

If they can get the proper amount of protein in their diets until they are five years-old, it gives the children a much better chance to learn in school.

I'll admit, I was surprised to find our Women's Institute so active in Africa. My hat is off to these wonderful ladies working with so little. They surely use their imagination and are very creative.

I would like to offer my praise by having this letter printed in our Home & Country and I will then send a copy to Nina Atkins.

Thank you for printing a very interesting and informative Home & Country.

Mrs. Bruce Sager
Rutherford Branch
Croton, Ontario

Questions about FWIO policies

A copy of the following letter, sent to FWIO President Charlotte Johnson, was delivered to Home & Country for inclusion in the magazine.

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

We the members of Ruscom Women's Institute are collectively composing this letter to inform you of our recent problems. In early March we organized a first time public exhibit at Devonshire Mall in Windsor in conjunction with Agri-Food Week. This was done to promote and improve our image and perhaps gain new members. In order

to achieve this we listed branches in our district with names and phone numbers for interested people to contact. When the fliers were put on the table we were emphatically told we couldn't hand out numbers or names! How were people to contact us? We find this regulation too restrictive and out-dated for 1984.

We also were informed we couldn't raffle anything, so we decided to purchase things to "give away" as door prizes. Again we were frowned upon and told we couldn't do even that! How, then are we to improve our image and encourage new members? This give-away was not to make money but to get people to stop at our exhibit and learn about Women's Institute. We were the only exhibit there without a gimmick or a give-away. We emphatically disapprove of these limited restrictions.

How can we increase membership with such a negative image?

Our suggestions are: 1) rewrite the bylaws and constitution allowing more freedom with regards to raffles, etc.

2) We must be able to advertize our branch as we see fit so we suggest restrictions regarding phone numbers and names to be removed.

3) Update the handbook so it is easily read and easy to refer to.

In conclusion we hope you will give these suggestions your immediate attention.

Bonnie Popov
President
Ruscom Women's Institute

Here is Mrs. Johnson's reply.

Dear Mrs. Popov;

I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter. I am in sympathy with your dilemma. I would suggest that you read page 89 of your handbook, the section referring to raffles and bingos. It states that the Provincial Board, F.W.I.O., does not **encourage** holding raffles or bingos to raise funds.

As far as giving out the names and phone numbers, the policy of the **Provincial Board** is, at that level, it not be done, because we would be inundated with requests and other communications if we allowed it. At the local level, and for the reasons you state, I personally can see no harm.

Door prizes and giveaways should be at the discretion of the Branch, I think.

The yellow sheet with the accomplishments of the various Women's Institute branches was very good. I hope that you got some positive response from it. Congratulations on your efforts.

You may be aware that the Constitution is reviewed every three years, and we will be in the process of receiving any recommendations for revisions. I agree, there are some things that we must review, to continue to be a useful and modern organization in modern times.

Thank you for writing, and I hope that I have helped. Please don't hesitate to write at any time. I shall try to be helpful to you.

Charlotte Johnson
F.W.I.O. President

Committee on WI of the future

A Committee on Women's Institutes of the Future (C.W.I.F.), was established by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Board at its semi-annual meeting in 1984. This committee has the mandate to look into various aspects of the organization about which some concerns have been voiced. It is to consider several matters and make recommendations with a view to improving and updating existing procedures. It is asking individual members, W.I. branches, districts and areas to submit their concerns and any changes they would like to see effected. Submissions may be made to any committee member or sent to the FWIO office (address on page 2).

A questionnaire has been sent to the branches. The committee hopes

the members paid special attention to answering the questions and returning the questionnaire as requested.

The committee wishes to receive many suggestions, ideas, briefs, letters regarding the future structure and functioning of the Women's Institute as a meaningful modern-day organization.

Here is a list of the committee members and their addresses.

Mrs. R.B. Johnson, (Charlotte)
Box 1180, Cochrane, P0L 1C0

Mrs. Verna A. Maluske, (C.W.I.F. chairman)
Box 74, Chesley, N0G 1L0

Mrs. Agnes Foster,
Box 613, Maple, L0J 1E3

Mrs. W. Kell, (Sandra)
R.R. #1, Churchill, L0L 1K0

Mrs. R. W. Payne, (Joyce)
Warsaw, K0L 3A0

Mrs. Barbara Carter,
R. R. #2, Carleton Place, K7C 3P2

Mrs. G. Barr, (Mary)
115 Baldoon Road, Chatham,
N7L 1E2

Mrs. A. E. Dae, (Margaret)
R.R. #4, Woodstock, N4S 7V8

Mrs. Rebecca Johnson
Sunnybrook Farm, R.R. #6,
Thunder Bay P7C 5N5

Mrs. Beulah Hamilton
1144 Airport Road, R.R. #1,
North Bay, P1B 8G2