

Board Briefings

June 12-14, 2002

The Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) met at Puddington Place on St. Josephs Island for a Board meeting held prior to the Provincial Conference. Some of the highlights of this meeting are outlined below.

FWIO Financial Statements

Quarterly financial statements were issued, including receipts and disbursements, cash position, investment summaries and a status report on Branch Trillium Grant applications.

Kemble WI Gains Most New Members

To kickoff the Membership Recruitment Campaign last year, FWIO offered a number of incentives to the Branch who gained the most new members in the period from April 1, 2001, to March 31, 2002. The incentives included one paid registration to the Provincial Conference in Sault Ste. Marie this past June plus \$300 in cash. Kemble Women's Institute in Grey North District was the winner of this past year's campaign with 8 new members. Congratulations Kemble WI members! The second place winner was Morson Women's Institute in Rainy River District with 6 new members.

Resolutions

The following two resolutions were passed at the June Board meeting:

- That FWIO strongly urge the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada to change the age of consent to sexual activity to at least 16 years.
- That FWIO urge the Federal Government to remove the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from feminine protection products.

Interim Lobbying Coordinator Anne Dyas was asked to resurrect the resolution on lead toxicity passed by FWIO at their 1998 Annual Meeting.

Changes to Note

District ROSE Representatives

A letter from the FWIO President will be sent to each Women's Institute District asking them to provide one District ROSE Program Representative willing to give her address, phone number and email information.

Handbook Revision Committee

The organization's traditionally named Constitution Committee has been renamed the Handbook Revision Committee. This Committee is comprised of the FWIO President, Past President, President-Elect and two Senior Board Directors. In an effort to reduce the 2003 budgeted spending, this recommendation was brought forth from the Budget Committee and will be effective after the annual meeting in January 2003. This Committee will meet for the first time in March 2004.

Budget Committee Dissolves

Effective January 13, 2003, the Budget Committee will be dissolved. The decision to dissolve the Budget Committee was made because directing and protecting the finances of the organization is the legal and moral responsibility of the Provincial Board. Therefore, reviewing and approving budgets, which includes determining where to make budget cuts, will be listed under the roles and responsibilities of the Provincial Board. The Budget Committee brought forth this recommendation for the legal protection of Board Directors, in addition to minimizing costs.

Public Relations Coordinator

The position of FWIO Public Relations Coordinator will be dissolved effective January 13, 2003. There have been no applications for this position for the past two years, and the last two Coordinators had both made the recommendation to Board that it should be a paid position.

ACWW 24th Triennial Conference in 2004

The 24th Triennial Conference of ACWW will be held from March 23 to 29, 2004, in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The cost of registration is 225 pounds up to September 12, 2003; thereafter it is 250 pounds. The fee covers the Welcome Reception, Gala Dinner, Tasmania Day, Official Opening and Closing of the Conference, as well as a Tasmania Evening of Entertainment. Lunches are included from March 24 through to the 29, in addition to a Conference Bag, Badge and papers.

ACWW Competitions

Greeting Card – depicting the 24th Conference
Theme – "Working with Women worldwide"
Bookmark – size – 5 cm x 25 cm, any material, to include the initials ACWW, the 24th Conference date and place

Women's War Stories

The FWIO Marketing Committee has been given approval to go ahead with a new book to include women's war experiences. Suggestions on how Women's Institute members might approach these stories and submit them for consideration

in the book will be forthcoming via an insert in the *Home & Country* newsletter.

Other Items Covered

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

- FWIO Strategic Plan, 2002-2004 (See Home & Country Summer Supplement)
- New Membership Recruitment Challenge (see p. 8)
- Provincial Positions Open (see p. 16)
- FWIO Conference in 2004
- MRDD Update
- FWIO Website Update
- ACWW Canada Area Conference
- Provincial Officers – A Definition
- Age Limit to Join WI
- Flags for Provincial Office
- Telehealth Ontario
- Policy and Procedures Manual
- Minute Style and Content
- Report Forms Under Review
- Communications Handbook
- Motions



ACWW Triennial Project in Kenya

Associated Country Women of the World Area President for Canada, Elizabeth Rushton, has advised that the Canadian Triennial Project will be in Kenya. The project is with the Largot Farmers Group situated in the Migori District of Nyanza Province. It is a fruit and vegetable processing project and continues on from an irrigation project reported on in the October-December 2001 issue of *The Countrywoman*. The irrigation project was successful enabling farmers to produce vegetables year round.

This new project will enable the Largot Farmers to improve the shelf life of otherwise perishable produce by using technology available to them. Farmers will be able to store the surplus produce and sell it at a better price later on, thus improving their income. If you would like to support this project, please forward your donation to the FWIO Provincial Office, payable to FWIO and mark "Kenya" on the memo line of your cheque.