

Board Briefings

Annual Meeting Report
January 16, 2001

In her opening statement at the Open Annual Meeting at the Kempenfeldt Conference Centre in Barrie, FWIO President Christine Reaburn remarked that within the structure of the Women's Institute, the Board **directs and protects** the organization. She expanded by saying that the Board **directs** by setting policies, which lay out the roles and responsibilities of the Board, Coordinators, Provincial Advisory Councillors (PAC), the Committees of the Board and the Provincial Office. To this end, she noted that in recent months, the Policy and Procedures Manual has been updated, the Board is currently working on a Strategic Plan for 2001 to 2003 to be followed by a Business Plan, and three of the four Coordinator's manuals are being revised.

Reaburn explained that the Board **protects** the organization by ensuring that the assets are wisely and safely invested - in accordance with the rules that govern not-for-profit groups and in accordance with FWIO policy - to realize a good rate of return. The Board monitors the budget to ensure that the Women's Institute receives full measure for every dollar spent. The Board continues to steer a path to financial self-sufficiency as the fundraising campaign progresses.

For more information on the items covered at the Annual Meeting refer to the printed Annual Report sent to each Branch, or ask your PAC member or your Board Director.

Recognitions

President Reaburn noted that while each of the outgoing Board Directors Pat Salter and Donna Willows brought different strengths to the Board, both were fervent ambassadors for the Women's Institute. She acknowledged Rosella Clancy for her four years as Provincial Tweedsmuir Curator and for renewing the enthusiasm for Tweedsmuir books among the Branches. Reaburn remarked on the work of outgoing Public Relations Coordinator Carol Helfenstein by noting her continued efforts to promote new technologies among members. The outgoing Provincial Advisory Councillors were recognized for the time and effort they gave to their various roles, and especially for their key role as "communicators."



The members of the FWIO Board (left to right in the back row) are: Elsie Stephenson, Evelyn Peck, Carol Force, Ruth Crump, Fran Farrell, Faith Nelms, Angele Oberg and Joan Folkard. Seated from left to right are Past President Arthena Hecker, President Christine Reaburn and President-Elect Dianne Orr.

Lobbying

The following resolutions were sustained at the Annual Meeting:

1. a) That FWIO urge the Minister of Health to make livestock rabies vaccine available at no cost to livestock producers immediately upon report of a rabies outbreak in that part of Ontario;
 - b) that FWIO urge the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources to be authorized to cover all affected and outlying areas with airdrops of rabies vaccine bait pellets immediately upon report of a rabies outbreak in any part of Ontario; and,
 - c) that FWIO request the Ministry of the Environment to be aware of all implications of an outbreak of rabies in any part of Ontario and to immediately coordinate with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and other related agencies to curb the spread of this disease.
2. That FWIO lobby the Ministry of Health to institute, under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, a screening procedure for male prostate cancer.



The FWIO Coordinators in the back are Anne Dyas (left) - Lobbying and Lynn Ruigrok (right) - Finance. In the front are Kelly Robson (left) - Tweedsmuir and Joan King (right) - Education.

Communications Workshops

On the day following the Annual Meeting, a series of workshops were organized for the Provincial Advisory Councillors (PAC), the five Coordinators, the Committees of the Board and the Provincial Board of Directors. Past President Arthena Hecker reviewed and clarified the roles and responsibilities for PAC. Outgoing Board Director Pat Salter facilitated discussion among the Coordinators and the Committees of the Board, while President Reaburn led discussion among the Board of Directors.

Improving communications and the flow of information between the various levels of the organization was again a prime concern. To work towards this end, Board Directors personally call

each of the PAC members under them after each Board meeting. All Directors relay the same information to PAC from a list that they make up at the end of each Board meeting. The Board Briefings follow with additional information. In turn, PAC is to relay the information to District Presidents, who then relay it to Branches. Likewise, information from a Branch member should flow back up to the Board level.

Managing Finances

Outgoing Board Director Pat Salter and President-Elect Dianne Orr facilitated the last session of the day entitled Managing Finances. Modeled after the popular TV game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," Salter and Orr played host on their version titled "Who Wants to Manage a Million?" Three members from the audience were arbitrarily selected to answer the carefully crafted questions on the FWIO Headquarters Fund.

The "fun and frolic" was followed by a more serious session on budget preparation and tracking for committees and Coordinators. The workshop facilitators emphasized that every committee and Coordinator needs to prepare an itemized budget and stay within that budget. The discussion included clarification of justifiable expenses.