

Linda's Notes

GFWC of Tennessee

11/30/2016

[Edition 1, Volume 4]

State Updates

Here we are at the end of November with the holiday season in full swing. The month of November has brought lots of activities and events for our clubs and districts. I love getting to see and hear about all the holiday events and projects our clubs do. It amazes me all the creativity, energy, and giving spirit that GFWC Tennessee clubwomen have. On the state level, we have been busy too – with lots of your help.

The beginning of November found several of our clubwomen at the Greenbrier Hotel in West Virginia for the Southeast Region Annual meeting. What a beautiful hotel it is! One of the highlights for me was when the state presidents and directors of junior clubs gave a 3-minute presentation on what their state was doing – Amanda was such a hit, dressed up to showcase our projects! The audience was

delighted as she answered each of my questions about her outfit with a drawl “Well, Linda ...” She had on tennis shoes (St. Jude walk), butterfly wings (Monarch Way Stations), a patriotic sash (our PSA), a Christmas tree hat (Book tree), with a crown on it (Be A Queen), holding our doll (First Lady dolls) and a tutu (Because GFWC of Tennessee always has fun). I am biased, but I thought our report was the best – at least the most entertaining!

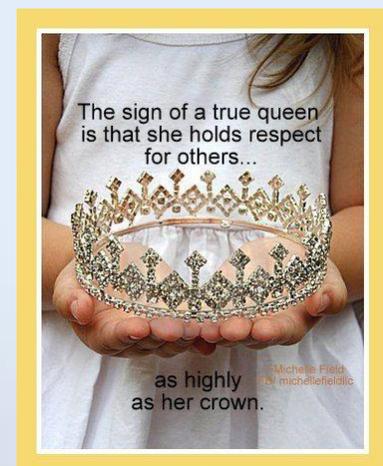


Later in the month, approximately 40 GFWC of Tennessee clubwomen, husbands, daughters, and friends gathered at the Tennessee Official Residence to construct the book tree. Under the direction of Kendra Walker Patty and



“It’s amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”

President Harry Truman



her husband Brian, the tree took shape and came together.



GFWC Women's Club of Hendersonville provided refreshments as only they can do!



I have to say, the tree is a testament to the volunteer spirit of the women of Tennessee. We had help with building this tree from every district of our state. The tree is decorated with a replica of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The tree topper is the head of the caterpillar and it wraps around the tree as garland. It has little arms that holds The

Very Hungry Caterpillar's Christmas book as if it is reading it.



Kendra has been contacted by the author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle, requesting he be able to hang pictures of our book tree in his museum, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA! How exciting is that? Finally, this Friday Kendra, Lana Robinson (PR Chairman) and I have been invited to attend media day at the Official Residence where Mrs. Haslam has invited the media to a private tour of the trees on display. We will be available for interviews about GFWC of Tennessee and our tree.

So, as this year comes to an end, what is the next thing on our horizon? I am hoping that everyone has planned and started planting their Monarch Way Stations -- the seeds that were provided each club must be planted in the fall so they can winter. Please send me pictures of your club planting the garden to lindahersheygfwc@gmail.com so we can share our next success. If you need more seeds, please let me know and I will mail them to you.



Thank you again for your continued support -- together we are making such a difference in our communities, our state, and our world!



The Collect

“... and leave off self-seeking.”

This is one of those phrases I seem to always gloss over, never really stopping to think what it means. I seem to have focused on the “fault-finding” part of this sentence as being the most important, however, I am coming to realize just how equally important this “self-seeking” concept is. I wanted to find out what self-seeking really meant and the definition I found in the Merriam-Webster dictionary is “the act or practice of selfishly advancing one’s own ends.”



I have spent the better part of two weeks thinking of examples of this. My brother gave me a great example -- little did he know I would use him in a newsletter, so if you meet him, don’t tell him!

Recently a group from the corporate office of the company my brother works for came to visit the local manufacturing plant where he is the maintenance director. He is the guy the whole plant calls when something doesn’t work right or just plain breaks down. He ponders the problem, adjusts this and that, and suddenly things are working again. His little adjustments and inventions have increased productivity and shortened downtime. Whenever he is on vacation, his phone still rings with people asking him what to do. So it was no surprise that he was asked to come along on the tour of this plant with the local manager and the corporate officers. Not far into the tour of the plant and the innovations my brother had installed, the plant manager took over explaining the different settings and adjustments – all to the amusement of my brother. You see, while the plant manager was, in effect, taking the credit for my brother’s work, it became clear to the

corporate officers that the manager was giving the wrong information and obviously wasn’t the one who had done the work.



Wow, how many times has that happened to you -- someone taking credit for your work? And how many times have you found yourself promoting a joint project and before you know it you are talking about yourself as if it were all your idea or work or talent? Sometimes it just happens because the person talking to you seems to steer the conversation to you and your part of it. And I will be the first to admit it feels good to be appreciated and awful not to get the credit you deserve. But, it feels even better when you can pull someone else in the spotlight with you!

I think the key to staying away from being self-seeking is to try to be humble and put others ahead of yourself – giving others credit. It's kind of like as a parent, when your child had done something amazing, you praise them and encourage them to share their accomplishment. You don't have them talk about what you did to help them achieve it. It is also like the parable of not taking a seat at the important end of the table. It is much better to be asked to move up to a more important seat than having to be asked to move down to a lesser seat.

I feel that in the end, credit will always find its way to

where it is deserved. People really do notice if you not only talk the talk but walk the walk. Since I grew up watching the original Star Trek series, I consider myself a Trekkie. One of the scenes from the movie Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan that always stays with me is when Mr. Spock closes himself in the contaminated area to save the others from dying and, in effect, sealing his death. He says: The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one. That still gives me goosebumps!



As members of GFWC of Tennessee we have so many amazing clubs, each one unique and full of exciting ideas and projects. There are also so many talented, dedicated, and enthusiastic members. It is my hope that, as your president, I can help you get the credit each of you deserves for all your hard work. And I hope if you ever catch me self-seeking, that you will call me on it! Finally, live long and prosper!!!!

Next month: "May we put away all pretense ..."

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1

The Red Hand Campaign

The GFWC of TN District 1 participated in a *Red Hand Campaign* at their Fall Conference on Saturday, October 8, 2016, in Johnson City, TN.



Red Hand Campaign – Main idea – children should be children NOT soldiers. Children as young as 8 years old have been reported as soldiers.

In Uganda, 1/3 or more of the child soldiers are reported to be girls who may be raped, traded or given to commanders as wives.

In 2000 UN adopted optional protocol on the intervention of the rights of a child- including 18-year-old minimum age.

- UNICEF estimates that as many as 300,000 children under the age of 18 are

engaged in armed conflicts in various places around the world, despite international laws prohibiting the use of child soldiers.

- The message of the Red Hand Campaign is clear. Red hand prints proclaim the message to the world – children should NOT be used as soldiers! Over 300,000 red hands have already been delivered to world leaders. And the action continues!



The GFWC of TN District 1 made 59 Red Hands that have been sent to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, who will deliver them to the ministries of countries that have not yet signed the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. There are 61 countries who have not agreed to stop the involvement of child soldiers.

Linda's Notes – September 2016

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