



GFWC Menominee Women's Club  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
www.gfwcmenominee.org  
February 2025  
Editor: Martha Harding, 906-290-9244



### **A Collect for Clubwoman**

Keep us, O God, from pettiness;  
Let us be large in thought, in word,  
in deed. Let us be done with fault-  
finding, and leave off self-seeking.  
May we put away all pretense and  
meet each other face-to-face,  
without self pity and without prejudice.  
May we never be hasty in judgment  
and always generous.  
Let us take time for all things;  
make us grow calm, serene, gentle.  
Teach us to put into action our better  
impulses, straight-forward and unafraid.  
Grant that we may realize it is the little  
things that create differences,  
that in the big things of life we are at  
one. And may we strive to touch and to  
know the great common human heart  
of us all and  
O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!  
*Mary Stewart 1904*

### **GFWC Mission Statement**

*"GFWC-an international  
women's organization dedicated  
to community improvement by  
enhancing the lives of others  
through volunteer service."*

### **GFWC Menominee Dates**

#### **February 5, 2025**

The February 5th general club  
meeting will be held at Riverside  
Country Club, 3459 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in  
Menominee.

Check-in and social time begin at  
11:30am, lunch will be served at  
noon. The program and business  
meeting will follow. The cost is  
\$17per person, checks preferred.

The Menu is Citrus Salad, Chicken  
Parmesan with bread and a  
Cupcake for dessert.

The program will be information  
about the Health Youth Coalition  
presented by Karianne  
Lesperance, Executive Director for  
Prevention Service - Communities  
that Care & Healthy Youth  
Coalition.

Please let your caller know if you  
have any dietary restrictions  
associated with the menu. Also,  
please remember to RSVP to your  
caller before 5pm January 31,  
2025.

### **A Look Ahead**

#### **February 5, 2025**

GFWC Menominee General Meeting at  
Riverside Country Club, 3459 14<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue, in Menominee.

#### **February 11, 2025**

**All Things Chocolate at the Pullman  
House, N2190 US4, Menominee, MI,  
4:30 – 7:30 pm. See page 2 of this  
newsletter for ticket information.**

#### **February 19, 2025**

GFWC Board Meeting, Spies Library,  
9:30 am

### **GFWC MI and National Dates**

#### **February 11, 2025**

International Day of Women and Girls  
in Science

#### **February 17, 2025**

President's Day Observed

### **March is Women's History Month**

#### **March 5, 2025**

GFWC Women's History Celebration  
and Equal Pay Day

#### **March 8, 2025**

GFWC Women's History Month  
Reception

#### **March 8, 2025**

International Women's Day

#### **April 20-26, 2025**

Volunteers in Action Week

#### **April 24, 2025**

GFWC Federation Day

#### **April 24-27, 2025**

GFWC MI State Convention in  
Traverse City MI

#### **June 7-9, 2025**

GFWC 2025 International Convention  
Atlanta, GA

Watch for UP District 5 Meeting  
information.



### **Spreading 'Sunshine'**

*Janet Conklin*

Is there a GFWC  
Menominee Club Woman  
who is having surgery, ill, or needs  
a little 'Sunshine'? Please let our  
Sunshine Gal, Janet Conklin, know  
about it so she can send a card.  
715-923-3859.

### **Vice Presidents' Message**

*Co-Vice Presidents*

*Tina Porod 715-923-5991 and  
Donna Suchovsky 402-740-2271*

We are accepting items for the  
**All Things Chocolate bucket  
raffle baskets** from the five (5)  
GFWC Menominee Community  
Service Programs (CSPs). If  
you have items and want  
someone to pick them up from  
you, please contact Tina Porod  
at 715/923- 5991 or  
[tina.porod@gmail.com](mailto:tina.porod@gmail.com). She will  
be happy to pick up any items  
from you. If you are planning to  
attend our club's February 5<sup>th</sup>  
general meeting you can bring  
any donation items then.

**Also, if you have any empty  
baskets you would like to  
donate for All Things  
Chocolate, we would love to  
have them!**

We are planning to stay after  
the general luncheon meeting  
on February 5, 2025, to compile  
everything we have received  
and build what baskets we  
can. Members are welcome to  
stay and help. We can use all  
the help available! **All Things  
Chocolate is one of our two  
big fundraisers of the club  
year. The more we make, the  
more we can donate to the  
community!**

### **Club Presidents' Message**

*Co-Presidents*

*Eileen Beyer 906-792-8374  
Martha Harding 906-290-9244*

**THANK YOU MEMBERS for  
reporting your volunteer hours  
and activities information for the  
year 2024.** We put the info you  
submitted into the electronic forms

from GFWC MI. The forms automatically tallied the numbers of dollars, hours, and volunteers. Expect to hear more about how our club did at a future general meeting.

### Reporting for 2025

Yes, the year 2025 is just starting but reporting is a year-round process. Now is the time to remind you to jot down what projects you work on and how many hours you spend each time you volunteer with a GFWC sponsored activity.

### MS. Federation 2025

This year our club is honoring a team of two as our club's MS. Federation nominee. **Our Co-Vice-Presidents, Donna Suchovsky (left) and Tina Porod (right)** have worked diligently for GFWC Menominee and for GFWC Michigan. Donna and Tina have truly put their hearts and souls into every job they have undertaken for GFWC. We are so proud of you! Thank you and Congratulations!



### Membership

Judy Reid, Chairperson  
906-792-9186



**Happy New Year!** Looking forward to a tremendous 2025 GFWC Year! Looking ahead to our February 5, 2025, general meeting. Even though we are encouraged to invite friends to any of our general meetings, **February** is designated as **'Bring a Friend Day.'** So, think about who you will be inviting to attend with you. Let us share our GFWC Story to those we know, let

them hear that GFWC Menominee Women's Club exists and that they too can be a part of the club. We want to actively participate in our GFWC MI Membership recruitment program called 'Pursuing the Pearls.'

**Welcome to our Newest Members.** Please add the following information in your Membership Book on Page 19.

Deb LaFond (sponsored by Donna Suchovsky)  
2912 14<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Menominee, MI 49858  
914-673-9492  
[Rromulus5@hotmail.com](mailto:Rromulus5@hotmail.com)

Wendy Baron (sponsored by Katey LeMay)  
1701 Dunlap #103  
Marinette, WI 54143  
715-860-2312  
[wendybaron79@gmail.com](mailto:wendybaron79@gmail.com)

### Treasurer & Fundraising

Pat Brukardt, 906-792-8147  
**Flower Card Fundraiser**  
Pat Brukardt, Chairperson  
906-792-8147

### **We sold all our GFWC Menominee Flower Cards!**

If you want to purchase another card, it can be purchased directly from **The Flower Gallery**, located at 426 10<sup>th</sup> Ave in Menominee, which is locally owned by Julee Miller. **Be sure to tell her you are a GFCW Menominee member.**

### **All Things Chocolate**

Judy Bramschreiber,  
Chairperson, 906-863-2052

**Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 4:30pm to 7:30pm, All Things Chocolate will be held at the Pullman House. Tickets are \$15 per person and will be available at Jack's Fresh Market in Menominee from January 6 to noon February 11. Tickets will also be available at the door at the price of \$20 per person. Judy may need additional help. Please let her know you are interested in helping.**

### **Wreath Sale Fundraiser**

Thank you GFWC Menominee members for bows, balls, cones, and your time spent decorating and selling wreaths. The wreath sales net is about \$6,974! This fundraiser was not projected in our budget for 2024-2025. GFWC is a non-profit organization. All the proceeds will be donated back into our community.

### **Friendship Brownies**

Coordinator: Judy Reid 906-792-9186

Our GFWC Menominee Arts and Culture Community Service Program will host a SSS (Simple Sloppy Joe Supper) and Friendship Brownies Activities.

**Who?** ALL GFWC Menominee Clubwomen and Friends (inviting friends is encouraged) are welcome to participate.

**What?** SSS (Simple Sloppy Joe Supper) and Friendship Brownies Activities

**Where?** M&M Yacht Club, (Beside of the Menominee Band Shell)

**When?** Thursday, March 13, 2025 (5-7:30 pm)

**How?** Cost: \$8.00 per person. Members will sign up and pay at the March 5th meeting.

### **One More Thing-**

We are looking for any spring colors of ribbon to put on the jars that we will be creating. If you have any narrow ribbon that you would care to donate, you can bring that to the general luncheon meeting on February 5, 2025. If you have any questions, you can call Tina Porod at 715/923-5991, or email her at [tina.porod@gmail.com](mailto:tina.porod@gmail.com)



**Friendship Brownie** activity photo from a few years ago. Pictured are GFWC member Martha Harding and her guest, Janel Harding, putting finishing touches on their Friendship Brownies in a Jar.

## **Arts and Culture**

### *Chairperson Needed*

If you are interested in chairing this CSP please contact Tina Porod 715-923-5991 or Donna Suchovsky 402-740-2271

### *Submitted by Linda Berry*

Nine of our committee members participated in the **Bridgeview “Make & Take”** for the holidays on Friday, December 13, 2024. The residents could make a Santa Door Hanger, Beaded Icicles, Clay Pot Snowman, and Collage Christmas Cards. We had a smaller than usual turnout, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves ... and as usual we are always treated to homemade cookies!



In March, we will be creating “Just Because” cards for local nursing homes. This is always a fun project and a good chance for our committee to get together and socialize. Information on date and time will be coming next month.



I would also like to thank Amy Vogltanz for cutting and gluing 142 stars from

discarded flags to be used for our “Stars for Veterans” packet that will be handed out at the Vietnam Veterans Event in March.

## **Civic Engagement and Outreach**

If you are interested in chairing this CSP please contact Tina Porod 715-923-5991 or Donna Suchovsky 402-740-2271.

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH CSP MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at THE COTTAGES, 2006 LAKES PARK DRIVE, in MARINETTE.

It will be our first meeting of the year! We have a lot to talk about! Even if you have not signed up to be part of the Civic Engagement and Outreach Program but have an interest, please join us!

We will talk about who we have helped in the past and whom we may be able to help in the future. If you have any input, it would be great if you could join us.

We will be discussing the GFWC Convention, All Things Chocolate, and the Friendship Brownie Activity.

If you have not received an agenda but are interested in coming, please contact Tina Porod at [tina.porod@gmail.com](mailto:tina.porod@gmail.com), or you can call her at 715/923-5991. She would be happy to send a copy of the agenda to you. We hope to see you on Wednesday, January 29, at The Cottages!

### ***Public Policy & Legislation***

*Ruth Wesoloski, Chairperson*  
906-863-2232

### ***From GFWC Headquarters***

#### **Anti-trafficking**

In early July 2024, GFWC proudly co-signed an [anti-trafficking coalition letter](#) urging the Senate to enact the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA, H.R. 5856) which is a foundational piece of anti-trafficking legislation because it governs the federal government’s comprehensive response to human trafficking. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives in February 2024 by a strong bipartisan vote. Importantly, the coalition letter also urges a more comprehensive package by adding the International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (S. 920) recently approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



## **St Vincent de Paul, Marinette**

*Joy Peterich, Liaison*  
715-587-3321

Cast offs become treasures through donations, and generate money for community outreach, as well as give low prices and vouchers to the thrifty and needy in our community through our local St Vincent’s Marinette store. They are an asset to our area.

Due to cutbacks, they need our volunteer help even more than usual. Are you looking for a fun rewarding volunteering opportunity? Please consider a once per month two-hour commitment to help sort and price donated goods, focused currently in the holiday, toys, and coats areas. You can also volunteer alone to work on other store needs. I have been their “jewelry lady” for the past year.

If interested please call me at 715-587-3321, or email me at [peterichj@gmail.com](mailto:peterichj@gmail.com) or sign up at the monthly meeting. It is fun to work together for a good cause and see what treasures are going to get a new life.

The annual Shop, Show, and Tell party where you thrift and share your treasures repurposed to suit your needs will continue, date to be announced later.

## **Education and Libraries**

*Diane Shepard, Chairperson*  
920-606-9384



### **Education and Libraries CSP**

members (front to back) Susan Plautz, Karen Loewecke, and Diane Shepard (Chairperson) reported their hours for placing labels in the dictionaries that were distributed in 2024 to ALL 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Menominee County.

## Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)

Karen Sutek, Chairperson

920-676-3119

ESO is always welcoming new members and please let me know if you are interested. All members in 2025 will record Author, Title, and Date you finished the book. New members will receive a pledge form and sheets to start recording your books. Lists are turned in once a year.

For the year **2024**, 23 ESO readers reported 921 books read! Very impressive and fun!

"A book is a gift you can open again and again." — Garrison Keillor

### The Education Committee is Collecting!

Just a reminder that the Education Committee continues to collect:

- Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House
  - Pennies for Spies Library
- Please keep collecting these items and bring them to our next general meeting!



### Environment

If you are interested in chairing this CSP please contact Tina Porod 715-923-5991 or Donna Suchovsky 402-740-2271.

**If you have something that you would like to donate for the Environment CSP basket for All Things Chocolate, you can bring it to our club's general meeting February 5th.**

### Health and Wellness

Barbara Jones, Chairperson

312-848-0102

### Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

The Health and Wellness Committee is helping to keep us warm and healthy during the cold winter weather. The next date for our Talk and Walk will be announced at the February general meeting. We are looking to set a consistent date/time so that everyone can plan their schedules accordingly.

Health and Wellness has been offering a "healthy recipes" station at our general meetings. In January, our recipes were all about soups. Many thanks to Mary Lou Nast Carol Jeske, and Mary Oswald, (shown in the photo below) for providing samples of their nutritious soups and corn bread. In February we look forward to sharing and tasting "healthy salads." Please share your favorite healthy salad recipes and read some new ones.



Additional members shown in the front of the table are H&W CSP chair Barbara Jones and member Karen Loewecke is sampling the soup.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Health and Wellness has added this area to our newsletter to help you enjoy new uses for common products that we likely have around our homes. Did you know that *baking soda* has many different applications? Those who bake are familiar with its ability to mix with an acid, like vinegar or citrus juice, to produce a lighter and fluffier product. Many of you may already use it to keep your refrigerators, garbage disposals, waste baskets, carpets, and kitchen sink drains smelling fresh. Baking soda can enhance oral hygiene when used as a toothpaste or mouth wash, and it can also be used to whiten your laundry. Baking soda is also great to have on hand in your kitchen to extinguish small fires that result from oil or grease. (*However, DO NOT count on a box of baking soda to extinguish large fires.*) Pots, pans, sinks, and surfaces, and laundry can be brightened with baking soda; fresh produce can be washed in a baking soda bath; and it can also be used on icy surfaces to melt ice and give a little more

traction to prevent falls. That little box is certainly worth its price!

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Judy Bramschreiber, Coordinator

906-863-2052

The next Red Cross blood drive in Menominee will be February 24 & 25. There will be a sign-up sheet at our February general meeting for volunteers.

### GFWC MI News to Know



Lucy Hermanson, Liaison  
510-847-4401

Mark your calendar! Bay Cliff Day is scheduled for July 15, 2025. More information about donation items and carpooling will be available later in the spring or early summer.



### Guiding Harbor

Ellen Wertepny,  
Liaison,  
920-676-6223

Guiding Harbor is making plans to add an Independent Living Project which would offer housing and teach life skills for girls ages 18-22. Additional housing will be required to accommodate this need, and a Gala raised over \$35,000 toward the new facility.

If you would like to learn more about Guiding Harbor and this exciting project, please visit its website at <https://guidingharbor.org>

February 2025, page 4  
GFWC Menominee Newsletter