



# GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

## August, 2026

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**August 11**—Annual Club Picnic and Membership Drive 6:00 pm (see page 4)

**September 8**—First Club Meeting of the Year—6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ the Elks Lodge

**September 26**—District Meeting and International Day of Service—Reed City Methodist Church

**October 1-4**—Great Lakes Region Meeting in Wisconsin

**October 13**—Club Meeting @ the Elks Lodge

**October 29**—4Bs Fundraiser @ Artworks

**November 10**—Club Meeting @ the Elks Lodge

**December 8**—Christmas Party

Linda Telfer, President, 231-250-2088

Delores Simpson, 1st VP

Mel James, 2nd VP (Membership)

Leona Royer, Secretary

Cheryl Tessier, Treasurer

Pam Hughes, Parliamentarian

Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor -

231-250-2088

Sue Johnson, Past Club President

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



### ***Note from your President . . .***

Where has the summer gone? We are into August with our picnic scheduled on the 11th. I ask that you invite a friend to the picnic who might be interested in GFWC. Pam Hughes has arranged for any golfers to join her at 3:00 at the Clear Lake Golf Course. After golfing, a potluck meal will be enjoyed.

We had club members travelling to the UP to visit Bay Cliff Health Camp and to Mt. Pleasant to attend the State Board Meeting and the State Advisory Meeting. We also had a group go to Meijer Gardens to enjoy the Chihuly art exhibit. You ladies are rocking it!!!

Keep up the good work and let's get some more members to join in on the fun.

*Linda Telfer*



## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

**31—Karin McKean**



### **CARES AND CONCERNS**

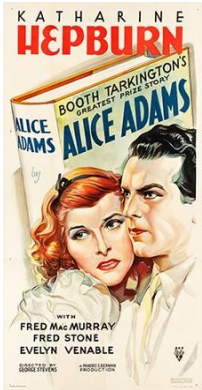
Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Leona Royer—family health issues

Mel James—family health issues

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*MATINEES WITH BARBARA*

FEATURING

**“ALICE ADAMS”**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026**

**2:00—4:00 P.M.**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church—726 Fuller Avenue—Big Rapids**

***Annual Club Picnic  
AND  
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!***



***Tuesday, August 11, 2026***

***3:00 p.m. Golfing***

***6:00 p.m. Dinner***

***Clear Lake Golf Course***

***14777 150th Avenue—Big Rapids***

***Bring a FRIEND and a dish to pass.***

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

### GARDEN WORK



Wow, it has been too hot to work in the gardens much. We are so thankful that the City of Big Rapids is watering them as I'm not sure what they would look like otherwise. The post office garden is looking pretty colorful right now.

### Arts & Culture Project

The Arts & Culture CSP gathered at Delores Simpson's home on July 17th to work on the quilt for the fundraiser for the International Convention in 2028. The ladies cut out letters and after the work was completed, off to El Burrito they went to have a little fun. If you would like to participate in this project, contact Delores. She will be explaining this at the picnic. Below are some members on an important supply gathering mission.



## MEIJER GARDEN TOUR/CHIHULY ART SHOW

Thursday, July 23, 2026



Nine club members and two Mecosta club members enjoyed a day at Meijer Gardens viewing the Chihuly art exhibit. What a nice exposure to some unbelievable art.



Mel James and Sue Johnson spent the day with 18 other GFWC members, the new Bay Cliff Director Mr. Jack and Lady Di as they toured the camp and ate lunch with the campers. They delivered pillows, silverware, art supplies and games from the camp's wish list.

# GFWC MICHIGAN 2026 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

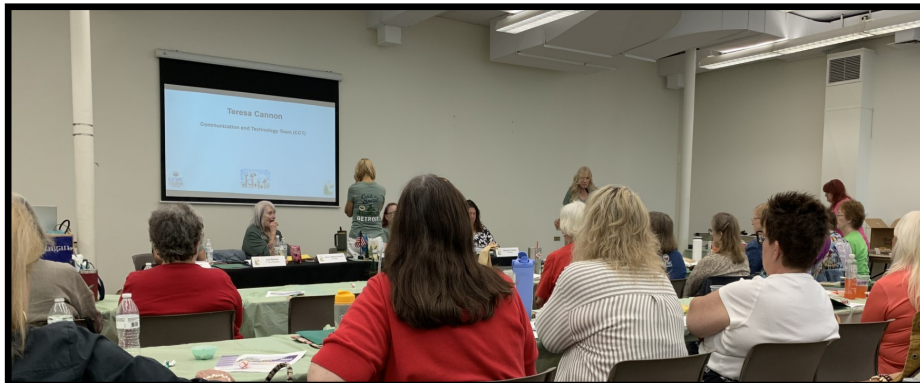
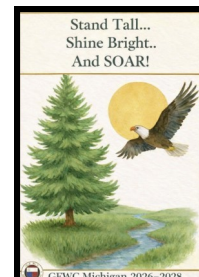
**Saturday, July 25, 2026**

Veterans Memorial Library — Mt. Pleasant

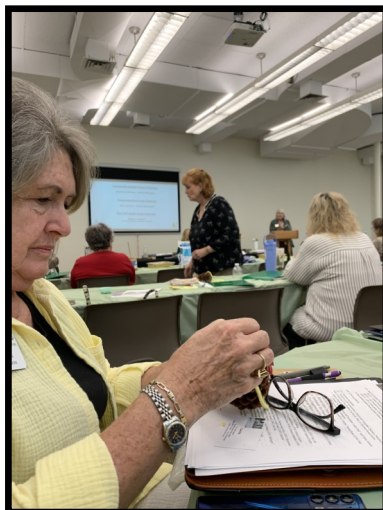


Leona Royer, Pam Hughes, Mel James, Linda Telfer & Sue Johnson

Five members attended the State Advisory Board Meeting to learn what the new initiatives are for 2026-2028.



Leona Royer, Pam Hughes, Mel James working on the environment project.



Sue Johnson working on the environment project.



Melissa Povilaitis (past District President) and Linda Telfer (current District President) having a little fun. Melissa made me do it!!

**NEW FOR THE  
STATE  
CONVENTION!!!**

## GFWC MI CONTESTS GFWC MICHIGAN ARTS AND CRAFT CONTEST

*Convention Host Club will select the judges.*

Find Entry Tags in the "Forms" section in the back of this yearbook.

There are two levels: professional and amateur. Persons selling a minimum of \$500 per year are deemed professional by GFWC MI. (Note that professional status is a state designation, not a national one.) You may be a professional in one class and remain an amateur in others. Professionals are asked to please designate their status by checking the spot marked professional on their entry tags. Also note the entry tags ask if the work is original or kit based.

All paintings must be matted. Pastels must be sprayed with a fixative.

To avoid competing against yourself you shall limit your entries to one per class.

All artisans are encouraged to notify the Arts Community Service Program Chairman of their intent to exhibit 30 days prior to state convention to ensure an appropriate judging staff is procured. Entry must be completed in the calendar year prior to convention. Each CLASS will be judged on its own merit, eligible to be awarded first, second, or third place ribbons.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>SECTION A: KNITTING</u></b><br>Class 1: Adult Wear<br>Class 2: Children's Wear<br>Class 3: Afghans<br>Class 4: All Other                                                                                                                                 | <b><u>SECTION B: CROCHET</u></b><br>Class 1: Adult Wear<br>Class 2: Children's Wear<br>Class 3: Afghans<br>Class 4: All Others                                      | <b><u>SECTION C: SEWING</u></b><br>Class 1: Adult Wear<br>Class 2: Children's Wear<br>Class 3: Household Accessories<br>Class 4: All Others                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><u>SECTION D: FOLK ART</u></b><br>Class 1: Woodworking<br>Class 2: Wood Burning<br>Class 3: Carving<br>Class 4: Metal Art<br>Class 5: Basket Making<br>Class 6: All Others                                                                                  | <b><u>SECTION E: JEWELRY</u></b><br>Class 1: Earrings<br>Class 2: Necklaces<br>Class 3: Bracelets<br>Class 4: Sets<br>Class 5: All Others                           | <b><u>SECTION F: EMBROIDERY &amp; NEEDLEPOINT</u></b><br>Class 1: Pillows & Pillowcases<br>Class 2: Clothing<br>Class 3: Framed & Matted Pictures<br>Class 4: Counted Cross Stitch<br>Class 5: Linens (Tablecloths, Towels, Etc.)<br>Class 6: All Others                                                                                                            |
| <b><u>SECTION G: HOLIDAY DECORATIONS</u></b><br>Class 1: Wood<br>Class 2: Glass<br>Class 3: Metal<br>Class 4: Fabric<br>Class 5: All Others                                                                                                                    | <b><u>SECTION H: PAINTING</u></b><br>Class 1: Watercolor<br>Class 2: Acrylic<br>Class 3: Oils<br>Class 4: Mixed Media<br>Class 5: All Others                        | <b><u>SECTION I: DRAWING</u></b><br>Class 1: Pencil<br>Class 2: Pen & Ink<br>Class 3: Pastels<br>Class 4: Mixed Media<br>Class 5: All Others                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b><u>SECTION J: DOLLS/TOYS</u></b><br>Class 1: Porcelain<br>Class 2: Fabric<br>Class 3: Knitted or Crocheted<br>Class 4: All Others                                                                                                                           | <b><u>SECTION K: HANDMADE CARDS</u></b><br>Class 1: Cards made from a kit<br>Class 2: 2D Cards Handcrafted<br>Class 3: 3D Cards Handcrafted<br>Class 4: All Others  | <b><u>SECTION N: QUILTING</u></b><br>Class 1: Quilt Hand Pieced & Hand Quilted<br>Class 2: Quilt Hand Pieced & Machine Quilted<br>Class 3: Quilt Machine Pieced & Hand Quilted<br>Class 4: Quilt Machine Pieced & Machine Quilted<br>Class 5: Appliqued Quilts<br>Class 6: Quilted Accessories (Pillows, Table Runners, Wall Hangings, etc.)<br>Class 7: All Others |
| <b><u>SECTION L: MISC. CRAFTS</u></b><br>Class 1: Repurposed/Recycled Art<br>Class 2: Glass Fusing/Sea Glass Art<br>Class 3: Weaving/Rugs<br>Class 4: Felting 2D & 3D<br>Class 5: Origami/Paper Crafts<br>Class 6: Alcohol Ink<br>Class 7: All Other Surprises | <b><u>SECTION M: POTTERY</u></b><br>Class 1: Slab & Coil Formed<br>Class 2: Mold Formed<br>Class 3: Clay Air Dried<br>Class 4: Wheel Pottery<br>Class 5: All Others |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## New for the State Convention!!!

58

### **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS**

#### **\*\* NEW CATEGORIES FOR PICTURES \*\***

**\*\* No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated photos are allowed. AI tools may not be used to add new content or alter the original photograph significantly, however, tools for editing (sharpening, dodging and burning, and color adjusting) are allowed.**

***Convention Host Club will select the judges.***

GFWC Michigan's Photography awards have several categories which are listed under the Arts & Crafts portion of this Yearbook. Following are guidelines for photography entries for the GFWC MI Convention:

#### **Contest Rules:**

- Photos may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.
- All photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club
- Photos must be taken during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Contestants must be an amateur photographer (pursuing photography for pleasure versus financial benefits).
- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photo
- Each submission must be an 8 x 10 inch print. Digital submissions alone will not be considered.
- All photos must be mounted on a rigid 8 x 10-inch mounting board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. NO mattes, frames, or hangers.
- Photos may be taken using film or with digital cameras and may be color or black & white.
- Photos will **NOT** be returned.
- Each photo must have a label affixed to its back with the following information:
  - Contest name
  - Photographer's name, email address, mailing address, & phone number
  - Name and State of sponsoring club
  - Title and brief caption giving location, date, and other notes about the photo
  - Arrow indicating top of photo

#### **The "World In Pictures" Photography Contest**

These photographs and images capture the beauty of the world and people around us in three categories:

- **Our Living World**—Highlight people, animals, and plants that make our world a beautiful place to live. These photos can showcase a close-up view, such as the stamen of a flower, to a wide vista, like the Serengeti's animals from a helicopter.
- **Places Here and There**—Capture architecture or natural beauty in the air (clouds, moon, stars, etc.), land (mountains, meadows, deserts), and water (rivers, waterfalls, oceans, etc.) locally or
- **State Pride**—Images that make you proud of your state! Examples: Mountains, a university football game, cactus, etc. These photographs must be taken in the state submitting them.

**"GFWC Living The Volunteer Spirit" Photography Contest** - These photographs should be in motion, actively working. Try focusing on one subject rather than groups. Preference in judging will be photos showing the subject (s) actively doing something, rather than posing.

#### **Deadline for all Photography Contest Entries:**

**State Level:** Clubs must send entries to their respective State Photography Contest Chairman for judging at the annual State Convention. Only 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will be sent onto National, by the GFWC MI Photography Chairman. GFWC MI Award Certificates will also be given to club members that place in this contest.

**National Level:** To be eligible for national judging, one winner from each State Federation for each category, class, and division, along with a cover letter from the respective State Photography Contest Chairman listing the names of the winning submissions by category, class, and division, and the signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Forms (located in the FORMS section of this yearbook and on-line).

All photography awards will be given at the GFWC Annual Convention to the top three national entries:

|                                                |                   |                   |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>Our Living World</u></b>                 | First Place \$100 | Second Place \$75 | Third Place \$50 |
| <b><u>Places Here and There</u></b>            | First Place \$100 | Second Place \$75 | Third Place \$50 |
| <b><u>State Pride</u></b>                      | First Place \$100 | Second Place \$75 | Third Place \$50 |
| <b><u>GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit</u></b> | First Place \$100 | Second Place \$75 | Third Place \$50 |

**NEW TO THIS ADMINISTRATION: Winners of Photography Contests/“The World In Pictures” and “GFWC Living The Volunteer Spirit” should be properly labeled and emailed per submission rules on page 255 of the 2026-2028 Club Manual.**