

The General Purposes Committee of ACWW

MRS. EDGAR ANSTEY — Chairman General Purposes Committee Associated Country Women of the World

A Canadian who grew up in both Eastern and Western Canada, and attended the University of Western Ontario in London, Mrs. Anstey thinks of herself as a Canadian cosmopolite.

During the war she worked with the National Film Board as a documentary film editor. After two years as a free lance film editor in New York she met and married an Englishman and has lived in London, England ever since. Her husband is a documentary film producer and critic.

Dr. Irene Spry introduced her to ACWW and in 1964 she became the Council member for the Women of Uniform (at that time The Farm Women of Alberta) and has represented them ever since at Council and the Dublin and Oslo Conferences.

During her years with ACWW she has been Chairman of the Countrywoman Committee, the Publicity and Publication Committee including the Countrywoman sub-Committee and Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee. Mrs. Anstey gave up these positions to take over as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee in April 1973.

THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE under its Chairman, and with its Standing Committees, works closely with the General Secretary and her dedicated Staff at the Central Office, and is responsible for the day to day business of ACWW between the Council meetings.

As our World President, Mrs. Farquharson, said when she was Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, "When the ACWW Triennial Conference comes to an end and the last goodbyes are exchanged by the delegates returning to all parts of the world, there is one small band for whom the coming Triennium means added responsibility, although it accepts its new duties with great pride."

Who is this band? It consists of all Officers of ACWW, not less than 14 members of Council who are elected by it from among the representatives of Constituent Societies, and the Chairman of the Standing Committees. It meets not less than three times a year to consider matters as varied as office premises, the application of a new Member Society, or perhaps details of a regional seminar, and to hear and adopt the reports of the Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

The Officers of ACWW are, the World President, two Deputy Presidents who usually come from opposite areas of the world, this Triennium from Canada and Malaysia, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, and seven Area Vice-Presidents representing Europe, Asia, East West and Central Africa, S. Africa, U.S.A., Canada, and the S. Pacific.

The STANDING COMMITTEES meet four times a year and report to the General Purposes Committee. The work of these small expert Committees is most important and it is felt that only those members should stand for election who can normally give time to attend meetings.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE under the able chairmanship of the Honorary Treasurer steers us wisely through the financial problems which increase every year. ACWW Member Societies pay annual dues, at a low rate, and individuals belong as Life or Contributing Members. Both these are important. But the staggering fact remains that three quarters of the cost of running ACWW comes from Pennies for Friendship to which all ACWW members contribute. Today the contributions we hope are larger coins than pennies but we all love the name which was given many years ago when pennies really meant something ... because of a dream. Mrs. Godfrey Drage who was worrying about the finances of ACWW, as is the lot of all Finance Chairmen, dreamt she saw piles of pennies falling from everywhere. She awoke with the idea that if every individual member contributed a penny a year this, in addition to the dues paid by Societies, would be the answer to her problems.

And so it remains the answer today. It is Pennies for Friendship which make the work of all the Committees possible. Contributions from every ACWW member. A willing payment towards building a better world, a practical way of taking a personal part in working for peace and happiness of people everywhere — a need which grows greater every day.

So there is the work of the General Purposes Committee of ACWW, a part of the 8 million-strong team of Homemakers, a chain of goodwill and fellowship stretching around the world.

The TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE under the Chairmanship of the Honorary Secretary, is responsible for planning the Conference, and Mrs. Turnbull and her Committee have plans for the 1974 Conference in Perth well in hand. Travel, accommodation, study groups, films, plenary sessions, social activities, all these are carefully considered by this Committee.

The AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE STUDY OF NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY arose from a resolution at the Oslo Conference. This Committee is carried on by post and reports directly to the 14th Conference in Perth. Mrs. Aroti Dutt is the chairman and Mrs. Ulla Wickbaum the secretary. The Committee works in partnership with the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. A project has been set up at Madurai in Southern India and plans are under way for a second project in Mirpur outside Calcutta. To facilitate the day to day administration, a London based ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON SAVE SIGHT was set up in January 1973 and at the time of the 1973 Council the "Save Sight" project had received \$34,210.00 and many donations have since arrived. (Ontario's donation last year reported by the Branches was approximately \$2,400.00). A report entitled "Tomorrow is Too Late" setting out in detail the present position of this campaign, which has already in the last year saved the sight of 200 children (available from Loan Library).

There are a number of smaller projects which don't always fall into the category of any special committee, such items as vehicles, sewing machines and sewing