

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Miss Molly McGhee, Director, Home Economics Branch OMAF was presented with an Honorary President's Badge by Mrs. Maluske.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Miss Molly McGhee of the Home Economics Branch spoke about the position of the Branch, knowing there will be some staff and budget cuts but at the same time maintaining the high quality of programs while increasing clientele and offering more consumer information to the public at large. Requests for consumer information has increased in all areas—Foods and Nutrition have increased 300% over last year.

By next Fall we hope to have developed package programs prepared for the Home Economists to use at WI and other community group meetings. Also, new programs will be available next Fall at both the senior and 4H training schools.

As your Honorary President, I feel I would be remiss if I did not speak frankly about matters that bother me.

I know many of your members are elderly and are moving into senior citizens homes, while many more younger women are working and that the woman under 25 doesn't seem interested in JWIO although she may have been an enthusiast 4H'er. Are we content to sit back and see the membership drop or are we going to take a very critical look at FWIO and plan an active recruitment drive?

I have told you how impressed I am with the tremendous contribution to the 4H movement and your scholarship program. In the past you were the voice of rural women, is it so to-day? If so, does anyone listen?

Eight or ten years ago WI's seemed to receive good coverage in the large daily papers, why not to-day? Are your objectives, constitution, procedure, resolutions, outdated? Perhaps we have become too comfortable and complacent about FWIO and haven't given much thought or effort into the direction in which we should be heading.

It should be a priority that we constantly remind all potential members that we do exist. This means at Branch and Provincial level a recruitment campaign has to be mounted periodically.

What about aiming for at least one Junior WI in every subdivision? Why is it so difficult for the nominating committee to raise a slate of officers?

At Area Conventions there is a tremendous amount of time and effort and a mountain of paper work given to reports. Yet what does reporting really accomplish? Are the reports useful and meaningful to the membership? Can you really justify this somewhat extravagant way of reporting?

Eighteen months is a long time to sustain a resolution. Is this work as effective as it should be? Maybe it is time to consider a complete reorganization.

These are a few of my concerns. I hope you will not feel I am being overly critical when I tell you I think it important they receive attention.

The Ministry and especially the Home Economics Branch will do all that it can to help you strengthen your organization so that once more you can become the leaders in rural Ontario.

FWIC

Mrs. Herb Maluske

All provinces were asked to contribute to a survey on the Role of Women for the Canadian Council on Rural Development. Provincial Co-ordinator, Mrs. Maluske thanked the 10 members who interviewed 10 other women, completing one tenth of the national survey.

We are reminded of the FWIC competitions (refer H & C Winter/77) preliminary contests are to be held at the 1978 District Annuals and at Area Conventions in 1978. The winning entry from each competition is to be sent to FWIO office by November 24, 1978.

The new FWIC brochures compiled by Mrs. Diamond are now available from the FWIC office.

Mrs. John Charlton, Life member of FWIC and secretary of the Hoodless Homestead was given permission to have the Hoodless History Book microfilmed. At a Homestead meeting attended by Mrs. Maluske she reports plans are progressing for the addition to the house.

While attending ACWW, Mrs. Bielish on behalf of FWIC pledged a new landrover as a gift to Lesotho. The original one is worn out and the women asked for further aid. Before the Kenya Conference FWIC sent a contribution of \$500.00 to ACWW to help with the Pre-Conference Workshop for African Women. A donation of \$1000.00 for Pennies For Friendship was also made.

Subscriptions for Federated News due December 1 each year. \$1.00 for an individual subscription or .50¢ each per year in bundles of 10 sent to one address.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Mrs. Earl Morden

Some of the interest from the \$50,000.00 in the International Scholarship Fund will be used for assistance in developing countries.

1. A donation of \$1000.00 will be sent to FWIC toward the purchase of a landrover for women in Lesotho.
2. Piped water supply,—\$500.00, and sewing machines and materials—\$500.00, both for Zambia through the UNESCO Co-operative Action Program (Co-Action) Project #569.
3. Deferment on a request until further investigation from the Cameroon National Union. Decision to be made at Semi Annual meeting.



Vice Presidents of FWIO. Mrs. Gerald Brown representing the Northern Area; Mrs. Gordon Sherwin, Eastern Area; Mrs. Geo. Barr, Southern Area; the Western Area is represented by the President, Mrs. Diamond.