

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

Board Briefings

April 14-16, 2004

Heartfelt Thanks

The Provincial Board extends thanks and appreciation to members for their generous support of the "Focus High for WI" Project. To date the following monies have been donated:

- \$31,384.77 - FWIO Operating Fund
- \$20,893.76 - FWIC's Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Upkeep Fund
- \$13,233.14 - ACWW Special Projects

Money raised from March 1 to October 31, 2004, is for the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Operating Fund.

Membership Recruitment Challenge

The Penage Road Women's Institute, Sudbury District, North Central Area, won the Membership Recruitment Challenge for 2003-2004 with the addition of 10 new members. The challenge is being issued once again for 2004-2005. Once again, the Branch who gains the most new members in the period up to March 31, 2005, will win one paid registration to the FWIO Provincial Conference, plus \$50 in FWIO Bucks. The second place Branch will win \$100 in FWIO Bucks and the third place will win \$75 worth of FWIO Bucks.

New Membership Recruitment Packages have been developed. Branches will receive five Packages from the Provincial Office and ten additional Packages at the ROSE Workshops. After that, the Recruitment Packages will cost \$1 through the Office.

So, what are FWIO Bucks?

For each new member obtained, Branches will receive a \$5 FWIO Buck. They will be mailed with their fee receipt and can be redeemed when purchasing supplies, brochures or Membership Recruitment Packages.

New Membership Category

Next year, a new membership category to be known as WI Alumni will be introduced. It is considered more of a social membership for members who are over 75 years of age and who have been a WI member for at least 20 years. The membership will be with FWIO only and will cost \$25; Branch fee charges will be over and above the \$25.

Note: This membership category will take effect with the fee submissions in April/May 2005.

Resolutions Sustained

- That FWIO urge the Federal Government to immediately look into the huge discrepancy between what the farmer presently realizes for the price of beef and what the consumer pays in the retail store.
- That FWIO urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to open the borders to Canadian beef, dairy and all agricultural commodities and return to pre-BSE trade practices.
- That FWIO urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to realize the dire situation of farmers and to look for ways to expand processing capacity so as to deal with escalating numbers of cattle.

Area Voting Delegates

Provincial Advisory Councillors will be advising the Areas that only one Voting Delegate from each Area is able to attend the FWIO Annual Meeting and that the Voting Delegate and their Alternate should be elected by ballot at the Area Convention. FWIO will pay the expenses of the Area Voting Delegate to attend the Annual Meeting.

Role: Area Voting Delegates are the liaison between Regional Board Directors and members.

Responsibilities:

- attend the FWIO Provincial Meeting, with full voting rights and expenses paid
- be a member of the Area Convention Committee and Executive
- be paid allowable expenses for communication to a maximum of \$50 per year
- be a member in good standing

Selection: Area Voting Delegates are elected annually by ballot at the Area Convention for a maximum of three years. Their alternates are also elected annually.

Watch for a letter from the FWIO President to your Area explaining these changes.

Branch Related Items

- Branches that are amalgamating may keep the same name or a hyphenated version of the two names. As well, they may use the inception date of the older Branch.
- FWIO Board accepted a recommendation making it possible for members to belong to and to hold office in more than one Branch.

Coordinators

The FWIO Board passed a motion stating that the title of ROSE, Advocacy and Tweedsmuir Coordinator be used at all levels of the organization.

FWIO Headquarters Fund

As of April 30, 2004 - \$615,483.57

ROSE Sessions/ Officer Training Workshops



ROSE Sessions / Officer Training Workshops were launched at the end of April in the London Area. They are coming to your Area too, so watch for them. Four members from each Branch are eligible to attend. Don't miss out on this informative, exciting day to learn more about officer positions and the ROSE Program.

More About ROSE

- A lightweight portable ROSE display can be borrowed from the Provincial Office with no deposit down. Please contact ROSE Program Manager Julie Annett or ROSE Administrative Assistant Mary Poodry at the Provincial Office to book the display.
- A "ROSES are Blooming" Forum will take place at the Kempenfeldt Conference Centre in Barrie on August 20 and 21, 2004. FWIO's ROSE Partners will be participating. The ROSE Program, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will cover the accommodation and meals for District Representatives attending; however, Districts are responsible for the transportation costs of their representatives. Watch for your invitations!

2005 Programming Theme

The programming theme for 2005 is "Sharing Our Heritage."

4-H Scholarships

- Essay Topic in 2005 - "Where will 4-H be in 90 years?"
- To take effect in 2005, FWIO accepted a recommendation to remove the guideline from the eligibility section of the application that stated that a 4-H Scholarship applicant must have completed a 4-H Club in the previous 24 months in order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

War Stories Book

The War Stories book will be forthcoming this fall prior to November 11, 2004.

Lottery Licencing

Branches are encouraged to write to the FWIO Provincial Office if they are no longer able to obtain lottery licenses in their area. Board would like to determine where obtaining licenses is a problem and whether anything can be done to assist Branches. To date, it seems that each municipality is different in terms of how they issue these licenses.