

GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club

**AGENDA**

**March 19, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

**First United Methodist Church**

**2800 Fourth Ave North**

President - Barb Hogg

Co-Presidents Elect - Marsha Hotchkiss & Peggy O'Brien

Secretary - Ellen Smith

Treasurer - Karin Green

Member at Large - Kathy Broyles

Parliamentary Advisors - Gayle Carter & Kristen Stewart

**Note: Please bring your own beverage,  
hopefully in a recyclable container**

**General Meeting opening 6:30 PM**

Meeting Hosts - Advocates for Children

Speaker - Val Rash, Youth Services Center Director

# Regular Meeting Opening 7:00 PM

Call to order by President-elect Marsha Hotchkiss

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Club Collect**

**Introduce guests, welcome new members.**

**Announcements**

**Minutes:** Ellen Smith, minutes are attached to committee reports

**Treasurers Report:** Karin Green, Treasurer's reports are attached to committee reports.

**Correspondence:** To be shared by members

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Meeting change survey results - Marsha H
2. Survey from last meeting results - Karin!

**New Business:**

1. Photography Contest - Gayle
2. Convention Sign-up - Florence

3. Nominations of new officers
4. Election of new officers

**What to bring to this Meeting:**

Cleaning products to donate to Angela's Piazza  
Children's books to donate to Family Services

**Coming Events! Dates to Remember**

- 3/19/24 Children's Foundation Meeting after regular Meeting
- 4/19-20/24 GFWC MT Biennial Convention, Helena
- 5/21/24 Spring Dinner hosted by Membership.  
Regular meeting, new officer installation,

**March 2020 Committee Reports**

**Arts and Culture**

**Chairmen:** Karen Durfey & Kathy Broyles

**Members:** Gayle Carter, Marsha Hotchkiss, Elery Polkow,  
Bev Silkwood

No report this month

### Education and Libraries

**Karen Green, Coordinator**

**Members:** Linda Altwine, Linda Pickard, Lisa Hansen, Lynn Ehresman, Jody Scofield, Jude Russell, Becky McGill, Mary Huffmaster, Kathy Broyles, Marsha Hotchkiss, Bev Silkwood, Peggy O'Brien, Rena Bucher, Barb Barrett, Deb Willis, Linda Baker, Gayle Carter, Diana Wohler

Education and Libraries Report

March 2024

48 books were purchased in February for the YSC library. Books were purchased to appeal to varying interests and abilities of the youth at the facility.

Rena Bucher and Karin Green delivered 84 books to the YSC library the first part of March. The shelves were in disarray and crowded so the current books were sorted and organized before adding the new books.

Cost - \$121.47

Members - 2

Volunteer hours - 5.

**Books for Babies and...You!**

**Chairmen:** Bev Silkwood, Becky McGill, Carolyn Spector

**Members:** Barb Barrett, Kathy Broyles, Linda Pickard, Marsha Hotchkiss, Diana Wohler, Ellen Smith, Peggy O'Brien, Rena Bucher, Kristen Stewart, Fran Sprengelmeyer

On March 4, twelve members met at Perkins downtown.

We discussed possible areas/facilities interested in books.

Family Services has expressed interest in any books we might wish to donate to them. These books would be

available in the "store" for parents to select for their

children. We will ask membership if they have children's

books to donate for this purpose. If necessary, the

committee may then decide if it is necessary to purchase

any additional books.

Committee members will meet March 15 at the club

garage to determine books and materials needed to be

ordered.

Volunteer Hours- 18

Club Dollars Used: \$0

In Kind Donation: \$0

On March 15, 6 members met at the garage to take stock of current brochures and materials used in the Books for Babies packets. We received the pamphlets from Family Tree and Dolly Parton Books Campaign. Additional materials will be requested, and 2500 books will be ordered.

Members:

Volunteer Hours: 9

A member and volunteer delivered books to the hospitals (150 sets.)

Volunteer Hours: 2 (March)

February Hours

Books delivered to Hospitals by member and volunteer.

Volunteer Hours: 4

The next Books4Babies meeting will be May 6, 11:00, to determine next year's budget and set a date to assemble more book sets.

March 19, 2024

Books for Babies and...You!

Chairwomen: Bev Silkwood, Lynn Ehresman

Members: Barb Barrett, Kathy Broyles. Linda Pickard, Marsha Hotchkiss, Diana Wohler, Nicki Brich, Ellen Smith, Peggy O'Brien, Rena Buchler, Kristen Stewart, Fran Sprengelmeyer

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## Scholarship

**Chairman: Linda Baker**

**Members:** Gayle Carter, Diana Wohler, Rena Bucher, Lisa Hansen

The scholarship committee met on Wednesday, March 13, and picked our winners for this year.

## **License/ Certification Scholarship Winner 2024**

### **Alexandra Hughes**

Our License/ Certification 2024 Scholarship winner is Alexandra Hughes from Laurel. Alexandra is described as a shining role model. She is a great leader. Alex is dependable, loyal, and consistent. She has been active in her school and community. She is a well-rounded student not only by doing well academically, but participating in theater, debate, softball, choir, National Honor Society and Outdoor Club. She always creates a positive environment.

## **West High School Scholarship Winner 2024**

### **Chloe Tschetter**

Our West High School winner for 2024 is Chloe Tschetter. She is a talented musician and songwriter.



She is described as a person who approaches every task with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. She has been an active member of Billings Studio Theater participating in eleven productions. Chloe is active in our community coaching youth dance lessons, tutoring special education students and tutoring 1st grade theater productions. Chloe describes herself as inserting her positivity and passion into everything she pursues.

## **Senior High School Scholarship Winner 2024**

### **Keatin Hertz**

Our Senior High School winner is Keatin Hertz. He is described as a bright, energetic, excellent student.

Keatin has been an active volunteer in our community. He has worked in the Reading Rocks program and Project Love that delivers meals to low-income students to help encourage diversity and inclusion. He also achieved the Eagle Scout rank. Keaton has also achieved many honors in school such as Boy's State delegate, and many music honors.

## **Skyview High School Scholarship Winner 2024**

### **Makenzie Strachan**

Makenzie Strachan is our Skyview High School winner for 2024. Makenzie is described as an exceptional leader, worker and role model inside and outside the classroom. She has been active in sports playing basketball, soccer, and track and field. Makenzie has also been a community volunteer. She has volunteered at Billings Clinic and Skyview soccer camp working with children ages four to ten. Makenzie also has worked as a lifeguard at Oasis.

## **County High School Scholarship Winner 2024**

### **McKenna Johnson Laurel**

McKenna Johnson from Laurel is our county scholarship winner. She is described by one of her teachers as an exceptional student who brings a unique blend of intelligence,

dedication and character to the academic community. She has been an active community and school volunteer. She has participated food drives, Reading under the Lights, Thanksgiving meals for needy families exceeding over 20 hours.

Number of Members: 7

Club Dollars Used: 0

Volunteer hours: 42.

Project - Gift Cards for the winners

Number of Members: 1

Club Dollars Used: \$274.75

Volunteer hours: 2.

Project: Community Scholarship

Number of Members: 7

Volunteer hours: 8.

Dollars Used:0

The Scholarship Committee met and discussed a \*New\* Scholarship Program starting this spring. The program is Mini-Scholarships for adult Community Education students looking to move forward in a variety of areas. Career advancement (computer skills, writing, etc.) Personal enrichment (arts, languages, fitness, etc.)

Certificate and preparation programs in business and medical fields

The scholarship will pay for a class or classes up to \$250. Students will apply at the Community Education Office. The office will scan the scholarship and send it to the Scholarship Committee. The committee will approve the scholarship and send a check to the Community Education office. The money used for this project is from the Non-Tradition Scholarship, which was discontinued this year because of a lack of applications.

Billings Junior Woman's Club is committed to providing a safe and inclusive educational environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Grand total for March:

Number of Programs: 3

Number of Members, 8

Volunteer hours: 52.

Club Dollars Used: \$274

ESO

**Chairmen: Marsha Hotchkiss, Karin Green**

**Members:** Karen Durfey, Kathy Broyles, Linda Altwine, Bev Silkwood, Becky McGill, Judy Senteney, Diana Wohler, Elery Polkow, Carolyn Spector, Joan Sleeth

It was a full house this month! Eleven members attended and we reported on 14 books.

Hours: 22   Dollars Used: 0   In-kind donations: 0

### Environment:

**Chairman: Bev Silkwood**

**Members:** Kathy Broyles, Rena Bucher, Gayle Carter, Karen Durfey, Karin Green, Marsha Hotchkiss

**March 2024**

Thanks again to all the BJWC members who have taken plastic to our garage or dropped bags at their nearest Albertsons. We will deliver what we've accumulated so far to Albertsons Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. I'll share our total pounds gathered at our BJWC meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

Total

Volunteer Hours - 4

Number of members: 4  
Club Dollars Used: \$0  
In Kind Donation: 0

### Health & Wellness

**Chairman:** Deb Willis

**Members:** Ellen Smith, Jody Schofield, Lynn Ehresman  
February 2024

I delivered 50 comfort pillows to each hospital. Our committee now needs to get together and sew pillows and cases.

Volunteer hours: 3.

Number of Members: 1

Club Dollars Used: 0

### Special Projects: Advocates for Children

**Chairman:** Florence Diede

**Members:** Marsha Hotchkiss, Linda Baker, Barb Barrett, Ellen Smith, Karin Green, Barb Hogg, Mary Huffmaster, Deb Willis, Elery Polkow

Easter Egg Project: Advocates for Children Committee met on Tuesday, March 12 and filled several hundred plastic Easter eggs with candy and trinkets. We then prepared 27 baskets with eggs and stuffed bunnies and chicks. One even had a frog. These were delivered to families who could use a special treat and help with this celebration. They were very excited and thanked us for remembering them.

Volunteer Hours: 11 Club dollars used: 0.

in-kind donations: \$35

Blanket Project: Delivering 10 blankets to Yellowstone County Sheriff's Department this week. Will have some yard lengths ready for tying over the summer.

Volunteer Hours: 0 Club dollars used: 0

CASA: Barb Hogg, Deb Willis, Joan Sleeth and Florence Diede continue their work with Yellowstone CASA. CASA is there to support the child, not the parents, not the foster parents, etc. This month one CASA made a trip to Phoenix to be with her CASA during a difficult time. Another CASA learned of her former child of 5+ years

missing for 8 days. She was abducted but found safe and returned to her adoptive parents. Another CASA's child was missing for 48+ hours. He is now safe. All of these children need love and care. Yes, CASA's go above and beyond for the bond and trust that is formed. They are survivors. <http://www.yellowstonecasa.org> Click on Events to register. Information sessions are planned regularly.

Wednesday, March 29 6:00 PM Virtual training

Tuesday, April 2 11:00 AM CASA office 1201 Grand  
upstairs

Wednesday, April 17 6:00 PM virtual training

Volunteer Hours: 80 Always a guess.

Club dollars used: 0

Wildcats Robotics: We decided to donate \$200 to the Ben Steele 5th grade Wildcats Robotics effort to go to Texas to compete in a national competition after winning the Montana Robotics competition. The donation will go through the Billings Schools Education Foundation.

Club dollars used: \$200

Plan USA: Florence sent Genesis greetings from Montana and some information on the Easter Celebration in USA.

Volunteer Hours: 1

Club dollars used: PAID July 2023

Total for March:

Volunteer Hours:

Number of members:

Club Dollars Used:

In Kind Donation:

### SCHOOL MEDICAL

**Chairman:** Barb Hogg

**Members:** Gayle Carter, Florence Diede, Ellen Smith, Jude Russell

No activity this month.

### Building and Grounds

**Chairman:** Marsha Price

**Members:** Gayle Carter, Florence Diede

1. Met with a contractor to discuss drainage issues and concrete sidewalk replacement.

Number of members 2 Volunteer hours 2



Club dollars \$0 In Kind Donation \$0.

2. Met with Denise to discuss landscaping by front entry. She would like the rocks removed and replaced with artificial turf and hopefully a bench from our plastic re-cycling project.

Number of members 1 Volunteer hours 2

Club dollars \$0 In Kind Donation \$0.

3. Met with a duct company to redesign dryer vent issues

Number of members 1 Volunteer hours 2

Club dollars \$0

In kind Donations \$0

4. Purchased case of LED Tubes

Number of members 1 Volunteer hours 1

Club dollars \$162.25

TOTALS

Number of Projects 4

Number of Members 2

Volunteer hours 7

Club dollars \$162.25. In Kind \$0.

**Leadership**

**Chairman: Florence Diede**

**Members: Gayle Carter, Marsha Price**

GFWC Convention 2024 will be held in Chicago June 29-July 1. Time to make hotel reservations. Hilton Chicago \$229+taxes+fees. BJWC will cover  $\frac{1}{2}$  of your lodging during convention dates, convention registration and official meals.

"GFWC cordially invites you to attend the 2024 Annual Convention, June 28 to July, in Chicago. Don't miss the opportunity to learn new club strategies for membership growth, Community Service Programs, fundraising and more. Also, join your Federation sisters to celebrate the successes of the 2022-2024 Administration and International President Deb Strahanoski's leadership. Enjoy the ambience of the Chicago Hilton, a member of Historic Hotels of America. It's GORGEOUS and centrally located in the heart of the city. There is something for everyone at this year's Annual Convention - making it an event not to be missed."

Installation of incoming officers will be held and Western Region will hold a meeting.

## GFWC of Montana

GFWC of Montana Biennial Convention will be April 19-22 at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. Please plan to join us for an information and fun fill time. Registration forms are on the GFWC Montana website. Bring or send donation items for the Silent Auction.

## Dates to Remember 2024

April 1 Photography Contest entries due to Jo Campbell, GFWC MT Chairman.

April 19-20 GFWC MT Biennial Convention in Helena, MT

## Membership

**Chairmen:** Marsha Hotchkiss, Peggy O'Brien

**Members:** Karen Durfey, Marsha Price, Karin Green, Deb Willis, Barb Hogg, Barb Barrett

Membership Committee hosted a showing of the movie BARBIE at Casey's Dream on Saturday March 9. We had four guests attend. Two of them joined that day!

Number of Members: 9 Hours: 18

Dollars used: 0

A sympathy card was sent to Deb Willis.

Flowers were taken to Nancy McManus after her surgery.

Member: 1 Hours: 1

Club dollars used: \$14.97

Mailing three cards

Peggy- stamps- in kind donation

$3 \times .68 = \$2.04$

Peggy spent time discussing the Barbie gathering with other committee members and sending emails and mailing cards.

### **History and Resource**

**Chairman:** Judy Senteney

**Members:** Gayle Carter, Carolyn Spector

No report this month

### **Communications/ PR**

**Chairman:** Gayle Carter

**Members:** Florence Diede, Karen Durfey, Barb Hogg,  
Linda Baker, Karin Green, Marsha Hotchkiss

Project #1-#2 Website and email maintained.

Project #4 Information on entering Photo Contest.

Number of members: 3 Volunteer Hours: 4

### Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention

**Chairman:** Judy Senteney

**Members:** Marsha Price, Barb Hogg, Karen Durfey, Ellen Smith, Marsha Hotchkiss, Kathy Broyles, Bev Silkwood, Kristen Stewart, Carolyn Spector

Tumbleweed: We continue to supply a hot lunch twice monthly and donate supplies of food and clothing. We are preparing for 50 individuals at this time.

Volunteer Hours: 20

Club Dollars Used: 0

In-Kind Donations: \$250.

### Civic Engagement and Outreach

**Chairman:** Barb Barrett

**Members:** Peggy O'Brien, Marsha Price, Barb Hogg, Ellen Smith, Judy Senteney, Joan Sleeth

February 7 - Hosted craft day at Casey's Dream, making Valentine's Day cards, utilizing cardstock cut and folded for blank cards, stickers and foam hearts, Valentine stamps, flower and heart paper strips, Elmer's glue, Valentine saying sticker cards and envelopes.

The participants had lots of fun designing their own cards with the parts provided, which they can either give to someone in person or mail to someone.

Volunteer hours: 5 Club Dollars Used: \$17.35

Non-Dollars or Donations Used (In Kind Donation):  
\$13.98

Club Members Involved: Joan Sleeth, Peggy O'Brien (Barb Barrett bought supplies in Jan. for this project)

### Document Organization Committee

**Chairman: Marsha Price**

**Members: Judy Senteney, Kathy Broyles, Barbara Hogg**

No report this month.



### March 2024 Treasurer's Report

|                         | 23-24 Budget | Current Balance |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Advocates               | \$6,750      | \$3,192.52      |
| Arts & Culture          | \$3,200      | \$3,200         |
| Books for Babies        | \$3,500      | \$3,500         |
| Building and Grounds    | \$30,000     | \$2,830.12      |
| Civic Engagement        | \$1,000      | \$868           |
| Communication and PR    | \$1,200      | \$183           |
| Document Organization   | \$0          | \$0             |
| Domestic Violence       | \$3,250      | \$2,513         |
| Education               | \$1,000      | \$256           |
| Environment             | \$3,500      | \$3,000         |
| Health & Wellness       | \$1,400      | \$1,370         |
| Leadership              | \$10,000     | \$2,253.07      |
| Membership/ Hospitality | \$1,750      | \$832           |
| Scholarship             | \$10,200     | \$10,126        |
| School Medical          | \$2,500      | \$1,580         |
| Operating Expenses      | \$2,500      | \$2,107         |
| <br>                    |              |                 |
| Checking Account (0518) |              |                 |
| Balance                 | \$25,250     |                 |
| Savings Account (1187)  |              |                 |
| Balance                 | \$35,314.51  |                 |
| <br>                    |              |                 |
| Children's Foundation   |              |                 |
| Checking (8437)         | \$10,993.79  |                 |
| Books for Babies (6511) | \$9,207.93   |                 |

Investment Account

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| 1/1/24  | \$197,173.69 |
| 2/29/24 | \$205.264.17 |

Billings Junior Women's Club  
March 21, 2024 - 6:30PM  
First United Methodist Church

President: Barbara Hogg  
Co-President Elect: Marsha Hotchkiss, Peggy O'Brien  
Secretary: Ellen Smith  
Treasurer: Karin Green  
Member at Large: Kathy Broyles  
Parliamentary Advisors: Gayle Carter, Kristin Stewart

Members Present: Rena Bucher, Beverly Silkwood, Harriett  
Brandon, Joan Sleeth, Peggy O'Brien, Karin Green, Marsha Price,  
Karen Durfey, Cathy Broyles, Kristen Stewart, Barb Hogg, Ellen  
Smith, Lisa Hanson, Marsha Hotchkiss, Amanda Weber.

Meeting Host: Health and Wellness  
Program: BJWC Trivia Quiz: Offered by: Barb Hogg, Marsha  
Price, Karin Green

Regular Meeting Began at 6:45 pm.

Call to order by Barbara Hogg, President.  
Pledge - Club Collect

Welcome to new member Amanda Weber.  
Introduction of Guests: Victoria Wagner and Carrie Egan.

Announcements:



- Karin spoke about the Volunteer of the Year and low participation. A survey was given out asking for ideas on how to conduct the nominations; those members not present will receive a survey by email.
- Suggestions for Summer University were requested.
- Florence Diede had knee replacement surgery. Karin Green visited her and was asked to remind everyone about the Easter basket project to be held at Florence's home Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.
- The Zonta Club is hosting an informative luncheon on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon, Highlands Golf Club presenting speakers on the topics of Gang Violence and Domestic Abuse. Pre-registration is required.
- Karen Durfey announced Amadeus is playing at the Art House Cinema.

Minutes for the January meeting were sent by email. They stand approved as sent.

Treasurers Report stand approved as presented. Dues will be collected in April and May, \$35.00.

**Correspondence:**

Thank You cards received from: CASA for coats; Beth Aaron \$50 donation in memory of Carolyn Spector's husband; YRPA for our support and \$500 donation.

Unfinished Business:

Donation to State Presidents gift. Karin Green moved we donate \$50, Marsha Price seconded. Donation will be made from Leadership budget.

Membership Event, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm at Casey's Dream. Please invite your friends and bring snacks.

New Business:

The Nominating Committee is suggesting the following members be considered for the 2024-2026 term: Marsha Hotchkiss, President; Peggy O'Brien, President Elect; Karin Green, Treasurer; Kristin

Stewart, Secretary. Nominations from the floor will be accepted before the all-membership vote at the March meeting.

Marsha Hotchkiss asked members opinion about changing the meeting time. The challenge will be finding a meeting place, we cannot continue meeting at the church if we change the time. Some members have voiced their concern about the lack of close parking and safety. A committee will be formed with Marsha Hotchkiss, Cathy Broyles, Lisa Hanson and Marsha Price to discuss the feasibility of this change.

Minutes and reports to members will be sent out the Friday before the scheduled meeting to give members time to review.

GFWC Montana T-shirts are available. Marsha Price will be putting in an order \$24 short sleeve, \$30 long sleeve. You can see a picture in the last issue of the last issue of Montana Women's magazine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by: Ellen Smith, Secretary  
March 3, 2024