

Linda's Notes

GFWC of Tennessee

5/31/2017

[Edition 1, Volume 9]

State Updates

April saw the culmination and celebration of all our hard work over the past year at our 121st Convention held in Murfreesboro. We were honored to have the President of the Southeastern Region Mary Jo Thomas as our guest. As a special gift from GFWC of Tennessee, with lots of help from the new GFWC Murfreesboro Woman's Club, a butterfly garden was planted at the VA Hospital in Murfreesboro in her honor.



During the convention lots of business was conducted (see bullet points following this article), informative seminars were presented, awards were given out, and lots of fellowship was enjoyed.



I want to thank the Highland Rim District for the festive decorations on Friday night, the Smoky Mountain District for the Literacy Luncheon decorations (a special thank you goes to Paul Turpin for the head table decorations), and the GFWC Women's Club of Hendersonville for the beautiful rose centerpieces for the Saturday night banquet. The roses also were donated to the VA Hospital on Sunday for the enjoyment of the staff and patients.

We had several mini seminars (Human Trafficking Awareness 101, Communications and Public Relations 101, and Legislature 101) and during our Literacy Luncheon we



Dates to remember:

GFWC Convention
June 24-26, 2017
Palm Springs, CA

GFWC of Tennessee
Summer Training
July 29, 2017
Cookeville, TN

GFWC of Tennessee
Fall Conference
October 20-21, 2017
Nashville Area

GFWC Southeastern
Region
November 2-5, 2017
Cincinnati Airport
Marriott
Hebron, Kentucky

found out all about bees from our guest speaker, Gene Armstrong of the Nashville Area Bee Keepers.



We had the unveiling of the First Lady Doll (special thanks to Mattie Mullins, Charlene Cleveland, Anne Wonder, and Darby Hershey), and a very



special award was given to Brian Patty, the first recipient of the Brian Patty Award!



Sunday morning started with a beautiful memorial service conducted by Barbara Powell, State Chaplain, and Shirley Butler, Honorary State Chaplain. We remembered

not only past members, but also loved ones of members.



At the end of the convention it was my privilege to be able to report that during the 2016 calendar year, GFWC of Tennessee had completed (insert drum roll!) 2,128 club projects, 1,260 members participated in those projects donating 152,678.975 hours and \$1,042,630.83! We concluded with the Junior Pledge, the Collect (I've memorized one-third so far!), and the singing of Let There Be Peace on Earth.

After taking a few weeks to regroup, we are ready to move on to our next set of projects :

- Several clubs have planted butterfly gardens. Our goal is 40 by June 30th, 2018. If your club has not planted one yet, please think about making this a club project. Be sure to take a picture and send it to me!



- The quilt square bookcase is ready to go – please contact Susan Lamberth nslamberth@comcast.net if you have not yet sent your square to her. We have asked that we be allowed to display our bookcase of squares at GFWC headquarters in Washington, D.C. The bookcase will also be traveling around the state to different events and libraries. If you would like to have the bookcase displayed at your local library or an event, please let Susan know the date so she can reserve the date on the calendar.



- Plans are being made for the Fall Conference, October 20-21, 2017 in the Nashville area. Tentative plans are that on Friday, October 20th we will have the annual LEADS training and the Board of Directors

Dinner Meeting. On Saturday we will have a morning only meeting with lunch. That evening we will have our fundraising banquet where we will raise funds for GFWC of TN and Operation Song. To see more about Operation Song, please visit

<http://www.today.com/news/operation-song-using-country-music-helps-veterans-find-their-rhythm-t111803>



Our speaker will be Heather Wagner, the first woman to guard The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We will need lots of help to put on the banquet, so mark your calendars for this very special weekend.

- I have scheduled a summer training session on Saturday, July 29th – it is open to all members, especially

club presidents, presidents-elect and others in a leadership position. This is not a board meeting, therefore, no business will be conducted. The training will cover how to use the GFWC and GFWC of TN Handbook, how to navigate the websites, and what all those forms are for. The meeting will be in Cookeville (the invitation will come out next week) and begin at 10:00. In the afternoon there will be training on Human Trafficking to become familiar with the educational side of the issue so that our members can help by either speaking to other groups or getting information out to others. We have only 60 spots, so be sure to reserve your spot early!

Finally, several of your GFWC of TN leaders are heading to Palm Springs, California, in a couple weeks to represent you and your clubs at the GFWC International Convention.



I look forward to being able to report back to you in the next Linda's Notes about our experience there. Until then, please feel free to call on me if you have any questions or if there is anything I can help you with.

~Linda~

Where in the World does GFWC of TN still need to visit?

Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Remember to take your banner with you and help us complete our mission!!!



GFWC of TN in England!

During the business meeting at the 2017 Annual Spring Convention, the following motions were made and passed. Several bylaw and standing rules were added and/or amended. They will be published in the next TF News. The most important change for clubs to be aware of at this time is a \$1 per person increase in GFWC of TN dues. Clubs should plan for this in their 2017-2018 budgets.

- * Motion to endorse Della Gowan as 2018-2020 GFWC Southeastern Region President. Motion passed.
- * Motion to adopt Investment Policy Statement. Motion passed.
- * Motion to establish a special award to recognize the contribution of a non-member person/organization who helps complete a state project, naming the award The Brian Patty Award. Motion passed.
- * Motion to donate \$50 to the Nashville Area Beekeepers Association in honor of Guest Speaker at Saturday Luncheon, Gene Armstrong. Motion passed.
- * Motion to move funds currently allocated in budget to TLS/HOBY be moved to the GFWC of TN Scholarship Fund. Motion passed.
- * Motion to establish registration fees for GFWC of Tennessee Summer Training to be held last Saturday of July in Cookeville as follows: \$15 for day or \$20 for late registration. Motion passed.
- * Motion to establish registration fees for GFWC of Tennessee 2017 Fall Conference as follows: \$15 for entire conference, \$20 late registration, or \$10 per day. Motion passed.
- * Motion to change Standing Rule # 30 as follows: State Winners for both Student Poetry and Short Story be 1st Place \$50; 2nd Place \$40; 3rd Place \$30; 4th Place \$20; and Districts may provide a written request to the state treasurer for \$100 towards their District Student Poetry Contest. The Nora Cantrell Poetry Fund provides monetary awards for Poetry winners, and Pennies for Arts funds the Short Story Awards. Motion was passed.

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The Collect

“-- and always generous.”

Being generous has so many different meanings. Merriam-Webster has four

definitions: characterized by a noble or kindly spirit; magnanimous or kindly; liberal in giving; and openhanded.

It is so often easy to appear generous – writing that check, opening the door for someone, or perhaps

donating items for a cause. I always liked the movement Random Acts of Kindness.



It just makes you feel so good. But there are a couple of downsides to truly being generous.

First, I always seem to want to be generous in a tangible way. I want to actually give someone an object, whether money or items.



The difficult and often overlooked things I should be giving are my time and my talents. It is so much easier to give a check to the soup kitchen for the homeless than to actually take the time to help serve the meals or do the kitchen inventory. And then, to take it another step, am I being generous of spirit sitting and talking with those homeless, donating my attention and acceptance?



In our fast-paced lives, we often feel we are being generous when we drop things off where

needed, but we don't slow down enough to find other ways to be even more generous. I must confess that I mostly don't do that.

A few years ago I read a story about a man who was asked by his son what he would be giving up for Lent. The man's wife suggested instead of giving up a material thing like chocolate, he give up his time to visit an elderly woman they knew. I was so struck by this idea, that I decided to give up some of my time and talent during that season of Lent and each day deliver something I had baked or cooked to a friend or loved one. I can tell you at the end of Lent I was really having a difficult time staying on track. It just isn't easy to maintain that level of generosity and I must admit that a few people got those refrigerated Pillsbury cookies that you break apart, and bake.



Another difficult thing about being generous is that while I like the feeling of giving someone something, whether it be money, time, or those lame cookies, I like even more the feeling of appreciation I get in return. I call them the warm fuzzies. But it becomes an addiction – the seeking of gratitude and attention rather than being generous for the sake of generosity. I have, on a couple of occasions, paid for someone's meal without them knowing it. The catch is doing it without them knowing you did it and then walking away and never knowing how they reacted. It is a true test of why you are being generous. And I can tell you, it killed me not to at least peek in the window to watch!



I encourage you to try it sometime – it is much harder than it sounds!

Another problem with being generous is that we often are not

generous to ourselves or those we love. We often do not take care of ourselves physically or emotionally. Taking a day off just to pamper ourselves doesn't come naturally. And are we generous with our families, giving them what they need? Listening to that aunt who says the same thing over and over? Or trying to see things from your teenager's perspective? Or trying to understand why it is more important for your husband to play golf than to mow the lawn? Cancelling a business meeting to make sure you attend your grandchild's school program? And then doing it without expecting anything in return?



Finally, how do we apply "And always generous" to

our GFWC clubs and fellow clubwomen? Actually, I think we do a fantastic job when it comes to giving of our money, our time, and our talents. But sometimes we aren't generous of spirit with other members. Sometimes we put our own wants and needs in front of someone else whom we might not see eye to eye with. Sometimes we don't give their feelings and thoughts the benefit of the doubt. We don't try to look at what is going on in their lives and give them the generosity of understanding, of acceptance, of our love. Sometimes we don't let them have the spotlight. I know I am often guilty of these things. I often look to blame someone for something that didn't go the way I wanted it instead of giving them the generosity of first finding out what challenges they faced. Often, if I take the time to

be generous, I see things differently, see circumstances I didn't see before, and our trust and bond becomes even stronger.



So, in the future, I am going to identify a couple clubmembers that I feel I could be more generous with and give it a try. I am going to put into action my words and give a project more of my time and talent – but you won't know about it, because I am also going to try to find the satisfaction in knowing I did it for generosity's sake, not for the accolades. Will you join me?

Next month: "Let us take time for all things"





For you viewing enjoyment!

Linda's Notes – May 2017

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