

# Linda's Notes

GFWC of Tennessee

10/28/2016

[Edition 1, Volume 3]

## State Updates

Another month has flown by – don't you wonder how that happens? Beth Smith, President-elect, and myself have now been to all of the Fall District Meetings – each one unique and amazing! I am always so inspired by the dedication of all of the members, the clubs, and the districts. I want to thank you (this does not count as an official "thank you" card!) for all of the generosity you have shown us in our visits.

Here are the highlights of where your administration has put their energies and efforts over the last month. First, Where in the World is GFWC of Tennessee? My goodness, we sure do get around! So far we have ticked off 18 states and one foreign country with very little effort! I know the upcoming SER meeting will add Virginia and West Virginia to the list. Banners are still available for \$20, just let me know and we

will arrange for you or your club to purchase one.

The GFWC of Tennessee PSA was finished and posted on our Facebook page along with the GFWC Volunteer Network's Facebook page, the GFWC mobile app, and YouTube. We also have been featured on two television stations giving interviews about the story of Tennessee being the last state needed to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. If you haven't seen the video, you can find it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvPLld7oGgg>

And that leads into our setting the Guinness World Record for the tallest Christmas tree built out of children's books. I cannot begin to sing Kendra Walker Patty's praise. She has made the vision a reality, challenged us to collect 10,000 books, rallied the troops to catalogue and stamp all those books. The



"DIPLOMACY: thinking twice before saying nothing."

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.gfwctennessee.com](http://www.gfwctennessee.com)

Please remember to send information about fundraisers or special club events to Vivian Gibbons to post on the website. We can link to posters or newspaper articles. We can upload photos and include whatever information you want made public. Send to: [viviandgibbons@gmail.com](mailto:viviandgibbons@gmail.com)

The handbook will be password protected and available as soon as possible. Please send all corrections to Deb Allen as well as Vivian.

tree will be erected at the Tennessee Residence (a/k/a The Governor's Mansion) on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be featured in the brochure that will be given out on tours, which begin in early December. Many thanks to all the book parties where people helped Kendra by cataloguing and stamping books.



We are still looking for monetary donations to pay for a U-Haul to transport the books to Nashville – unless someone has access to a large truck! If you do, please contact Kendra.



Monarch Butterfly Way Stations – the Tennessee

Wildlife Resources Agency supplied enough seed packets for each club in Tennessee to plant a butterfly garden. The seed packets were given out at district meetings (Highland Rim clubs, yours are in the mail!) and we are asking the clubs to plant the gardens this fall (they are only 15 square feet) and take pictures so we may document our gardens! The goal is 40!!!!



GFWC of Tennessee has submitted the offer to become responsible for the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame from the Tennessee Women's Economic Council Foundation and we are awaiting their decision.

Look for information on our Quilt Square project that will be coming up in the Spring of 2017. Details of what clubs need to do will be available

after the holiday season (and the book tree) are over.

And, finally, plans are underway for a fundraising dinner in October of 2017 that will coincide with our state's fall meeting. We have confirmed that Heather Johnsen Wagner, the first woman to ever guard The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, will be our guest speaker. Much planning is ahead and more details will be given out as we head into 2017.



Whew, I don't know about you, but I may need a nap!!!!



## The Collect

“Let us be done with fault-finding.”

I don't know about you, but I am always trying to find fault and blame someone else. Upon closer reflection, I think it is human nature to try to deflect fault to something or someone else. From the very beginning, didn't Adam blame Eve for eating that apple? And then Eve blamed the snake? And what about that age-old excuse the dog ate my homework? If you can put the fault somewhere else, then you don't have to take personal responsibility. Recently I ended a work relationship of 10 years because the other person was always making it my fault. Granted, there were times it was (and at those times I scrambled to find anything and anyone else to blame) but most of the time it was not.

I am of the opinion an awful lot of time and energy goes into trying to find somewhere to pin the blame. I also know people who automatically accept the blame for things that go wrong – and you know who you are – even if they are not your fault. You say, “I'm sorry,” before you really know what the reason for the problem was. And how many of us go ahead and let you accept the blame even when we find out it wasn't you. Perhaps it was us?

How many events have you been in charge of where someone told you they would do something or bring something and they didn't follow through? Once, when I was in charge of the PTA's faculty appreciation dinner, I had asked parents to sign up to bring lasagna and cake. The dinner was to start at 4:00. One woman showed up at 3:45 and handed me a frozen Stouffer's lasagna dinner. Another woman showed up with a cake that had a piece out of it because her husband didn't know it was for a PTA dinner. Did it really matter at that point where the blame should be put? The husband for not asking if he could have a piece of cake? The wife for not telling her husband the cake was for a dinner? The woman who gave me the frozen lasagna? Or me who maybe didn't make it clear we were serving dinner at 4:00 and we needed “hot” lasagna? What did matter was that these people had made an effort and I had the job of feeding a group of hungry teachers.

Spending time and energy on the blame game would not change what was needed. Practice had taught me to have a few more lasagnas than I anticipated I would need and we all had a good laugh about the cake – no harm, no foul. We all learned and nobody's feelings were hurt.

Another time when I was working in the Parent Coordinator's Office, a woman called who was highly upset. The end of the school year was coming up and she had not done her required parent involvement hours. As a result, her child would not get to come back to the school the next year. Instead of pointing out that she had had a full school year to complete these hours (keep in mind, I'm no angel, I said those words in my mind) I stopped her and simply asked, “What can we do to help you get these hours done?”

Instead of assigning blame, I put the focus on finding a solution to the problem. When approaching the situation in a positive let's-see-what-we-can-do attitude, the defenses come down and you are able to work towards a solution together. You have kept a relationship intact and both learned important lessons. Fault-finding and blame is such a negative activity. Helping to look for a solution, such a positive thing. So, in the end, if we would be done with fault-finding, and ask, instead, “What can I do to help you?” we will all come out ahead. And as for Adam and Eve? I'd still blame the snake!

## Where in the World is GFWC of TN?



Alaska  
Arkansas  
California  
Connecticut  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Maryland  
Minnesota

Missouri  
Mississippi  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Texas  
Washington, D.C.

Japan

The list keeps growing! Be sure to add your pictures on Facebook at GFWC of TN or send them to [lindahersheygfwc@gmail.com!](mailto:lindahersheygfwc@gmail.com)



### Crisis Outreach Needs

So many weather problems across our country lately causes all of us in GFWC of Tennessee to want to help our GFWC sisters across our country, especially those so close to home! We have been extremely blessed that none of these disasters have touched our state.

So, I ask you to *consider* sending a gift directly to our GFWC of Tennessee Treasurer, Liz Martin, to forward to the national GFWC Disaster Fund for North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida in the wake of the terrible flooding that has occurred in their states. Let's try to do this by November 7<sup>th</sup>, so we can inform the presidents of those states that we have taken steps to help them.

I know our Crisis Outreach Task Force is busy setting up an organization to deal with these matters state-wide, but this terrible weather event didn't wait for us, so I'm asking you to consider responding now. Thank you for thinking about your response, but whatever you do, don't forget to keep these hurting people in your prayers.

Liz Martin, Treasurer  
GFWC of Tennessee  
6812 Walnut Hills Dr.  
Brentwood, TN 37027

*Linda's Notes – September 2016*

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Linda Hershey  
GFWC of Tennessee  
lindahersheygfwc@gmail.com