



Between

The

Lines

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Dear W.I. Members:

Springtime and its rebirth of nature can be likened to the beginnings of another year's W.I. activities awakening us to a re-dedication to our objectives and responsibilities. The Annual Meetings have been held and I hope you did not say "No" when asked to take an office or "I could not do it like Mrs. So and So." No one can make the best of her qualities if she puts them in cold storage. One of the greatest contributions you can make is be original, not a carbon copy, but doing the best you can. Your personality will add a new breath of spring.

Branch reports will have served as an evaluation of the ideas you promoted in last year's programs and I hope also an incentive to not go along doing the same things in the same way. Have you tried choosing a theme for the year and then adapting it under each Convener'ship?

The Semi-Annual Board Meeting has just been completed, and Directors took action on specific subjects. Returning to their District Annuals they will explain the reasoning for their decisions. They will remind you of Ontario W.I. Week at the Lee Home, June 5-9, and our drive to put the Foundation Fund over the top by 1980; applications for appointment of an FWIO Secretary and a Treasurer must be submitted to FWIO office by September 1st; and new informative brochures will be printed shortly.

The Resolutions Committee was the first Standing Committee established by FWIO in 1919 and ever since we have continued to research laws, ideas and concerns and THEN present governments, industry etc. with reasons for changes we feel should be made. Concern was expressed this year that there was agreement and support in principle for many of the Resolutions submitted but it is up to every member to sometimes take the action. We want governments or other agencies to be the watchdogs of our society but what of our responsibilities as citizens? We sometimes ask for changes without considering the accompanying economic implications. The power of writing individual letters to register complaints directly to the source was emphasized. Also resolutions must deal with specifics of content and direction rather than speaking in generalities for the changes requested. Let us continue

to be vocal with constructive criticisms and ideas but also voice appreciation for improvements implemented.

Soon we will pick up our Handbooks and be off to the Officers' Conference. By the registrations we are pleased that so many of you have set a priority of sending a delegate. As they return home they will report discussing specific duties but also from their inspiration pass on to their Branch, District or Area members the "know-how" they received. By associating with members from another area of the Province, they will have taken part in understanding some of the great human causes of the times.

One reason W.I. formed a Provincial organization was so we could speak with a united voice. FWIO endeavours to provide some basic uniformity but not to tell Branches subjects they must study each year. Our Convener'ship structure was initiated to give members in all parts of the Province the responsibility of using their own initiative, thinking up new ideas relevant to their own communities or beyond, on which to act.

We must still take pride in our objectives to help people help themselves. The distinction or uniqueness of W.I. lies in its purpose to work for the good of the family. That means every individual and thus the good of the community. One of the central dilemmas of today's overlapping generations is how to keep informed amidst the dizzying success of discoveries and events. Does the answer lie in the capability to find out the answers to questions and train ourselves to think "What action can we take" instead of "What is going to happen to me or what do I get out of it?" Our W.I. can be that forum.

The ACWW Council Meetings in July will be a challenge and educational opportunity I trust I can pass on. I am looking forward with eager anticipation to greeting so many of you personally at Area Conventions.

You will be electing new Board Directors in some subdivisions. As Women's Institute members do accept your responsibilities and allow your name to stand in nomination. Your involvement at another level will assure increased knowledge and better understanding but still allow you "to do your own thing" in a responsible way.

We are approaching the 60th Anniversary of the organization of our Provincial Board. Members who have been Board Directors since 1919 please speak to your present Board Director and let her know if you are interested in coming to a reunion of past and present Board Directors to celebrate FWIO's 60th birthday.

As Padre W. A. Young said in prayer he wrote for the 60th Anniversary of W.I. beginnings, "to each one of us a new vision of the opportunities that lie before us; an awareness of the tasks that still are unfinished; and a determination to do our part, large or small, where we are, to make the burdens of others lighter and our country a better place in which to live." May this be your goal in this 82nd year of Women's Institute programing.

Florence Diamond