



The President's Corner

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Dear W.I. Members:

My first year as your President ends. A year's end has been defined thusly, "Candles burn out, but purposes continue through, as the glowing flame of the old lights the taper of the new."

"Another year — 1976 — another door
Through which we have not walked before."

And another clipping I wish to share with you is called, Beginning Again.

"A brand new year, the old is done,
Another chance for everyone.
New hopes, new dreams, are ours once more,
The past becomes a closing door.
We face ahead with heads held high,
New courage comes as days swing by,
Whatever grief engulfs the heart,
Somehow we smile with this new start.
A brand new year, the old is done
Another chance for everyone."

First this anecdote which illustrates so well, — a chance for everyone, an opportunity for action.

Lady Bountiful in a certain city during a period of dire poverty posted a notice that the homemakers of the community were to bring their jugs to her home on a certain day to receive soup.

Jugs were taken from storage cupboards and from pantry shelves. One clever woman took a bedroom water jug and became the object of sneers and jests. She replied, "The notice didn't say what size jug to bring. It said, "Bring a jug!"

As this woman's jug came through the portal to the benefactress there was a ripple of laughter from the servants, but it was filled to the brim with nourishing soup and its owner returned to her home with life-sustaining food to be shared with the members of her household.

When I heard that story not long ago, I felt it contained a valuable lesson applicable to our organization. Immediately this question was uppermost in my mind, "How big are the jugs we bring?"

The invitation was extended to all Women's Institute Branches to send delegates and encourage visitors to attend the Area conventions last fall. Naturally they were not instructed to bring jugs with them but I believe the inference was there nevertheless. Those who attended doubtless had their containers for organizational sustenance with them. How big the jug was depended on each individual person and how much she wished to take home with her for sharing with others in her Branch family.

The food for thought, different ideas for projects, new insights for inspiration, and much much more was offered at every convention free for the taking. All one had to do was remove the stopper and her jug would be filled.

Next came the sharing session upon her return home. Again, isn't it true, the amount to be doled out to others depends on the size of the jug, how much the lady carried home with her? I most earnestly hope that each one who attended an Area Convention had a large-sized jug filled to capacity for distribution.

This same illustration carries through all of our activities and pertains to all our meetings. If we go to them in joyful anticipation of filling our jugs and carrying home something to share with others, they shall be filled. However, let us remember that even a tiny container is better than none at all.

The 28th Officers' Conference is under preparation. This is a tremendous opportunity for having jugs filled and sources of nourishment replenished. The invitation is being issued. The notices are being posted. They say, "Bring a jug!" Be reminded, the choice of size is up to you. How hungry are you for information on communication, public relations and learning experiences?

Following the Officers' Conference, come the District Annuals. Another superb chance for securing provisional aid. No one should miss attending these because for some persons this is the only opportunity they have for getting their jugs filled.

This year also some of us are being given an extra opportunity for organizational renewal in being able to attend the National Convention in Charlottetown, P.E.I. in June.

We really should take advantage of every means that is made available to us for replenishment, and then use each opportune moment as it is presented to us, for the purposes of sharing.

Whatever really affects us vitally is certain to come out. If Women's Institute matters much to us, we will show it and someone else will notice it. May we do it consciously, determinedly and purposely.

Life grows by sharing. Every biologist knows that progress in life is always accomplished by division of the cells. Love grows only by repeated acts of love through which others learn to love and love in return and pass on the love they have received. So also grows faith, hope, confidence, courage, enthusiasm, etc. They are contagious as they go from one to another.

"The more you give, the more you get,
The more you laugh, the less you fret.
The more you do "Unselfishly,"
The more you live "Abundantly."
The more of everything you share,
The more you'll always have to spare.
The more you love, the more you'll find
That life is good and friends are kind.
For only what we give away
Enriches us from day to day."

As we march onward in our W.I. endeavours may we always carry our jugs with us so they may be filled for sharing and serving.

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