

GFWC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve Starts Year with Safety Lesson

At the first meeting of the new year, Club members were prompted to wear bright safety colors. While there were a few oranges and yellows, two members donned neon-striped safety vests, just to be safe. A big red fire truck was parked outside, but inside the Lake Forest Estates Clubhouse, the atmosphere was cheerful due to the anticipation of the brunch that had been prepared by the Club's officers. Three new members and three more guests joined the line headed for the tables of breakfast casseroles and fruit. The Hostess Committee had done an excellent job making the arrangements for an enjoyable meal.

Guest Speaker Rick Short, Captain/Paramedic of the Weingarten Fire Department, gave an informative talk on home fire safety. He stressed the importance of placing a visible address sign near the road in front of your home so that emergency vehicles can find you, especially at night. Reflective signs are available from the Ambulance District for \$20. He also passed along some good reminders; check your fire extinguishers, don't overload outlets, change batteries in smoke detectors, and that every home needs a CO2 detector. But many were not aware that Missouri is one of only two states that have not passed a cell phone tax. About one dollar on our cell phone bills would allow the 911 dispatch to know your location when you call from a cellphone. Landlines already have this tax, but they are disappearing in favor of cells. Finding you quickly in an emergency is critical to providing help in an emergency. Meanwhile, be sure to give your complete location should you need 911 assistance. The Club donated \$100 to the Fire Department, which is made up entirely of volunteers.

Several of the Club's public service programs were featured. Local elementary schools in Ste. Genevieve and Bloomsdale received Sanitary Wipes collected from our members, as part of a germ-free healthier-student project. The Club is participating in Operation Christmas Child, and representative Naomi Glassey handed out boxes which members are to fill with small toys, school supplies, and toiletries to be distributed overseas under the Samaritans' Purse Program. Three books were purchased and donated to the Ste. Genevieve Library in memory of three recently deceased members.

New officers of the Club were introduced, and future events were emphasized including the GFWC Ninth District Fall Convention in Cape Girardeau MO October 15th and the Missouri Girls Town Open House on October 1st. The next meeting of the GFWC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve will be October 17 in the Education Room of the Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital at 11:30am. Featured Speaker will be Dr. Joseph Sharlow. For more information on the Club, contact President Jackie Korczak at 573-525-8525.