

GFWC BILLINGS JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

1st Presbyterian Church, 2420 13th St West

April 21, 2026

AGENDA

*Remember to bring your own beverage*

Officers:

President – Marsha Hotchkiss

President Elect – Peggy O'Brien

Secretary – Kristen Stewart

Treasurer – Karin Green

Member at Large – Amanda Webber

Parliamentarian – Gayle Carter

Program 6:30 PM

Meeting Hosts : Environment

Speaker: Deede Baker, Dog Tag Buddies

General Meeting Opens 7:00 PM

Call To Order

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CLUB COLLECT

INTRODUCE GUESTS, WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Minutes:** Kristin Stewart

**Treasurer's Report:** Karin Green

**Correspondence:**

**Announcements:**

**Unfinished Business:**

- Election of Officers for 2026-28
- Tea for Ronald MacDonald House - Marsha H

**New Business:**

- Building and Grounds - Marsha Price
- Resolutions from Convention - Florence
- Reports from Convention

**Coming Events! Dates to Remember**

**June 26-29, 2026 GFWC International Convention, Scottsdale, AZ**

**Donation bins will be available at each club meeting to bring items for the various non-profits that we support. Thanks so much for your donations and reporting help!**

**Members wear your vests and name tags!!**

**Bring your checkbook to pay your membership dues**

**Committee Reports on next page**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Domestic Violence**

**Chairman: Judy Senteney**

#### **Angela's Piazza**

The Committee held a meeting April 2. 6 members attended. Discussion included distribution of remaining funds.

**Crisis Center:** Work has continued at the Crisis Center organizing files.

Volunteer Hours: 15

Club Dollars Used: \$ 600 donated

In-Kind Donations: \$240

#### **GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund**

\$100 donated

#### **Family Promise**

\$400 donated

#### **Angela's Piazza**

\$600 donated

In-kind donations:128

#### **Grand Total for March:**

Number of Programs: 4

Volunteer Hours: 18

Club Dollars Used: 1700

In-Kind Donations: 368

## **Advocates for Children**

**Chairman: Florence Diede**

### CASA

450 kids are currently in foster care in Yellowstone County.

Children in foster care have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. CASA of Yellowstone County serves children 0 -18 years of age in foster care. On average, children will spend 18-24 months in the local foster care system. Of the 450 kids in local foster care, 255 of them have a CASA Advocate. Per capita, Montana has one of the highest numbers of children in foster care.

Volunteer hours: 60. Always a guess.

Club dollars used:

### Fleece Blankets

Yellowstone County Sheriff's are pleased to have a supply of fleece blankets to use in emergencies. Want to help make a couple? Let me know and I will have supplies in my car on meeting night or can even deliver to your home. If you have completed ones, do bring them.

### Pillowcase Dresses

Would you like a quick sewing project? I can give you some pillowcases and instructions to make a couple of little dresses. Just let me know and I will even have some at the meeting.

Ellen Smith will deliver our completed dresses to AidSpirit for their trip in June.

### End of Year Funds

Watch for a notice of a committee meeting notice to determine how to effectively donate our end of year funds. Have some ideas? Send me a text or email.

## **Arts & Culture**

**Chairmen: Karen Durfey & Kathy Broyles**

No report this month

## **Education & Libraries**

**Chairman: Karin Green**

### **Volunteering in Billings Public Schools/Libraries – 94 hours**

#### Schools

Cost - \$0    Members – 2                      Volunteer Hours – 20

#### Billings Public Library

Pulling holds – Children’s section

Cost - \$0    Members – 1                      Volunteer Hours - 20

Friends of the library - Book Nook

Cost - \$0    Members – 1                      Volunteer Hours – 16

FOL -Pop-Up sale

Cost – 0    Members – 2                      Volunteer Hours - 6

FOL - Spring Book Sale

Cost – 0    Members – 5                      Volunteer Hours - 32

ESO

Nine members met at Perkins on April 6<sup>th</sup>. They reported on and discussed 15 books.

Altogether 11 members reported that they read 57 books in February.

### **Books For Babies Committee**

**Joan Sleeth Chairman**

Bev and her husband delivered 150 bags of books to iHealth and 100 bags to Billings Clinic in March. iHealth recorded 151 babies born and Billings Clinic recorded 67 babies born in February.

Joan delivered 8 bags of bilingual books to each hospital for Books For Babies. Joan also contacted ECI and The Family Tree Learning Center for brochures to go in bags when we bag books again in June. Joan picked up brochures from ECI and took them to the garage.

Volunteer members: 2      Guest Volunteer: 1      Total Volunteer hours: 6

Club dollars spent: 0      In-Kind Donation dollars: 0

\*If you are interested in delivering the tubs of books for babies to the hospitals, please message Joan at [sleethjoan@gmail.com](mailto:sleethjoan@gmail.com), or call or text 406-860-3515.

\*\*\*Bev can explain just how easy it is.

## **Scholarship**

### **Chairman: Linda Baker**

#### Written Report 1

Gift Cards were purchased for the Scholarship winners. They will be sent out May 1<sup>st</sup> in a card . \$274.75 + Cards 6.25= \$281.00

#### Written Report 2

Our scholarship winners are:

Skyview High School \$1500.00 Scholarship 2026

### **Karsh Wohler**

Karsh plans to attend Rocky Mountain College and major in Health and Human Services.

He has been very active in National Honor Society serving as the Vice President leading service projects and coordinating and maintaining the clubs volunteer hours. He, himself, logged an amazing 450 volunteer hours. He also was active in golf, tennis and orchestra. He was enrolled in the Meds Careers Program and Future Health Professionals. He plans to become a Physician Assistant.

Certification/Licensure Scholarship \$1500.00 (Senior High School) 2026

**Samantha Nauman**

Samantha plans to attend Montana State University and major in microbiology and medical laboratory sciences. She is described in one of her reference letters as musical, hardworking, compassionate, and an exceptional scholar and citizen. Samantha participated in National Honor Society which included 20 hours of volunteer service , Tri-M putting in 20 hours of musical related activities and leadership and was a member of the Billings Youth Orchestra and All State Band

West High School \$1500.00

Scholarship 2026

**Allison Watt**

Allison plans to attend Grand Canyon University and major in Elementary Education. Allison started out her essay by quoting GFWC's mission of making a positive impact on the community by volunteering their time, effort, and love. She has been doing just that since she was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She has been working in the YMCA afterschool program for over a year and volunteering with the Kids Ministry since 2021. She is described by her pastor as responsible, conscientious, and a solid role model for the young children.

Skyview High School \$1500.00 Scholarship 2026

**Aleena Williams**

Aleena plans to attend MSU- Billings and major in Digital Medical Sonography. Aleena is described as kind, passionate, with a strong work ethic and a young woman of integrity.

Aleena serves as a respite care provider for a special needs individual and volunteers to help seniors at her church.

Senior High School \$1500.00 Scholarship 2026

**Alexandra Bodine**

Alexandra plans to attend either Dakota Wesleyan or Concordia. She is going to major in business and digital media.

She has been a busy person balancing three part- time jobs, playing soccer and maintaining great grades. Alexandra was involved in a variety of community service activities like volunteering at Highland Elementary helping students with math and reading, preparing meals for the Ronald Mc Donald House, coaching younger children in soccer, and cleaning the grounds at the Zoo.

**Volunteer members: 6 (guest)7**

**Volunteer hours:49**

**Club dollars spent:\$320.34**

**Children's fund money spent on 2<sup>nd</sup> year scholarship:  
\$7500.00**

**In-Kind Donation dollars:0**

**School Medical**

**Chairman: Barb Hogg**

No Report this month

**Enviroment**

**Chairman: Bev Silkwood**

Ten members of our committee met on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We finalized plans for donating to several local programs: Zoo Montana will receive \$1000 and Billings TrailNet will get \$250. Deede Baker from Dog Tag Buddies will give a presentation to our BJWC April meeting and we will present her with a check for \$500. Heifer International (one of GFWC's international affiliates) will receive \$250. We also have budgeted \$120 for purchasing 5 plaques representing BJWC to be affixed to the benches we have earned from collecting plastic for NexTrex.

March 29<sup>th</sup> 7 members and 4 guests delivered 385 pounds of plastic to Albertsons and so our current total is 748 pounds. We plan on reaching our 1000-pound goal in the next few months and the bench will be placed at King of Glory Luthern Church. We will continue to collect plastic and are looking for a partner organization to apply through NexTrex.

We brainstormed several ideas for Summer University opportunities to be presented at our April meeting.

Fifteen clean towels were delivered to Paws and Claws.

Total for April

Volunteer Hours 34

Guest Hours 8

Dollars \$2000

In Kind Donation - \$75

## **Civic Engagement**

**Chairman: Barb Barrett**

### **Project: Tumbleweed**

**April – Lunches for Tumbleweed**

Hot food was prepared and delivered for lunch at Tumbleweed to feed 70 individuals for 2 days each month during the month of February: for a total of 2 meals.

**Volunteer members:** Barb Barrett, Marsha Price, Barb Hogg, Ellen Smith, Rena Bucher, Judy Senteney, Lisa Hanson

**Volunteer hours:** 20

**Club dollars spent:** \$0

**Donations in-kind:** \$440

**Donations:**

**53 items were donated:** food pantry items, towels, socks, and hygiene products.

**Volunteer members:** Joan Sleeth, Barb Hogg, Barb Barrett, Marsha Price, Ellen Smith

**Volunteer hours:** 3

**Club dollars spent:** \$0

**Donations in-kind:** \$253.00

\*\*\*\*\*

**Project: Yellowstone Methodist Free Store**

**32 items were donated:** women's clothing, shoes, bedding, misc. household items.

**Volunteer members:** Marsha Price

**Volunteer hours:** 3

**Club Dollars spent:** \$0

**Donations in-kind:** \$125

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**MSUB Buzz Pantry**

**108 items were donated:** snack items for pantry

**Volunteer members:** Barb Barrett

**Volunteer hours:** 1

**Club Dollars Spent:** \$0

**Donations in-kind:** \$67.67

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**Switch Society Community Family Swap Day**

This is a free event to the public sponsored by Switch Society offering free clothing, shoes, coats, bedding and accessories to the community. This event is held twice a year and is reliant on volunteers to make it successful.

**Volunteer members:** Marsha Price, Barb Hogg, Barb Barrett, one guest

**Volunteer hours:** 10

**Club Dollars Spent:** \$0

**Donations in-kind:** \$0

**Health & Wellness**

**Chairman:** Deb Willis

No Report this month

**Communications & PR**

**Chairman:** Gayle Carter

General Communications

[gfwcbill@aol.com](mailto:gfwcbill@aol.com) - A variety of messages including the GFWC News and Views were sent to members during the last month.

**Volunteer hours:** 3 hours

## Project 2

### Website

The website was updated with the 2026 scholarship winners.

**Volunteer hours:** 1 hour

## Project 3

### Summer University

Members that plan to teach/host a class: Please bring your information to the Tuesday's Meeting or send to [gecarter7@gmail.com](mailto:gecarter7@gmail.com). (class title, time, location, cost and a sentence explaining your class or activity)

There will be a large calendar in the back of the room for you to enter your information. If you have a committee event planned for the summer, please enter your times as well. The calendar will allow everyone to see the times when classes are offered to plan their entries. This will be put together and presented at the May meeting.

**Volunteer hours:** 1 hour

## Project 4

Researching Canva for nonprofits.

**Volunteer hours:** 1 hour

Please send any information to [gecarter7@gmail.com](mailto:gecarter7@gmail.com)

about who you gifted the card and \$10, passed out at the November Meeting.

## **Building & Grounds**

### **Chairman: Marsha Price**

Project 1 – Front door was not closing properly. Hired a repairman to adjust and measure for a replacement window.

Volunteers – 1

Volunteer hours – ½

Club Dollars – Pending

In Kind – 0

Project 2 -Repaired 2 bathroom fans

Volunteer – 1

Volunteer hours – 2

Club dollars - \$150.00

In Kind – \$12

Project 3 - Annual fire Extinguisher inspection and certification

Volunteer 1

Hours – ½

Club Dollars - \$335.

In Kind -0

Project 4- Kitchen faucet leaking

Volunteers – 1

Hours - 1

Club Dollars - \$165.

In Kind -0-

Project 5- Misc repairs and walk through with Denise

Volunteer – 1

Hours – 6

Club Dollars \$ 42.96

In Kind - \$18.

Totals

Volunteers – 1

Hours – 9

Club Dollars – \$692.96

In Kind - \$30

## **Leadership**

**Chairman: Florence Diede**

**GFWC Montana Convention 2026** was held April 17-19, 2026 in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel. Nine BJWC members attended. Jolie Frankfort, First Vice

President of GFW, installed the incoming officers. April 16 we were able to tour the State Capital and the Montana Heritage Center.

Be prepared to hear from those attending about a great time and something they learned.

Marsha Price was elected as GFWC MT Treasurer.

Eastern District held a brief meeting during the convention. Watch for more details.

PDQ's (Past District Queens) will be holding a short meeting and fund raiser.

TOPP's (The Organization of Past Presidents) will also be meeting.

This is always a super busy meeting for some of our members.

## **GFWC**

Join us at the GFWC Convention "Climbing Together, Shaping Tomorrow," in Scottsdale, AZ on June 26-29 at the Westin Kierland Resort.

<https://www.gfwc.org/annual-convention/>

## Western States Region

The WSR Convention will be in Park City Utah, September 11-13, 2026. Yes it will be a learning experience and is always great fun.

Remember!!! WSR will be in Billings at the Northern Hotel 2027 so GFWC

Montana will be doing an invite at the Park City Convention.

## **Legislation & Public Policy**

**Chairman: Marsha Hotchkiss**

An email was sent to the members alerting them to legislation that would add a new blood test to be used for diagnosis for Alzheimer's. If you haven't signed up for the GFWC Legislation Action Alerts contact me and I will help you sign up.

## **Membership**

**Chairman: Peggy O'Brien**

**Membership dues of \$35.00 should be paid by April 30th.** Dues must be paid by check. You can pay your dues at the next meeting, April 21st, or mail your check to Karin Green @ 1208 Ponderosa Dr,

Billings, 59102 or the club post office box P.O. Box 20234, Billings, 59104.

Because the church was not available on May 19, our dinner will now be held on Monday, May 18 at 6:00 at the First Presbyterian Church. Mark your calendars!

We will have a western theme with a red and white color theme. We will cater bar-b-que, which will be gluten free. Installation of officers will be held on that day.

Watch for more details to come.

Volunteer members: 5

Volunteer hours: 2

Club dollars spent: 0

In-Kind Donation dollars: \$0.00

## **History & Resource Center**

**Chairman: Judy Senteney**

No report this month

## **Documentation Organization**

**Chairman: Marsha Price**

No report this month

