



DISTRICT DIRECTORS LEADERS. L-r Mrs. Robt. B. Weber, Chairman; Mrs. Murray Forrest, Mrs. Donald Jacobs, Mrs. Frank Ulrick.



WORKSHOP LEADERS FOR FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES. L-r Mrs. Duane Williams and Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Chairman.



MEMBERS-AT-LARGE LEADERS. L-r Mrs. Herbert Maluske, Chairman; Mrs. Stewart Anderson, Mrs. Austin Rumble.

DIRECTOR OF HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH

Miss Molly McGhee, thanked all at branch level who provided the 4468 volunteer leaders for adult workshops and 4-H Homemaking Club projects. "We appreciate the hours of dedicated, unpaid help these volunteers give us so willingly, in order that the quality of life in rural Ontario may be strengthened."

The aim of this conference is to instruct and develop leaders to their greatest potential. Both the Branch District Directors and District Federation Representatives are women who hold very important positions in FWIO. They are people who can yield a tremendous influence in the organization. Their election to office determines the continued success of the entire WI movement and can greatly shape its future. Why does Miss McGhee say this, because the District Directors are the liaison between the branch or grass roots level and the District level. The District Federation Representatives are eligible for election as Provincial Board Directors or as alternate Board Directors. It is from this latter group of officers that the Provincial President is chosen. It becomes apparent that branches really need to select wisely among their members when they nominate Branch District Directors.

What type of woman will make a good leader? What are some of the characteristics the nominating committee should look for? It should be a person who has maturity and some degree of independent thought; someone who is ready to accept responsibility for decision-making; has a tolerance for ambiguity, that is, someone who does not always see things in black and white, but can recognize at least a few shades of grey.

This person should be interested in her branch and its members and have a little knowledge about the different levels of FWIO. She should be willing to gain experience through dealing with branch and district problems. She certainly needs to have tolerance, enthusiasm and a good sense of humor.

However, learn to do by doing has been a basic tenet of teaching of the WI since it began. If a member shows any of these qualities, then she is a good risk, and certainly should be considered for nomination.

Malcolm McNair, a psychologist, said when talking about leadership:

To look is one thing,

To see what you look at is another,

To understand what you see is a third,

To learn from what you understand is something else,

But to act on what you learn is all that matters.

Miss McGhee suggested "you look for the woman who has demonstrated that she can learn to do by doing." Someone who looks as if she can sharpen her skills to become "large in thought, in word and deed", in order that she may better serve the WI and consequently, better serve her home, her community and her country. How can you strengthen your leadership skills? How can you get off to a good start? You can begin with better planning!

First establish realistic goals and priorities at the outset. Decide the reason for the meeting. Share information. Assign and accept responsibilities. Meet the social needs of your group. Listen carefully to reach a better understanding of different points of view.

Plan your meetings early so that you are able to define and refine your goals and objectives. Occasionally ask yourself is a meeting really necessary. Would a few preliminary letters or phone calls be more effective to get others involved in the planning?