

Celebrating GFWC Clubwomen: UP District 5 Annual Meeting Once a Year

The following is a Review by Judy Reid (Menominee), GFWC UPD 5 Membership Chair.

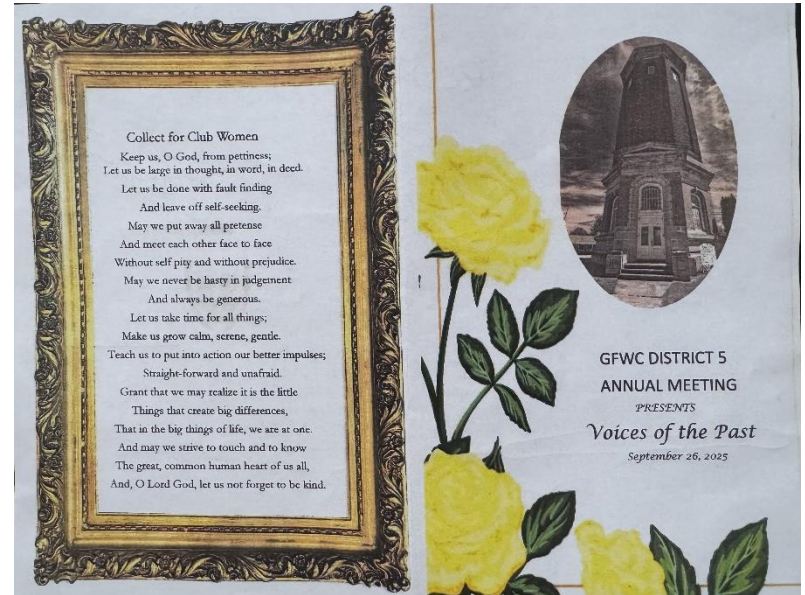
Each September GFWC Clubwomen from the Upper Peninsula are invited to attend the District 5 Annual Meeting. GFWC Manistique hosted the meeting this year, GFWC Escanaba will host it next year on Friday, September 25, 2026 (Mark your calendar!)



Representing GFWC Menominee at our GFWC UP District 5 Annual Meeting in Manistique: L-R Judy Reid: Club Membership Chair, Donna Suchovsky: Co-Vice-President, Tina Porord: Co-Vice President, and Eileen Beyer: Co-President.

After months of preparation, clubwomen in the General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) from the four clubs in the Upper Peninsula District 5 – Escanaba, Iron Mtn / Kingsford, Manistique, and Menominee gathered at the Comfort Inn in Manistique on September 26, 2025 to share, learn, and be encouraged. The theme for this Annual Meeting was '**Voices of the Past.**' It was a Perfect Day!

Ladies from the GFWC Manistique club dressed for the occasion, as they portrayed women from the past.





(Left) GFWC Meno Past President 2010 - 2012, Ruby Ivens was featured on one of the lovely table centerpieces as one of our GFWC Past Voices.

(Right) One of our Past GFWC Meno Club Presidents (1986-1988 and 1996-1998, and UP District 5 President 1990-1992, and creator of the UP District 5 **Annual Spark Plug Award**, Jane Stripling – current Active member, was also featured on one of the special table centerpieces. Jane is truly a remarkable GFWC Clubwoman. Her support and knowledge is invaluable.



GFWC MI State President Rae Lynn Hicks (Swartz Creek) (left) and UP District President Janet Hickey (Manistique) (right) display the 'Cut-Out' of the Upper Peninsula District 5. Our challenge is to pin-point with RED ink all Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse shelters in the UP. This challenge corresponds with our GFWC International Day of Service on Saturday, September 27, 2025. GFWC Menominee collected items for our Rainbow House as its 2025 International Day of Service IDS project.





GFWC MI 1st Vice-President Diane LaBrea-Campbell (Lennon) (right in photo on left) presented GFWC Menominee Co-President Eileen Beyer with several Awards reflecting many of GFWC Menominee projects and achievements in 2024.



Becky Anderson (Manistique) gave the Invocation and Thought for the Day before our tasty sandwich & salad lunch... with melt in your mouth soft Cookies!

UP District 5 Membership Chair, Judy Reid (Menominee) reported on the status of membership in our District 5. Since July 1, 2024, our UP District 5 has welcomed 63 new ladies into our clubs. Welcome to all new members. May Volunteering via GFWC be fulfilling.

Judy asked each attendee to give 3 reasons Why She Renewed / Joined GFWC? (Take a few moments to complete your reasons. Then keep it with you when you Share Your GFWC Story.)

3 reasons WHY you joined / renewed your GFWC Membership:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.





GFWC MI UP District 5 Spark Plug Award: This award was founded in 1991 by Jane Stripling (Menominee) when she served as UP District 5 President. The Award is presented each year at the Fall UP District 5 Annual Meeting. Recipients of the Award are chosen by the current UP District 5 President.

UP District 5 President Janet Hickey have selected both Tina Porod and Donna Suchovsky (Menominee) to receive the 2025 Spark Plug Award. Their names have been engraved onto the 'Traveling' Spark Plug Award Plaque.

Together Donna and Tina have accomplished much for our district. President Janet recalled their fine leadership as Co-Chairs for the 2024 GFWC MI State Convention, hosted by the UP District 5, held in Menominee. They continue to lead as Co-Vice Presidents in GFWC Menominee. Their willingness to help whenever and wherever needed makes them excellent examples of Spark Plugs, ready to ignite GFWC.

(Photo: L-R Tina Porod, Janet Hickey, Donna Suchovsky, GFWC MI Presi Rae Lynn Hicks)



Memorial Ceremony conducted by L-R Sue Furney and Darrolyn Spannuth (Escanaba) for our Deceased Members.

Looking towards the future: L-R: GFWC MI President Rae Lynn Hicks conducted the Installation of GFWC UP District 5 Officers 2026-2028: President, Eileen Beyer (Menominee), Vice-President, Sue Furney (Escanaba), Secretary, Melissa White (Manistique), not shown - Treasurer, Nancy Sundstrom (Iron Mtn / Kingsford), GFWC MI 1st Vice-President Diane LaBrea- Campbell.

