

Board Briefings

March 26-28, 2001

Signs of spring welcomed the FWIO Board of Directors to the Provincial Office for their three-day meeting from March 26 to 28. Much of the three-day discussions focused on developing a long-range or strategic plan for the future direction of the organization.

Strategic Planning Process

Strategic planning consultant Greg Burns facilitated lively discussion at a morning workshop with the FWIO Board that focused on the strategic planning process. Burns defined strategic planning as the process by which the guiding members of an organization envision its future and develop the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future.

Membership Campaign Kickoff Offering Branch Incentives

To kickoff the Membership Recruitment Campaign for the upcoming year, FWIO is offering the following incentives to Branches who gain new members in the period from April 1, 2001, to March 31, 2002.

- The Branch who gains the most new members during this period will win one paid registration to the Provincial Conference in June 2002 in Sault Ste. Marie, plus \$300 in cash.
- The Branch who is the first runner up will be presented with a gift basket full of Women's Institute sales items at their Area Convention.
- The top ten Branches in terms of membership gains will receive recognition on the FWIO Website and in the *Home & Country* newsletter.

So invite that neighbour, friend or relative you have always been meaning to ask to your meeting. And who knows, your Branch may win the paid registration to the provincial conference next June!



ACWW Conference 2001, Hamilton, Ontario

Arthena Hecker, CoChair of the Ontario Coordinating Committee, reported that to date 696 full-time delegates are registered for the ACWW Conference 2001 in Hamilton. She also reported that 21 participants are registered for the Pre-Conference Workshops to take place at Crieff Hills Conference Centre.

Upcoming Provincial Positions Available

Provincial officers whose terms of office are complete at the 2002 Annual Meeting are:

- President-Elect
- Regional Board Director, Eastern Area (1)
- Regional Board Director, Northern Area (1)
- Lobbying Coordinator
- Provincial Advisory Councillors for Subdivisions 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 22 and 24

Normal protocol is as follows:

- by nomination at Area Conventions for President-Elect
- by application for Board Directors, Coordinators and Committees of the Board (due date September 30)
- by nomination at District Annuals to be elected at Area Conventions for Provincial Advisory Councillors

Nominations from the floor are not accepted for any of these positions. For more information contact the Provincial Office.

Committee Evaluations

Board spent some time reviewing and evaluating the structure and the roles and responsibilities of the committees of FWIO. Changes were suggested to take effect at the Annual Meeting 2002 and will be forthcoming once the process is finalized.

Information Items

New Provincial Office Hours

Please note that to keep costs down, the FWIO Provincial Office will only be open to visitors and telephone inquiries on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday beginning June 1, 2001.

Liability Forms for Conference 2002 Competitions

Please send any outstanding liability forms for the FWIO Conference 2002 Competitions to the FWIO Provincial Office as soon as possible.

Promoting Through Displays

Remember, FWIO is offering all Areas the opportunity to hold a two-hour workshop at Area Conventions this fall. "Promoting Through Displays" is the workshop being offered. The workshop is only presented at those Areas who have specifically requested it. Any Area who is interested can call the FWIO Provincial Office.

FWIO Display Boards

As of March 31, 2001, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) will no longer be providing portable exhibit booking support to organizations. OMAFRA has given FWIO one useable floor exhibit. The floor display depicts the structure and history of the Women's Institute.

Anyone interested in booking this display, please call the FWIO Provincial Office at 519-836-3078. The cost of shipping the exhibit to and from the Provincial Office is the responsibility of the borrower. The exhibit is to be returned in the same condition. Donations are accepted towards the upkeep of exhibits.

Vandalism at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home

The doors, locks and handles of two of the outbuildings at the Lee Home will have to be replaced as a result of vandalism. Fortunately, a couple of old doors in the basement can be used for immediate replacement. It is hoped that improving the lighting in and around the outbuildings will help prevent future vandalism.

Other Items Covered:

- Strategic Planning Process
- Day Visitors to ACWW Conference 2001
- Public Relations Coordinator's Position
- Conference 2002 Competitions
- Tweedsmuir's Nominated for Pierre Berton Award
- Motions

Area Convention Dates

Northwestern - Sept. 14-15
Cochrane-Temiskaming - Sept. 26
North Central - Sept. 29
Northern - Oct. 13
Eastern - Oct. 15
Kingston - Oct. 16
Trent Valley - Oct. 17
Central - Oct. 19-20
Simcoe - Oct. 22
Grey Bruce - Oct. 23
Guelph - Oct. 24-25
Hamilton - Oct. 26
London - Oct. 29
Southwestern - Oct. 30