

The Director Writes . . .

April is the month when a new fiscal year begins in government. At the same time the branch prepares a variety of annual reports. I have just finished analyzing the end-of-the year statistics. The Home Economics Branch had an extremely busy year and all of our staff worked very hard to serve our various clients, including FWIO, well.

CONSUMER REQUESTS

A new and major trend has been a marked increase in the number of requests made by individuals across the province. There was a 39% increase over the previous record breaking number last year. During 1980-81, we answered 64,278 questions from the public, compared with 46,118 in 1979-80. In addition, we gave out over 50,000 of our numbered publications in reply to requests for specific information.

4-H HOMEMAKING CLUBS

The projected enrolment in the 4-H Homemaking Clubs was maintained, in spite of a falling birthrate. The Women's Institutes provided us with a sponsored 58% of the volunteer leaders and assistants; 3061 out of a total of 5234. The Ministry, especially our branch, is very appreciative of the support we receive from individual members and branches.

We hope that you will continue to sponsor the 4-H clubs, because the 4-H movement is a vital part of rural society across Ontario. We know that 4-H helps young people to develop strong human relationships; strengthens the family unit in the rural communities; and prepares members for the world of work. The 4-H program has a marked effect on rural youth as evidenced by several major sociological studies.

ADULT PROGRAMS

The number of participants at the adult courses run primarily for W.I. members fell slightly during the past year.

Because of staff changes and eight maternity leaves among the county and district staff last year, some summary days have been postponed until May. Consequently, I hope we will have record numbers at our adult programs in 1981-82. Please inform as many of your friends and neighbors about our programs. Head office staff work very hard to produce interesting and topical programs. Of course, we always appreciate the large number of volunteer leaders the W.I.'s provide: 1407 in 1980-81.

WORLD FOOD DAY

To commemorate the formation of the Food and Agriculture Organization, a World Food Day is to be held annually on October 16th. It will first be celebrated this year. I hope you will be able to include a program about the long-term problem of world food this fall. Agriculture Canada plans to have promotional and resource material for distribution to the provinces by the summer. We will ask that any useful information be sent directly to the branch Secretary-Treasurers or Secretaries to ensure no delays are encountered.

STAFF

Jane Muegge, formerly home economist in Simcoe North, has rejoined the branch and is now working in Huron County with Loree Marshall.

Maxine Innes Holbrough has returned to Lambton County following maternity leave. Kathryn Biondi is currently on maternity leave from Essex and Kent Counties. Irene Stevens, a head office crafts specialist, will go on maternity leave at the beginning of May.

I look forward to meeting many of you during Officers' Conference at the University of Waterloo, May 5-7, and during W.I. June 1-5.

In conclusion, I hope that you all have a very pleasant summer, ready to return refreshed to Institute Work in the fall.

Molly Muegge

GRANTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

AN APPEAL TO ALL SECRETARY-TREASURERS or SECRETARIES at each level of the organization — Branch, District and Area to have their books audited.

Until all the District and Area audited financial statements are received by the Home Economics Branch, processed and forwarded to the Accounts Branch, an application to Treasury Board, the grants cannot be prepared.

The late financial statement at Branch level can prevent the entire organization from receiving the grants on time. Therefore, would all Branch Secretary-Treasurers or Secretaries at every level send their audited financial statements promptly to the District or Area.

SEND AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OR AREA CONVENTION.

The fiscal year is as follows:

Branch April 1 to March 31

District May 1 to April 30

Area September 1 to August 31

The DEADLINE for the District Financial Statements to reach Toronto is **August 1**, and for the Area, **December 1st**. Please make certain these are forwarded to the HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH immediately following the District Annual meeting or Area Convention.

Refer to Handbook, Branch 10-11; Junior 22; District 28-29; Area 43, regarding Auditors.