

# Board Briefings

January 10-11, 2000

**P**resident Christine Reaburn welcomed the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Board to their two-day January meeting. "We are embarking on a new year," noted Reaburn, "and it is an exciting time." Reaburn thanked Board for all the attention paid to the copious faxes sent to them since the Annual Meeting. She added with jest, "I was under the distinct impression December would be quiet!"

The following are some of the highlights from the January meeting. Contact your Provincial Advisory Councillor if you have any questions.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Starter Kit for New Branches

The Women's Institute *Handbook* briefly outlines how to organize a new Branch. Groups wishing to organize can contact Membership Organizers, District Presidents and Secretaries and Provincial Advisory Councillors as resource people. To assist in the process, and hopefully make it run more smoothly, FWIO would like to develop a Starter Kit for New Branches. If you have any ideas for this Kit send them to Evelyn Smart at RR 7, Owen Sound ON N4K 6V5, Phone: 519-376-4139, Fax: 519-376-5869.

## POLICY UPDATES

### Election Procedures for Annual Meeting

Much discussion ensued around the election procedures for the FWIO Annual Meeting. Board Directors passed the following policy. Provincial positions, with the exception of the President-Elect, are by application only. Applications are to be obtained from the Provincial Office and they must be received by September 30. If none are received by this date, Board will accept applications in increments of 30 days prior to the annual meeting until an application(s) is received.

### Refund Cheques

The FWIO Board passed a motion to discontinue issuing refund cheques for clerical

errors over or under \$5. The motion was passed because the Provincial Office was averaging two refund related errors per week. This policy will save the organization money in handling, staff time and the cost of cheques and bank service charges. The differences to be set up in a special fund.

## FWIC/ACWW

### FWIC Convention

The following resolutions were sent to FWIC for their consideration in Brandon:

- That FWIO request the Federal Government of Canada to immediately grant surviving members of the World War II Canadian Merchant Marine all monetary compensation for benefits denied them over the intervening years.
- That FWIO request the Federal Minister of Health to enact legislation that requires any food products containing genetically altered components be clearly labelled in order that consumers can make an informed choice.

### "Bed & Breakfast" - ACWW 2001

If you are interested in hosting ACWW delegates before or after Conference 2001, submit your name and address to the FWIO Provincial Office. A special Hospitality Homes List is currently being compiled. WI members wishing to provide "bed and breakfast" at \$25 per night, call the Provincial Office today.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Resolutions Manual

Lobbying Coordinator Anne Dyas will be revising and updating the FWIO Resolutions Manual. If you have any suggestions on how to improve the Manual, please send them to Anne Dyas at RR 3, Cochrane ON P0L 1C0, Phone: 705-272-6886, Fax: 705-272-3425. In addition, all FWIO resolutions will be researched, and printed in a booklet if feasible.

### Area Workshop Possibilities

FWIO is offering all Areas the opportunity to hold a two-hour workshop at Area Conventions in the Fall of 2000. Workshops on either Tweedsmuir Histories or membership recruitment are being offered. Note: the workshop will only be presented at those Areas who specifically request it. Please contact the FWIO Provincial Office if your Area is interested in either presentation.

## Public Relations Coordinator's Report

Carol Helfenstein, FWIO Public Relations Coordinator (PRC) hopes to eventually distribute press releases to Board, Provincial Advisory Councillors (PAC) and District PROs via email. She believes that Board has the ability to inspire PAC and District PROs to take these press releases, adapt them to their local situations and submit them for publication to their local papers.

The PRC reported that the electronic bulletin board system she spoke of previously (see page 10 Spring 1999 *Home & Country*) is no longer as effective. Newspapers now go directly to the world wide web for information.

Helfenstein is requesting that District PROs send her their email address, or find someone in the District who would be willing to receive, and distribute accordingly, all emails. Send all email addresses to [cally@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:cally@hurontel.on.ca)

## 90th Anniversary Educational Award

The FWIO Board rescinded the motion dated August 24, 1999, that the FWIO 90th Anniversary Educational Award be one award of \$1000 to go to one recipient per year. This Educational Award will now be a \$250 award and will go to one recipient from each of the four regions.

## BOARD MEETING DATES

See Provincial Calendar of Events on p. 16

## OTHER ITEMS COVERED

A number of other topics were highlighted in the Board Briefings that went out to Provincial Advisory Councillors. These topics include:

- Board Briefings & the Flow of Information
- Letters of Introduction from Board to PAC
- FWIO Provincial Conference Postponed
- Delegates to the FWIC Convention
- Policy re: Expense Forms
- Promoting the WI Via Radio
- Peace Bridge Plaque
- Cervical Screening Program Focus Group
- Motions Passed

Board passed a motion at the January meeting stating that only the highlights of on site Board meetings be reported in the *Home & Country* newsletter. It was felt that this would not only save space, but encourage and improve communications between Provincial Advisory Councillors and members. This space can be used to give Branch news more coverage.