

Dear Karen:

We were so inspired by your message about courageous women and HERO's whose Hands Eagerly Reach Out that it became a theme for our club year. It occurred to me that the members of our club reach out constantly in so many different ways to help people and improve the community. They truly are everyday HERO's determined to get the job done and fearless in finding ways to meet our goals. I stress this idea each month in my President's message in our newsletter, The Daisy Chain.

The Board agreed to the idea of a monthly HERO award in honor of the good work our members are doing. While none of the ladies would ask for recognition or expect it, still I thought it would be a good way to highlight some of the HERO's in our club.

We gave the first award at our Oct. meeting to Donna Davis, chair of our Public Affairs group. Donna has taken on this responsibility for several years. She is also instrumental in a group called FAST, a coalition of local churches who work together to set up major achievable goals for the community each year. They then hold an assembly where local politicians and officials are put on the hot seat to ask if they will commit to the goals. They follow up to make sure officials do what they have agreed to.

Our second winner in Nov. was Kathe Hardwick, one of those members who manage to get things done. She saw a need to make a change, and after surveying the membership, Kathe shared data that convinced us to change our fall fundraiser from an evening event to An Afternoon with the Authors. Kathe served as chair of this very successful event, stressing this was not only a fundraiser for the Library but also a "friendraiser" for our club.

Our winner in Dec. was Marella Cassels who is a past president and has been a member of the club for years. While Marella was toying with the idea of cutting back on activities, when she got the call, she responded positively once again to chairing our Education group. She and her group presented an excellent program on identity protection and ways to protect from scams.

January winners were Marie Grein (Past President), Ellie Lee (Past President), Ann Crum, (Past President) and Kay Estock, (current Vice-President). These tireless ladies, who have already served the club for years, became my personal HERO's as they agreed to serve on the annual report committee to the state and national organizations. This report requires extensive data gathering and assembling, and these ladies put their collective experience to work to turn out a report we are proud of.

Our February winner was Sue Meier, our membership chairman extraordinaire. Sue had outstanding displays and information about the club at our meetings, fundraisers, and other events. She has served in this capacity for two years. Sue also took over the chairmanship of our Meals on Wheels service project and made some needed changes that keep the program strong.

The March winner was Betsy Dort, the outstanding chair of our Daisy Grants Committee. Betsy has held this role for several years, and she performs this job with such professionalism, getting information out to the community on our web site and other media. She and her committee had 16 applications this year for our Daisy grants which amount to \$1,000. This year, the club will be giving six 1,000 grants to deserving charities.

We have not yet named our April or May Heroes.

I think the Hero Theme and the Hero Awards, which you inspired, have contributed greatly to our having a successful year. We thank you so much for your inspiration. If you have any other questions, please contact me at djroby2@verizon.net. Good luck with your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Roby, President of GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club