

# Pioneer Press

June 2023



## **Lines From Lou.....**

Wow! How quickly time flies when you are having fun – and this GFWC year has been just that.

Federation nurtures me, as I am sure it does you. The acquaintances and friendships that I have developed through GFWC are very important in my life. The meetings and programs not only educate me about what is going on in our world but they also motivate me to do more for my community. When we work for a better community, we get to see and experience the results, but it also gives us a sense of accomplishment and working as a team with our fellow club members.

I have truly enjoyed visiting your meetings and getting to know each of you this year while hearing about all of the good things that you are accomplishing through your club's work.

Please remember to put me in your plans for this next year – I can present a program, install your officers, or just come to get to know you better. I am just a phone call away if you need answers to a question about GFWC.

In Federation,

*Lou*

***BEE the change you want to see.....***

***Bee a volunteer!***



## **Pioneer District Fall Board**

Forty-two members and two guests attended the Pioneer District Fall Board on October 1, 2023 at Blue Mound United Methodist Church. Woman's Wednesday

Club of Sanger members were the hostesses and not only decorated with beautiful



bee décor, but also served a delicious luncheon of fried chicken, salads, and dessert. Members enjoyed getting to know each other better by playing the game *Two Truths and a Lie*. Angela Short, Pattye Graham, and Tracy Lamar reported about their experiences while attending GFWC Texas and GFWC meetings in Beaumont, Austin, and New Orleans. In keeping with GFWC Texas President Billie William's Special Project, *Protect the Pollinators*, Environment Chairman Barbara Winingham spoke about being aware of ways that we can help our environment.

She introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Stanley Brandon, a beekeeper and veterinarian from Ponder. He shared information about ways that bees are important to our world. Members enjoyed seeing the beekeeping tools that he brought to be examined. After lunch, Pioneer District First Vice



President, Kerry Dudley gave an update about reporting. President Hitt reminded members that reporting is an important way for clubs to share ideas with other clubs about interesting programs/projects that might also benefit other communities. Club presidents gave brief highlights of a project they plan to enact this year. Attendees participated in a Project in a Day by donating \$1081 of items, plus \$100 cash to Wise HOPE Domestic Violence Shelter.

## Pioneer District Spring Convention



Pioneer District 64th Spring Convention was held at the Woman's Club of Fort Worth Building on April 1, 2023. It was attended by fifty

members and one guest. The Fort Worth Federation of Women's Club was the host for the meeting held in the historic building that originally housed GFWC Texas headquarters until the GFWC Texas Mansion was completed in Austin. Members were welcomed to Fort Worth by Gordon England who not only was former President of Lockheed Martin and former Secretary of the Navy, but also served as Assistant Secretary of Defense. Attendees enjoyed playing the game *Who Here?* as they learned tidbits about fellow attendees. In

business, Dr. Kathy Horak-Smith was endorsed as a candidate for GFWC Texas First



Vice President for the 2024-26 administration and Tracy Lamar was elected as Pioneer District's representative on the GFWC Texas Nomination Committee for the same administration. Sue Mercer, first time attendee reported about going to the South Central Region Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas last October. We also heard reports from Sharon Walker about the state Scholarship



Committee and Patti Poe, Pioneer District Historical Foundation

Representative. After being served a scrumptious lunch of lasagna, salad, garlic

bread, and dessert, First Vice President Kerry Dudley and committee chairmen presented district level awards for reports submitted for 2022 club activities. Members held a moment of remembrance in honor of the fourteen Pioneer District members that we have lost this year. Linda Mesler was recognized as Pioneer District Life Member in honor of her many contributions to GFWC. The Project-in-a-Day was the collection of \$889 of in-kind donations of pajamas and underwear plus \$115 cash for the Children's Advocacy Center and Wise Hope Domestic Violence Shelter. It was truly a successful convention.

## The Woman's Thursday Club of Dublin Celebrates 125th Birthday

Congratulations to the Woman's Thursday Club of Dublin for service to their community of Dublin, Texas for 125 years. Seven progressive women who were interested in continuing



education for themselves and their small town began their work as a study club. Most of the ladies either were or had been teachers which probably influenced the choice of their objectives to be social, literary, cultural and charity based. They not only operated the town library prior to World War I, but had walks laid, trees planted, water fountains installed, and purchased chairs for the school auditorium. The club purchased four lots adjacent to the business section of downtown and cleared them to make a park.

They continue to make an impact on their community today.



## PIONEER DISTRICT SUCCESS

Pioneer District Clubs have been very busy during 2022. Totals from the 17 clubs who sent me their year-end statistical reports show that they completed 392 programs and projects; gave 31,120 hours of volunteer service; donated \$703,009 cash plus \$33,642 of in-kind donations to improve their communities. Fundraising resulting from 23 projects raised \$679,596.45 to assist in their efforts.

What an outstanding effort ladies!!

## **Linda Mesler Named Pioneer District Life Member**

Linda Mesler, Amity Club member from Nocona, was honored with Pioneer District Life Membership at the April 1, 2023 Pioneer District Spring Convention held in Fort Worth, Texas. Linda has been a member of GFWC Texas for 23 years and served as Pioneer District Secretary for 16 years. She has also held numerous committee chairmanships and was the editor of the state *Clubwoman* magazine for many years.

**Congratulations Linda on  
your honor!**



## **District and State Awards**

Congratulations to the following clubs for being recognized at Pioneer District and/or GFWC Texas Spring Convention for

outstanding projects reported during 2022:

### **Category 1 (5-15 members)**

#### Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Advocates for Children
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD / 1<sup>st</sup> state Education & Libraries
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Civic Engagement & Outreach
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD / 2<sup>nd</sup> state Membership
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Scholarship
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Federation Yearbook Cover

#### Woman's Thursday Club of Dublin

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 1<sup>st</sup> place state Health and Wellness
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Education & Libraries

### **Category 2 (16-20 members)**

#### 23 Study Club of Iowa Park

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Federation Yearbook Cover

#### Amity Club

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Domestic Violence
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Health and Wellness
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Communications/Public Relations
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Legislation / Public Policy
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 1<sup>st</sup> place state Membership
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Fundraising
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> place state Scholarship
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Arts & Culture
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Education & Libraries
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Texas Heritage: Historic Places/Things
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Outstanding Americanism Program

## **District and State Awards (continued)**

### Amity Club (continued)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Outstanding Club Program
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Whimsical Yearbook Cover

### Wednesday Study Club of Sanger

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Advocates for Children
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Arts & Culture
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Civic Engagement & Outreach
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 1<sup>st</sup> place state Leadership
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Texas Heritage: Historic Places /Things
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state TWU Library
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 1<sup>st</sup> place state UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/2<sup>nd</sup> place state Outstanding Federation Program
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Outstanding Americanism Program
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> place state Outstanding Club Program
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Whimsical Yearbook Cover
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state in State President's Special Project: Protect the Pollinators
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Membership
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD (tie) Scholarship

### **Category 3 (21-40 members)**

#### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club of Weatherford

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> place state Domestic Violence
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> place state Civic Engagement & Outreach
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Membership
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Outstanding Americanism Program
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD District President's Special Project: Domestic Violence
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Communications & Public Relations
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Outstanding Federation Program

#### Decatur Woman's Club

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Advocates for Children
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> place state Arts & Culture
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Education & Libraries
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Communications/Public Relations
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Leadership
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Fundraising
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD ESO
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD LEADS
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Texas Heritage: Historical Places /Things
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Texas Heritage: Special Projects
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Outstanding Federation Program
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Domestic Violence
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Health & Wellness
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Scholarships (tie)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Outstanding Club Program

#### Granbury Woman's Club

- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 1<sup>st</sup> place state Health & Wellness
- 1<sup>st</sup> place PD Volunteer Yearbook Cover

Granbury Woman's Club (continued)  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Advocates for Children  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Arts & Culture  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Conservation  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Education & Libraries  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Nineteenth Century Club of Pilot Point  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Conservation  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Outstanding Club Program  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Texas Yearbook Cover  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Civic Engagement & Outreach  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Scholarship (tie)  
2<sup>nd</sup> place PD Outstanding Americanism Program

## Category V (76+ members)

### Greater Keller Women's Club

1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Domestic Violence  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Arts & Culture  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Conservation  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Education & Libraries  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 1<sup>st</sup> place state Health & Wellness  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Civic Engagement & Outreach  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD Communications/ Public Relations  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> place state Leadership  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Membership  
1<sup>st</sup> place PD/1<sup>st</sup> place state Fundraising

## Gold Star Awards for Yearbook Content:

Amity Club of Bowie  
Decatur Woman's Club  
Woman's Wednesday Club of Granbury  
Granbury Woman's Club  
23 Study Club of Iowa Park  
19<sup>th</sup> Century Club of Pilot Point  
Wednesday Study Club of Sanger  
Stephenville Study Club  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Club of Weatherford



## Individual Awards at State

### Photography Contest

Our World Up Close, 1<sup>st</sup> place— Jo Lee, Amity Club of Bowie

### Chairman Narratives State Level

Domestic Violence, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Sue Mercer, Decatur Woman's Club  
Health & Wellness 1<sup>st</sup> place – Linda Mesler, Amity Club of Bowie  
Membership, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Tracy Lamar, Decatur Woman's Club

Outstanding Americanism Program, 1<sup>st</sup> place – Kris Stephens, Comanche Study Club  
TWU Library, 1<sup>st</sup> place – Kathy Horak-Smith, Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club  
Texas Heritage: Special Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Kathy Horak-Smith, Stephenville 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club  
UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Mary Stockard, Wednesday Study Club of Sanger

### Writing Contest

Youth Short Story, category 1 (grades K-2) 1<sup>st</sup> place state/ **1<sup>st</sup> place nationals** – Ava Eichberger (Decatur Woman's Club)  
Youth Poetry, category 2 (grades 3-5) 1<sup>st</sup> place state – Allison Yellot (Decatur Woman's Club)  
Youth Poetry, category 3 (grades 6-8) 1<sup>st</sup> place state – Hannah Hunter (Decatur Woman's Club)

## GFWC Texas State Convention

Pioneer District was the host for the 2023 GFWC



Texas Spring Convention held at the Denton Convention Center /Embassy Suites on April 27-29. The event started with a tour of the Little

Chapel in the Woods, the TWU Library which houses GFWC archives, and a driving tour to see many of the murals that are in downtown Denton. Friendships were renewed, good food was eaten, awards announced, and the presence of GFWC was strong! Thank you to all the Pioneer District Clubs who helped to make this State Convention a huge success:

Tote Bags and goodies - Woman's Wednesday Club of Sanger, Eumathian Club, The Woman's Thursday Club of Dublin and Lou Hitt, Pioneer District President

Door Prizes - Comanche Study Club, Nineteenth Century Club of Pilot Point, Stephenville Study Club, Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, and the Woman's Wednesday Club of Granbury

Favors - Amity Club, Billie Williams, GFWC Texas President, Decatur Woman's Club, Granbury Woman's Club and Lou Hitt, Pioneer District President

Decorations - Woman's Wednesday Club of Sanger  
Photo Op - Twentieth Century Club of Stephenville



## Ways to Get Involved

GFWC Texas is encouraging all clubs to participate in the following ways in their communities for programs or projects in each of the Community Service Program areas. These are some relatively easy projects to plan into your club activities and accomplish the goals set forth by GFWC .



### Arts & Culture – *Color With Kindness*

- Donate crayons to a local school
- Present a program by/about another culture

### Civic Engagement & Outreach – *Essential Sweets for Essential Workers* – Members, individually



and/or as a group can take doughnuts, cookies, muffins, to their local police, county sheriff's office, doctor's & dentist's office, local teachers' breakrooms, or municipal workers' office.

Education & Libraries – Purchase and donate age appropriate books about Texas History and read to a 4th or 7th grade classroom. These could be donated to the school or classroom library of the Texas History teacher. The librarian or teacher at the school would be a great resource for book ideas.



### Health & Wellness – *Breast Cancer Awareness Sticker Campaign* (October 2023)

Legislation & Public Policy – Sign up for Legislative Action Center on the GFWC website, [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org) . You will be emailed about pending legislation that GFWC supports/opposes. Participate in the Scavenger Hunt. The form can be found in the Legislation & Public Policy section of the GFWC Club Manual

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## 2022 – 2024

### ***Pioneer District Executive Board***

- President – Lou Hitt
- President-elect – Angela Short
- First Vice President – Kerry Dudley
- Second Vice President – Tracy Lamar
- Secretary – Mary Stockard
- Treasurer – Pat Flatt
- Scholarship Representative – Sharon Walker
- HF Representative – Patti Poe

## Did You Know?

\* The Pioneer Woman statue is located at Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas and was designed by Leo Friedlander. The statue was dedicated in 1938 for the centennial of Texas independence and was given by the state of Texas to TWU.

\* The GFWC Motto *Unity in Diversity* was authored by Ella Dietz Clymer. Speaking to the delegates at the first GFWC Conference she said, "We look for unity, but unity in diversity. We hope that you will enrich us by your varied experiences ..." The aptness of the motto is evidence in the diverse interests and methods of GFWC members, who have implemented a broad range of programs and projects tailored to meet the needs of their communities.

\*The red rose was officially adopted as the Federation Flower at the Council Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 1940. It was selected from suggestions sent in by various clubs.



\*In 1922, Katherine Lee Bates' song "America the Beautiful" was chosen as the official song because of it "is a song of dignity and beauty, easily sung, and reflects the true spirit of America and the ideals of this Federation.

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## Important Upcoming Dates

### September 14-16, 2023

GFWC Texas Fall Board  
Austin, Texas

### September 30, 2023

Pioneer District Fall Board  
DeCordova Bend Country Club  
Granbury Texas

### October 19-21, 2023

South Central Regional Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### April 6, 2024

Pioneer District Spring Convention  
Bowie, Texas

### April 24-27, 2024

GFWC Texas Spring Convention  
Sheraton McKinney  
McKinney, Texas

### June 28 – July 1, 2024

GFWC Convention  
Chicago, Illinois

### October 10 – 12, 2024

South Central Regional Conference  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma