

## BJWC October Minutes

October 20, 2020

BJWC October Meeting combined Zoom and an in-person meeting held at The Gathering Place.

### OFFICERS:

President	Debbie Willis
President Elect	Michelle Breum
Secretary	Lynn Ehresman
Treasurer	Barb Barrett (on Zoom)
Past President	Marsha Hotchkiss
Parliamentarian	Susan McCartney (on Zoom)
Member at Large	Karin Green (absent)

Other in-person attendance: Bex Silkwood, Lisa Hansen

Attendance by Zoom: Karen Durfey, Barb Hogg, Judy Senteney, Janet Cole, Florence Diede, Linda Baker, Marsha Price, Kathy Broyles

The meeting called to Order by Deb Willis, BJWC President - 6:33 pm

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

ESO (by Zoom)- Monday, November 2 (First Monday of the month) 5:30. Any book you are reading is great!

Festival of Trees- it is virtual this year. We donated \$1000.

Festival of Trees For 2021- Mary Huffmaster is collecting for the theme of "Birds and Birdhouses." If you know local artists, which might want to paint a birdhouse, and be credited on the tree, please contact them, and then Mary. The birdhouse can be supplied. Any birds, or bird-themed items are welcome. Items can be left at the garage.

PRIZE GIVEAWAY- ( for membership challenge on email) prizes were from donated items from Bev Ferguson

1<sup>st</sup>- Susan McCartney (won book stand)

2<sup>nd</sup>- Peggy O'Brien (absent, so will choose later)

3<sup>rd</sup>- Judy Senteney (bedside decanter/carafe)

New Committee names- The GFWC manual reflects the new names of standing committees. You can refer to the GFWC Club Manual for committee information. Committee chairs are encouraged to call members, to check their interest in remaining on that committee. If you wish to change committees, please call, or email, that committee chair. Then, PLEASE contact Michelle Breum, so she can reflect these changes in our records.

**CORRESPONDENCE**- none

**Secretary and Treasurer reports-**

Treasurer's report sent via email; there may be some adjustments (total reflects money that was deposited, but not yet reflected on the balance (October rent) Corrections were made, and the Treasurer's report was placed on file

Minutes from September were corrected.

MOTION - Florence Diede made motion to accept the corrected minutes, it was seconded and motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

Website- Gayle Carter is interested in having some help to expand and update our website. Please contact Gayle, or Michelle Breum if interested.

G Suite" was discussed.

President Project Committee- Raffle tickets are \$20. Please send money to Michelle Breum. The President Project committee is Marsha Price, Marsha Hotchkiss, Judy Senteney, and Lisa Hansen.

BY LAWS Committee presented proposed by-law changes. Some changes are minor and these will be made. The major changes will put club By-Laws into alignment with National Bylaws. Proposed changes in bylaws will be sent to the President, then to members. If you have suggestions, please contact Susan McCartney, Michelle Breum, or Bev Silkwood. Discussion followed concerning the number in attendance and major changes..

MOTION- Marsha Price made a motion to put the bylaw changes on next month's Agenda. Seconded (Karen Durfey) and passed..

CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION- currently a 501c3, which is more restrictive than a 501c4. We have used the Children's Foundation and spent that money on a service for children in community. We need to be sure we abide by the guidelines we currently have, as a 501c3. A suggestion was made to come up with an amount of money, and use it on the children in our community.

MOTION- Barb Hogg made a motion to setup an ad hoc committee to decide the process of allocating those funds. Seconded by (Susan McCartney) and passed. Committee members will be appointed by the President (if interested, please contact Debbie W.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS- some September reports did not come through email but will be resent to members.

Meeting Adjourned 8:07.

Next meeting (Zoom)- November 17, 6:30

Lynn Ehresman, Secretary

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Books for Babies and... You! Chairwomen: Linda Altwine & Sandy Mueller**

#### BOOKS FOR BABIES

Members: 1. Bev. Hours: 2. Delivering books to hospitals.

Guest: 1. Harold. Hours: 2. Delivering books to hospitals.

400 books and materials have been bagged.

Members: 1. Linda. Hours: 12.

#### NICU

#### ECI

#### PRE-SCHOOL SCREESING

We have been unable to participate in the Pre-School Screening because of COVID 19.

#### OTHER

This was received from United Way: "I am sending a large **THANK YOU** for the generous donation of school supplies for United Way's annual Operation Supply. Items were sorted, packed and delivered to Sue, homeless liaison for SD 2, on the 24th of September and last week they were distributed to 20 schools (Elem/MS/HS). Providing supplies for those who need them throughout the year is greatly appreciated and your contributions make this possible. Again, many thanks."

Some of our members delivered supplies directly to schools.

#### VOLUNTEERS

Several grants have been written. Members: 1. Linda. Hours: 12. Writing grants. Members: 1. Debbie. Hours: 12. Billings Public Library Members: 1. Nicki. Hours: 26. Reading to the blind.

### **ESO Chairwoman: Marsha Hotchkiss**

On October 6, 2020 six members met at Veteran's Park and discussed 10 books. The books discussed were:

The Book of Lost Names - Kristen Harmel

Estrid - Joanne Hildebrandt

Tangled in Time: The Burning Queen - Kathryn Lasky

The Child - Fiona Barton

The Art of Eating - M.F.K. Fisher

Pull of the Stars - Emma Donoghue

Love and Other Consolation Prizes - Jamie Ford

Little Brother - Cory Doctorow

New Morning Mercies - Paul David Tripp.

An Invisible Thread - Laura Schroff

Return of the Thief - Megan Whalen Turner

### Pre-school Screening - Co-Chairwomen – Sandy Mueller, Bev Silkwood, Becky McGill

No activity this month.

### Scholarship - Chairwoman – Linda Baker

No activity this month.

### Advocates for Children - Co-Chairwoman: Barbara Hogg, Florence Diede

**SCHOOL MEDICAL:** There have been several requests for Lice Shampoo and Robi Combs. We have a good supply on hand. Jessica Newby is handling the distribution thru school mail. 20 cloth masks, made by Barb Hogg have been donated to Ponderosa Elementary and Alkali Creek Elementary.

**Members: 1 Non-members: 1 Hours: 5 \$ Spent: supplies on hand**

**CASA:** Florence Diede, Barb Hogg, Debbie Willis, and Judy Senteney

Volunteers continue to work with their families despite the COVID restrictions. Court Hearings are being held virtually, Family Engagement meetings and Monthly Small Group meetings are done via Zoom. Each volunteer is finding a way to keep in touch with their families. Both positive and negative COVID tests are being reported. Families are having phone, virtual and social distanced visits. The needs are still the same, challenging everyone to be creative in their advocacy. There have been several changes in CASA staff, they are currently hiring.

**Members: 4 Non-members: 0 Hours: Many Spent: \$0**

**Advocates for Children:** Committee members have received an e-mail discussing a donation to Bev Ferguson. She has custody of three grandchildren ages 18 months, 2 and 4. The committee will act when everyone has had a chance to comment.

**Members: 2 Non-members: 0 Hours: 6 Spent: \$0**

**Pillowcase Dresses:** Everyone can participate..... What is your skill? Washing? Cutting? Sewing? Packaging? It is not too early to start. If you would like to begin work early please contact Barb Hogg or Florence Diede for supplies or questions. Last year my personal goal was to make 40 dresses, what is your goal? Even one dress makes a difference.

**Members: 0 Non-members: 0 Hours: 0 Spent: \$0**

**Festival of Trees:** A check for \$1,000. has been sent to the Family Tree Center. This year, because the Festival will be Virtual we are making a monetary donation instead of a tree. Would you believe our team has already begun planning for the 2021 tree? What a great team!! Stay tuned for more plans for this year, COVID has changed things but the Festival will go on.

**Members: 3 Non-members: 0 Hours: 8 Spent: \$1,000.00**

**Youth Service Center:** Michelle Breum has been in contact with YSC staff. At this point they are unsure about their Christmas plans. We will be getting more information when they have firmed up their plans and guidelines. The hygiene items will still be donated, and the tree decorating and Saturday am cookies and Target shopping are being figured out. There are no dates at this time. Be watching for that information soon.

**Members:1 Non-members: 0 Hours: 1 Spent: \$0**

### **Building and Grounds - Chairwoman: Marsha Price**

I decided to just list individual problems we had with the building throughout the summer. Actually, it went pretty smoothly except for a major water leak.

1. 2 toilets in Nursery were running continually. Replaced valve assemblies
2. Dawn to dusk bulbs were installed outside our garage and at double door on nursery building to hopefully deter burglaries
3. No air conditioning in main building...100-degree days of August! Fortunately, the repairman was able to get them running within 24 hours. There was a bad fuse in one unit, a capacitor in another, and wasp nests in both, blocking air flow! The kiddos and staff are required to wear masks, so they were pretty uncomfortable one day.
4. Electrician hired to replace several ballasts
5. The most troublesome issue was a major water leak under the concrete slab in the nursery bath/maintenance area. We were able to get a plumber to work many hours jack hammering the floor and repairing the 60 yr. old water lines...he even worked on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! We have no idea how long the water had been leaking. The building was designed with catch areas under the concrete so it didn't come into the building. Denise just happened to hear it running one night after hours.
6. Air conditioning again not working later in August. They were able to repair with less difficulty
7. Sewer pipe leaking into basement
8. Emergency lights not working (the inspector thinks it is just batteries)

### **Communications - Chairwoman: Gayle Carter**

Visit [www.gfwcbillings.org](http://www.gfwcbillings.org) and GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club Facebook for the latest information. Information is sent to the members throughout the month from the [gfwcbill@aol.com](mailto:gfwcbill@aol.com) account. If your committee has an Activity/Event to be posted on Facebook contact Karen Durfey and send pictures and articles for the newsletter or for the website to Gayle Carter.

A fall/summer 2020 newsletter was sent showing some of the activities/events members continued to do during COVID.

The scholarship winners were in the Billings Gazette in June 2020. The committee purchased 60 books @ \$2.00 from Kohl's for the November Pooh's Too Project. The 2020 Club Directory will be printed before the October meeting. The current copy has been sent by email to each of you. Please check your information and send any changes.

**Participating #- 3 Hours -15 Gifts-in-Kind - Cost - \$120**

## Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention - Chairwoman: Judy Senteney

### Tumbleweed

We have resumed our monthly hot lunch delivery with Tumbleweed.

### Angela's Piazza

Items are being collected for the Christmas gift project.

**Members: Non-members: 0 Hours: 12 Spent: \$0. In Kind Donations: 0**

## Leadership Program: - Chairperson: Florence Diede

### GFWC

GFWC has welcomed the 2020-2022 Officers virtually. They have held meetings using BIGMARKER and ZOOM. GFWC has implemented the use of the Member Portal on the website to access the Club Manual, Event Registrations and Market Place. Please be sure you have signed up. Toronto here we come in 2021. Do you have a current passport?

**Florence Diede**, serving as GFWC Montana President, represented GFWC Montana at the Board of Directors meeting August 22-23 using Big Marker and attended the June Presidents meeting.

### Western States Region (WSR)

This convention of Western States has been planned for Cheyenne, Wyoming. Remember what a good time we had when it was in Helena. Well, again, you can easily join in by attending through Zoom on Saturday, September 26. Register through GFWC.org Member Portal. Registration closes September 16. **Florence Diede** will be presenting the Montana report.

### GFWC of Montana

Yes, the convention was cancelled, rescheduled and cancelled again. The 2020-2022 Executive Committee assumed office on July 1 without a fanfare but happy that we were all COVID free. The GFWC Montana Fall Meeting will be held via Zoom on Friday and Saturday, October 23-24. **Marsha Price** is Corresponding Secretary and the Zoom Administrator. BJWC will pay your registration fee, meals and hotel. WHOOPS! We are so fortunate there are no meals or hotels to deal with this October. Registration is now open. You received the Official Call in The Montana Woman and through the club email. The club email even had the request for funds partially filled out for you. Have you been to the new website? Gfwcmontana.org. Yes, registration is there also. **Gayle Carter** is the webmaster. **Marsha Hotchkiss** is Dean of Chairman as Vice President. **Barb Hogg** is head of Fundraising. **Judy Senteney** is Signature Project Chairman Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence. **Michelle Breum** will serve on the Nominations and Credentials committees. **Barb Barrett** is on the Budget and Finance Committee. **Deb Willis** is on the BOD serving as club and district presidents. Billings Junior Woman's club is well represented. We will Let our club light shine!

Bev Ferguson donated many Willow House items for our club use. About 20 items were pulled to be used for GFWC Montana Fall Meeting 2021 and Convention 2022.

BJWC has been asked to supply a few gift cards to use for door prizes for the GFWC MT Fall Meeting October 23-24.

### **Membership - Chairwoman: Michelle Breum**

A few members thought a donation instead of flowers would be good for Gayle Carter's husband's funeral. We will be donating \$250 to the Community Playground at Evangelical Methodist Church, 345 Broadwater Ave.

A drive by going away event was put on for Janet Cole organized by Barb Hogg. A t-shirt was signed and given to Janet along with a poster from GFWC called Blue Eyes.

A membership challenge was sent out and a prize will be given using a raffle app that will give more chances if you had more challenges completed.

**Projects:4 Members:14 Non-members: 0 Hours: 23 Spent: \$37.**

### **Woman's History & Public Policy - Chairwoman: Judy Senteney**

#### **History**

No activity this month.

#### **Public Policy**

One member continues to work with and support:

#### **Billings League of Women Voters, with:**

Passage of VAWA

Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment

Voter Registration

**GFWC** would like members to contact Montana US Senators to urge them to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA). To access the Legislative Action Center, visit [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) and select 'Take Action' under the Public Policy tab.

**Projects: 4 Members:1 Non-members: 0 Hours: 5 Spent: \$0**

### **International Outreach Community Program - Chairwoman: Linda Pickard**

No activity this month.

### **Juniorettes - Chairwomen: Becky McGill, Bev Silkwood**

No activity this month.

**Conservation - Chairwoman: Bev Silkwood**

Environment Community Service Committee

Our GFWC program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature. Our committee has allocated our funds to those ends, and in most years organizes opportunities with Summer University programs for BJWC members and guests to educate ourselves about environmental concerns. We have not met this month and I'm hopeful that 2021 will bring positive changes. Karen Durfey donated 1/2 gallon of pop-tops for Ronald McDonald House that I delivered.

**Members:2 Non-members: 0 Hours: 1 Spent: \$0 Gifts in Kind: 1**

**Home Life - Chairwoman – Kelly Smith**

No activity this month.

**Read to Your Bunny/ Reading Ladies - Co-Chairwomen: Mary Huffmaster & Sylvia Jensen**

No activity this month.

**Arts Community Service Program: - Co-Chairwomen: Karen Durfey, Kathy Broyles & Marsha Hotchkiss**

No activity this month.