

January 21, 2025

## Agenda

Remember to bring your own drink!

No Program - **meeting will start at 6:30**

I will be setting my timer to ring at 6:30 to start the meeting. Come at 6:00 if you  
want to socialize.

### Officers

President – Marsha Hotchkiss

President Elect – Peggy O'Brien

Secretary – Kristen Stewart

Treasurer – Karin Green

Member at Large – Amanda Webber

Parliamentarian – Gayle Carter

Meeting Hosts: Arts Committee

Call to order by President

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CLUB COLLECT

## INTRODUCE GUESTS, WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Minutes: Kristin Stewart

Treasurer's Report: Karin Green

Correspondence:

Announcements:

Unfinished Business:

Legislative Policy sign-up

End of Year Reporting

New Business:

Volunteer of the Year - Marsha Price & Karin Green

Eastern District Meeting - Gayle Carter

GFWC Webinar schedule for January/February

Request for rice bags

### Coming Events! Dates to Remember

February 5, 2025 Club Reports due to State

April 20-26, 2025 GFWC Volunteers in Action Week

April 26, 2025 MT Eastern District Convention, Big Timber

June 7-10, 2025 GFWC International Convention, Atlanta, GA

September 11-14, Western States Regional Convention, California

September 26-28 GFWC MT Fall Meeting, Great Falls

### Things to Bring This Month

MSU-B pantry would like donations of individual packaged snacks such as crackers, chips, cookies, breakfast/energy bars, healthy snacks etc

## Committee Reports

### Arts & Culture

No Report

### Education & Libraries

**Books 4 Babies Committee Report January 2025**

**Committee Chairman – Joan Sleeth**

**November 2024 Deliver 200 books to the hospitals**

**Number of Members: 1    Guests: 1**

**Club Dollars Used: 0    In Kind Donation: mileage 5 miles**

**December 2024 Deliver 350 books to the hospitals**

**Number of Members: 1    Guests: 1**

**Club Dollars Used: 0    In Kind Donation: mileage 5 miles**

**Deliver books to The Family Tree Nurturing Center**

**Number of Members: 1    Club Dollars Used: 0    In Kind Donation: 0**

**Order sample bag from Graphic Imprints and 7,800 books from All About Books**

**Number of Members: 2**

**Deliver board books from All About Books to the BJWC garage**

**Number of Members: 1    Guests: 1**

**Club Dollars Used: \$7, 290.00 (board books )    In Kind Donation: 1 hour graphic designer time**

**Total Volunteer hours: 12**

**Number of Programs:1    *Total Number of Members: 4    Total Number of Guests: 2***

***Total Club Dollars Used: \$7, 434.48***

**Scholarship Report January 2025**

**Chairman: Linda Baker**

**Members: Gayle Carter, Diana Wohler, Rena Butcher, Lisa Hanson, Cheryl McCall**

**Project – The scholarship committee prepared the envelopes with the information for high school available scholarships to high school counselors. The packets included a club brochure, examples of the scholarships that the students need to fill out on line, and a letter to the counselor. They also included a colorful poster to be used at the schools for advertising our scholarship offerings.**

**Those packets were sent to Skyview, West, Senior, Broadview, Shepherd,**

**Huntley Project, Custer, Laurel, Lockwood, Career Center and the Talent Search/Trio program.**

**Grand total for November/January**

**Number of Programs: 1**

**Number of Members, 2**

**Volunteer hours: 21**

**Club Money spent: postage: \$19.74**

**ESO**

**Chairmen: Karin Green & Marsha Hotchkiss**

**Eight members met on January 6th. We reported on 13 books.**

**Hours: 16**

## **Health & Wellness**

**December/January 2024/2025**

**Committee: Health and Wellness**

**Chairman: Debbie Willis**

**50 Comfort Pillows assembled by Barb Hogg, her cousin Barbara and sister.**

**5-6 hours (ongoing)**

**No Club dollars spent**

**Provided for future comfort pillows – 225 pillow cases and 2 bags of stuffing**

**Donation to Cabinet at Library by Karin Green**

**17 toothbrushes @ \$1.25 each**

**Storage box @ \$5.00**

**21 Period packs @ \$1.25 each**

**Total spent: \$52.50**

## **Environment**

**January 2025**

**Committee – Environment/Community Service**

**Committee Chairman – Bev Silkwood**

**Thanks to everyone for continuing to gather and organize plastic collections. This month Bev and two guests delivered 246 pounds to**

**Albertsons, so we're a quarter of the way to obtaining our next bench. A big shout out to Heather Burson for encouraging Graphic Imprints to not only help us collect plastic, but for acknowledging our efforts on their Facebook page! Another thanks to Peggy O'Brien for arranging to collect plastic from Billings Home Oxygen. We are looking for volunteers to help Peggy with those collections.**

**Total for November**

**Volunteer Hours 10**

**Guest Hours 4**

**Dollars**

**In Kind Donation**

## **Civic Engagement & Outreach**

### **Domestic Violence**

#### **January 2025 Domestic Violence Committee Report**

**Angela's Piazza: The Committee delivered 35 Christmas gift bags for the Christmas Party. We also sent a \$400 donation.**

**Volunteer Hours: 10**

**Club Dollars Used: 1100**

**In-Kind Donations: 465**

**Crisis Center: 3 of our members have been donating time each week organizing client files so they may be scanned into their computer system. Coordinator Mar-Cee McNeary has been trying to accomplish this task for many months, and staff at the Center simply do not have time to do it.**

**Volunteer Hours: 32**  
**Club Dollars Used: 0**  
**In-Kind Donations: 0**

**Family Promise: The Committee made a \$400 donation.**

**Volunteer Hours: 1**  
**Club Dollars Used: 400**  
**In-Kind Donations: 0**  
**Grand Total for January:**  
**Number of Programs: 3**  
**Volunteer Hours: 43**  
**Club Dollars Used: 1900**  
**In-Kind Donations: 460**

## **Advocates for Children**

**Committee Advocates for Children**  
**Committee Chairman Florence Diede**

**January 2025**

### **Family Tree Nurturing Center**

**This is the busiest time of year for Family Tree as it is their annual fundraising event...Festival of Trees.**

**Three members take on the goal of having the BEST tree at the event...and they do....**

**One member and her husband secure the tree's branches and the base to a board and deliver it to Montana Pavilion for the decorating. It was beautiful, glistening with snow, globes, skis, ice skates and loads of winter fun. Under they tree were 50+ Jan Brett Christmas**

books for children. Four-one-day Red Lodge Mountain passes had been donated. At the auction on Thursday night the tree sold for \$1000. 4 members attended the auction/dinner. Friday, Dec. 6 was the Tea in the Trees. One member, Jody Schofield, is in charge of the modeling, entertainment and 170 guests. Two member modeled clothes from Dillard's. 13 members attended and supported this event.

Late December one member purchased the tree for the 2025 season. They are ready.

Volunteer hours: 90

Club dollars used: \$ 757 + 269 for the 2025 tree.

#### Blanket project

One member completed 5 tied blankets.

One member attached the sewn-on club donation label to 9 blankets.

One member delivered 18 blankets to the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Dept.

Do you have fleece blankets completed? Turn in to Florence.

Volunteer hours: 7.5

Club dollars used: \$ 0

#### Youth Service Center

Karin Green did the shopping for the YSC tree to cover it with much needed hygiene items and a few truly fun things for the youth. 4 members met on Dec. 5 to put the ribbons on the. Items. 5 members arrived at the YSC on Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:30 and decorated the tree. We brought treats and then spent a little time with the youth. Very enjoyable time for both members and YSC youth.



**Youth Service Center shopping was held on Friday, December 20 at 6:30pm at the Height's Target. \$35 shopping cards were purchased. Members and spouses spent time individually with the youth helping them make wise purchases. Thank you to each of you for helping. The one remaining gift card was used to purchase underwear for Tumbleweed patrons.**

**A \$300 donation was given to YSC with encouraging words to use it to cover the costs for adult chaperones to attend events with the youth.**

**Volunteer hours: 27**

**Club dollars used: \$ 741**

### **CASA**

**Barb Hogg, Deb Willis, Joan Sleeth and Florence Diede continue their work with Yellowstone CASA.**

**Deb works with the Family Advocates Court and Barb is now working with the ICWA Family Recovery Court. Florence conducts a monthly training discussion group.**

**Yellowstone CASA would welcome your desire to become an advocate for children in foster care.**

**Volunteer hours: 80. Always a guess.**

**Club dollars used: \$00**

**In-Kind donations: \$**

### **Plan USA**

**Thank you to several members for writing a brief letter to our Genesis (11) from Honduras.**

**Volunteer hours:1**

**Club dollars used: PAID \$408 August 2024**

### **Pillowcase Dresses**

**IF you have completed your pillowcase dresses, please bring them to the meeting. Peggy turned in 6, Florence put on the pockets and trim. 4 needed paint, thank you Gayle. Check them out at the meeting.**

**Please include a note with your time as you turn in the dresses. We are working to have a collection ready for AidSpirit when they travel to Uganda.**

**Volunteer hours:15**

**Club dollars used: 0**

### **BPS School Nurse Request**

**Barb Hogg received a request from Billings Public School Nurses asking for 48 pairs of mittens. She ordered them from Amazon and had them delivered directly to the secretary at Riverside for disbursement as needed.**

**Volunteer hours:1.5**

**Club dollars used: 43.98**

**Committee: School Medical**

**Chairman: Barbara Hogg**

**Members: Florence Diede, Gayle Carter, Jude Russell, Ellen Smith, Judy Senteney, Lynn Ehresman .**

**Purchased materials and filled 15 "Period Packs." (5 Riveside, 5 Senior High, 5 Riverstone)**

**Purchased and delivered 14 bottles of Head Lice Shampoo.**

**Using the CVS discount program and other coupons we were able to save \$92.22 which was 45% of the original cost.**

**Research “Robi-Combs”, the battery operated lice comb/zapper. CVS doesn’t carry them. Looking for a good source. They are about \$20.00 each. It is reported these combs are highly effective and reduce the amount of chemicals necessary to kill the lice.**

**Volunteer members: 1**

**Volunteer hours: 3**

**Club dollars spent: \$114.84 for shampoo, \$5.02 for feminine supplies.**

**In-Kind Donation dollars: \$15.00 (small bags used for Period Packs)**

## **Communications/PR**

**Committee: Communication/PR**

**Chairman: Gayle Carter**

**Written report (1 for each project/activity)**

**Project 1**

**General Communications**

**[gfwcbill@aol.com](mailto:gfwcbill@aol.com) - A variety of messages have been to members the last two months.**

**[gfwcbillings.org](http://gfwcbillings.org) – The club website had many updates. Photographs of the December activities were posted on the home page of BJWC’s site. Please take time to look at all the events our club was involved in during December. These posts will be removed at the end of January.**

**Committee chairwomen are encouraged to send photos of new events.**

**The 2025 Scholarship Applications (fillable PDFs) are listed on the site for the GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club High School Scholarships.**

**End-of-the-Year reports are coming due. All of the reports from last year are available on the Documents page of the website.**

**GFWC Eastern District is having their District Meeting in Big Timber, Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Applications are on our website for members interested in attending. More information will be presented at Tuesday's meeting.**

**At the Board meeting Kristen Stewart agreed to work with Karen Durfey and get the Facebook set up and maybe Instagram, too. Kristen will manage Facebook. A meeting is pending,**

**Volunteer hours: 10**

**Club dollars spent:**

## **Building & Grounds**

**Committee: Building and Grounds**

**Chairman: Marsha Price**

**Removed and replaced all ballasts in great room**

**Volunteer members: 1**

**Volunteer hours: 4**

**Club dollars spent: \$120.00**

**In-Kind Donation dollars: -0-**

**Plumber replaced 2 faucet cartridges that were leaking, and also 2 handles that were stripped.**

**Volunteer members: 1**

**Volunteer hours: 1**

**Club dollars spent: \$688.00**

**In-Kind Donation dollars: -0-**

**Annual Fire Extinguisher inspection and Certification. Also  
needed to re-charge with 5# of Chemicals**

**Volunteer members: 1**

**Volunteer hours: 1**

**Club dollars spent: \$166.00**

**In-Kind Doneaation dollars: -0-**

**Total Volunteer members: 1**

**Volunteer hours: 6**

**Club dollars spent: \$ 974.00**

**In-Kind Donation dollars:-0-**

## **Leadership**

**Committee Leadership**

**Committee Chairman Florence Diede**

**January 2025**

### **GFWC**

**Have you read the most recent News & Notes?**

**Plan to participate in the GFWC Learning Gateway Series of  
educational opportunities virtually.**

**January 27 ESO Beyond the Page...**

**February 5 Heart Health**

**February 11 The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and  
Building Membership.**

**Let me know as you attend so your hours are counted.**

**Check these out at [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)**

**GFWC Annual Convention June 7-9 in Atlanta. Let's plan to attend along with 800 members from 11 countries. Yes, Florence needs to attend due to her responsibilities with WSR.**

### **GFWC of Montana**

GFWC Montana reports are due. Please do send a copy to Marsha Hotchkiss, President.

The new form can be found on the RESOURCES tab or at the

<https://gfwcmontana.org/reporting/>

### **GFWC Montana Eastern District**

Please do mark your calendar Saturday, April 26 for "our" meeting in Big Timber. Gayle Carter is Eastern District President, Marsha Price, President Elect, Nancy Bruce, Big Timber, Secretary and Bev. Silkwood our Treasurer. We will distribute registration forms at the February meeting. It promises to be a fun day.

## **Membership**

Committee: Membership

Chairman: Peggy O'Brien

Volunteer members: 4 (guest)

Volunteer hours: 10 hours

Club dollars spent: \$0.00

In-Kind Donation dollars: \$15.00

Four members met on November 21 at the home of Marsha Price. Plans were made for the Christmas Party, which will be held at 6:00 on Tuesday, December 16, 2024 at the Windmill. In an effort to encourage new friendships within the club, the committee decided to use a

handout that members were asked to respond to at the November meeting. Favorites and interests were tabulated, and members were divided into four groups, according to how they responded on the survey. Peggy will finalize the count and the limited menu with the Windmill, and will gather table decorations to be used at the dinner. Marsha Price will make name tags, seating members according to their identified interests. Peggy will make party favors.

Members also discussed ways to promote the club and encourage more ladies to join our club. We felt that designing a trifold about our organization would be a positive way to achieve these goals. Using a trifold designed by Gayle Carter several years ago, and another from the Bitterroot Women's Club, Peggy will work on this project. The trifolds could be placed in churches, the Chamber of Commerce, and other locations.

**Volunteer members: 4**

**Volunteer hours: 8**

**Club dollars spent: \$45.93**

**In-Kind Donations: \$10.00**

**Written report: Christmas Party**

The Christmas Party was held at 6:00 on Tuesday, December 16, at the Windmill. Twenty one members and three husbands attended.

Members enjoyed a happy hour, and then chose their dinners from a limited menu.

Members were seated at 1 of 4 tables, according to their responses on an interest survey that they were asked to fill in at the November meeting. After an explanation of why they were seated at their particular table, members were asked to visit with their table partners

in an attempt to discover what they had in common. Festive snowmen party favors decorated the tables. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

**Volunteer members: 1**

**Volunteer hours: 2**

**Cub dollars spent: \$20.00**

**In-Kind donations: \$0.00**

A card and plant were delivered to Florence Diede, recovering from eye surgery.

## **History & Resources**

History and Resource Committee Report

A Check was sent to the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation, for use in the monument erection on the Mall.

Number of Projects: 1

Volunteer Hours: 2

Club Monies: 100

In-Kind Monies: 0