

GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club

First Presbyterian Church, 2420 13th Street West

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

AGENDA

Remember to bring your notebook and a drink.

Park in the side lot and come through the playground door.

Officers:

President: Peggy O'Brien

President Elect: Joan Sleeth

Secretary: Kristen Stewart

Treasurer: Amanda Webber

Member at Large: Jennifer Larsen

Parliamentarian: Gayle Carter

No speaker, so extra 15 minutes to visit and have a few snacks prior to the meeting.

Meeting call to order by President at 6:45

Pledge of Allegiance

Club Collect

Introduction of guests, welcome any new members

Clipboards- Clipboard to sign up for committees

Minutes: Kristen Stewart The minutes were sent out on September 13.

Treasurer's Report: Amanda Webber The treasurer's report was sent on September 13.

Correspondence:

Announcements: Tumbleweed Event on October 1st from 4-8 PM at the Red Oxx Events Lawn

Unfinished Business/Old Business: Sign up for committees

New Business:

- Club Directories- Gayle Carter
- Lynn Ehresman has agreed to chair the Education Committee. Jennifer Larson has agreed to chair ESO. We are looking for someone who would help us with the Ted Lechner Youth Service Center library. There is a \$500 budget. Karin Green has books in the library that she has collected.
- The GFWC Convention is October 9-10 in Butte, Montana. The registration deadline in October 1. I have registration forms if you are interested.
- Making rice bags on October 3 from 10:00-12:00- Barb Hogg
- A report on the Utah Convention- Florence Diede
- Standing Rules changes made this summer- Marsha Price
- International Day of Service is September 26- Judy Senteney

Coming Events, Dates to Remember

- GFWC Convention Butte, Montana October 9-10, 2026
- Making Rice Bags on October 3, 10:00-12:00, Lunch available from the library. Possible seasonal craft after lunch.
- The Billings Public Library's 2nd annual Art and Craft Supply Swap meet is almost here. If you have craft items you no longer want or need you can take them to the 1st floor desk at the library Tuesday -Thursday, September 22 - September 24 (9:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m) and on Friday, September 25 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m)

p.m). Shopping is on Saturday, September 26 from (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everything is FREE! This is a good chance to get rid of your unwanted craft and art items and maybe find something you want or need.

- International Day of Service, End Domestic and Sexual Violence, September 26. Stand Up, Speak Up, Show Up
- Gift bags for Domestic Violence Collect jewelry, scarves, toiletries, etc.
- Tumbleweed Invitation, October 1 from 4-8 PM. Red Oxx Events Lawn, 324 North 13th Street. RSVP by September 24 to shawn.byrne@tumbleweedprogram.org or call 406-259-2558
- Christmas Party Tuesday, December 15, 2026

Things to bring this month:

Your notebook and a water bottle

Any items you've collected for Tumbleweed, MSUB Pantry, Environment, Free Store, Angela's Piazza

Remember to put in-kind value with your bin (or any) donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Culture Report

Chairman: Marsha Hotchkiss

Marsha met with Carrie, education director at Yellowstone Art Museum this month. Carrie explained the student programs conducted during the summer as well as their partnerships with schools in the area. They also discussed other volunteer opportunities.

Marsha made phone contact with Mr. Christoferson, principal of Independent School, to request a meeting with the teachers to discuss their student's participation in the GFWC Writing Contest.

A meeting of the Arts Committee will be held in September.

Hours: 1 Dollars spent: 0 In-kind Donation: 0

Domestic Violence Committee

Chairman: Judy Senteney

Crisis Center:

Work has continued at the Crisis Center organizing files.

Volunteer Hours: 15

Club Dollars Used: 0

In-Kind Donations: \$55

Angela's Piazza:

11 members prepared bag lunches for 15 Daughters of Tradition participants twice a week throughout the summer, during their summer camp experiences.

Donations were made to the thrift store in the basement of the Piazza.

9 volunteers met to make 75 shower steamers for Spa Day.

Volunteer Hours: 110

Club Dollars Used: \$129.96

In-Kind Donations: \$490

Total Volunteer Hours: 125

Club Dollars Used: \$129.96

In-Kind Donations: \$115

Education and Libraries

Chairman: Lynn Ehresman

Books For Babies

Chairman: Ellen Smith and Joan Sleeth

Joan wrote and mailed thank you notes to Billings Clinic Foundation (\$1,000) and First Interstate Bank Foundation (\$500) for their donations to B4B's.

Volunteer members: 1 Guests: 0 Volunteer hours: 1

In-Kind Donation dollars: \$1.56 for postage

Joan cut open most of the small book boxes and stickered approximately 200 books to be ready for book bagging. On June 7th 3 members arranged the tables and put out stickered books, flyers and bags to be ready for bagging. On June 8 and 11 members and guests met at the garage to bag up 2,010 books. They also added donor book marks to the already bagged books in the Billings Clinic tubs to acknowledge their donation.

Later in June, Joan and a guest cut down boxes and took them to the recycling center.

Volunteer members: 11 (total bagging) Guests: 3 (total bagging)

Volunteer hours: 65.25 (total project) Guest hours: 6 total

Bev and her husband delivered 2 tubs of books to Intermountain Health and 1 tub to Billings Clinic in June. 209 babies were born in June.

Volunteer members: 1 Guests: 1

Volunteer hours: 2 Guest hours 2

Total Volunteer members: 11 Total Guests: 4

Total Volunteer hours: 69.75

Club dollars spent: 0

Babies Born July:

Billings Clinic 79

Babies Born August:

Billings Clinic 84

Intermountain Health 126

Volunteer hours: 4 hours

JULY- Bev Silkwood delivered 2 tubs of books (100 per tub) to Billings Clinic

And 2 tubs of books to Intermountain Health

AUGUST - Bev Silkwood delivered 1 tub of books to Billings Clinic

And 2 tubs of books to Intermountain Health

Volunteer members: 1

Volunteer hours: 4 hours

Scholarship

Chairman: Linda Baker

No report

ESO

Chairman: Karin Green Jennifer Larson

June - 12 members attended ESO at Perkins. Members read 48 books.

Member hours - 24 Club money - 0 In-Kind - 0

July - 12 members attended ESO at Perkins. Members read 54 books.

Member hours - 24 Club money - 0 In-Kind - 0

August - 9 members attended ESO at Perkins. Members read 55 books.

Member hours - 18 Club money - 0 In-Kind - 0

Health and Wellness-

Chairman: Barb Hogg

No report

Environment/Community Service

Chairman – Bev Silkwood

Thanks to everyone for contributing to our plastic recycling project. In June and August, we delivered 629 pounds of plastic film to Albertsons. It was quite a process that was made much easier by having lots of hands available (14 members and the help of 4 husbands!)

Thanks also to those collecting, washing and removing labels from pill bottles. I took 2 large boxes to Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, and some bags full to my vet. They both have plenty to last for a while, and so I'd appreciate it if members would ask if their veterinary practices could use some.

Totals for September

Volunteer Hours 18 Guest hours- 4 Dollars- 0 In Kind Donation- 0

Civic Engagement & Community Outreach

Chairman: Barb Barrett

Project: Tumbleweed

June-Sept – Lunches for Tumbleweed

Hot food was prepared and delivered for lunch at Tumbleweed to feed 70-85 individuals for 2 days each month during the months of June thru September.

Volunteer members: all 16 members on the lunch committees

Volunteer hours: 57

Club dollars spent: \$0

In-kind Donation dollars: \$1,200.00

Donations:

544 items were donated: food pantry items, bedding, socks, hats, clothing, hygiene products, household, underwear, misc. clothing.

Volunteer members: Joan S, Barb B, Peggy, Gayle, Marsha P, Barb H.

Volunteer hours: 18

Club dollars spent: \$14.91

In-kind Donation Dollars: \$1,010.12

Project: MSUB Buzz Pantry

40 items Donated: food pantry items for students

Volunteer member: Joan Sleeth

Volunteer hours: 2

In-kind Donation: \$188.50

Project: Yellowstone Methodist Free Store

55 items were donated: dishes, misc. household items

Volunteer members: Peggy O'Brien

Volunteer hours: 2

Club Dollars spent: \$0

Donations in-kind: \$25

Volunteer Hours at the Store: 18 – Marsha Price

Switch Society

Semi-annual Free Family Swap Event

Volunteer Hours: 5 Hours

Volunteer member: Barb Hogg

Advocates for Children

Chairman: Florence Diede

May 2026

CASA

What does a CASA do?

Here is your chance to begin on the CASA journey. Information sessions are Thursday, September 24 and Monday October 5 at 12:00 at the CASA office 550 North 31st, Suite 240 Register at <https://yellowstonecasa.org/information-sessions/>

Hours: 60 guessing as club has 4 members who are current CASAs

Club dollars used: \$0

Fleece Blankets

We have about 15 completed blankets just waiting for the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Dept. to need them. Let Florence know if you'd like some fleece to get ready for a child.

Pillowcase Dresses

Kits are ready for you to make a dress. Materials to make the dresses are in kits and ready to be delivered, if you would like to give it try let Florence know. She will be happy to trim them out if you don't have scraps.

Youth Crisis Center

Make plans now to join us as we decorate a hygiene tree and have treats for the residents. Usually, we do this activity on the first Saturday in December. Want to help with the shopping? Let Florence know.

Communication/PR

Chairman: Gayle Carter

Project 1 General Communications

gfwcbill@aol.com – A variety of messages including a special meeting, the GFWC News and Views, and other information were sent to members during the summer months including reminders to some Summer University Classes.

Project 2 Club Notebooks

Updated Committees for 2026-2028, Standing Rules #11 and the Club Directory. Members will review the committees and club directory at the September meeting. Both documents will be placed on a clipboard to be edited individually. The three items will be printed and distributed at the October Meeting.

Volunteer hours: 6 hours

School Medical

Chairman: Barb Hogg

No report

Buildings and Grounds

Chairman: Marsh Price

No report

Leadership

Chairman: Florence Diede

GFWC

The GFWC Convention “Climbing Together, Shaping Tomorrow,” was held in Scottsdale, AZ on June 26-29 at the Westin Kierland Resort.

Marsha Price (GFWC MT Treasurer Elect), Marsha Hotchkiss, (BJWC Past-President) and Florence Diede (GFWC MT Past President) attended, learned much and had a great experience.

Western States Region

The WSR Convention was held in Park City Utah, September 11-13, 2026. Five BJWC members attended and participated. An invitation was given to invite all to Billings in September 2027 for WSR 2027.

GFWC Montana Board meeting

Make plans now to attend the Fall meeting in Butte at the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center on October 9-10. Further information in the club email dated August 26. Hotel reservations must be made by October 1.

Membership

Co-Chairmen: Joan Sleeth and Jennifer Larson

The membership committee consisting of: Joan Sleeth, Jennifer Larson, Amanda Webber, Marsha Price, Barb Barrett, Nancy McManus and Margaret O'Reilly met on 8/10/2026 to discuss the membership form, membership brochures and start planning for the Christmas party and other fun events. Suggestions were made for editing the membership form and Peggy will make the changes. Joan will have Gayle post the new form on our website and bring some copies to our monthly meetings. The club brochure needs printed copies. It was discovered the extra ones at the garage were an older version so Joan printed the club QR code to put

on the brochures so they can get used up. Joan will get the master copy of the brochure and work with Gayle on getting brochures ordered. Membership decided that committees will be given the option of having a presenter before the meeting or an activity after. Lots of productive discussion and fun ideas were shared for where to host the December party and an activity to have. Members were quick to volunteer for tasks to divide up the planning work. Details will be shared when the committee finalizes the details.

Members: 8 Volunteer hours: 24 Club Dollars Spent: 0

Summer University Activities



4 BJWC members met for a tour of Swanky Roots May 20th

Swanky Roots is a family farm in Billings growing lettuce and microgreens in a clean, controlled aquaponics greenhouse. Their mission is to make it easy to eat fresh, local greens in any season with aquaponics that conserves water, avoids synthetic pesticides, and delivers dependable crunch. We were amazed at the process and enjoyed tasting the various types of lettuces and microgreens.



Seven BJWC members met to stroll around Joel's Pond on June 18th.

Joel's Pond is a tucked-away treasure, consisting of a 12-acre pond, walking trails, and picnic shelter. We enjoyed the sunny walk along the south side of the pond - especially with Jayne's expertise in plant identification.

Festival of Trees Decorations –Sewing and Stuffing Stars



Several members met to cut out gold stars for the Festival of Trees. They took stars home to sew. Members brought back their sewn stars and met a few more times to stuff and sew them shut. Our tree will be all glittery with these gold stars and many more golden ornaments that Gayle, her daughter and granddaughter have searched out for a stellar space theme.

Christmas in July



Five BJWC members and one guest met at Joan Sleeth's house on July 16 to learn some new card making tricks and use special tools for embossing, stamping and die cutting to create individual cards. Christmas and thank you card samples, markers, colored pencils and card making parts were provided. It was so fun to see the comradery, creativity and unique creations the group came up with.



Shower Steamers



8 members and one guest gathered to make "Shower Steamers" for Angela's Piazza, a support organization for survivors of domestic violence. The steamers will be given to 35 of their clients as part of their "Pamper Yourself" celebrations. Club members made enough to have several for themselves. It was a fun, learning experience for all!

Summer-long Mural Scavenger Hunt

Club members and friends were encouraged to locate the many wall mural around Billings. Each mural had a question or something to look for in it. At least 18 members

had fun searching out the murals and even discovering ones that weren't on the list. It is truly amazing just how many paintings are tucked in (and continue to be added) to keep true graffiti at bay.

Summer Picnic and Games



History

Chairman: Judy Senteney

No report

Documents

Chairman: Marsha Price

No report