



Have A Good Day

This seems to be a thing to say as a parting remark instead of the old fashioned good-bye.

It doesn't matter if the phone rang, consequently the toast burned, starting the whole day on the wrong foot; out in the busy world full of casual conversation our final words are "have a good day".

Yet when we think about it, it really was a good day. When we think of the poverty, unrest and violence in the world, the day wasn't that bad.

We still have the opportunity to contribute ideas, opinions, participate in "freedom of speech" and yes, indeed raise our voice in opposition without being thrown in jail.

We live in a country with an abundance of food, rivers, lakes and green areas, park and vacation land. You're right, we read about pollution, take-over of prime agriculture land, mercury content in fish and waters, and that's about where our concern ends. We seem to feel it's not our responsibility. But maybe, just maybe, we should delve into these matters, learn more about a problem that concerns us, ask questions of the right people.

Are we concerned enough "to have a good day?" As Women's Institute members are the affairs of society voiced loudly enough? Should the organization be content only with formulating a resolution and sending it on to the next level? Somehow we miss the clout of our 30,000 member voice by leaving the responsibility entirely up to the Provincial Convener.

This is not to say, Provincial Conveners have not carried out their duties but somehow the membership has fallen far short of assuming further responsibility. It seemed vital at the time to sustain those resolutions, but somehow once sustained the interest wanes.

It sometimes appears like a single voice (FWIO) crying in the wilderness when we should have 30,000 individual members still continuing their research. All too often when a resolution is sustained it is then simply forgotten by the majority of members.

It has always been said, "let the voice of FWIO be heard." This is so. But let's not forget the members still have a responsibility. Further study, updating information is needed until our questions are answered and we can see concrete results. Then it will be a "good day".

It was a "good day" when FWIO members contributed to the International Scholarship Fund, which has assisted women in third world countries to face uncertainties of a different order. How can you live a satisfactory life if you are never certain when much of what you have may be swept away?

So the measurable things only tell a minor part of the story, the immeasurables tell the rest. Life is not divided up into isolated segments. Everything we do affects everything else.

As a member what are the measurables? Challenge in the work and loyalty to the organization, a meeting that gives pleasure, members who are eager to go out of their way to actively involve all women in the community.

However, one of the immeasurables is the knowledge gained by being a member. Another, is the need for self assertion as well as self respect toward positive aspects of growth. Women are capable of responding to each other in a surprisingly warm and friendly way the moment they discover something in common.

The reason a Woman's Institute was formed was to satisfy a Mother's need, and there has been little reason to change. If we continue to direct our objectives toward the needs of the mother and her family, we will still be abreast of the times.

There never was a law legislated, a nutrition programme suggested, a cultural activity proposed or anything else for that matter that didn't affect the family and directly or indirectly a WI member.

Have a good day!

Margaret Zoeller