It is my extreme pleasure to report to you on the International Convention held in Philadelphia in June. There were 1,075 registered from 49 states and 17 delegates from our international affiliates. The assembly passed all proposed amendments to GFWC Bylaws and there were 36 resolutions passed. Highlights of the convention were presentations by Victor Rivas Rivers on domestic violence and author of Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, Lisa See. There was a program on the state of today’s manners from Peggy Post, great granddaughter of Emily Post. Lt. Mark Wynn, a 20 year member of the Nashville, TN police department spoke on how far the departments have come in treating domestic violence victims.

The clubs of GFWC Michigan were well represented with 11 of our members attending international convention. We place first in our division in Conservation-Beautification, Empowering Women, and Leadership. Ruth Hokansan from GFWC Hasting will have her picture on the GFWC International Calendar for February. GFWC Three Rivers received a $100 grant from GFWC for their Domestic Violence program. Earlier in the year GFWC Grand Haven received a $100 health grant for their mammogram project. Please join me in thanking the state chairmen who wrote the winning entries. Kim Lauck, Beautification Chair, Linda Clark, Empowering Women, Chair, Mary Sue Hansen, Leadership Chair. GFWC Michigan has a lot to be proud of and a lot of volunteers to be grateful for. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!

We are now entering our second year of this administration. I am still asking each of you to help GFWC Michigan continue on its path to revitalization. Please remember that we all need to take responsibility to ensure the future of GFWC Michigan by recruiting new members and keeping all our current members.

I will close with my charge to you and that is “If it’s to be, it’s up to me.”

Renee
GFWC Convention, June 9-13

Philadelphia, PA was an excellent host city for the 116th International Convention. GFWC offered several opportunities to tour the city and visit the many historic sites. Your first vice president was able to take advantage of the tours because the GFWC state incoming leaders had another training seminar on Thursday, giving us some free time until the convention officially opened Friday evening. Sometimes the lines were quite long getting everyone on the buses, and it was plenty warm for a June day, but the morning tour of the city and the afternoon tour focusing on Benjamin Franklin, were very worthwhile. It was wonderful to see in person the contributions GFWC has made to the preservation of our nation’s heritage.

The convention was awesome! The privilege of escorting our GFWC MI President Renee, while carrying the Michigan flag during the processional into the convention is an honor this clubwoman will not forget! We also got huge thrills each time GFWC Michigan was called out as the first place winner of a program or project in our state membership category. Renee and I would sprint up to the podium, laughing with glee and then try to assume some sort of composure when the certificates were presented by President Jackie and Junior Director Jeri Lyn. I am sure the information is repeated elsewhere in the newsletter, but congratulations again to our GFWC MI clubs for the work and the reporting which enabled our state chairmen to summarize it all and write the narratives.

Beautification Program, Kim Lauck, chairman; Empowering Women One by One, Linda Clark, chairman; Leadership Program, Mary Sue Hansen and Brenda Peters, chairmen. GFWC Three Rivers won a monetary award for their domestic violence quilting project and Ruth Hokanson, GFWC Hastings, was a winner in the photography contest; her photograph will be used in 2008 GFWC calendar. We were given a preview of the new GFWC web page, which will be ever so much easier to navigate. We also saw a “first run” of the new GFWC video, which we will bring to Michigan soon. You will see several familiar faces in the video!

Incoming Leaders Training Session

The Incoming Leaders Training Session (ILTS) was the third time GFWC has brought us together. Each session features GFWC officers and staff, sharing their knowledge and insights, giving us valuable preparation for the next administration. We have started to share and compare how each state functions. Probably because of all the questions she raised, your Michigan first vice president offered to survey the other states regarding the following issues: Who receives the money? Who disburses the money? Do you print a newsletter? How many copies or issues per year? What does it cost, including postage? Do you charge a subscription for the newsletter? Is your newsletter available on line? Who performs your annual audit? Who prepares any necessary tax reports? What do you pay for these audit/tax services? The responses will be shared with all the states at the November GFWC Orientation. They will also be discussed at the October GFWC MI Board of Directors meeting.

Sherry Well
GFWC
1st Vice President
Ask yourself this question: Have I made Membership a top priority?

“IT’S TO BE, IT’S UP TO ME”! Have you (yes, I mean you!) taken this President’s theme to heart and brought in a new member? Membership is the heart of this organization—it needs constant attention from each and every one of us.

The summer is almost over and most of our clubs are starting to get back into the swing of things. Now is a good time to plan a membership drive. At the beginning of a club year, members are rejuvenated from the slower pace of summer and become enthusiastic about the programs and projects the club has planned for the coming year. It’s time to ACT in OCT. It’s time to participate in GFWC’s Membership Drive “FIVE More Would Be Heaven in OCTober ’07”. Clubs reporting success to me before December 1, will have their names published in the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine. Remember, Membership is a Team effort.

A membership drive should be done as a special event, not part of a regular meeting. Plan the event – what, where, when, how and why. Get your publicity out there whether it be news articles or club brochures placed in all the community places (i.e. Libraries, Arts & Crafts Fairs, Chambers of Commerce, Real Estate Offices, etc.). Have your event as a “Meet and Greet”, a Coffee, a Tea, a Pizza Party, etc. Send out invitations with RSVP’s. Follow up with personal contacts. Hold the event where everyone will feel welcome. Get your message across, but be sure to have fun while doing it. Whichever way you go – B. Positive. Don’t forget to include your regular members and/or any resigned members who might be interested in rejoining. Be sure to always include a contact person in any public relations that you do.

Thanks to all of you who have continued to send in new member sponsor forms throughout the summer. I will be rewarding recipients with their earned “Stripes” at the District Conventions. The Sponsor Form can be found on the GFWC MI website and in this newsletter.

GFWC has a new award to bestow upon 50-Year Members—it’s a gold and black circle pin with the same words written on it. The Gold Cards will no longer be issued. Past recipients of gold cards will be able to order a pin at the cost of $5.00. These pins can be ordered directly from GFWC. GFWC MI will still recognize 50-Year Members with a Gold Certificate and 25-Year Members with Silver Certificates. In order to receive a certificate, this chairman must be notified of the name of the honoree.

Speaking of pins, GFWC has a new President’s Pin. It is round and looks like the member pin, but has the words Club President written at the bottom. The cost is $10.00 and can be ordered directly from GFWC. Award Crafters is no longer handling GFWC products—GFWC will be the sole proprietor of its own merchandise. Look for a new catalog of GFWC items for sale in the Oct/Nov issue of the Clubwoman and on the web in September.

Along with GFWC, GFWC MI now has jewelry, tote bags, shirts and sweatshirts available to help promote membership. By wearing and sharing these items, we become more visible as a community, state and national organization. Does your club have a banner? If not—it should, and it should be used whenever your club is out in the community. Share you club newsletter with your community leaders and other community groups. Use the GFWC (gfwc.org) and the GFWC MI (gfwmci.com) websites to keep you informed and up-to-date. Have a Federation Minute at every meeting – then share, share, share!

An excellent new membership tool is the eGFWC electronic newsletter from the International President that keeps you updated on the latest news from Headquarters. Each newsletter is an inspiring message including the latest information on GFWC programs at work. The eGFWC newsletter is published every other Friday. You can subscribe by emailing or calling GFWC Headquarters.

More exciting membership tips will be forthcoming at each of the District Conventions in the fall. Come join us and help spread the news.

Welcome to the Swartz Creek Women’s Club of 31 members, our newest GFWC MI club!

Remember to B. Positive and make membership matter!

Chris Burns
GFWC MI 2nd VP / Membership Chairman

MYLEAD UPDATE

Representatives of five GFWC MI clubs registered 173 sophomores at the Mylead Conference in Holmes Hall at Michigan State University on May 11, 2007. Thank you to Sherry Wellman (GFWC Mi 1st V.P.) and husband Richard, Chris Burns (2nd V.P.), Barb Geralds (SED Pres.), Phyllis Keith (Haslett W.C. Pres.), and Haslett Women's Club members Joyce Bartels and Erma Wetter. Over 200 students had applied, but there are always several cancellations due to school testing, sports tournaments, and other last minute responsibilities.

We stayed to observe the opening program and listen to motivational speaker, Justin Ryan, who encouraged the students to "step outside your comfort zone". One could sense the excitement rising and we left feeling energized. I returned on Sunday morning to attend the parents meeting that was held while the students were listening to another motivational speaker, Freda Waara, who had been a member of the first All-Woman Expedition to the North Pole. (Empowering Women?) I was given the opportunity to tell the parents about GFWC and volunteering.

In 2007, Mylead reached the 5-year temporary tax exempt deadline and received a permanent 501(c) 3 number. Mylead also received accreditation from the National Society for Youth Leadership. They formed a Youth Leadership Coalition with three neighboring States.

Application material for the May 16-18, 2008 Mylead Conference at MSU will be sent during late September/early October. Won't you please contact your schools tenth grade counselors to encourage them to send a student? We have found that some counselors are so busy that they hesitate to take on another task, so perhaps you could offer to help with the selection process, i.e. you could judge essays, if they use that process. Last year, due to requests by some larger schools, 27 schools were allowed to send a second student. The schools were required to arrange payment for the second student. This year schools that have sent a student in prior years may send two students. There will be no charge for the first one, but the school/community will be expected to pay $165 for the second student. PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A STUDENT TO THIS WONDERFUL THREE DAY EVENT. YOUR $165 DONATION WILL HELP DEVELOP A LEADER OF TOMORROW. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO www.mylead.org.

Thank you,
Bev Jones, Liaison GFWC MI/Mylead

News Flash about our beloved 2nd VP,
Chris Burns has fallen again and now has broken her ankle. She had surgery on Aug. 14 and is recovering at home. Send cards and prayers her way. Address is at the bottom of new member reward on back of news letter

NEWS FROM GIRLSTOWN

It is a very exciting time at Girlstown as we approach our 50th anniversary. Hard to believe that 50 years ago visionaries from GFWC help start this wonderful organization.

If you have any pictures or articles that we could copy to put in a history book of Girlstown, we would love the opportunity to put them in the book. We are envisioning a pictorial history from start to the 50 year celebration.

We are in the planning stages of a wonderful celebration of 50 years of service to the community and children. We are planning to bring you all the information at District meetings as we will make decisions at the August Board Meeting.

Remember the GT7 that you helped with about 5 years ago, we are bringing it back to help build our endowment to a point that Girlstown is more stable with the ups and downs of the State reimbursements. GT7 meant that you chose an amount and gave it for the next 5 years or you gave a one time gift. It also helps with budget if we know that 200 people are giving their gift amount over the next years. Many people have renewed and we appreciate their generosity.

Avis and I look forward to seeing you at the District meetings and sharing our excitement.

Mary Sensabaugh, GT Board Member
Summer fun at Bay Cliff Health Camp

The summer of 2007 is Bay Cliff’s 74th year of serving children with special needs and it served 156 children with physical disabilities and speech and language impairments this summer. They had the opportunity to gain skills in communication, strength and mobility, and everyday living activities that will allow them to achieve greater independence. The children were involved with a number of therapy programs, making goals, having campout and s’mores, raising and lowering the flag, eating three squares like a family in the beautiful dining hall. They have crafts, dances, prom with dinner out and talent nights. They have so many opportunities because of the location of the camp on the shore of Lake Superior. Some get to ride horses, learn to fish and boating, older campers learn to do laundry and help the younger ones.

A memory that the children will take home this year is the renovation of the Barn complex. What was the old hay barn has become the newly renovated Teen Center. Attached to the Teen Center in the old granary is a fully operational radio station. WBC will go on the air next summer, and the teens will have the pleasure and responsibility of running it. Where the old silo had been, a new silo stands in its place which will house an astronomy center in the future. That’s reaching for the stars!

The cow barn, which for years housed the camper clothing and bikes at camp, has been turned into the Program center. The renovated barn now has a room for camping equipment and supplies, a costume room, and a staff lounge as well as being attached to the new program office. Located in the center of camp, the Program Center will have greater accessibility for all. Finishing touches were put on this summer and the barn complex will be ready for full operation next summer.

Across the way from the barn complex is the brand new laundry and clothing barn. The construction of this new facility allows the laundering, folding, storing, and dispensing of clothing and bedding all to be under one roof. Thanks to the wonderful co-sponsorship of GFWC MI and the Michael Ross Foundation, this much needed building, which was once only a dream, is now a reality. Finishing touches were put on this building this summer, too, so it will be fully operational when the children arrive next summer.

Now for the winner of the Harley that was raffled off this summer, Bill Mattlin of Stevens Pt., Wisconsin. We also had the annual “Visitation Day” on Saturday, July 14. It was a day to honor the Bay Cliff Board of Directors, organizations, county committee members, volunteers, and friends who support Bay Cliff through the years. It is an opportunity for us to visit with campers, see the improvements, and the campers to show off what they are learning. GFWC MI was represented by President Renee Horist, Mary Sensabaugh, Billie and Gary Holliday, Dixie Neier, Janet Kohn, Clarissa Hoffman and sister, Helen and Dorothy Hohlik. We presented Tim Bennett a check from GFWC MI for $3338.08 to be added to the capital building fund, $500 check from Mt. Pleasant Club, $110 from fundraisers and quilts for the children’s beds by Clarissa and Janet, and moneys from the Holliday’s for under ware, and supplies for the craft area from the Sensabaugh.

In spite of a rainy and cold day in mid-July, we could feel the warmth of the love for each and every camper and the desire to work together to make the camp greater each year for these children who touch our hearts. We had a wonderful day sharing with the children and learning what they were doing. They had even spent time making us chocolate chip cookies and they were good.

Dorothy Hohlik, Bay Cliff Chair

Thanks for the opportunity to be your LEADS candidate and hope to see you at District meetings to update you on the exciting things LEADS has planned.

Mary Sensabaugh, LEADS 2007

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**September 20, 2007, Thursday evening from 7 - 9 pm**

there will be a New and Prospective Member “Meet & Greet” at the ROWC Clubhouse at 404 S. Pleasant Street, Royal Oak.

All ROWC club members are encouraged to attend, especially members who are new to the club, and of course, all prospective members or anyone interested in learning more about ROWC and GFWC. Information and reservations may be requested of Geri Lindell, Vice President of ROWC, and chairman of this event at 248-288-1441.

**Friday, October 19, 2007 from 4:30 - 7:00 pm**

the ROWC will hold its annual all-you-can-eat Fall Spaghetti Dinner featuring their famous sauce and salad dressing. The public and all GFWC clubs are invited to attend. Please make reservations, if possible, with Virginia Merritt @ 248-541-4747 or Grace Ure @ 248-879-2233. Prices are Adults: $10.00, Seniors (62+) $8.00, Children 3-12 years: $4.00.

**Saturday, November 17, 2007**

ROWC will have a Bake Sale at the Royal Oak Farmers’ Market from 7 am till Noon or until they are sold out. Anyone in the area is invited to come and buy their home made baked goods.

**Saturday, February 9, 2008**

the ROWC will offer its Mad Hatters Tea at the Clubhouse from 1 - 4 pm. Contact Muriel Versagi @ 248-542-7449 or Carole Schaffer @ 248-288-0756 for tickets. Seating will be limited.
GFWC – Evart Woman’s Club Sponsors National Night Out

On August 7 the City of Evart joined with over 10,000 communities across the country to celebrate National Night Out. Thanks to the efforts of the GFWC Evart Woman’s Club and the Evart Police Department the night was a great success. Started 24 years ago by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), National Night Out is designed to strengthen the bonds between law enforcement and the community and to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts. The idea being that when those bonds are strong the crime rates will go down. Many neighborhood watch programs have started because of National Night Out events.

Using the theme of a “block” party, the Evart Woman’s Club rallied the towns’ service organizations. Each group was asked what they could provide that was child focused and safety or anticrime oriented. The results were amazing! The Masons offered their CHIP Program that provides parents with digital fingerprints, dental impressions, a DNA swab, voice recognition samples, current photographs and a physical description of their child in both hard copy and CD formats. The Evart Lions offered their Kids Sight Program to do retinal scans that detect early eye impairments. The Loyal Order of the Moose volunteered to grill hot dogs for the milling crowd. Girls Scouts came with all their gear to paint colorful designs on faces. The Osceola League for Arts and Humanities taught papermaking on the spot. The woman’s shelter, WISE, and a local addictions fighting program, Reformers Unanimous provided informational booths and so did GFWC-Evart Woman’s Club! Strolling officers and the DARE car represented the Osceola County Sheriffs’ Department and the Evart Police Department in addition to their information booth. Officers even manned a dunk tank. Not to be outdone by their comrades in uniform, the Evart Area Fire Department brought a fire truck, an ambulance, an EMS vehicle and the biggest sprinkler I have ever seen! There is nothing better than wet, happy kids on a hot summer’s night! Older children were treated to demonstrations on safe skateboard techniques and participated in mini clinics to hone their talents. A DJ. ice cream Sundays, cotton candy, popcorn and lots of beverages rounded out the party fare.

And oh yes, GFWC-Evart Woman’s Club members were everywhere! It was easy to spot us all because we were each wearing special GFWC visors designed for this event. The GFWC initiated visors could be seen on members at our booth, members directing the crowd to the various activities, members answering questions, members acting as “gofers” and even on our Northwestern District President who acted as the emcee for the evening.

The festivities ended just like any good GFWC event – with a raffle. Throughout the night the kids had been told to see a police officer and be “ticketed” – get a raffle ticket. At the close of our party two bicycles and a skateboard with helmet went home with three very happy kids. As the organizers of this event the members of GFWC – Evart Woman’s Club went home tired but very happy. Over 300 people from our area had been given the chance to meet their law enforcement officers, garner information, protect their children, and have fun with their neighbors. This was Evart’s 1st National Night Out event but certainly not its last thanks to the members of GFWC – Evart.

Terese Whitten
GFWC-Evart Woman’s Club

GFWC Evart Independence Day Fund Raiser

GFWC Evart serves up the freshest strawberries on delicious home-baked biscuits. They are topped with whipped topping and a fresh strawberry. That’s our July 4th Fund-raiser. You’ll find our GFWC Evart volunteers all prepared to serve you in assembly-line style under our 10X30 foot awning at Evart’s cool Riverside Park on the banks of the Muskegon River.

If you follow Evart’s July 4th parade right down to the Park where it ends at noon, you’ll be one of those people pouring into the Park for food and more fun and games.

15 GFWC Evart volunteers took on their responsibilities like true leaders to prepare for the Strawberry Shortcake Sale. All profit is earmarked each year for two worthy community areas, with the Lake, Mecosta, Osceola Thrivent for Lutheran’s matching our $250 profit. The 2007 funds are benefiting the new library at Eagle Village, plus funds for Stepp’n’ Up Dance & Tumble Studio to provide scholarships for disadvantaged children. We were excited to have out of area GFWC visitors to share our shortcake. Thanks for sharing Janet and Al Kohn and Mary and Leo Sensabaugh. Hope to see you all next year.

Priscilla Whitman, July 4th Chair
Southeastern District News
by Barbara Geralds, SED president

The GFWC MI Southeastern District will have a fall workshop hosted by Madison Heights Intermediate Women’s Club. The theme of the workshop will be “Energize”. The day long program will be held at the Madison Heights Public Library. Past state president of general and of juniors Darlene Berent will be featured in the part of the program which will focus on the GFWC departments. The networking with other club members will give us an opportunity to share ideas in leadership, membership recruitment and retention, publicity and club recognition. Other program participants will be GFWC MI president Renee Horist; 1st vice-president Sherry Wellman, and 2nd vice-president Chris Burns.

After seven months of renovations the Madison Heights Public Library reopened on July 23. Prior to the official opening, six members of MH Intermediate Women’s Club spent several hours re-shelving books. At the official reopening ceremonies, MHIWC members hosted a reception for about 60 city officials and guests. The club’s book group is happy to have the library available once more.

GFWC MHIWC is busy planning the charity tea to be held on September 22 at a new larger location due to the popularity of the event. Once again Janet Kohn and Clarisse Hoffman will be the guest auctioneers. Club members are planning a day at the lake in August, an August weekend in Alpena, and the 30th anniversary dinner on October 29.

The Royal Oak Woman’s Club Group 7 held its annual garage sale. Proceeds support various charitable causes throughout Royal Oak such as Save Our Youth Task Force, South Oakland Shelter, Haven, South Oakland Boys and Girls Club and others.

GFWC Lake Orion Women’s Club is busy making arrangements to host the GFWC SED convention on October 13. One of the program participants will be Dr. Kim Waldron, director of Gateway Counseling Center, who will speak about domestic abuse.

GFWC SED President Barbara Geralds attended the state board meeting in Crystal Mountain resort near Traverse City. GFWC MI President Renee Horist of GFWC Lake Orion Women’s Club presided over the meeting. The evening prior to the board meeting attendees enjoyed seeing the collage concert at Interlochen. GFWC Dearborn Women’s Club members Bev Jones and Avis White attended representing Fox Foundation and Girlstown. Following the board meeting, MHIWC member Mary Anne Yemec represented SED at the Education Foundation meeting. Unfortunately GFWC MI 2nd vice-president Chris Burns of Royal Oak Women’s Club missed the meeting due to a broken foot.

East Central District News

GFWC Member Celebrates 90th Birthday and 60 years as a member of GFWC

I had the pleasure of attending a 90th Birthday celebration for Bess Patrick on May 8, 2007. This woman has been a member of GFWC Marlette Women’s Club for 60 years. I presented her with an award for her 60 years of service and dedication to GFWC. Bess graduated from Central Michigan University and taught school for a while. She was the first woman to serve on the Board of Education for the Marlette School District. She also helped to start the petunia project for downtown Marlette. Bess has always been a dedicated and involved member of GFWC. Congratulations to Bess and a special thank you to all of our dedicated and long time members. These Ladies have tremendously contributed to the success of our GFWC organization.

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East Central District Table at State Convention:

A special thanks to all who contributed to the East Central District table at the State Convention. Proceeds of $525.50 will be used towards our 2008 convention to be held in Bay City.

THE WALK IS ON!!!!!!

Keep walking miles for Operation Smiles

Kay Hamlin, President EC District

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER
November 1, 2007, February 1, 2008, May 1, 2008