

EDINA FEDS HISTORY – 2020-2021 – A Unique Year

Information compiled by LaRae Ellingson Hovland, Historian

In March 2020, the global pandemic, known as Covid 19 or Coronavirus, a fatal disease with no known cure (until vaccines were finally developed and released in December of 2020) descended upon the United States. We found our state enforcing a variety of means to stop the spread of the disease and keep us safe. As all Americans were advised to shelter in our homes and not meet in groups of more than ten people, our organization was immediately affected.

Flexibility and creativity, patience and hope prevailed as the issue of keeping our club alive became our main issue. Based on community and camaraderie, our monthly meeting and our work to earn funds to support local non-profits seemed impossible to maintain.

Shirley Burr was President at the beginning of the quarantine or stay at home time. Diane Eldredge was on deck, ready to take over in April for her 2020-21 term. While Shirley tried to track down reports from the past year, many of our activities, including Spring Fling—the official transition event was cancelled and the passing down of knowledge and the announcement of new Board positions was made much more difficult. There was neither a convenient nor conventional means to make the transition in this unusual time.

Prior to the Covid pandemic and prescribed quarantine, we also suffered from a reluctance by members to take on the leadership position of President and President-elect. This reluctance had been evident over the past few years and indeed, led Shirley Burr, out of the goodness of her heart, to agree to again step into the presidential role for the 2019-20 term. This was her second term as President in three years. Indeed, as a result, she had been serving non-stop as a significant leader of Feds from 2016-20. (She served as President Elect from 2016-17, President from 2017-18, Advisor to the President from 2018-19, President once again from 2019-20...and once again, Advisor to the President for the 2020-21 term.) In 2020, like Shirley before her, Diane Eldredge, out of the goodness of her heart, stepped forward to take on the responsibility of President. Her first note to membership is significant in many ways and is reproduced in its entirety below. This letter shows just how complicated and confusing everything was. Questions and uncertainty were the order of the day. Would people pay \$100 to be a member of a club that could not “meet” in person? What would we do to provide service to others? Could we have a Feds Fest to raise the funds?...Everything was dependent on how long this pandemic would last! When would things be back to “normal” and what would “normal” be? She included a survey to aid in determining what members thought and wanted of their club.

“Good afternoon ladies.

I apologize for not reaching out sooner. I became a bit paralyzed when the pandemic began and just couldn't imagine how our club would be able to function. We need to hear from our members and how they feel so I started working on a survey. In the midst, I lost an uncle due to COVID19 and the numbers we watch climb became even more real. The club has been on my mind daily, often hourly. Then last week the incredibly tragic death of George Floyd and the burning and destruction in our beautiful Twin Cities was surreal. That same week, my dear sister-in-law passed due to Stage 4 cancer. She no longer suffers and is at peace. I am resurfacing and all the while, you have been close to my heart and in my prayers.

Due to all that has taken place, would you kindly reconfirm your willingness to serve on the 2020-2021 Board or Chair in the positions listed below. Thanks! “

Once I tally the feedback from the survey we will have better direction with the desires of the club members. Proceeding with our 2020-2021 EFWC goals will indeed be a new “normal” for us. Please put on your thinking caps. I would love to hear your ideas! You are a gift and so appreciated!

Results of the survey revealed the following facts (68 members completed the survey)

- *57 members are comfortable with socializing in EFWC groups of 10 or less*
- *41 members prefer to stay connected with EFWC members by email and Jottings until the pandemic stabilizes*
- *52 members want EFWC members attending a small group to wear masks*
- *60 members are ok without food being offered at EFWC meetings or gatherings because of the complications of wearing masks*
- *45 members stated they would attend EFWC meetings held by Zoom*
- *48 members stated that they would like to attend the Zoom meetings on their own*
- *14 members would like to attend the Zoom meetings together with another member*
- *36 members would like to hear a speaker during EFWC Zoom meetings*
- *41 members prefer to stay connected with EFWC members by email and Jottings until the pandemic stabilizes.*

The feedback from Diane’s survey represents confusion and apprehension as people tried to figure out what they wanted in this unusual time. Everything was on hold, nothing was certain... Flexibility and openness to change were important traits. She went on to add, *“As a result of these findings, the Board agreed that the September 10 kickoff meeting would be held via Zoom, without a speaker....and we would move to in person meetings and a Fall Festival to replace our 2020 Spring Fling as soon as it is safe to do so. We will have such a celebration of being together again! Champagne instead of wine?”* (Spoiler Alert: Alas, in-person meetings and the Fall Festival were never to be during Diane’s term.)

Zoom!??!

Prior to this first general meeting, it was necessary for Diane to send out instructions on how to use “Zoom” to join the meeting. This app, unknown to most of us prior to the pandemic, allowed groups to meet virtually. In addition to the Zoom invitation, she included attachments for the Agenda, the Collect and the Pledge of Allegiance. At this meeting, Arlene Clapp, Vice President of Membership, announced we had 86 members. Most people stayed with us but she did note some members are feeling “left out.” At that time we had \$24,019.62 which included the dues from the 86 members. Savings were \$3335 and checking was \$1475.69. This amount included the refund of \$700 for the Feds Fest parties that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Work on the new EFWC logo was tabled and the 2020-21 directories were delivered to members’ homes by Board members since we weren’t meeting in person. (Mailing the directories—our only other alternative would have cost several hundred dollars.) Pastor

John Peters of St Albans told Ann Gray, Head of Hospitality, that he cannot open the doors for groups until COVID testing results fall below 5%. Social had considered a picnic but the City of Edina was limiting 24 people per gathering. There was no program as there was much to discuss. In reading through the minutes from the Board meetings through out the year, we find constant questions and suppositions reflecting the uncertainty hanging in the air. Some examples :

- *“Hoping you are all doing well this summer in light of restrictions to gather.”*
 - *“We all want to gather but need to know our organization’s best practice and legal responsibilities.”*
 - *“Happy Hours via Zoom? Please contact Lynette and Kathy if you have ideas to help make this happen”*
 - *“Dawnn Eldredge, Chairing the new position of Social Media, shares she is handling social media in a very sensitive way during the pandemic, the tragic events surrounding George Floyd’s death, rioting and peaceful demonstrations.”*
 - *“Your Board is actively looking for ways for members to stay connected. If you have an idea,...”*
 - *“This is such an unusual year and we’d love to hear from any member that has something to share with your fellow Fed members, “*
 - *“Social chairs to poll members for a consensus on a holiday party”*
 - *The possibility of a Holiday party is tabled until the end of October”*
-and while we were dependent on our computers to maintain contact with each other it was important to still keep non-computer people apprised of all that we were considering.

At the September meeting, Eunice Groschen started seeking 4 members for the Nominating Committee and Arlene Clapp, Membership Chair announced one returning member made for a total of 87 members. The October Board meeting was on the same night as the final Presidential debate so Diane promised to end the meeting by 7:45. At that meeting, Kathy Frank, Department Chair, reported over 40 members had contributed to making the 150 goody bags that were to be delivered to the senior citizens at Vernon Terrace for Halloween. She added that she would bring the bags to Vernon Terrace by October 13 to allow time for any virus to dissipate before distribution. The bags included Sudoku and word search/crossword puzzle books, lotion, pens, post-its, salty and sweet snacks. JoAnn Stromberg and Stella Rezak reported on their successful “tailgate” party that was held at Pamela Park and attracted 17 participants. The low number of attendees for Out to Lunch bunch caused Stella to wonder about the holiday party.

Founded in Friendship

In Diane’s October letter, she muses on the Club’s motto, “Founded in Friendship” and the Club’s purpose to serve the community. Her eloquence related to this subject is thought provoking and powerful.

“On a personal note, since my recent surgery, I’ve had time to reflect on one of our club’s motto’s “Founded on Friendship”. I didn’t know that I would personally experience what so many of you have shared about the support of Feds members during a time when you need it most. The sincere caring thoughts expressed truly reinforce our clubs number one goal - to develop friendship. I believed that goal number two - to promote and participate in services to EFWC and the Community was more important and it is very important, but we each must come first in order to achieve our second goal of service which comes from our strength. Thank you to our founders for creating a club with such forethought. Many thanks to all of you for your efforts to keep us striving!”

In November Kathy Frank started collecting gift cards for Good in the Hood, an organization focused on children from the Northern suburbs whose families are in need. 44 gift certificates were donated. Arlene announced our new member, Kate Agnew, made for 88 members now and it was decided the Holiday party would be by Zoom.

Holiday Party by Zoom—A Wonderful success!

Despite initial trepidation and uncertainty as to how “fun” a virtual party would be, the Holiday party was a resounding success. Organized by Alisa Lamont, JoAnn Stromberg and Stella Rezac, members were encouraged to “bring” spouses, friends, and family, to dress in festive wear and to BYOB. Musical entertainment by Tom Prin, local notable, was followed by putting members into “Zoom rooms” with three to four other people who were asked to share their responses to such engaging questions/subjects as: “Describe your favorite Christmas/holiday memory.” or “What was your favorite gift to give or receive?” While Alisa had the technical skill to move people from group to group, JoAnn and Stella were moderators and enthusiastically presented the subjects for discussion. The team received many positive email testimonials. In fact, Alisa admitted to being “*a bit overwhelmed with how well it all went.*” Some sample comments are:

- *“I didn’t know what to expect and you exceeded my expectations.”*
- *“Better than an in person party!”*
- *“Fun to see everyone and be able to talk to more people than usual because of the breakout groups.”*
- *“In this day and age of the Pandemic, nothing is easy! There was a great turn out from all walks of Feds. All ages and many different interests.”*
- *“So your new book: Using Technology for Fun, Games and the Social/Psychological Welfare of Friends. You’ll make a million!*
- *“I am becoming too accustomed—and blasé—about Zoom, so I won’t sure how the evening would go. But I looked forward to it and Lord knows, we have few opportunities for that!!!”*
- *“It couldn’t have been better!!”*

In the *January Jottings*, Diane noted: We had...

- *Conducted 9 Zoom meetings*
- *Developed a plan to keep non-email members abreast of club news*
- *Welcomed 1 new member and 1 rejoined member.*
- *Volunteered for 2 organizations: Vernon Terrace for Halloween & Good in the ‘Hood for Christmas.*
- *Enjoyed 2 fun club socials: Pamela Park tailgating and a Holiday Happy Hour via Zoom,*
- *Held 3 programs of entertainment by guests: Jim Karol, James Lileks and musical artist, Tom Prin.*
- *Delivered 4 beautifully prepared Jottings newsletters (Thank you Amy Simon!).*

She went on to recognize all members for their “*creative thoughts, financial support and friendly calls. You are simply the best!*”

At the January meeting, Eunice announced that the Nominating Committee had found candidates for all positions with the exception of the positions of President and President Elect! The committee worked hard to define the job and wrote up a complete summary of all presidential responsibilities (This document is found at the end of this report). They also sent out this impassioned plea “*Ladies - we need one of you to volunteer to be our leader for next year. How about you? Do you have the skills, time and energy to "say YES" to the President's job? We know it's challenging; we also know that it's a great experience. Those of us who have*

held this position in the past will tell you that we learned so much from the members; that we were supported by wonderful women as we fulfilled our duties; and that we each had a wonderful year.”

Upon announcing at the February meeting that they were still without a candidate for President, uncomfortable silence fell upon the Zoom participants...Finally, two "Zoom" angels stepped up! Stella Rezac and JoAnn Stromberg, the Co-chairs of last year's successful Boots and Bling Feds Fest. They responded that they would be interested in sharing the President position for the next year, if that was allowed. Everyone enthusiastically agreed that they were perfect for the job and that "it would be allowed"! The Slate of Officers for 2020-21 was finally complete!

Presidents Elect: Stella Rezac and JoAnn Stromberg
Vice President: No candidate
VP Membership: Arlene Clapp
VP Departments: Ann Gray
Treasurer EFWC: Marlene Schleimer
Treasurer EFWC Philanthropies: Judy Cipolla
Corresponding Secretary: Jill Atkins
Recording Secretary-Day: Glynne Bassi
Recording Secretary-Evening: Alta Fossum

When asked later why it was so hard to find anyone to commit to the President position, Eunice said "I think the main reason was 'I don't want to take a leadership role. I'd rather just be a "helper".' Then there was the one about commitment: 'I can't make that long a commitment.'" She went on to add, "I would say hidden in that same context is the fear of public speaking; fear of "being in charge"; might get it "wrong"; and the age-old - 'I don't have the experience of being the leader.' Maybe one other hidden anxiety may be the "team leadership" element - i.e. doesn't know the Robert's Rules of Board Meetings. I know that we women totally seem to compare ourselves with other women in the realm of leadership - but unless one takes on the challenges once in a while, one never learns to grow as a leader (self-confidence.) Many think that others are more talented or can "handle" the situation better - but they are selling themselves short. This Club is very supportive of those who step up to the plate to do the leadership. The old days (in my book) are gone where there was snipping behind backs. I see a turn-around in support of the team. If our members watch the women who are "in charge" they can observe how issues are handled and dealt with in many different situations. Also, I'd have to say that there are many women of various talents who can be mentors to those who might want to take on the leadership roles in the future. Success breeds success. Shirley Burr is a good example of a talented leader who has helped many others in the Club."

In her February letter, Diane recognized the following members and their committees, for their hard work: Eunice Groschen (Nominating Committee), Renee Raming (Revisions), Birdie Rand (Philanthropy), Marlene Schleimer (Budget & Finance). She went on to laud the following individuals: Connie Nelson (Programs), Shirley Burr (Advisor, Ways and Means Chair, member of Philanthropy and Nominating committees—all the while working full time!), Sandy Phillips (Friendship Network), Amy Simon (Jottings editor & graphic designer), JoAnn Stromberg & Stella Rezac (Social Chairs), Alisa Lamont (Philanthropies Treasurer), Ingrid

Emstad & Kay Manthe (Recording Secretaries), Rosie Gubrud (Publicity Chair), Kathy Frank, (VP Departments), Sharon Coyne & Mary Wiley (Out to Lunch Bunch Chairs).

In March we learned that Diane had been hospitalized with covid while she still continued to provide unbroken leadership for the club. At the March meeting, Kathy Frank announced she had already received \$1500 in donations for VEAP. By the deadline, she had received \$2272.58. Discussion related to the Spring Fling on May 13 as concern was expressed as to the number of fully vaccinated member in such a large gathering. It was decided in concert with the incoming Co-Presidents to postpone a large gathering until the summer or fall. In the meantime, The Revisions Committee headed by Renee Raming, consisting of Sandy Schley, Rosie Gubrud, ??? had been working *“through official documents with an eye to accommodation of the changing needs and desire of our members.”* The bylaw provisions that they presented for a vote were approved in April. They received 30 email responses and 5 or so phone calls approving the revisions. Among the changes approved, the new bylaws redefined the composition of the Board and reduced the number of voting members on the Board, making quorums easier to attained all Board business could be conducted within the legal parameters of the bylaws.

Birdie Rand headed the Philanthropy Committee from her winter home in Arizona— Through Zoom, a “snowbird” could still be an active member! The committee consisted of Shirley Burr, Rosie Gubrud, Renee Raming, and Sandra Schley. Nominating criteria —money must go to a 501C3 that benefits women, children or families in Edina or the surrounding area, The impact of Covid and domestic abuse relief were also considerations. The following groups were nominated: Beyond New Beginnings, cornerstone, Edina Give and Go, Love One Another, START Senior Solutions.

April was devoted to web site work, approval of the Budget and the election of new officers. Since there was no Spring Fling, officers were installed on Zoom.

The May Jottings allowed some of the information dissemination that would have been handled at the Spring Fling to be accomplished: Ingrid Emstad was planning for next year and encouraged members to sign up for hosting (which required arriving 45 minutes prior to the meeting in order to set the tables and decorate.) Dinners which were to be catered will cost members \$7.00. Arlene Clapp said 75% of our members had already paid their dues for next year. She also had a small blurb headlined: “Stay Tuned! 2nd Friday of each month at 5 pm “Friends, Food and Fun” as enticement for 2021-22.

Diane ended the year thanking everyone. And with a summation : 18 Zoom meetings, 4 guest speakers, 3 distance/remote events, a total of \$3375 had been donated in gift cards and \$5000 from the Treasury had been donated to 2nd Harvest Heartland (\$3000) and Edina Give and Go (\$2000). She also encouraged member to contact the Chairs of Bunco, Golf, Bridge and Book Club since the lack of a Spring Fling denied us

the opportunity to register for such activities for 2021-22....and last but not least, members' baby pictures were solicited by Stella Rezac to be used how??? next year.

Sun Current Article

Jill Atkins was thanked for getting a nice article in the Sun Current entitled "Pre-pandemic party in Edina pays off during time of need (https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_current/community/pre-pandemic-party-in-edina-pays-off-during-time-of-need/article_39bc72be-a01f-11ea-9cf6-63726f7e1847.html) The article focused on the club and our hugely successful Feds Fest in 2019, led by Stella Rezac and JoAnn Stromberg. According to Rosie Gubrud "Andrew Wiig did a nice job of making last November's event current and relevant to financial needs created by the pandemic. ...an upper in our times of downers." Stella went on to write: "The success of our fundraiser belongs to everyone—every single member of the Feds...we did well."

YEAR LONG ACTIVITY SUMMARY

PROGRAM CHAIR—*Connie Nelson* & **PARTIES** —JoAnn Stromberg, Stella Rezac & Alisa Lamont

Monthly meetings consisted of four programs organized by Connie Nelson and two "Parties" by Zoom, organized by JoAnn Stromberg, Stella Rezac and Alisa Lamont. Prior to the announcement of each of Connie's programs, she provided an interesting Ted Talk or You Tube video, not necessarily related to the speaker, which made for even more stimulating thought! JoAnn, Stella and Alisa created virtual parties that allowed members to "mix and mingle! In a whole new way."

September—no program but Connie provided links to interesting Ted Talks (See *Jottings* for links)

October— meeting featured Jim Karol, world renowned speaker, mentalist and magician who spoke on "Brain Health". He was open to questions that were submitted in advance. Books were available, Diane was connected to him and he offered this special program to us at no charge.

Ted Talk—Barry Schwartz-The Paradox of Choice

November—James Lilacs, columnist and humorist at the Star Tribune—an entertaining evening with a well-known local humorist

Ted Talk—*Quiet-The Power of Introverts*

December—Holiday party (See prior description—page 4)

Ted Talk—Barry Schwartz—Swarthmore professor speaking on the role of luck in our lives

January—Maribeth Romslo—Film maker, director, cinematographer and producer—*“Well Told Stories have the Power to Change the World”* —and daughter in law of beloved member, Linda Romslo

February—*“Love is in the Air”* party—The invitation decorated with colorful hearts gave a hint as to the conversations to be had—*“What do you love? Travel & Leisure, Cuisine and Restaurants, Books and Movies—a fun and lively social hour!”*

Connie provided a link to a YouTube video from Mr Rogers

March—Curt Brown, Sunday History columnist at the Star Tribune & author of Minnesota 1918: When Flu, Fire and War Ravaged the State—he spoke from Durango, Colorado—an advantage of Zoom!

Ted Talk—Celeste Headlee’s *“10 Ways to Have a Better Conversation”*

FRIENDSHIP NETWORK—*Sandy Phillips*

Sandy was especially busy this year, sharing a variety of moments for tribulation, but many more of sorrow. She was sensitive to those she contacted...and provided this information: *‘We send email notices as soon as we hear from someone. We can arrange meal assistance, let members know of your preferred communication, ask others for prayers, and send you air hugs and good wishes! Sometimes members are shy about calling so do call me on someone else’s behalf if you know of a member who needs help or attention!’* A summary of her notifications is found below:

We were saddened to lose the following members:

Sharon Hale (a former Fed of 47 years), Betty Paugh, Lucy Klos (a member for 19 years, whose daughter, Kim Poncius is now a member), Elaine Wittman, Kent Harrell???

We mourned with these members and former members who lost family members:

Carolyn Schroeder, Lynn Billings, Adele Brellenthin, Sandy Schley and Doris Grimes lost their beloved husbands. Karen Tortoricci lost her mother, Jill Atkins lost her sister, and Diane Eldredge and Rosie Gubrud both lost a sister-in-law

Three Personal Covid Stories

Carolyn Schroeder, member since 2004, was one of the first people in the Club to contract covid. A week and a half after her husband died at home, she ended up in the hospital. She was one of the first to go to the Bethesda Hospital (the designated regional covid treatment facility) AND one of the first to leave! She was never on a ventilator, only unforced oxygen and no meds. According to her daughter, Barbara, *“she*

has no memory of two weeks of her life then. The doctors told us she would die one night and we all said good bye. Then the next day, he said, "Well, we don't think she's going to die. She's getting better and we want to restart her regular medicines. She recovered on her own";). Barbara goes on to add "In fact, they gave her a standing ovation while she was being wheeled out of the hospital.:"

**Jean Hedberg reported to the Friendship Network: "Carolyn went home yesterday, she had been off oxygen for 2 days. Her daughter Lisa is staying with her. They are both in quarantine for 2 weeks. She is very weak and tired and it will take some time for her to recover so for the time being, NO phone calls, please. She is just not up to talking to people. Of course besides recovering from her illness she has to deal with the death of her husband. I am in touch with her daughter, Barbara, and will pass on any other news I get. We just must thank God that she is slowly recovering and give her all the time she needs to do just that. Thanks to all of you for your prayers."*

Bev Zimmerman also suffered through Covid. She got pneumonia with Covid and ended up on a nebulizer for several weeks. She reports "I still get out of breath quite often." Diane Eldredge reports "In March of 2021, during the same week I was scheduled to get my first vaccination, I became ill. It was much more than any cold or pneumonia I've ever experienced. I was in ER twice that week and had 2 false negative covid tests. After many tests, I had all the markers for covid, including covid and bacterial pneumonia. The ER doctor said it didn't matter what the tests show, he was convinced I had covid. That day I was admitted to the hospital and my 3rd covid test was positive. My 5 day hospital stay with all kinds of IV meds, etc. was shortened to 3 days, after I convinced the doctors to allow me to recuperate at home. My husband contracted covid during the same timeframe so we both isolated for a couple weeks and I continued seeing a lung specialist for 7 months. We know that covid affects everyone differently. My husband and I agree that this disease can be brutal. We encourage everyone we know to do all possible to avoid contracting and of the variants. During my recovery, Edina Federated Women's Club members were remarkable be sending lovely cards, emails and phone calls. I still have all those beautiful get well wishes and view them every few months. Thank you for caring!"

Other people who suffered through operations and/or ailments included Sandy Schley, Rosie Gubrud's husband, Doris Grimes' son-in-law, Susan Covnick's sister, Marcia Ries, Barb Johnson, Jan Johnson, Ginna Raming

On a more cheerful note, the following members celebrated "significant" birthdays: Lucy Klos (90 years old), Nancy Lynch (90 years old) & Jean Hedberg (92 years old)

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH—Mary Wiley and Sharon Coyne

As Mary had a new grandchild to be protected from covid, she cocooned and left the program to Sharon. The group started out meeting at Pinstripes (Sept) and Cahill Bistro (Oct) and after that they met at the Edina Country Club and Hilltop.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR—*Arlene Clapp*

One of the most enthusiastic boosters a club could ever hope to have, Arlene worked hard to increase our membership! She sent members birthday cards and/or birthday wishes over the phone(singing Happy birthday!). It was a hard year to gain members as all meetings were virtual.

CONSERVATION—*Adele Brellenthin*

“Reduce, reuse, recycle and renew”—Adele continued to collect prescription bottles, ink cartridges, pop tops, greeting cards and eye glasses. With Covid in mind, we were encouraged to just leave them on her front doorstep.

BOOK CLUB—*Judy Cipolla and JoAnn Stromberg*

They met on Zoom and discussed the following books:

September	The Dutch House	Ann Patchett	reviewer: Kathy Frank
November	When We Believed in Mermaids	Barbara O’Neal	reviewer: Barbara Johnson
December	The Lager Queen	Ryan Stradel	
March	The Island of Sea Women	Lisa See	reviewer: Kay Manthe
April	The Giver of Stars	Joy Moyes	reviewer: Jacque Kramer
May	The Only Woman in the Room	Marie Benedict	reviewer:Kathy Post

FRIENDS OF FEDS: *Ginna Raming and Kim Poncius* had the brilliant idea for Ways and Means to raise money for operating expenses by selling advertising space in *The Jottings*. The following businesses took them up on this opportunity:

Crown Bank
Eldredge Real Estate
EJ’s Sunglasses
Evoke Home
Key Cadillac
Vitality life
Edina Realty—Ginna Raming

DAY AND EVENING BRIDGE GROUPS: *Jan Larsen* was in charge of Day Bridge. When several members indicated they were still interested in playing Evening Bridge, *Dodie Bock*, who chaired the evening group, passed leadership in January on to *Carol Korupp* for the rest of the year. Both groups met at Edina Country Club.

Monthly day bridge meetings started at 11:30 with lunch from the Country Club menu. A list of first and second place winners is found below:

Month	First	Second
September	Arlene Clapp	Carol Korupp
October	Mary Kay Jorgensen (a sub)	Carol Fredlund
November	Arlene Clapp	Adele Brellenthin
January	Adele Brellenthin	Carol Krupp
February	Jan Larsen	Mary Pryor
March	Therese Eisenhuth	Kathy Armstrong
April	1. Arlene Clapp 2. Therese Eisenhuth. 3. Mary Pryor	

Evening bridge met at 5 pm on Tuesdays

January	Jan R Larson	Mary Nelson
February	Carol Fredrickson	Arlene Clapp
March	Adele Brellenthin	Therese Eisenhuth
April	Kathy Post	Adele Brellenthin

MEMBERS' REFLECTIONS ON THIS COVID PERIOD OF ISOLATION

Responses to Questions from the Historian regarding Covid Experiences

Below you will find my request that members consider some questions related to this "unusual time" and the varied responses I received!

These are definitely "interesting times" for all of us! With that in mind, as the Club Historian, I would like to document how the pandemic has affected us personally as well as how it has affected the day to day/month to month operations of our club. As a result, I've compiled some questions (originally suggested by Liah Crowe in the latest edition of the GFWC newsletter) for us to consider. When you get a chance, please send me your thoughts related to the following questions. You may answer all, some or none of these questions! It's not mandatory! I will compile the answers and share them with you sometime before the end of the Feds' calendar year so you have plenty of time to think and respond. You may request that your responses be anonymous; otherwise I will assume you won't mind sharing your thoughts and having them attributed to you.

Amy Simon

I did not include a story of my own in Jottings, but reflecting tonight I wanted to share my own bit of humor that has come out of this situation.

I have started teaching my stepson Hugo, as the Edina schools are now back in online session as of Monday (which we realized Sunday night at 10 p.m., oops). So in between teaching my UMN students in Zoom sessions four times a day, I now teach math, reading, and more to a 1st grader (who is thoroughly enjoying the attention). I teach so often now though that I can't turn it off. I find myself giving constant instruction and everyone groans when I start yet another one of "Amy's lectures". I seem to now find a learning opportunity in everything and ask questions such as "who can explain to the family the correct steps of doing dishes?" or "let's gather around and review how to properly balance a load in the washing machine". I end regular discussions with inquiries such as "what are your major takeaways from this conversation?" Last night I gave dinner options to the family in the form of a multiple choice question. My home has become one big classroom and everyone in it my student! So I hope you are all doing well at home. Me? I am driving everyone here nuts :)

JoAnn Stromberg

Hi, LaRae! Hope this note finds your arm/shoulder all healed and that you are back to normal. This sure has been a strange year. The isolation has been challenging. I have still been able to do some Assistance League volunteer work online, do a lot of needlepoint, read and spend WAY TOO MUCH time playing mahjong online!

My COVID memory is that we really saw very little of our family or friends since the pandemic started. Our kids pretty much had us under "house arrest". We did not go to stores or restaurants. There were some sad days. As Christmas approached our wonderful kids knew I would be heartbroken if we could not spend time together. Missing Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and birthdays was one thing. But missing Christmas was pretty non-negotiable. So a plan was put into place that included testing and quarantining for 10 days. We spot three wonderful hours together on Christmas afternoon. No meals, none of the regular traditions. I am attaching a photo that you might enjoy. It is simply titled COVID Christmas 2020. It shows our son-in-law, four grandkids and one granddog!

Alisa LaMonte

1. What have you learned during the quarantine?

I have learned that the days go by slowly, but the months go by quickly! While it feels like forever, I know that this time will pass. I try to be a good example for my children by accepting this moment and focusing on the positive aspects of it.

2. What is the BEST thing that has happened to you during this time? Or What is the BEST thing about this time?

Now that it is November, and we are eight months into the Covid lifestyle, I still really appreciate spending more time at home with my children. Three out of four are learning online, so our house feels busy and full every day. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work remotely, and I appreciate not having to commute.

3. What is the WORST thing that has happened to you during this time? Or What is the WORST thing about this time?

It has been devastating to witness the toll Covid has had on people and their loved ones. The death of George Floyd has shined a spotlight on racial and social injustice in our country, and that has been very challenging as well.

4. What has been/was/ and/or is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is still that I will lose my elderly parents to Covid, or that I will become sick and unable to care for my children and parents. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the number of people who rely on me for support, and I feel a deep responsibility to stay strong for them.

5. What has been/is your greatest hope?

My greatest hope is that our community will come together to support one another during this complex time. I think the course of events in 2020 have shown us that we are more connected than we believe—but we also more divided in our opinions.

6. Other observations are welcome!

Organizations like the Feds are more important now than ever! We are social beings who need interaction. Even if it is mostly online, we can still find meaningful connections. I have really enjoyed the Feds meetings and speakers this year. The philanthropic projects have also fun and impactful to people in our community. I'm proud to be a Feds member!

Anonymous

Not to be used with my name, but I am SO grateful not to be living alone through all this, or living with someone who I don't enjoy being with.

Ann Gray

1. Learned: That I am not ready to retire yet!
2. Best Thing: I have been able to sleep in..no alarm clock..and stay up late ,bingeing on Netflix if I wish
3. Worst thing: working in the travel industry, much of my last year's work was for naught..Hours were spent arranging such wonderful trips, and then hours had to be spent cancelling them!
4. Biggest fearL. After being so careful in self-quarantining and sanitizing, And and I will get covid anyway
5. Hope: That we and all of our family and friends will stay safe and healthy...and that a vaccine will arrive soon and make it possible for us to get on with our lives.

Arlene Clapp

1. Learned:That being at home isn't too bad. That it's a lot easier getting ready for meetings—including church—on Zoom
2. Best things: Learned to be more quiet for several weeks Got (and getting) to play bridge every day on line with friends
3. Worst thing: Had to spend a lot of time alone
4. Fear:
5. Hope: That this disease evaporates. That my kids will have privilege of not being fearful of sending their 7 yr old to school
6. Hope: I look for our world to becoming more loving—we absolutely need this—we all do —and we can all have a chance to do our share.

Diane Eldredge: Perspective of the club

1. Learned: how important it is to stay connected with members, especially during this timeframe
2. Best thing: allowed members to get t know each other better
3. Worst thing: is that we can't hold an event to raise philanthropy fund and that our club can't gather
4. Fear; that conditions could rebound aor get worse. Risk of losing members and the future of the club
5. Hope: that we will find new ways to manage our goals while not exposing illnesses to others
6. Other observations. Listen and learn from members

Diane Eldredge: Personal Perspective

1. Learned: how quickly you can feel alone when social distancing and how important it is to connect with others during this timeframe
2. Best thing: time to reflect on ones beliefs and life in general
3. Worst thing: Losing a family member. The reactiveness of individuals to situations after being isolated for long period of time. Losing a job and income.
4. Fear: that conditions could rebound or get worse. When will it end?
5. Hope: that humans realize the importance of staying healthy, not exposing illnesses to others and sanitation so we can curtail these kinds of diseases in the future.
Hope for a vaccine.
6. Other observations—Patience is short during this timeframe. Think it, don't say it!

And **Alta Fossum** sent this lovely note “In 1964 I was married in Wright County in a small Lutheran Church near our cabin on Sugar Lake. The reception was held at a resort in Annandale—the place is now the camp founded by Adele’s mother! Small world. It is a fantastic place. My husband was stationed in San Diego as a legal officer in the Navy. He drove non-stop for our wedding. We left immediately after the reception since I was going to grad school in Palo Alto. I would fly PSA to San Diego on the weekends, bringing my iron with me so I could iron his uniforms! We thus did not live together in our first year of marriage. Will be very glad to again be in Annandale for Feds

EFWC President Job Description

By Nomination Committee/Eunice Groschen-Chair

Please note that a number of these tasks can be delegated to others.

Monthly General Membership Meeting

- Early in the week of the general membership meeting advise the church/meeting location of the number of attendees for table setup, as well as other setup needs including the screen and projector as needed.
- Prepare the agenda, lead the meeting, and review and approve the Minutes from the meeting. Have the Minutes circulated to the membership.

Monthly Board Meeting

- Early in the week of a Board Meeting, remind the church/meeting location of any setup needs; prepare the Agenda, lead the meeting, and review the Minutes.

Jottings

It is customary for the President to prepare something for the Jottings. Totally up the President as to what she wants to say.

Post Office Box

Designate a member to check our post office box at least monthly.

Beginning and End of the EFWC Year:

The President, along with the help of other Board members selects the Chairs of the Standing Committees for the coming year.

The last Board meeting of the year (April) is traditionally a party honoring the out-going President in combination with the business meeting. Board members plan and help with this.

Spring Fling (May): Assist the incoming President with the planning and setup for the Spring Fling. The incoming President usually selects the colors and theme for the Spring Fling installation event. Both also prepare remarks for the celebration.

Incoming President selects the Theme for the year which will be highlighted in the new

Member Directory.

The Year-End Board meeting in May is the time when there is the official transfer of documents from the old Board to the new. Committee reports are due to the President before the meeting so she (the new President) can assemble the committee information folders for the new committee chairs.

The first Board meeting of the year (typically late August) can be in the form of a social gathering but this is not a requirement. Board members help with the planning of this meeting.

Edina - Fourth of July Parade:

Traditionally EFWC has entered a car with 3-4 member passengers (including the President or Past-President) in Edina's July 4th parade. The President typically is the person to sign up for this online well in advance.

Edina Volunteer Reception:

Pre-pandemic, the City of Edina usually held a Volunteer Reception at Braemar. EFWC is invited to nominate an outstanding member to receive an award. The President handles or delegates the online signup of attendees. The President selects a member of EFWC to receive this Volunteer(s) of the Year Award.

GFWC:

The President receives communications throughout the year from the State GFWC organization. Most of these are FYI emails. However there are annual statistical reporting requirements as well as periodic updates. It is not a requirement that the President handle all of these requirements/requests, but she is the recipient of the communications and may delegate the responsibility for the reports to other members. State and District meetings are optional. The President can attend or appoint another representative of the Club to attend.



Dear EFWC Members,

Dear EFWC Members,
Over time we all leave our
footprints in what we do and
where we have been. Our