

GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman



GFWC
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**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
IOWA

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Spring 2026



Ahh, Beautiful Spring!

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2024-2026 GFWC/Iowa Executive Committee

State President	<i>Mickey Coonfare</i>
President Elect	<i>Ann Zlabek</i>
First Vice President	<i>Cindy Hansen</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Lisa Gottschalk</i>
Secretary	<i>Mary Adams</i>
Treasurer	<i>Meredith McHone-Pierce</i>
Parliamentary Advisor	<i>Sue Hass</i>
SE District Director	<i>Betty Wade</i>
NE District Director	<i>Nancy Tabor</i>
NW District Director	<i>Lisa Harris</i>
SW District Director	<i>Cindy Hansen</i>

Subscriptions

GFWC/Iowa Clubwoman Newsletter is published twice a year: Fall and Spring.

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

Greetings to my fellow GFWC/Iowa Clubwomen:

The weather is getting warmer, and I am sure we are all ready for spring.

Included in this newsletter is the Call to the GFWC/Iowa Convention, which will be held at the Lakeside Hotel Casino in Osceola on April 23rd and 24th.

Installation of new officers will take place at the convention, and the new administration board of directors will meet on the 25th. Please see the tentative schedule printed in the last pages of this newsletter and plan on attending. The meeting room accommodations are wonderful and being provided free due to the meals we are purchasing. All the meals are a buffet with many choices, so I am sure everyone will find something they will enjoy.

Each district will provide three baskets. The district director will determine who is bringing them. The opportunity drawing for the

purple bag of items will be drawn. Everyone who purchases all the meals will be in a drawing for \$100and much much more.

Thank you to all the clubs who reported on their activities for 2025. I really enjoyed reading all of them. It was another outstanding year. Ladies, you are really stepping up in your communities and also helping with community activities.

The 2026 GFWC Annual Convention will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, June 26-29. The 2026 LEADS training will be on June 25. I am pleased to announce that Mary Adams, our GFWC/Iowa Secretary, will be attending LEADS this year. She will enjoy a day of learning, meeting new friends and having a great time. There will be tours on both the 25th & 26th. One tour will be hands-on cooking, a historical museum and shopping. The other tour will be the Ody Sea Aquarium, a historical museum, shopping and lunch.



Rooms are \$209 per night. Please see the Call to Convention in the most recent Clubwoman magazine online.

There is a lot of good information included in this newsletter. Please read it over and make plans to attend our convention in April in Osceola.

Mickey Coonfore



GFWC /Iowa Officer Candidates

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa President — Ann Zlabek



It is my honor to be the candidate for the GFWC/Iowa

President. I joined GFWC 35 years ago and am a member of the GFWC/Iowa R.A.R.E. Club, serving as vice-president. I have served the SE District as secretary, vice-director and director. At the state level, I have served as Chairman of the Education and Libraries Community Service Program, on the Finance Committee and on the Executive Committee. In 2021, I was fortunate to be the LEADS candidate from

Iowa at the national convention.

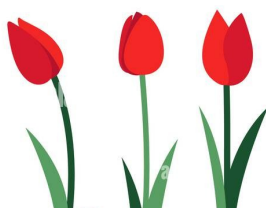
I live in Walker, where I stay involved in my community and my church. My husband John and I have been married for 55 years, and he has been a source of support for me. We have four children and four grandchildren. John and I are both retired and do volunteer work.

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa President-elect — Cindy Hansen

I am running for the position of GFWC/Iowa President - Elect. I have been a member of the Town & Country Jr. Club of Avoca since 2009. I have served as president, vice-president and treasurer in my club and am currently on the state board of directors and am the SW District Director. I am a retired social worker and live in Avoca with my husband, Don, a retired veterinarian. We are the

parents of Adam and Vanessa and the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren. We enjoy spending time with family and going to children's activities.

I enjoy being a member of GFWC/Iowa and participating in our club projects and activities. It's great to see what we can do by becoming involved and improving our communities through volunteerism.



GFWC/Iowa Officer Candidates

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa First Vice President — Lisa Gottschalk



Lisa is running for the position of GFWC/Iowa Second Vice-President. She resides in rural Maquoketa in Jackson County, where she has served as

President of the Maquoketa Woman's Club and was Vice-Director of the NE Iowa District. She has also served on the Friends of the Library Board and served 14 years on the "Glimmer of Hope" Fundraising Committee for the Dubuque-based YMCA/YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter (now known as the Crisis Services Program).

Lisa has been a member of the Maquoketa Woman's Club since 2016, joining after she retired from McGraw-Hill Higher Education where she was Director of Marketing Systems and Operations for 31

years. She also was instrumental in establishing a mentoring program for women in the organization and was awarded the Vanguard Award on three separate occasions from McGraw-Hill. In 2010, the Tri-State Women's Leadership Network awarded her with their "Woman of Achievement Award" for the impact she had in the community and within McGraw-Hill.

Lisa and her husband, Ray, enjoy spending time at their "river house"...their little slice of heaven along the Mississippi River in Bellevue.

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa Second Vice President — Linda Hueser

I am a nominee for the office of GFWC/Iowa Second Vice-President. As a member of the Granger Women's Club for 37 years, I have held all the executive positions and been a member of the scholarship committee and the fall Terri Lynn fundraising team. In addition, I have served as Dallas County Vice-Chairman and Chairman. Since 2020, I have been the state ESO and Adventures in Reading chairman. GFWC has connected me with women in our community, the state and region who share in the volunteer spirit. My participation has boosted my confidence and

improved my communication skills.

As a serial volunteer, I served on the steering committee to form the Friends of the Granger Public Library and have since served as Vice-President and Treasurer. Since 1973, as a dedicated blood donor, I have given over 100 gallons and for several years served as corporate and community blood drive coordinator. Currently, I am on the board of directors for L.I.N.D.A., an international club for women named Linda/Lynda.

My husband, David, and I have been married for 53 years. We met at Iowa State University, lived in Des Moines



and Urbandale for 15 years and moved to rural Polk County outside Granger in 1987. We have two married sons and five grandchildren living in Urbandale and Madrid.

GFWC /Iowa Officer Candidates

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa Secretary — Mary Adams



I am honored to be nominated for the position of

GFWC/Iowa Secretary. I currently hold this position in the 2024-2026 Administration. I have also been serving on the Executive Committee for the past two years. I worked for 30 years at Regions Bank, retiring as a trust officer. I have been a member of the Rural Woman's Study Club, Jesup for 13 years and have served as its Vice-President and President. In addition, I have held the office of Vice-Director and Director of the NE District.

I have a son and a daughter, along with a stepson that has given me a "bonus" family. My

six grandchildren and four great-granddaughters give me joy.

I am active with church activities, serve on the YWCA of Black Hawk County Finance Committee and participate in activities at the Buchanan County Health Center.

I appreciate the heritage of GFWC and its mission of improving communities through volunteer service. The opportunity to meet other like-minded women and the friendships that are formed is a great benefit of being a member of GFWC.

Candidate for GFWC/Iowa Treasurer — Meredith McHone-Pierce

Meredith has been a member of GFWC Iowa for over 35 years. After holding most offices at the local level, she served as SW District Vice-Director and Director and joined the GFWC Iowa Board of Directors in 2018 as Adventures in Reading Chairman.

As the current GFWC/Iowa Treasurer, Meredith also serves on both the Executive and Finance Committees. She greatly values GFWC's many beneficial programs and volunteer opportunities, the incredible women friends she's met through GFWC and appreciates the opportunity to

continue serving as Iowa Treasurer.

Along with being an active member of the Adel Women's Club, Meredith is an *Iowa Quester*, a volunteers docent at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates and formerly served on the Iowa 4-H Foundation Board of Directors.

After graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Communications, Meredith first became a magazine Editor and then a Marketing Manager in the Dairy Industry. She then became an Advertising and Communications Director for a national seed company.



Meredith and husband Dennis will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary this summer.

GFWC Annual Convention

Don't Miss the 2026 GFWC/Iowa Convention!

SAVE THE DATE – 98th annual GFWC/Iowa State Convention April 23-25 — Lakeside Hotel Casino, Osceola, Iowa — lakesidehotelcasino.com



Lakeside is a premiere Midwest entertainment destination for lodging, exciting games, events, dining and more.

Convention events begin Thursday afternoon and conclude Friday evening, with the installation dinner and celebration of incoming State President for 2026-2028 Ann Zlabek.

Other features include “The Ladybirds”, a group that presents a 1940s USO show and are known for their renditions of the ‘Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy’, and other popular songs of the Era.

***Join fellow Club members and friends
at Lakeside April 23-25!***

LAKESIDE HOTEL SERVICES

- *Spacious Deluxe Lodging at very reasonable prices*
- *Pool & Exercise Facility*
- *Restaurant & Express Café*
- *Event Center seating area with lake views*
- *Ballroom/Meeting Rooms*
- *Wi-Fi*

CASINO FEATURES

- *Newest Slot Machines*
- *Black Jack*
- *Craps*

RV PARK AMENITIES

- *\$45 Daily Fee (plus tax)*
- *Full Hookups (30/50amp electricity available)*
- *65' Pull-through Sites with Concrete Pads*
- *Shuttle Service Available Upon Request*



GFWC/Iowa Community Service Chairmen

Reporting for 2025

Lisa Harris, Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman

Reporting for the 2025 calendar year has been completed, statistics are compiled and awards will be presented at GFWC/Iowa State Convention in April. Congratulations and thank you to all the clubs who reported in the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program area. Your projects and programs were all very worthwhile and no doubt had a big impact on those you served.

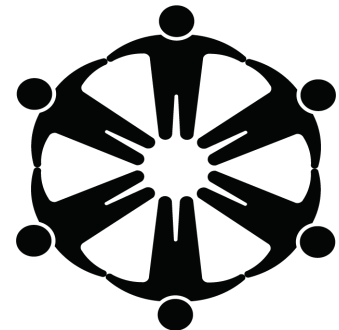
Volunteering is one way to put civic duty into action, and it can be the initial step in building a stronger connection to the community. There are so many ways to support the efforts in your communities. Whether it be through advocating, fund-

raising, donating or problem solving, your impact can be powerful.

Many of the 104 projects reported in 2025 benefited those in communities who are food insecure, veterans, active military and multiple generations. The total number of hours club members spent volunteering was 3,118. Dollars donated were 10,238, and in-kind donations amounted to \$11,201. Way to go, Clubwomen of Iowa!

Start recording your project for 2026 now, as it makes reporting at the end of the year so much easier!

Please e-mail me at lisaharr79@gmail.com or call 712-552-7311, if I can assist you in any way in the Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP area.



GFWC/Iowa Community Service Program Chairmen

Start Planning Your Environment Projects

Karen Martinek, Environment Chairman



The winter was cold and harsh early, but now let's hope spring is sprouting. Look for those crocuses and daffodils.

Start planning your environment projects.

Make plans to celebrate World Water Day, National Parks Week, Arbor Day and Earth Day.

World Water Day is March 22, 2026

This year's theme is, "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows." This recognizes that women are often involved in locating and collecting and managing clean water.

A United Nations Day to raise awareness that 2.2 billion people live without access to clean water. This is a day to focus attention on the importance and use of water.

Plan a project to clean or keep pollutants out of your water. Reduce water usage and learn ways to conserve water. Take shorter showers,

turn off water while brushing your teeth or shaving. Support legislation to protect our ground water from seepage from pollutants.

Write to legislators in Iowa regarding bills to keep our water cleaner.

Earth Day 2026 is Wednesday, April 22nd

This year's theme is, "Our Power, Our Planet"
Planet vs. Plastics

Plan an activity: Plant a tree, flowers; organize weeding of garlic mustard or other invasive plants; take a hike; schedule a highway or town cleanup, or schedule a recycle pickup. Help weed out plastic usage.

Planting a community orchard or community garden with partner organizations is a wonderful idea.

Arbor Day is Friday, April 24, 2026

Plant trees or bushes! Consider planting fruit trees or berry bushes to support wildlife. Consider giving donations to the Arbor Day Foundation.

National Parks Week, April 18-26, 2026

If possible, visit a National Park or support by donation. Parks are suffering from the lack of funding and frequent government shut downs. I recently visited White Sands National Park in New Mexico where they hadn't been able to fix a telephone outage since it was hit by lightning last

summer. No park staff was at the entrance gate, and park facilities were closed due to staff shortages and/or maintenance. Our parks need our help with legislation, donations and usage. Purchase National Park forever stamps.

Become a Park Protector, *western national parks*. Prepare a virtual National Park tour at home or at a club meeting.

Obtain a park activity kit for a K-2nd grade classroom, library, or home use.

Great job reporting environment projects!

Our communities are cleaner, safer and more beautiful as a result of your club work. It was great to see clubs having projects working with county or state parks, clubs planting or gifting trees to children to encourage their interest in and care for our environment, and clubs planting flower gardens or planters to beautify their main streets or parks.

Keep up all the great recycling and repurposing projects. Continue to support wildlife and especially our pollinators.

Thanks for all you do!
I hope next year everyone will report at least one club project.

***14 clubs reported,
40 projects, 1,446 hours
volunteered,
\$1208 donated, \$1349 in-kind
donated***

GFWC/Iowa Community Service Program Chairmen

Club Reporting, Dementia Friends

Peg Anderson, Health & Wellness Chairman



It has been my pleasure to serve as Health and Wellness Chairman the past four years. I have learned so much in this role. Each year when it comes time to read your annual reports, I am amazed and impressed by the events, services and programs that you conduct throughout the year.

This year, 21 clubs reported on 67 projects, with 2,139

volunteer hours. With \$6,155 donated and an additional \$2413 in-kind, Iowa can be proud of their endeavors in Health and Wellness!

I am still encouraging Iowa clubs to become Dementia Friendly. The Area Agencies on Aging have a presentation that is a good way to learn about dementia which is called Dementia Friendly. The AAA's are located throughout the state and are an easy way for clubs to learn about dementia. However, there are other ways to learn about dementia. Perhaps your club would like to use the Alzheimer's Association, which is an GFWC affiliate, or a local group or individual to learn about dementia. Any of these can be reported to make your club Dementia Friendly.

Be sure to let me know that your club is on its way to becoming Dementia Friendly. I would like to recognize your efforts at the GFWC/Iowa convention in April. There is a simple form to complete. Just let me know if you need a copy. Six clubs were recognized at the 2025 state convention. Let's make **ALL** of our clubs Dementia Friendly!



GFWC/Iowa Special Programs Chairmen

Reading Choices

Linda Hueser, Adventures in Reading/ESO Chairman

USA! USA! USA! Winter Olympics! USA 250! This year we had the opportunity to watch our country's athletes on the world stage at the Olympics, and year-long we will celebrate 250 years of American independence. These events can influence your reading choices. It may be the time to read sports history or biography, or brush up on American history. Check your local library or on-line resources for suggestions.

Adventures in Reading and ESO are both intended to encourage reading. Selections from a variety of genres can be inspirational as well as educa-

tional. Minimum requirement for reporting Adventures in Reading is five items; two must be books, the rest can be yearly subscriptions (daily papers, monthly magazines, podcasts) books read to children (5 "Golden" books = 1) or the Bible when read regularly. 100% club reporting is encouraged. The ultimate point is to enrich our lives by reading. Give yourself the gift of reading and support your club by reporting.

ESO is structured reading from a variety of categories. Information and pledge forms can be found on the GFWC/Iowa website under the "Other

Programs" tab. If you are looking for more variety and a reading/reporting challenge, please give it a try. In 2025 there were five ESO members reporting. Thank you for your continued participation.

Many thanks to those of you who take the time to report and to these Adventures in Reading district chairwomen who compile the annual reports: Cindy Lellig (NE); Kay Walter (SE); Gloria Terrell (NW); Kris Smith (SW).

NOTE: if you have membership in multiple clubs, you may split your total among your clubs so that each is eligible for 100% reporting.

The table below summarizes the **Adventures in Reading** data for 2025.

2025 Reading Reported in 2026	No. Clubs	Clubs Reporting	No. Members	Members Reporting	Books Read	100% Clubs
Northeast District 67%	9	6	194	139	4,008	2
Southeast District 100%	6	6	89	75	2,613	4
Northwest District 86%	7	6	136	99	3,631	3
Southwest District 100%	9	9	138	137	9,312	8
Members at Large			14	0	0	
2025 State Totals	31	27	557	450	19,564	17
2024 State Totals	32	28	602	403	15,895	16

Congratulations to these GFWC/Iowa 100% reporting clubs:

Northeast District

Cedar Falls Woman's Club

Maquoketa Woman's Club

Southeast District

5 Season's Women's Assoc., Cedar Rapids

Quad Cities Woman's Club, Davenport

Keystone AOK Club, Muscatine

Phoenix Club, Muscatine

Northwest District

Lake City Monday Club

Le Mars Friday Club

Peterson Tuesday Club

Southwest District

Adel Women's Club

Audubon Federated Women's Club

Town & Country Jr. Club, Avoca

Bancroft History Assembly, Creston

Castana Jr. 76er's Club

Exira Study Club

Granger Women's Club

Yorel Study Club, LeRoy

GFWC/Iowa Special Programs Chairmen

Influencing Lawmakers — Easier Than Ever

Eileen Hageman, Legislation & Public Policy Chairman



In the past, our organization actively advocated for change during a time of rapid growth and industrialization, addressing issues like child labor and public safety. We played a role in passing the Food and Drug Act, child labor laws, and securing women's suffrage. While much has changed since the early 1900s, we continue to influence lawmakers—now more easily than ever.



We now offer the Legislative Action Center. To sign up, simply scan the QR code and answer a few questions. When our organization supports a bill, you'll get an email; if you agree, just select your response, and your legislators will be notified. Most bills we endorse address domestic violence or global vaccine promotion.

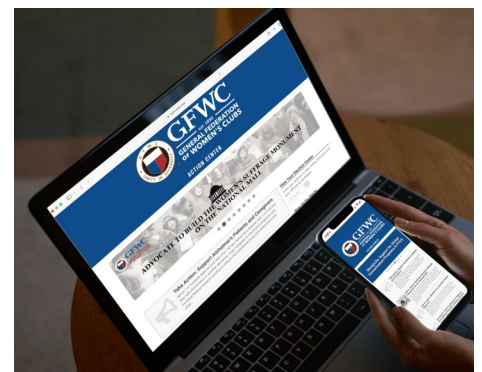
Congratulations and thanks to those of you that have signed up in recent months. President Coonfare received word that in Iowa we had a staggering 42% increase! I know that we can do even better. A 50% increase would be an even better target! Our clubwomen have been asked to contact Senator Chuck Grassley, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to urge him to advance the bipartisan Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909) to the Senate for passage. The House has already approved the bill. With current world happenings, this bill may not be priority. I'd urge you to check its status before contacting Senator Grassley. We don't want to ask for something that has already been accomplished.

If you have helped or will help with this effort, please keep a

record of any emails, phone calls, or letters sent to support the bill. Submit this information to President Coonfare.

Your club can choose to receive a "Legislative Ladder" certificate. To qualify, your club needs a 10% increase in Legislative Action Center membership and must have invited a decision maker—such as a city manager or school board director—to speak at a meeting. All necessary documentation should be submitted by March 15. Your club will then be recognized at both the International Convention in Scottsdale and the Mississippi Regional Convention in Kansas this fall.

Advocacy certainly has gotten easier with the advancement of technology! Keep up the good work. Let me know if you need help getting signed up for the Legislative Action Center.



GFWC/Iowa Special Programs Chairmen

Let's Add to the Number of Photos Taken Yearly

Sandy Phillips, Photography Chairman



The word "Photography" comes from the Greek, meaning to draw with light. The first photo took 8 hrs. The first "selfie" was taken in 1839, and the first color photo in 1861. Today over 1.5 million photos are taken yearly on phones.

Let's add to the 1.5 million photos taken this year. Let's participate in the GFWC International Photography Contests. There are three categories in the World in

Pictures Contest. They are: "The World Up Close," in which you create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new world. The second category is "Natural Wonders," in which you use wide angles and panoramas or moody landscape images to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts or any other magnificent vista. The third category is "Reflections," which features a setting situation that brings back poignant memories or captures a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

Another contest is the 'Living the Volunteer Spirit,' which captures special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer or celebrate in groups or one-on-one.

Send completed photos to Mickey Coonfare at 3103 Sequoia Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. DO NOT send photos to Sandy, as she has moved. Send the photos by March 15.

All the specifics regarding the Contest are in the Bluebook available from your club presidents. You need to complete and include the Creative Arts Waiver. Each photograph must have a label affixed to its back. All photos must be 8x10 inch prints and should be mounted on rigid 8 x 10 inch board. Overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch — no mattes, frames or hangers.

Have fun, be creative. Let's increase the number of participants and photos.

If you have questions, please call Sandy at 319-270-0933.



GFWC/Iowa Standing Committees Chairmen

Membership Thank You and Update

Bette Kuboushek, Membership Chairman



Thank you to the nine clubs that sent in a yearly report for 2025. There were 37 projects, 263 volunteer hours and \$965 spent on recruitment and membership events.

As of this writing, we have 598 members in Iowa; of those, 38 are new since last

April!! We are still at a loss of ten, but we did lose a club this year as well. All we can do is keep asking!

Don't forget the Recruitment Campaign's focus for January, February and March is Diverse and Inclusive Programming. Consider all members' needs when organizing your calendar of events and activities. Reports are due April 1. Professional Development is the focus for April, May and June, with reports due July 1.

Thank you to those who sent in a Membership Survey. The results have been tabulated and are reported in the following article.



GFWC Tidbits:

1997: Over a five-year period, GFWC members raise and donate \$13.5 million to public libraries and public-school libraries across the nation.

2004: GFWC members contribute \$180,000 to purchase a fully-equipped New York City Fire Department ambulance in response to the September 11 terrorist attack.

2012: The inaugural Success for Survivors scholarships are awarded to victims of intimate partner abuse for continuing education and hope for a better tomorrow.

Membership Survey Results

Thank you to the 71 GFWC/Iowa club members who took the time to fill out the Membership Survey and send back to me. That equates to 11% response; I was hoping for more, but for the first time doing it, not too bad.

The average number of years of membership is 13. Most only belong to one club, but this is not surprising. Only

35% have considered asking a GFWC/Iowa state officer to attend a club meeting. Ladies, this is what the officers are here for.....YOU!! If you don't feel comfortable asking a state officer, ask a district officer. They would be happy to come to a meeting.

I was happy to see that 74% have invited a total of 206 potential members to a club

meeting! This is great. We just need to keep asking and not get discouraged if they say no. Which brings up the next question....

The main reason potential members haven't been asked is not knowing who to invite. Well, this could be your neighbor, your sister, your work-out buddy, someone from your church. The list could go

GFWC/Iowa Standing Committees Chairmen

Membership Survey Results cont'd.

on and on. Just ask. You never know when they will say yes. 😊

Another reason for not asking is not knowing if membership would be cost prohibitive for that person. Ask them. If they feel they cannot take on that responsibility at that time, they will let you know.

A whopping 57% of the respondents say wearing GFWC emblematic apparel is the most popular way you can promote membership and attract new members. So, wear those tee shirts, hoodies, caps, scarves, sweaters, etc. and show everyone that you are a member of GFWC.

Only 50% said their club experience is above average compared to other non-profit groups. Yet, 71% said they remain a member of a federated club because of the friendships and social aspects of belonging; whereas, 60% said it was because of the community service

opportunities. This might be because they feel the structure of a club meeting is too rigid, but they enjoy the social aspects and the service they provide to the community.

Offer short-term, low commitment tasks that fit busy schedules. Acknowledge birthdays, anniversaries, etc. to show you value the person, not just their work. "Thank you" goes a long way towards making a member feel special.

The connection between clubs and the state organization is only somewhat important to 56% of respondents—maybe because the club president doesn't share newsletters or communication from the state. Maybe the information isn't getting to the chairmen in the club. Whatever the reason, this could be improved with the president being more deliberate in getting the information to the right person in the club.

Most clubs participate at the district and club levels, which is fantastic! Some of the top reasons why members don't attend these events were:

- Too busy to attend
- Do not wish to give up a weekend
- Not a club officer, so didn't think attendance was needed.

Ladies, you are all important to your club, district and state!! I encourage you all to try to make it a point to attend the state convention coming up in April and/or your district meeting this fall. You will meet many new friends, hear some good speakers, eat some yummy food, and come away feeling much better about your club work and the good things we do.

Again, thank you to those who filled out the survey. I have enjoyed being the Membership Chairman these last two years and look forward to seeing many of you at the state convention in April.

Scholarship

Bette Kuboushek, Scholarship Chairman

The scholarship application was sent out to approximately 80 schools in November, at the request of the club presidents. Over 100 applications were received. What a great response!

The application was also sent to the club presidents with the hope that they would contact their local schools to keep the lines of communication open.

As always, the quality of the applicants is outstanding, and

it will be difficult for the committee to choose only a few from those received.

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in March to decide which students will receive awards this year.

GFWC/Iowa Club Highlights

MAL Annual Meeting

Amy Haney, Members-at-Large President



The Members-at-Large (MAL) will be holding their

annual meeting in Osceola, Iowa, during GFWC/Iowa's annual convention. (Check the convention schedule for exact time and place.) Dues can be paid at that time. If unable to attend, members will be contacted in person regarding dues.

As a reminder, MAL is open to anyone wanting to remain a GFWC/Iowa member when they no longer have a local

GFWC/Iowa club or their club has dropped Federation membership. MAL members may attend all district and state conventions and have all the rights of GFWC/Iowa membership.

For more information, call or text Amy Haney at 319-270-3723; or email her at amyhallhaney@aol.com.



Reminders

PINK SHEET CLUB OFFICER INFORMATION



Please elect your officers promptly, complete the pink sheet (Directory Blank) and send to
GFWC/Iowa Headquarters

by April 15th.

**We will need the information in order to complete the new administration's Bluebook
timely and keep our membership records correct.**

***Your prompt response is
appreciated!!***



Directory Blank

Dear Club President:

This sheet is the only source for the names of club officers for the next club year. The correct names must be on this blank if the correct names are to appear in the next BLUEBOOK directory of clubs. Please fill out and send by April 15, 2026, to GFWC/Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, 3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 201, Des Moines, Iowa 50310.

Please print or type:

Town _____

County _____ District _____

Name of club _____ Club # _____

General club _____ Junior club _____ Juniorette club _____ # of members _____

*President: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 _____

Mailing address _____

_____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

*Treasurer: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 _____

Mailing address _____

_____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date _____ Signed _____

*Print or type house number, street, PO Box (if needed) and ZIP CODE plainly.

Join the \$100 Club!



The \$100 Club is ongoing. Clubs, districts or individuals may contribute as often as they wish. The money is placed in the GFWC/Iowa general operating fund to be used toward operating expense.

Those who have donated since the last convention will be recognized at the 2026 GFWC/Iowa State Convention in Osceola, April 23-24.

Many thanks to those of you who have already contributed! Checks should be made payable to GFWC/Iowa and designated for the \$100 Club **by April 1st.**

See you at state convention!



*Betty Wade
Finance Chairman*

A Friendly Reminder

If your club was a silver winner at last year's state convention, we need to have the tray returned so it can be awarded to this year's recipient.

If you are unable to attend, please arrange to have the silver returned by someone from your area who will be coming to convention or another event prior to that time.

Thank you!



GFWC/Iowa State Convention

Official Call

GFWC/Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs 98th GFWC/Iowa State Convention

**Lakeside Hotel Casino
777 Casino Dr., Osceola, Iowa
April 23-24, 2026**

"Spread Your Wings with GFWC"

Club Presidents, please email or make copies to inform and share with members, encouraging them to attend!

Registration: Complete one registration form for each member attending the convention and send with a **check payable to GFWC/Iowa, including the meal functions and the \$25 registration fee. Send registrations and check to GFWC/Iowa Headquarters , 3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 201, Des Moines, Iowa 50310, by April 8, 2026.**

No refunds after that date, but you may send someone in your place if you are unable to attend.

Registration form can be emailed to gfwciowa@gwestoffice.net if close to cutoff date. Be sure to state you are sending your check.

Room Reservations: **Deadline for the room rate is March 29, 2026.** Please make room reservations by calling **877-477-5253** and ask to book a room with block code **2604IOWAFE**. Room rate for Wednesday and Thursday night is \$68 plus tax and Friday night is \$88 plus tax. Rooms have refrigerators but no microwaves or coffee pots.

Credentials: Club credentials will be available at the Registration Desk when you check in at the convention. They will not be mailed out in advance.

Convention Attire: Thursday is business casual

Thursday evening — «The Ladybirds,» a 1940's USO show, will perform

You are invited to wear your 40's or 50's attire

Friday is business casual

Friday evening is dressy

Things to Bring:

1. Baskets for silent auction — each district is bringing three; check with your district director to confirm who is bringing them.
2. Door prizes — each club is asked to bring one.
3. Items for the Crisis Center — Their wish list includes cash donations, gift cards for groceries, discount stores or gas stations. Toiletry items: unopened full-size shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, tampons, sanitary napkins, razors, fingernail files, clippers.

Displays and Fundraising Items: Set up on Thursday morning in main event room.

GFWC/Iowa State Convention

Registration Form

Make Checks Payable to: GFWC/Iowa

Send registration form and check postmarked by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026, to:

GFWC/Iowa Headquarters

3839 Merle Hay Rd., Ste. 201, Des Moines, IA 50310

Phone: 515-276-0510 Email: gfwciowa@qwestoffice.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Name: _____

Club Town: _____ District: SE _____ SW _____ NE _____ NW _____

Present GFWC/Iowa Position held, if applicable: _____

State Officer and/or Chairman: _____

Voting Delegate for: Club _____ District _____ State _____
(per GFWC/Iowa Bylaws Article X—Representation)

Are you a first-time State Convention Attendee? Yes _____ No _____
(One first-time attendee from each club has registration waived.)

One Registration Per Form

Please mark each event and meal you will be attending below:

REGISTRATION FEE		\$25.00	_____
MEALS:	Thursday dinner		37.00 _____
	Friday breakfast		19.00 _____
	Friday lunch		28.50 _____
	Friday installation banquet		37.50 _____
TOTAL (including registration and meals)			\$ _____

All meals are a buffet with several choices. All meeting rooms, microphones and tables are provided free because of the meals we are buying. The names of those who purchase all four meals will be in a drawing for \$100. The hotel does have a Saturday and Sunday breakfast buffet for \$14.95.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

GFWC/Iowa State Convention

Tentative Schedule for GFWC/Iowa State Convention

Thursday, April 23

- 9:00 a.m. Registration open, setup displays — Woodland
Auction baskets set up — Woodland
- 9:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting, Board Room
- 10:15 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Board Room
- 11:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting and Luncheon by invitation — Lakeside One
- 1:00 p.m. **Convention Convenes**
- Call to Order Mickey Coonfare
- National Anthem
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome & Introductions Mickey Coonfare
- Welcome to Osceola
- 1:30 p.m. **Business Meeting**
- Adoption of Convention Program Sue Hass
- Credentials Report Meredith McHone Pierce
- Secretary’s Report Mary Adams
- Treasurer’s Report Meredith McHone Pierce
- Finance Chairman’s Report Betty Wade
- Bylaws/Standing Rules/Resolutions Cindy Hansen
- Nominations Committee Sue Hass
- Candidates — Two Minute Speech
- Officer Reports
- 2:30 p.m. Leadership Presentation Amy Hall-Haney, Mickey Coonfare
- Introduction of 2026 LEADS Candidate
- Introduction of Community Service Program Chairmen Cindy Hansen
- Arts & Culture Jody Latwesen
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Lisa Harris
- Education & Libraries Ellen Thon

GFWC/Iowa State Convention

Environment	Karen Martinek
Health & Wellness	Peg Anderson
50/50 Drawing	Amy Hall-Haney
50-75 Year Club Recognition	
Scholarship Report	Bette Kuboushek
Door Prizes	
Announcements	
Visit Silent Auction and Fundraising Tables	
5:30 p.m.	Social Get-together — Cash Bar
6:30 p.m.	Dinner — Dress up in your fun 40's or 50's clothing — The Ladybirds, a 1940's USO show, will perform after dinner
8:00 p.m.	Members at Large Meeting

Friday, April 24

7:30 a.m.	Past President's Club Meeting
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 a.m.	Registration Opens
9:00 a.m.	Convention Reconvenes
Opening	Mickey Coonfare
Introductions	Mickey Coonfare
Voting	
Introduction of Special Program Chairmen	Lisa Gottschalk
Adventures in Reading/ESO	Linda Hueser
Community Impact	Marcia Hanson
WHRC	Julia Thoel
Creative Writing/Short Story Awards	Sue Hass
Photography Awards	Sandy Phillips
Introduction of Iowa Standing Committees	
Legislation & Public Policy	Eileen Hageman
Communications & Public Relations	Bonita Baughman

GFWC/Iowa State Convention

Fundraising	Amy Hall-Haney
Leadership	Amy Hall-Haney
Membership	Bette Kuboushek
10:30 a.m. Break	
10:45 a.m. Who Wants to be a GFWC Member	Bette Kuboushek
First-Time Convention Attendees	Mickey Coonfare
Endowment	Carma Bisinger
\$100 Club Recognition	
11:30 a.m. Presentation — Kacey Barrow-Miner — Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Program	
12:00 p.m. Luncheon	
Table Grace	
Advocates for Children	Christine Gent
Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness.	Cheryl Einsweiler
International Convention — June 25-29, 2026	
MVR — September 18-20, 2026, Topeka, Kansas	
Basket Winners, 50/50 Winners, Door Prizes	Amy Hall-Haney
Final Credentials Report	Meredith McHone-Pierce
Announcements	
5:00 p.m. Social Get-together	
6:00 p.m. Procession Assembles	
6:15 p.m. Procession Announced	
6:30 p.m. Installation Banquet	
Table Grace	
2024-2026 GFWC/Iowa President	Mickey Coonfare
Installation of 2026-2028 Officers	Karen Martinek
President’s Pin Presentation	
2026-2028 GFWC/Iowa President	Ann Zlabek
Invitation to 2027 State Convention	Ann Zlabek

GFWC/Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs

3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 201

Des Moines, Iowa 50310-1321

Phone: 515-276-0510

E-mail: gfwciowa@qwestoffice.net

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Visit us on the web
gfwciowa.org

