

Board Briefings



November 25-27, 2002

The Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) met at the Provincial Office in Guelph for a three-day meeting in November. As always, the agenda was full. The following are some of the items covered at this Board Meeting.

FWIO Financial Statements

Chartered Accountant Linda Bailey, from the Accounting Firm Robinson, Lott & Brohman in Guelph, presented the organization's audited Financial Statements for 2001-2002. Executive Director Lynn Ruigrok and Bailey answered questions from Board and spoke about the need to develop a policy to address inventory obsolescence on an annual basis.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed at the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) November Board Meeting:

- That the FWIO request the Federal Government to enact legislation to immediately ban the sale and manufacture of all Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) pressure treated wood in any form, for any use.
- That FWIO strongly urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to declare that all Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) pressure treated wood in any form is a hazardous waste product and that disposal of it must be done in such a way that no copper, arsenic or chromium can leach out into the environment.
- That FWIO urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to set in place public education on the dangers of using Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) pressure treated wood and to list safe sealing methods and environmentally friendly alternatives.

FWIO Provincial Conference in 2004

Although tentative, the following information is available about the FWIO Provincial Conference in 2004:

- Date: June 11-13, 2004
- Place: To be announced
- Theme: "Learn More in 2004!"

International Convenor's Report

Feedback Needed

The FWIO International Convenor Christine Reaburn requires feedback from the members in order to adequately report back to the membership, the Provincial Board and ACWW. Let her know how your Branch, District or Area celebrated the following days:

- March 8 – International Women's Day
- April 29 - ACWW Day
- September 8 – International Literacy Day
- September, 3rd Tuesday – International Day of Peace
- October 1 – World Habitat Day
- Universal Children's Day
- October 11 – International Day of Older Persons
- October 15 – World Rural Women's Day
- October 16 – World Food Day
- October 24 – United Nations Day

Watch for an International Report Form that will be coming to your Branch Secretary in the Annual Mailing. Ask your Education Convenor to complete this Form and send it to Christine Reaburn at 720 Lookout Rd., RR 1, Westmeath ON K0J 2L0.

International Scholarship

In a recent letter to the FWIO Provincial Board, the Canadian Home Economics Association (CHEA) wrote that they could no longer administer the International Scholarship due to the time commitment involved. In response, the FWIO Board asked ACWW if they could utilize the \$2,500 in interest from the International Scholarship Fund within their own Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund (ACWW Constitution, p. 47).

ACWW World President Hilda Stewart replied in October that ACWW "would indeed be happy to receive and administer" the International Scholarship. Beginning in 2003, this process requires that the ACWW Board review applications and present the Scholarship each October.

Provincial Advisory Councillors

The FWIO Provincial Board encourages all members to refrain from using the acronym PAC, which has stood for Provincial Advisory Councillor. It has been brought to their attention that this acronym is sometimes used in a derogatory and insulting manner. Board encourages the use of the full name of Provincial Advisory Councillor when referring to this level of the organization. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Community Health Centres

Under the newly adopted Strategic Plan for FWIO, the Provincial Education Committee was asked to investigate the establishment of a rural women's resource centre. This was listed as one

of the five strategies listed under Strategic Objective #2 to provide innovative, self-supporting programs and services.

After investigating what was available in their own communities, Education Committee members made the following recommendations in response to this request:

- If a community already has an established Community Health Centre, then the Women's Institute should become a partner. They can do this by researching women's family and community needs and establishing a connection with the Health Centre. They can promote the WI in this manner and volunteer their expertise and services re: promotion and advertising, etc.
- If a community does not have an established Community Health Centre, the Women's Institute should conduct some research to find out if a Health Centre would be beneficial. If so, they should establish partners and promote an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
- In some cases where Community Health Centres are already partnered with local Public Health Units, then it would be beneficial to the Women's Institute to establish a partnership with Public Health Units. Some communities only have established Health Units and no Health Centres. If this is the case, it is necessary for WIs to present the requirements of their community and offer either partner in the establishment of a Community Health Centre or work through the Public Health Unit to promote and advertise WI programs.

FWIO Brochures

Due to continually rising production costs, the FWIO Board passed a motion limiting the number of free brochures distributed to members to 25 per request, with additional brochures being charged at cost.

Other Items Covered

Ask your Provincial Advisory Councillor or Board Director for more information on these other items covered at Board:

- Focus High Update
- FWIO Annual Meeting
- FWIO Conference 2004
- ACWW 24th Triennial Conference
- Nomination Deadlines for ACWW Officers and Committee Chairs
- District and Branch Mailings
- FWIO Awards Committee
- Johnson Insurance Proposal
- Nominating Committee and Elections Process
- Motions

