

Between JWIO and FWIO?

... about the similarities and
... of Ontario.

... readers better understand
... Ann Hauprich recently in-
... Johnson and JWIO president

... the interviews on the same
... an identical set of questions.
... had been interviewed first,
... the JWIO president's answers.
... the two presidents.

MARION:

Yes, I think they can and have definitely worked together at the community level. For example, my JWIO branch in North Grey is close to the FWIO branch in Grey and Bruce counties. We work together on district annuals, county rallies and area conventions. At the provincial level, we participate on the FWIO board, we have a member on the CWIF committee and on the WI Hall committee. On a world-wide basis, we are ACWW-affiliated and are well received there, also.

CHARLOTTE:

Those are some good points. I think there are many examples of the two groups working together.



Charlotte Johnson
FWIO President

Are FWIO members welcome at JWIO functions? Are JWIO members welcome at FWIO functions?

MARION:

Yes, every year in the Grey-Bruce area, we draw a WI branch name out of a hat and invite them to a meeting and entertain them. It also works the other way, very strongly. In fact, I've been invited to speak at two FWIO area conventions.

CHARLOTTE:

Yes on both counts. There are local branches where the two groups work well together. I might mention that each JWIO branch in the province has been invited to send a delegate to the FWIO Leadership Development Workshop in Toronto in February.

What can be done to improve relations between JWIO and FWIO?

MARION:

I outlined a few suggestions regarding this in my annual report. They include: a joint article or editorial in Home & Country; invitations to the others' meetings at all levels; representation on executives at District and Area levels; promote and include JWIO and FWIO in all WI activities at all levels; panel discussions at meetings; address from the JWIO president and FWIO president at each others' annual meetings.

CHARLOTTE:

Those are all good points. I think we should open more forums and show a willingness to discuss one another's programs. It seems to me we'd get along better if we could just get over this business of age! The only difference is a girl can join JWIO at 14 but she has to be 16 to join FWIO... our two groups have turned out to be parallel organizations under the same banner. They have members who are in their 50s and we have members in their 20s.

What will the JWIO and FWIO be like in the year 2001?

MARION:

I see the JWIO doubling in size and becoming more worldly in scope. We might not call our group "Junior", but we'll still exist as an organization.

CHARLOTTE:

The FWIO will be more loosely structured than it has been in the past and we'll be eliminating reporting at several levels. I think our members will be more oriented toward social concerns than homemaking skills and we'll definitely be more global. It makes a big difference when you can take a jet liner instead of a horse and buggy.

Would it be possible for the JWIO and FWIO to amalgamate in future? Why or why not?

MARION:

If that ever happened, it would have to happen with JWIO remaining as a separate group within the organization. We'd still have to do our own thing. One of the benefits of maintaining a separate identity from FWIO is that there are more opportunities for leadership among the younger women.

CHARLOTTE:

I think amalgamation is possible and believe it would be beneficial to both sides. After all, our aims are similar. I think amalgamating would strengthen the two bodies. I see no reasons why JWIO members could not assume leadership roles within the amalgamated organization.

