

BOARD BRIEFINGS

March 13-14, 2000

Board Directors gathered for a two-day meeting in mid-March at the Provincial Office in Guelph. The agenda included a variety of topics. The following are highlights from the March meeting. Contact your Board Director or Provincial Advisory Councillor if you have any questions.

PROGRAMMING IDEAS

"Water or Lack of It!"

This is the title of an article by FWIO Lobbying Coordinator Anne Dyas on the opposite page. The article states that it is essential to move now to safeguard our water supply for future generations. Dyas suggests expressing this concern to municipal leaders, local newspapers, Members of Parliament and the Provincial Legislature. And asking our friends and neighbours to do likewise. She also suggests signing and returning the petition of the Council of Canadians.

The FWIO Board wholeheartedly supported printing this article. Watch for it! Read it! Discuss it at Branch. And take action now, before it is too late!

Invite a Friend!

Spread the word! Ask every member to invite a friend to attend their Branch meeting in June. What a great way to celebrate WI month - by gaining new members! Grab hold of this initiative and increase your Branch membership. Invite a friend and potential new member today!

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Financial Update

The FWIO Board of Directors spent several hours reviewing the organization's financial status. Detailed financial statements were provided, including investment summaries and an in-depth fundraising status report. Good discussion ensued and many questions were answered by the Financial Coordinator. Board receives quarterly financial statements and detailed summaries twice a year.

Impact of New Structure

The FWIO Financial Coordinator Lynn Ruigrok pulled together a detailed chart outlining the financial impact of the new structure on the organization. In the fiscal year from October 1, 1998, to September 30, 1999, there was a savings of approximately \$20,000 as a result of restructuring.

Car Lease

The receipt of motions from the Area level asking to have the President's honorariums re-instated prompted the Provincial Board to look at other methods of providing support. Non-profit organizations cannot legally give honorariums to officers (including the President) because they are not allowed under the Ontario Agricultural Act.

So, in lieu of an honorarium, Board indicated a "show of support" for the FWIO President by passing a motion to lease a vehicle during her term of office. When costed, the leased vehicle turned out to be less than the total honorarium dollars given in the past. The vehicle would also be used as promotional tool with a magnetic sign; and Board members donated enough money to purchase a personalized license plate to read FWIO.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Branch Mailing

Branches should have received a Branch mailing in early March. This mailing included information about the ACWW 2001 Conference in Hamilton, upcoming events at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home and the FWIO International Exchange with the Michigan Association for Family and Consumer Education. Encourage Branches to discuss and consider this information.

The Farm Line

The Ontario Farm Women's Network (OFWN) proposes to start the first Ontario wide 1-800 help line for farmers and their families. The Farm Line is the result of a research project completed by OFWN in 1999. One of the findings of the project was the need for a communications tool in times of stress in agricultural and rural communities. For example, after a fatal farm accident, barn fire, commodity market collapse or natural disaster, people may be searching for extra information and support. The Farm Line is a hot line for easy access to personal, career and financial information and support over the phone and for referral to local specialists when needed.

As requested by the OFWN, a letter of support from the FWIO Board was written in support of The Farm Line.

Promoting the WI Via Radio

Several radio stations across Ontario used the WI history book, *For Home and Country*, as a prize for their phone in contests during the week of February 19. Board members delivered the history books to two different radio stations in their regions. Consequently, several Board Directors were interviewed. What a great way to promote the organization and introduce potential members to the Women's Institute!

Good News!

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home is the recipient of a recent bequest of \$5000. And the FWIO Headquarters Fund received a \$2000 bequest.

"A Grandmother's Legacy"

The project, "A Grandmother's Legacy" was a great success! Many thanks to those Branches who participated and honoured their oldest member by presenting them with a history book.

Due to space constraints, the Editor of the *Home & Country* newsletter is not able to print the reports or photographs of these presentations, or the Legacies themselves. With over 500 Branches participating in this project, it is not feasible to print all of them in the *Home & Country* newsletter, nor would it be fair to print just a few. The Marketing Committee is reviewing the Legacies submitted with the intentions of putting a collection together. Any reports and photographs submitted to the newsletter will be returned by the Editor.

International Quilt Block Competition

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Conference Committee and the Ontario Coordinating Committee (OCC) invited all WI members last fall to enter an International Quilt Block Competition. The Competition is being coordinated by the Thunder Bay District in the Northwestern Area of Ontario. The deadline for this Competition was March 1, 2000. The 290 submissions will be made into quilts, wall-hangings and cushions and will be raffled with the proceeds going to Conference 2001.

OTHER ITEMS COVERED

- ROSE Health Program – see Spring 2000, p. 5 and this issue, p. 11
- "The New Millennium" – see Winter 1999-2000, pp. 8-9
- PHONEBUSTERS – see this issue p. 7
- FWIC Literacy Project – LINKS – see Spring 2000, p. 13
- Education Coordinator's Report
- Coordinator's Report Forms
- Manual Reviews
- Motions