



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

September, 2024

Good bye summer and hello fall! As we say goodbye to the “lazy days” of summer (I use that term loosely) we begin the “busy days” of fall starting with our first club meeting, followed by our National Day of Service, our District Meeting and the Great Lakes Region Conference which Michigan is hosting. That’s just September and October! I started putting “GFWC Tidbits” in our newsletter last month focusing on GFWC International and GFWC Michigan and I will be soon be adding some GFWC Big Rapids History as we have received a bin of historical information from Mary Sue Hansen dating back to the 1930s. Thank you so much Mary Sue.

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP(Membership)
Leona Royer, Secretary
Ann Stellard, Treasurer
Melonie James, Parliamentarian
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor

Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

I want to thank those of you that attended our CSP, Special Project and Advancements meeting. Four seasoned members and four new members discussed ideas and upcoming projects for the new club year. I appreciate those of you that have stepped up to be chairmen this year and I look forward to working with all of you.

Sue

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 10—Mum Sale Pick-Up

September 10 —First Club Meeting of the year, 6:00 social/6:30 meeting @ The Elk’s

September 27 & 28—GFWC National Day of Service

October 8—Club Meeting @ Elk’s 6:00 Social/ 6:30 meeting

October 12—NWD Meeting, Evart, MI

October 17-20—GFWC Great Lakes Region Meeting, Mundy Twp. (Flint)

November 9—Guiding Harbor Fundraiser, 6-10 pm, Baronette Renaissance, Novi

November 16—LEADS—Midland, MI 9:30 am—4:00 pm

Meeting Checklist

Dues \$65

\$ for Heifer Intl.

A FRIEND

Can Tabs

\$ for Watch Raffle

Batteries

Food Pantry Items

Sneakers

Used Greeting Cards



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

21—Joan Boroff

22—Ruth York

22—Melonie James

29—Pat Rossi



CARES AND CONCERNS

Mary Sue Hansen—health issues

BJ Johnson (Sue's son) - continued treatments

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues

Bruce Frederick (Dee's Husband) - surgery



GFWC Tidbits . . .

International Headquarters—A unique feature of 1734 N Street is the long, narrow room above the former carriageway (now the entrance to the Iron Gate Inn Restaurant), constructed in 1884 by owners Thaddeus and Augusta Markley. Having purchased a portion of the adjoining lot to create a grand driveway and admit more light into their home, the Markleys were dismayed to discover that plans for neighboring 1728 included windows overlooking their property. They constructed a wall to protect their privacy, but city building regulations limited its height; undeterred, they built an extension from the second floor, creating a space 12 ½ feet wide by 65 feet long that neighbors dubbed the "spite room."

The purpose of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Michigan is to unite the women's clubs of Michigan which enhance lives as well as improve communities, by creating and diffusing an enlightened public opinion, while focusing on today's community needs and concerns.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST CLUB MEETING OF THE YEAR!

Reminder:
Dues \$65

Tuesday, September 10th
6:00 social and 6:30 meeting
At the Elk's Lodge
203 E. Pine St.
Big Rapids, MI

Invite a friend who might be interested in GFWC-Big Rapids.

MUM SALE



GFWC will again hold a Mum Sale fundraiser this Fall. Mums are \$15 and GFWC will make a \$5.00 profit on each mum plant sold. Order forms were available at the August picnic for anyone wishing to take orders from their family and friends. Money must be turned in by September 3rd to Celeste. Mum plants are scheduled to be ready for pick up from Lee Ann's Flowers on September 10th from 12:00—3:00 p.m.

Remember, the mums were beautiful last year with a good choice of colors. Everyone loves mums in the fall, so start taking orders from your family and friends right now.



GFWC Big Rapids will be recognizing the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service which is again focusing on food insecurities. With that in mind, we will be working with Manna Pantry and Project Starburst. There will be a signup sheet at our September meeting for those willing to volunteer their time on September 27 & 28. The times for both Manna Pantry and Starburst will be listed then. In the meantime, the following is a list of the items that each organization is in need of. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to our meeting. These are their priority items.

Manna Pantry: toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, peanut butter, canned tuna, canned chicken or salmon (tab tops requested)

Project Starburst: canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned chicken (tab tops requested), instant or shelf safe milk



**OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION
October 17 - October 20, 2024
ROSE LOGSTON, GFWC GLR President**



“CELEBRATING THE POWER OF POSITIVE CONNECTIONS”

You are enthusiastically invited to attend the 2024 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference
October 17 - October 20, 2024, at [the newly renovated](#)
Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Mundy Township, MI
(Postal address is 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint, MI 48507)

The members of GFWC Michigan are excited to welcome you to their home state and share “Living the Volunteer Spirit” with you. We’ll start the weekend with a meet and greet time on Thursday evening for those coming in early enough to go on the wonderful tour to Frankenmuth on Friday. The tour will make a stop at the famous **Bronner’s CHRISTmas Wonderland** and then on to the historic downtown where you can enjoy some shopping and sightseeing. You won’t want to leave without sampling one of the world-famous, all-you-can-eat, family-style chicken dinners at [Zehnder's of Frankenmuth](#) or [Bavarian Inn Restaurant](#). We’ll be joined by GFWC President Suellen Brazil and President-elect Wendy Carriker as we “Educate, Engage, and Empower” members of the GFWC Great Lakes Region!

Information will be available at the registration desk for those who do not want to venture to Frankenmuth regarding a “journey of discovery and imagination” right near the facility. The Longway Planetarium, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint Institute of Music, Sloan Museum of Discovery, Applewood Estate, and the beautiful Gloria Coles Library are all within walking distance of each other.

Registration will be open or as needed:

Thursday, October 17: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday, October 18: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, October 19: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

GFWC Great Lakes Region and GFWC MI President’s Project for 2024 Conference: We will be collecting items for the **Whaley Children’s Center**. Whaley Children's Center provides shelter, hope and healing to nearly 90 children each year who are survivors of horrific abuse and neglect. Through an intense treatment process provided by qualified and dedicated staff, children are taught the skills necessary to thrive in life as well as given strategies to cope with their past and press on to greater futures.

Whaley Children's Center empowers youth and families to overcome trauma and be a source of hope, care, and treatment to Michigan's abused, neglected, and at-risk children and families.

The Center has a total commitment to treating all children and families with fairness, dignity and respect regardless of race, age, creed, ethnicity, orientation or ability.

They embrace and encourage strengths-based relationships through the sharing of experiences and the celebration of multiculturalism in a supportive atmosphere and strive to be leaders in the treatment of at-risk children and their families and creating an environment that fosters positive change and growth.
(Information taken from www.whaleychildren.org)

A full list of needs is attached and if you do not want to bring your donation with you, you can order from Amazon and they will deliver right to their doorstep. If you choose to order direct, please report the amount of your purchase at the registration table so we can track our impact.

Thursday evening- There will be a “Meet and Greet” area with some refreshments. We may also have a hands-on project for our special emphasis or for fun!

Friday morning 8:15 AM the bus will leave the hotel at 8:30 AM for the **World Famous Frankenmuth** Tour. First stop will be at the Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland, then you will be taken downtown Frankenmuth where you can shop and/or eat at your leisure. You will return to the hotel around 3:30 PM, just in time for the Great Lakes Region Board Meeting scheduled to start at 3:45 PM.

Please wear your GFWC emblematic apparel during the tour or the sightseeing.

Friday afternoon 3:45 PM The GFWC Great Lakes Region Board of Directors will meet from 3:45-4:30 PM. Officers, Chairmen, and Region representatives who are scheduled to give reports at the Board Meeting and/or during the Conference are asked to send your reports to GLR Secretary, Candy Godbee and copy GLR President, Rose Logston before Tuesday, October 15th. If you cannot do this bring two copies to this meeting.

Friday evening 6:30 PM The Social half hour begins at 6:30 PM with a cash bar and an opportunity to catch up with long-time friends and make new Federation friends. You will be able to socialize with GFWC International President Suellen Brazil and President-elect Wendy Carriker before we enjoy the “We Can Do It” state night dinner and entertainment **beginning at 7:00 PM**. You might want to wear some Rosie the Riveter attire, more information will be shared. A local band “Rodeo Drive” will provide some great music after dinner so you might want to wear some dancing shoes.

Saturday 9:00 AM the opening ceremonies of the **2024 Great Lakes Region Conference** will begin with the “Great Eight” procession. The Business Session will include reports from the GFWC Chairmen and/or Committee members representing our Region on the GFWC Board of Directors. These representatives will present platform workshops and presentations while sharing great information with us. The election of the Region Nominating Committee will take place and we will hear from our 2024 LEADS graduates. We will also have a little fun time getting to know each other better.

Saturday 12:00 PM “Celebrating Living the Volunteer Spirit” Luncheon with keynote speaker, GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker and a visit from a representative of the Whaley Children’s Center. We will present her with the items donated by the members of the Region. (I know your generosity will overwhelm her.)

Saturday 2:15 PM Business session will resume

Saturday 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Incoming 2026-2028 leaders will meet with GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker. This will include 2026-2028 Region President, State Presidents, and State Directors of Junior Clubs

Saturday 4:15 PM - 5:00 PM “Tea and Talk” time in the GLR President’s room #200
(Maybe something stronger than tea)

Last chance to visit our “Vendors” - please support them

Saturday evening 6:30 PM – The Social half hour begins at 6:30 PM with a cash bar and an opportunity to socialize.

Saturday 7:00 PM. “Celebrating our KIND, RESPECTFUL, AND ENTHUSIASTIC CONNECTIONS” dinner. Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President, will be our keynote speaker and will “Educate, Engage, and Empower” us. During dessert, we will enjoy the music of the Madrigal Choir from Swartz Creek High School. After dinner some more special music and some fundraising fun!

Sunday morning 9:15 AM – 9:30 AM Inspirational Music by Harriett Groh, GFWC GLR Music Chairman

Sunday 9:30 AM Resume Session

Join us at this closing session where we’ll hear the exciting reports from the GLR Great Eight and the Region Officers, We will have the Memorial Service and remember our friends and loved ones whom we have lost this last year. Remember to send the names of any members your club lost so we can honor their contribution to GFWC. There will be some closing words from our GFWC Officers and the invitation to the **2025 Conference in Ohio**, before we adjourn the **2024 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference**.

DRESS FOR THE WEEKEND

When traveling, remember to wear your GFWC logo wear and membership pin.

Friday – Comfortable clothes & walking shoes –Wear your GFWC Apparel. **We want residents and visitors of Frankenmuth to ask “what is GFWC”.**

Friday Board of Directors Meeting- Come as you have been for the day.

Friday Evening –Celebrate “Rosie the Riveter” so wear something to represent Rosie. If not, wear your “church clothes”. No need to wear formal attire.

Saturday – Business Casual

Saturday Evening – Dressy or Cocktail

Sunday Morning- Travel Wear with GFWC emblematic pins or logos.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

GFWC Great Lakes Region Fundraising – we will have some fundraising at various times for the week-end. There will be a Split the Pot on Friday evening and maybe Saturday lunch, then Saturday evening after dinner we will have a live and interactive fundraising party.

On the last page of this CALL you will see the information about the major fundraiser for Michigan. It is an opportunity to win a Michigan manufactured Shinola watch with a value of \$600.00. The proceeds of this fundraiser will help Michigan offset the expenses incurred while serving as our hosts this weekend.

State Presidents & Directors of Junior Clubs – Please be prepared to present a report of not more than four minutes. GLR Vice-President Loretta Caron will contact you with more detailed information.

Please **remember to bring your state flag, pole, and stand** for Saturday morning opening ceremonies. The flag bearer is to wear white gloves.

Deadlines – Please adhere to the GLR and Hotel deadlines as listed on the Registration Form. **The hotels are no longer preparing meals for additional attendees so get your reservations in on time and be sure and make your selections, if offered.**

Breakfast will be on your own each morning and the restaurant serves a buffet for \$18.00. It will hard to order ala carte because of the timing, but coffee will be available in the meeting room throughout the day.

**Please share this Call with all the members in your state and club.
Encourage them to join us in Michigan.**

Special contest in celebration of the 50th anniversary of GFWC Great Lakes Region

“Bring One – Get One” *If you bring a member who has never attended a GLR Region Conference, you and your “newbie” will receive one entry into a drawing for a new designer purse with matching wallet. The entries will be saved and the drawing will be held at the close of the Conference in Ohio in 2025.*

You don’t need to be present to win, we can ship. (Purse and wallet donated by GLR President Rose Logston)

Hotel Reservation deadline is October 01, 2024

Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Mundy Township, MI

(Postal address is 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint, MI 48507)

**(Special rates of \$99.00 plus taxes per night for King and
\$109.00 for Double Queen have been granted)**

800-465-4329 or 810-232-5300



REGISTRATION FORM
GFWC GREAT LAKES REGION CONFERENCE
October 17th - October 20th, 2024

Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Mundy Township
5353 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Flint, MI 48507



Name: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

____ Home

Phone: ____ Cell _____ Officer/Chairman: _____

Club/District/State Affiliation: _____ / _____ / _____

Registration Fee: **\$35.00** _____

*A late fee of \$25 will be added with a postmark after the **due date of October 1, 2024***

Friday – Bus Tour to Frankenmuth Bus leaves at 8:30 AM **\$36.00** _____

*Tour Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and Frankenmuth (includes transportation, all fees & gratuities)
Lunch is on your own.*

Friday – Michigan State Night – We Can Do It Dinner

Salad/Pork /Deep Dish Caramel Apple Pie \$69.00 _____

Salad/Chicken Marsala/ Deep Dish Caramel Apple Pie \$69.00 _____

Saturday –Celebrating Living the Volunteer Spirit Lunch **\$33.00** _____

Baked Potato Buffet/2 soups/Dessert

Saturday – Celebrating the Kind, Respectful, and Enthusiastic Connections Dinner

Salad/Twin Beef Tenderloin/Chocolate Dessert \$74.00 _____

Salad/Champagne Chicken/Chocolate Dessert \$69.00 _____

Mini Mart Space – State Fundraising **\$20.00** _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate all dietary restrictions:

Make Checks Payable to: GFWC Michigan

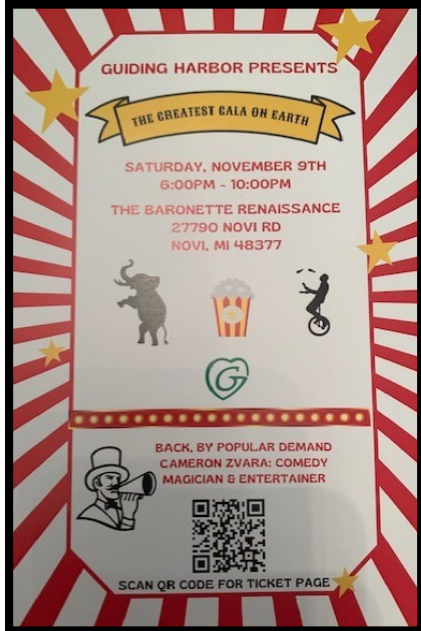
Send Registration To: Lisa Breuer, 4156 Auburn Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48073

248-854-0776 gfwcmifinance@gmail.com

Registration must be received by October 01, 2024

Are you a first time attendee? _____

Less than 5 yr. member ____ 25+ yrs. ____ 50+ yrs. ____



GUIDING HARBOR FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendar!

November 9, 2024

6-10 p.m.

The Baronette Renaissance

27790 Novi Rd.

Novi, MI

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL FUNDRAISER

President Sue will have raffle tickets available to purchase for the Shinola Watch Raffle at the September meeting.



Don't Throw Away Old Sneakers

Bring your old sneakers to the September club meeting and learn more about this program.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

You're the Zest!!!

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC



Beautiful evening for a picnic.



The food was great!



Mel the grill master did a great job.



Celeste shared information about the mum sale.



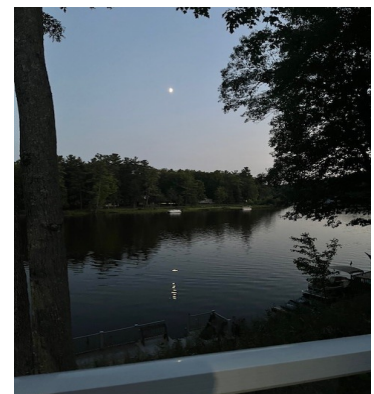
Delores was the winner of the "can" game.



Carla was the winner of the "Linda Says" game.



Thirteen members and two guests enjoyed a beautiful summer evening picnic at Ann Stellard's home on the river. Thank you Ann for hosting the annual picnic.





Six members were able to attend the Intimate Theater production at Artworks after enjoying dinner at Schuberg's. The play was fantastic and lots of laughs were heard throughout the entire night.

Flower of the Month

(Brought to you by the Environment CSP)



The common **Morning Glory** is often the first flowering vine that gardeners become familiar with. These fast-growing vines are in the same botanical family as [sweet potatoes](#), although they don't produce edible tubers.

The brightly colored trumpet-shaped flowers of the common morning glory have a slight fragrance and are popular with butterflies and hummingbirds. The buds are twirled up tightly and unfold when the sun hits them in the morning, giving them their unique name.

Native to Mexico and Central America, common morning glory vines grow by clinging to nearby supports with tendrils, rapidly growing up to 12 feet or more during the season. Note that morning glory species are toxic to people and pets.

Plant type:	Perennial, Annual
Mature Size:	6-10 ft. tall, 3-6 ft. wide
Sun Exposure:	Full
Soil Type:	Moist, Well-drained
Soil pH:	Neutral, Acidic
Bloom Time:	Summer, Fall
Flower Color:	Purple, Pink, Blue, White
Hardiness Zone:	2-11

Information taken from www.thespruce.com