great Akron Scarecrow Festival in September 2025, the Akron City Park was transformed and fully decorated to become the sight of a fall festival. The club offered a variety games, a scarecrow train ride, glitter tattoos, bounce houses, and face painting as a highlight for the kids. There were vendors selling a variety of products and wares throughout the day. There was a food tent offering a variety of food and beverage items. There was music and trivia throughout the day. The trademark of the event was the scarecrows that were created by club and community members which were displayed for a contest where they were judged. The winning scarecrows were awarded prizes. At the end of the event, the scarecrows are sold to the highest bidder in an auction format. The event netted \$11,981 via sales of food and beverages, vendor registrations, scarecrow sales, tickets for the kids' activities, as well as the sale of items such as t-shirts and mum plants. The funds will be used to support products and carry out programs within the community and surrounding area.
2. **GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club** offered their 4th Annual Egg My Yard event. Approximately 40 families signed up for the event. The club stuffed about 154 dozen plastic eggs with candy and toys. Families could pick up eggs a week before Easter so they could hide their own eggs, or the club could deliver/hide the eggs on Saturday night after 8:30 p.m. Apparently four members had a great time sneaking in yards and hiding eggs. The Solon Lions Club donated \$1,100 and a private individual donated \$2,000 as a memorial to her husband to help the club complete this project. A total of \$4,507 was raised toward the purchase of "digger" toys for the new Sand Park being built in Solon.

3. **The Adel Women's Club** hosted a spring salad luncheon for the community. There were 126 in attendance. \$1,340 was raised.
4. **The GFWC/Iowa Peterson Tuesday Club** provided the Friday evening meal that kicks off the weekend of activities for "Peterson Fire Days" sponsored by the volunteer fire department. The club served a meal of beef wraps, hot dogs and dessert which was extremely popular and well attended. The project netted \$1,210.
5. **The GFWC/Iowa Baldwin Woman's Club** sold "RADA" knives at the community blood drive and again for Christmas. The club raised \$882 to be used for the community impact project of town welcome signs and for the local fire department.
6. **The GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Clubs** largest fundraiser was the food booth that they had at the annual "Solon Beef Days." They had a wooden food stand with a canvas top that they used to sell bratwurst and hot dogs. They also sold walking tacos (Crushed Doritos with taco meat, cheese, lettuce, salsa, and sour cream), canned soda pop, and bottled water. There were 16 members involved in this project plus 8 family members/friends. The club netted \$44,364 for this project.
7. **The GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club** had an Amish Flower Hanging Basket Sale. Club members attended a flower auction. They were able to purchase 176 plants. Plants were delivered to the Solon Library where the club sold the flower baskets. The sale was advertised on a variety of media. These baskets were sold for \$25-\$30 each. Three baskets were donated and hung up at the Solon Care Center. Six baskets were donated to the Johnson County Master Gardeners to plant in the Solon Library garden. The club netted \$1,169 which was donated to the Solon Library to complete their replacement project for a new room divider.
8. **The GFWC/Iowa Adel Women's Club** hosted a salad luncheon for the GFWC/Iowa Annual meeting/convention. This was a win-win situation for the club and for GFWC/Iowa. The convention committee was able to save some money on the catering of a luncheon, and the club was able to raise \$745. Club members donated salads and cleaned up after the event.
9. **The GFWC/Iowa Maquoketa Woman's Club** had a fundraiser where they worked with the local McDonald's restaurant where they greeted customers and cleaned tables on a Wednesday evening. For this simple work, they received a portion of the restaurant's sales, which totaled \$500 for the club.
10. **The GFWC/Iowa R.A.R.E. Club** sold nuts and chocolates at a fundraiser. Each member estimated how many items they could sell. A member ordered, stored, and distributed bags to members and kept track of nuts left at a local beauty salon for purchases while the treasurer accounted for each bag delivered to members to sell. All club members participated in the fun.

Leadership – Amy Hall-Haney

1. **The GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club** has at least one experienced officer serving with newer and first-time officers. This helps with program planning as well as club meetings. It is a great way to be sure that the Club maintains the importance of the GFW organization in their programming. Club officers are encouraged to “move up the ladder” although that is not always possible. This enables an officer to know more about the job responsibilities of possible future positions. The club president does an excellent job of including other officers and key people in making decisions regarding needed changes.
2. **The GFWC/Iowa Maquoketa Women's Club** in an effort to involve more club members in leadership roles and to help with succession planning for club officers, the club has subcommittees for all of the different projects that the club does throughout the year. Club members select which one(s) they will participate in and then those various subcommittees have team leaders. This allows everyone to be involved in their passion area(s) and to take the lead on projects, give updates at club meetings, and further their knowledge and confidence. This allows the nominating committee the opportunity to identify potential club officers.
3. **The GFWC/Iowa Progressive Chautauqua Circle Study Club** encourages members to participate in various club, district, and state leadership roles, and to attend district and state levels. Positions held by club members include district secretary and district/state Health and Wellness chairperson.
4. **The GFWC/Iowa Bancroft History Assembly** encourages members to participate in various club, district, and state leadership roles. Club officers assume their duties as outlined in the by-laws. One member held a position at the state level. There were other members who served as club officers, committee members, and program presenters.
5. **The GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club** members are encouraged to participate in a variety of leadership opportunities to engage in leadership opportunities at the club, state, regional, and national levels. Meetings at these various levels provide changes to strengthen leadership skills through workshops, formal sessions, and person-to-person interactions.
6. **The GFWC/Iowa Progressive Chautauqua Circle Study Club** has members who give presentations during club meetings. One member gave a presentation at a meeting on leadership. She pointed out that a leader should be able to inspire others and give others confidence. Good leaders also care about others and are always learning.
7. **The GFWC/Iowa Peterson Tuesday Club** has individual members responsible for presenting a program from one of the GFWC Community Service program areas, or the Signature or Special projects areas. It is the member's responsibility to access the Member Portal and research the club manual or the GFWC resources to come up with a program and/or project.
8. **The GFWC/Iowa Quad cities Woman's Club** has three members who are past state presidents, two members are on the GFWC/Iowa Board of Directors (BOD) in several

capacities, three members are on GFWC committees and attended BOD meetings in June and August, two members attended the SE district planning meeting and the state annual meeting planning meeting, two members attended the state convention and heard a workshop on Parliamentary Procedures.

9. **The GFWC/Iowa Five Seasons Club** has four members that have state or district leadership including the state presidency.
10. **The GFWC/Iowa Adel Women's Club** has a member that is the GFWC/Iowa treasurer, two members that are on the district scholarship committee, as well several members on the state BOD.