



# GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

## March, 2026

Happy “almost Spring”. We got a nice teaser last week but now it’s back to winter. It won’t be long though before we are mowing grass and pulling weeds.

We have so many things going on in GFWC, the Northwestern District Gathering, State Convention, our annual yard sale, May Banquet (remember we are celebrating 55 years of GFWC-Big Rapids), the installation of our new club officers and oh yes, our celebration luncheon for our Woman of Achievement Linda. Hope you all have your calendars marked for the events.

I also want to thank all of our new and soon to be new members for joining GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. We all look forward to working with you and so glad you chose us to volunteer and have fun with.

*Sue*

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137  
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President  
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP( Membership)  
Leona Royer, Secretary   
Cheryl Tessier, Treasurer  
Melonie James, Parliamentarian  
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor -  
231-250-2088  
Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- March 10—Club Meeting—6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elks
- March 12—Woman of Achievement Lunch—noon @ El Burrito
- March 14—Northwestern District Gathering in Evert, Sacred Heart Catholic Church on US10-noon-3:00 p.m. No Cost
- March 14-”Anchors Aweigh” film, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 726 Fuller, 2:00 p.m.
- April 14—Club Meeting 6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elks
- April 23-25—GFWC Michigan State Convention—Troy, MI (More info coming)



### CHECKLIST FOR MEETING

- A friend who is interested in GFWC
- Used Greeting Cards
- Can Tabs
- Used Batteries
- Used Sneakers
- WEAR GREEN!!**
- \$ Heifer International



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**5—Melanie Henry**



**CARES AND CONCERNS**

Sue Bean—knee surgery

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



## GF WC TIDBITS.....



**GF WC International**— Join the General Federation of Women’s Clubs for “Historic Heroines: Celebrating 250 years of American Women’s Stories.” In honor of Women’s History Month, we’ll shine a spotlight on the trailblazers, visionaries, and unsung heroes whose courage and leadership helped shape our nation.

**GF WC Michigan**—GF WC Michigan focuses on community service, with local clubs organizing projects to support education and empowerment during March, coinciding with National Women’s History Month.

**GF WC Big Rapids**—GF WC-Big Rapids Immediate Women’s Club held its first meeting on March 15, 1971.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### GF WC NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT GATHERING

Sacred Heart Catholic Church—9878 US-10—Ewart, MI

March 14, 2026

noon—3:00 p.m. (No Cost)

See Invitation on Next Page



*MATINEES WITH BARBARA*

FEATURING

### ANCHOR’S AWEIGH

(Starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra)

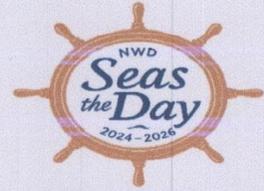
MARCH 14, 2026

2:00—4:00 P.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church—726 Fuller Avenue—Big Rapids



***Join us at the***



## **GFWC Northwestern District Spring Gathering**

**Saturday, March 14, 2026**

**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**

**9878 US-10, Ewart MI**

**Take a little drive and spend an afternoon with your GFWC District sisters!**

**Enjoy a potluck lunch and hear about all things AI, the new GFWC Learning Academy and GFWC International Website, and sister club events.**

**Each CLUB is asked to bring a dish to pass (see below) and the NWD Board will provide table service and drinks.**

**Big Rapids – Side Dish or Salad**

**Ewart – Desserts**

**Lake City – Side Dish or Salad**

**Mecosta – Fruit**

**Reed City - Sandwiches**

**Please RSVP to NWD District President, Melissa Povilaitis, by text @ 989-429-4479 or by email to [mpovilaitis2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mpovilaitis2002@yahoo.com) by March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**\*Melissa is still accepting donated books for her District President's Project\***



**SPORT YOUR IRISH ATTIRE**



**TO OUR  
CLUB MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2026**



**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT LUNCH**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH**

**NOON AT EL BURITTO**

**Come join the fun as we honor our  
Woman of Achievement—Linda Telfer.**

**SIGN-UP IN MARCH**

**Sign-up sheets will be available at the March meeting allowing members to choose their CSP and committee assignments for the 2026-2027 club year. Can you believe that the end of the club year is almost here?**



**NOMINATIONS AND VOTING**

**You still have the opportunity to serve your club by being an officer. Officer nominations are still being accepted with final nominations and voting to take place at the March meeting.**



**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION**

**GFWCM 131st STATE  
CONVENTION  
APRIL 23-25, 2026  
SOMERSET INN  
2601 W. BIG BEAVER  
TROY MI 48084**



**RESERVE YOUR ROOM BEFORE APRIL 8, 2026**  
COST: \$139 PLUS TAXES for up to 2 people; \$10 for each additional person  
WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY  
CHECK IN TIME: 3 PM      CHECK-OUT TIME: 12 NOON  
**RESERVE BY**  
GROUP BLOCK CODE: **General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Michigan**  
CALL – 248-643-7800      Or visit the link in this email to register online  
**Convention activities will be Thursday noon through late Saturday Night (10 pm)**

**IN-ROOM AMENITIES**

- Complimentary wireless Internet
- Flat-screen TV with accessories
- Large working desk with charging ports
- Blow dryer, Iron and board
- Messages and voicemail
- Same day valet laundry service
- Rollaway, extra towels or extra pillows upon request
- Coffeemaker

**HOTEL AMENITIES**

- Business Center and Free High Speed Internet
- Sundries Shop
- Fitness Center
- Golf Course
- Crumpets Restaurant
- Flat-screen TV with accessories



**SIGN UP TODAY USING THE QR CODE BELOW.....**



# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Support your neighbors in need at our  
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC coming to**

***BIG RAPIDS, MI***

Remote Area Medical (RAM®) provides free, quality healthcare to those in need:



## **DENTAL CARE**

Dentists, Oral Surgeons,  
Dental Assistants, Hygienists



## **VISION CARE**

Optometrists, Ophthalmolo-  
gists, Opticians, Vision Techs



## **MEDICAL CARE**

Physicians, Physician Assistants,  
Nurse Practitioners, Nurses



## **GENERAL SUPPORT**

Interpreters, Guides, Data Entry,  
and Much More!

**JOIN OUR  
MISSION  
BY SIGNING  
UP TO  
VOLUNTEER  
TODAY!**

***MAY 30-31, 2026***

**R.L. Ewigleben Sports Complex  
210 Sports Drive  
Big Rapids, MI 49307**

*Presented By:*



**FERRIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

## HELP IS NEEDED

Continued from previous page.....

**Please consider volunteering** for the RAM (Remote Area Medical) event to be held Saturday, May 30. The Health and Wellness CSP is looking for volunteers to help the entire day from 5:00 am to 6:00 pm

The event is at the Ferris State's Ewingleben Sports Complex, 210 Sports Drive. Faculty and students from Ferris State's College of Health Professions, Michigan College of Optometry, College of Pharmacy, and several from other fields will work alongside professionals and volunteers from across the region to provide health care.

RAM is an organization that bridges the gap in the American health system by providing free healthcare services to those in need. Using large-scale mobile clinics around the country, RAM partners with local organizations like Ferris State to deliver quality healthcare to underserved and uninsured individuals who don't have access to or cannot afford medical, dental or vision care.

Here's what you'll need to do to register with Remote Area Medical:

1. Go to the website at RAMUSA.org and click on the red **VOLUNTEER** button at upper right.
2. On the next page, click on the red **REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER** button at the center of the screen.
3. On the next page, complete the registration form
4. When you get down to the **Profession or Volunteer Classification** section be sure to select **General Support (GS)** in the Profession/Classification blank.
5. Under **Events & Assignments** you can ignore the first blank and go to the **Event Category** field. There select **Clinics** or **Telehealth**.
6. The next field, **Events & Assignments**, is very important. There you'll select the **event you plan to attend**. **Below that is where you select the dates that you'll be working at the RAM clinic.**
7. The registration system will give you the opportunity to add a picture of yourself. This could make it easier for you when you show up at the clinic location, but it is not required.
8. In the next section please read and sign off on the **Liability Waiver**.
9. Finally, go to the bottom of the page and click the red **SAVE AND SUBMIT** button.

For questions, please contact Sue Bean (231-580-9546) or Vickie Vogel (231-287-2204).

**Aiding in the health of others in our community.**



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....



### BACK YARD BIRD COUNT

February 13-16, 2026



Five members participated in the Back Yard Bird Count this year. Three members saw a vast amount of different birds, one member saw 32 finches and the fifth member saw nothing. Please consider doing this next year as I know many of you even have bird feeders.

### GIRLS STATE SCHOLARSHIP



At the February Club meeting, the American Legion Post #98 was presented a check for \$425 to sponsor a girl attending Girls State.

Pictured is Sue Johnson, Linda Telfer, Skylar Posigian (Girls State Coordinator), Moriah Lundwall (Girls State Alumni and current mentor), and Abby Lundwall (Girls State Nominee).



## HEART HEALTH MONTH



If you were unable to attend the February club meeting, you missed a fun evening with heart trivia and maybe a little betting taking place. Look at this group of women wearing their red to the February club meeting in recognition of Heart Health Month. Thank you ladies!!!

## THE FISH PROJECT UPDATE



Sue Johnson and Linda Telfer visited the Welding Lab at Ferris on February 23 to see how the fish project was coming along. These students are so excited about this project!



# FLOWER OF THE MONTH- From the Environment CSP



## *The Shamrock*

To grow shamrock plants (Oxalis) indoors, place them in bright, indirect light—such as an east-facing windowsill—and maintain temperatures between 60-75 degrees F.

Water when the top inch of soil is dry, allowing the soil to dry out slightly between waterings, and use a well-draining potting mix. Feed monthly with a balanced liquid fertilizer during active growth.

### **Key Care Tips:**

**Light:** High light is essential; inadequate light causes leggy weak growth.

**Watering:** Overwatering leads to root rot. If the plant becomes soggy, it will rot, and if it becomes too dry, it will wilt.

**Dormancy:** Shamrocks typically go dormant for 2-3 months in summer, during which the leaves turn yellow and die. When this happens, stop watering and fertilizing, and move the plant to a cool, dry place.

**Temperature & Humidity:** They prefer cooler conditions, particularly at night (50—65 degrees F), and average household humidity.

**Repotting:** Divide and repot tubers during the dormant stage for healthier, fuller plants.

**Pests:** Watch for spider mites, which can be found under the leaves.

Oxalis triangularis (purple shamrock) will open its leaves during the day and fold them up at night, which is normal behavior.

*Courtesy of English Gardens*

