

Before You Submit a Resolution, Consider the Following . . .

By Anne Dyas

A resolution is a proposal by a group of persons to another person or group of persons. It is important to do thorough research before taking any action. Ask yourselves:

- Is this resolution for the good of all?
- Does this resolution interfere with the civil rights and/or liberties of any individual?
- Is there an existing law on the matter? If so, is it being enforced? Is it in need of change?

Sources of Information

Ideally, a Resolutions Convenor should have a reference file of newspaper clippings, magazine articles and letters on topics which may be controversial in nature, with the source of each item identified and dated. For example, items on health, environment or safety issues that have been discussed at a meeting or with neighbours may be kept in this file. All of this information should be passed on to your successor when you leave office.

At the local level, speak to your municipal clerk, school board officials, chief of police or a lawyer. Check with your local library for books and magazines you may not usually read. "Surf the Web;" this is a wonderful source of information and is

accessible at most libraries and municipal offices (for those who cannot use it at home because of party lines!).

Check past resolutions using the Resolutions Manual. Ask your provincial Lobbying Coordinator and/or Board Director to be sure this subject has not been covered previously. Involve your members with this preliminary research.

Consider writing a letter or organizing a letter writing campaign. This may bring better, and possibly more immediate, results than a resolution or a brief. A presentation to one's local municipal council could be the best course of action.

Above all, do not be discouraged if your resolution is returned to you by the provincial Resolutions Committee as not suitable or requiring further work, or if it is lost at a provincial Board meeting. If you have carefully answered the questions posed at the beginning, you have a greater chance of success. So keep those resolutions coming!

Source: Much of this information was taken from the 1992 Resolutions Manual compiled by E. Joan Law. While some of the information is now dated, it contains much of value. There are plans to update the Resolutions Manual in the near future.

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Bear Knitting Ladies



Prescott District Women's Institute members entered the ranks of "Bear Knitting Ladies" when they responded to an ad in the Ottawa Citizen. The ad stated that donations for hand-knitted bears for patients were being accepted for distribution by the Alzheimer Society in Ontario. It wasn't long before the local office in Hawkesbury was presented with 36 bears. Prescott District will continue this effort and hopes other Districts will take a similar initiative. Pictured is Cleta Reid from the Greenlane WI cuddling up with a handful of bears ready to be donated.

Submitted by Ruth Proudfoot, President, Prescott District.

On the Road Again



Guthrie WI have Adopted-A-Road. They have cleaned up along Simcoe County Road 57 twice this year. After two hours in the rain, they were wet and tired, but pleased with their efforts. They were happy to serve the local area and the environment at the same time.

Submitted by Eunice Johnston, PRO, Guthrie WI, Simcoe Kempenfeldt.

