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I am sorry! I have “fiddled” around doing stuff that doesn’t really need doing thinking I was forgetting something but now remembering what – the February Newsletter!

I cannot wait until I start receiving Award Entries! I am excited! They were excellent last year and can only be better this year. I have two ESO reports all ready! In case you have forgotten:

- Make sure the official **2019 GFWC Award Entry Cover Sheet** is completed and attached to the entry.
- Make sure they are individual club projects. Please do not group several club projects into one of your ten.
- It would be helpful to preface each project with the name of the club and statistical information.
- Follow with a concise description detailing who, what, when where, how, and why.
- You may include a club more than once.
- These entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2020

LIBRARIES! Some of you may have seen this but I felt it was worth sending to all --  
“A library is not just a reference service: it is a place for the vulnerable. From the elderly gentleman whose only remaining human interaction is with the library staff, to the isolated young mother who relishes the support and friendship that grows from a baby rhyme time session, to a slow moving 30 something women collecting her CDs. Libraries are a haven in a world where community services are being ground down to nothing. Libraries are vital and their worth cannot be measured in books alone.” Angela Clarke

Libraries are also sponsors of the READING IS FUNDAMENTAL (RIF) Program. RIF is the nation’s largest children’s literacy non-profit.

There is a significant literacy crisis in America and it begins with our children. 25 million children cannot read proficiently.

- 34% of children entering kindergarten lack the basic skills needed to learn how to read.
- 65% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders read below grade level, contributing to 8,000 students dropping out of high school every day.
- Only 37% of students graduate high school at or above reading proficiency.

RIF believes every child deserves an opportunity to own books, learn how to read, and obtain the fundamental building blocks to achieve their highest potential.

Books for Ownership, RIF's flagship reading program, enables children to select new, age-appropriate books to take home and own, and is supported by resources for parents, educators, and local literacy advocates to create a continuous focus on reading. This program enables participating children to select books to take home and own and relies on a simple yet fundamental truth, if you allow children choice and access, they will become more engaged readers and learners.

The Read For Success innovative reading intervention program addresses the literacy backslide that traditionally happens during the summer months. Read for Success is centered around motivating children to read by providing access to high-quality classroom book collections, summer books for students to choose and own, enriching STEM-themed classroom activities, professional development for teachers, and parent engagement resources. Tested over two years among 33,000 students from 16 states, RIF's Read for Success helped reverse the trend of summer learning loss for more than half the participating students. In addition, 57% of the students saw gains in reading proficiency when tested from spring to fall.

Literacy Central is an online destination for teachers, parents, and literacy volunteers to get thousands of free digital resources tied directly to the books children love and teachers turn to everyday. The portal provides tools to easily

organize and keep reading resources in one place with customizable book lists, printable lesson plans, activities, games, reading passages, calendars, and videos.

**This information is from the Reading is Fundamental website: [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org).**

There are many ways GFWC clubs can assist with RIF. Monetary donations are a necessity to keep the organization going. Your local library would appreciate a donation as they have to pay a fee to the National organization. When the program is implemented clubs can always help the librarian with registration, book distribution, snacks, reading, and assisting in ways that are individual to each program.

The Mascoutah Tuesday Woman's Club (IL) donated \$500.00, provided snacks and read weekly.

The GFWC Williamstown Woman's Club (WV) provides story time, assists with art activities, records titles for free books, and provides snacks for their local library.

You MAY not hear from me in March. This Newsletter is over a week late. My State Convention is the middle of March. And, I have all of your Award Entries to judge. However, you know me....you'll probably get a note.