

Between the Lines

Today I was out on the ski trails. It is a lovely, bright day. A light snow has fallen and has gently caressed the countryside. There is a dawn-like look to it as it sits on the branches of the evergreens, on the fallen logs, and the hummocks under the snow. As the sun hits it, it sparkles off the crystals of ice hidden in the surface.

Spring is on its way. The days are longer, the willows and poplars have a slightly different hue in their bark. Excitement is in the air. The chickadees dart here and there. I heard a woodpecker above me. Everything has been quiet in the woods, but underneath our feet and underneath the snow and the dried grasses and leaves, there is life. Nature prepares herself for another season — nourishing, rejuvenating, and recycling the fallen debris into food. Winds strip the dead twigs from branches, making way for stronger, more useful wood.

We will be soon getting out into our gardens doing the same thing. We will be pruning our ornamentals and bushes, clearing the debris away, and making sure we have strong leaders on the trees and vines.

Isn't this the way our lives should be? We clean away the debris and the unnecessary things and provide the time and those things necessary to the important things in life.

What about our organizations? Do we make the way clear for our leaders, or do we leave the obstructions? Do we provide support to her or to him if he or she needs it? The same can be said for the members: do those little annoyances get in the way, or can we pick them out and leave room for us to develop fully and more successfully to a full potential?

What kind of support can we give our leaders, and what can we do to help them grow? Within our organization and from outside sources, we can make sure they have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge of good procedure. We can help them learn how to keep meetings running smoothly and effectively. We will support them because we have elected them democratically.

As good members we will also study protocol so that we will be considered a competent organization. If we have a banquet and head tables, we will be concerned with correct seating procedures and introductions. (We will introduce our head table guests and not our head table.) We will study flag etiquette and when and how to propose toasts.

When we are finished, we will have tidied up our organizational garden. We will have made it attractive, and to those viewing it, we hope they would like to come in and visit it and perhaps stay.

For all of our effort, it will be a

continual one because as everyone knows, useless brush, leaves, and blossoms must be continually cleaned up to keep a garden perfect. New seeds must be planted and new plants added.

So it is with our Women's Institute. We need the seeds of new ideas. We need new members as new plants, and we need to be continually looking at ourselves so that we can be a useful and attractive part of the plant as a whole.

Good gardening and happy organizing.

Charlotte Johnson



FWIO Executive

FWIO President Charlotte Johnson is pictured with the 1984-85 executive. They are: (back row from left to right) Isobel Taylor, southern area vice-president; Marcie Johnston, secretary; Margaret MacPherson, eastern area vice-president; Janet Hiepleh, past president; Rena Cunningham, PRO. In the front row are: (left to right) Ruby Robertson, western area vice-president; Mrs. Johnson, president; Elaine Williams, treasurer.