

Board Briefings

August 12-15, 2002

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Board held a four-day meeting at the Provincial Office in Guelph from August 12 to 15, 2002. Some of the highlights of this meeting are outlined below.

FWIO Strategic Plan, 2002-2004

The FWIO Board spent time reviewing the Strategic Plan to ensure the organization is on target with the time frame for the implementation of each of its objectives. Copies of this critical document are being mailed to all provincial officers. If you wish to review a copy ask your Provincial Advisory Councillor (PAC) or Board Director.

FWIO Budget Discussions

With rising costs, the FWIO Board of Directors continues to find it difficult to attain a balanced budget. However, Board has managed to offset increased costs and maintain the same spending level as last year.

Marketing & Resource Development Director's Report

Kelly Marshall-Rutherford, the FWIO Marketing & Resource Development Director (MRDD), updated Board on her numerous activities:

Fundraising

The goal of the work of the MRDD is to raise funds to contribute to the operating and maintenance of FWIO and the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. Board had asked the MRDD to work on several initial efforts, including an Ontario Trillium Foundation application asking for two year funding to expand the ROSE program into other health and additional topics of interest, the launch of a new FWIO website to include sponsorship and increasing the organization's profile at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

There are many marketing and fundraising strategic objectives that the MRDD has been asked by Board to implement over the next several years, including revitalizing membership recruitment, enriching communications, developing aggressive partnerships and working towards financial stability for the organization.

FWIO Website

On line donations can now be made to the organization via the FWIO website. As well, a sponsorship program to help support the website will be up and running in September. Please send the MRDD any ideas for sponsors that would complement FWIO. The MRDD and Website Committee also presented a Website Policy, which was approved by Board. Feedback about the site has been overwhelmingly positive. The website offers a multitude of information and resources, including membership services such as downloadable logos for your promotional material and a Branch Program and Events Calendar. Check it out at www.fwio.on.ca

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed at the FWIO August Board meeting:

- That FWIO urge all levels of government to realize that decisions taken with regard to the awarding of patents covering ownership of human genes may impact on existing publicly funded Health Care initiatives.
- That FWIO request that both the Federal and Ontario governments enact laws which include as the norm shared parenting or joint custody, within the meaning of that term as set out in the December 1998 Special Joint Committee Report of the Senate and the House of Commons.
- That FWIO support and promote the philosophy of the Ministry of Health, the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Council of Canada with regard to the consumption of dairy products.
- That FWIO request the Government of Ontario to ban the use of biosolids in produce, animal feed and turf production until province-wide standards can ensure safe usage.

Nominations Deadline for ACWW Officers and Committee Chairs

Please note that Feb. 28, 2003, is the deadline for nominations for ACWW officers and specified committee chairs for the 2004 – 2007 triennium. Also note that the position of Area President for Canada is open. Nomination forms can be obtained from the FWIO Provincial Office.

For Your Information

Time Lag Re: PAC as Members of Committees

After much discussion about the time lag between incoming and retiring Provincial Advisory Councillors, the Board decided that all committee members are to carry on with their responsibilities until the January Annual Meeting. This means that the term of office for a PAC position runs from Area convention to Area convention, but they remain in their committee positions until the January Annual Meeting.

Policy and Procedures Manuals

Revisions to the organization's manuals for policy and office procedures are near completion. The revised manuals will be distributed to FWIO Provincial Officers at the FWIO Annual Meeting in January 2003.

Report Forms

President-Elect Elsie Stephenson and Northern Regional Board Director Gloria Pakkala spent time reviewing all Branch, District and Area report forms, as well as those used by coordinators and FWIO Provincial Officers to report to Board. Several member and Branch suggestions were also taken into consideration. These changes will be reflected on the forms for 2002 – 2003.

Scholarship Applications Reviewed

In order to streamline the process and meet concerns that were expressed to members of the Scholarship Committee, the FWIO approved several changes to the Regional 4-H Scholarship Application. In addition, Board approved changes to the Rulings for 4-H Scholarships. These changes will be reflected on the forms, which are mailed out to Districts.

Macdonald Institute Centennial

The Macdonald Institute will be celebrating their 100th anniversary from June 20-22, 2003, at the University of Guelph. The Macdonald Institute will be the focus of this Alumni Weekend.

Reminder to Outgoing PAC

This is a reminder to the outgoing Provincial Advisory Councillors to bring their King and Kerr *Concise Procedures for Meetings and Organizations* and their Information Binder issued from the FWIO Provincial Office, as well as all other relevant documents, to their annual Area conventions. These documents need to be passed on to the incoming Councillors so they can be effective in their positions. All incoming PAC will be asked to sign a receipt of all materials received. And please don't forget the Supply Sales Kit!

Other Items Covered

Ask your PAC or Board Director for more information on this list of other items covered:

- Provincial Positions Open (see p. 16)
- ROSE Coordinator Position (see p. 8)
- RAWF Volunteers and Booth (see p. 16)
- Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award (see p. 16)
- FWIO Conference 2004
- FWIO Conference 2002 Final Report
- International Convenor's Report
- Safe Kids Canada
- FWIO Supplies on Sale (see p. 16)
- Motions

