

BOARD BRIEFINGS

August 23-24, 1999

"With the Health Program Launch happening this afternoon, it's an exciting time for us all," remarked FWIO President Arthena Hecker as she opened the August Board Meeting. Jane Cooper, a WI member from the Eastern Region, wrote a proposal and presented it to the Safe & Healthy Communities Committee. After much work and final approval by the Board the proposal was presented to the Minister of Health. Hecker commended those involved in the origin and launch of the Health Program.

Noting a busy agenda, Hecker took the time to introduce the recently hired Health Program Coordinator and FWIO Fund Raiser. With a background in special event planning with an emphasis on health and wellness, Health Program Coordinator Kelly Marshall believes the Health Program to be a "great opportunity for the organization." Mike Paquet, Fund Raiser for FWIO, has experience helping non-profit organizations and is looking forward to working with the Women's Institute, and he "promises results." Watch for their profiles in the Winter 1999-2000 issue of the *Home & Country* newsletter.

Financial Statement/Budget

There was detailed discussion of the Financial Statement and the Proposed Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, 1999-2000. Shirley Gleadall, Chair of the Budget Committee, reported a balanced budget for FWIO for the second year in a row. She noted that this was largely due to two factors - changes in attitude and office management. Gleadall also happily reported that the \$35,000 earned in interest on the Headquarters Fund was not used in the previous fiscal year and was added to the Fund principal. Several recommendations from the Budget Committee were approved by the Provincial Board.

Program Reports:

Expanded Health Education Program

For an introduction to the Health Program read the front cover article of the Summer 1999 issue of *Home & Country*. Health Program Coordinator Kelly Marshall is working to organize WI training programs to promote health education for WI members and their communities.

Currently, FWIO has established partnerships with four health-related organizations - Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP), Osteoporosis Society of Canada (OSC), Community Abuse Program of Rural Ontario (CAPRO) and Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies. The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), Heart Health and other organizations are also interested in coming on line.

Watch for more information about this great opportunity to learn more about women's health issues in the Winter 1999-2000 issue of *Home & Country*.

A Grandmother's Legacy

Have you honoured the oldest member (in age, not years of membership) of your Branch during this International Year of Older Persons? If not, forward the name of your eldest member to the FWIO Provincial Office as soon as possible.

FWIO will send a copy of *For Home and Country: The Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario* to each Branch who participates in this project. FWIO has received special funding available from the Ontario Government during the International Year of Older Persons for the cost and distribution of the history books. The book is to be presented to the oldest member at a special function. Perhaps several neighbouring Branches could join together to organize a special tea or luncheon?

There are only two stipulations. The first is that the presentation occur this year - 1999 - during the International Year of Older Persons. The other is that the member chosen must prepare what will be known as "A Grandmother's Legacy," or a story of their life (1 to 2 pages only). This personal story could be obtained with the assistance from the Tweedsmuir Curator or a family member, and then added to the Tweedsmuir History.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to honour your oldest member. Invite your MPP to make the presentation and help raise the profile of the WI. See the notice and letter of explanation that was mailed to your Branch, and send the FWIO Provincial Office the necessary information today!

PHONEBUSTERS

Following a Board decision last November, FWIO has partnered with PHONEBUSTERS, an arm of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) (see page 3 of the Summer 1999 *Home & Country*). Established in 1993, PHONEBUSTERS is dedicated to educating the Canadian public about the dangers of telemarketing, especially seniors who represent about 60 % of victims.

PHONEBUSTERS is encouraging Branches to work in cooperation with local officials, including the police, bankers and health workers, to increase public awareness about this growing problem.

PHONEBUSTERS is coming to the Western Region this fall, from mid-September to mid-November. And then to the Southern and Northern Regions next year. Watch for dates and locations in your area. Ask your PAC member or look on the FWIO web site: www.fwio.on.ca

In the mean time, Just Hang Up!

Other Reports:

Lobbying

Anne Dyas, the Lobbying Coordinator, forwarded written documentation on the following resolutions which were sustained:

- 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.

Public Relations

Public Relations Coordinator Carol Helfenstein reported sending press releases via email to a number of daily and weekly newspapers, farm magazines and radio and TV stations. Press releases have promoted FWIO initiatives, including PHONEBUSTERS, the Health Program and the Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Canadian Tire Money

Enough Canadian Tire Money was collected to purchase a TV and VCR for the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. Curator Michael Gemmill has had a tour and commentary of the upstairs of the Home videotaped. This allows visitors who are unable to climb stairs to have an "arm chair" tour of the upstairs. Many thanks to the Videographer, Joan Playle from West End WI, Wellington South. And many thanks to all who contributed to the cause. Canadian Tire Money is still welcome.

A Royal Invitation

Women's Institute members are invited to a Dutch (you pay your own way) Luncheon at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on November 5, 1999. The individual cost is between \$15 and \$20. Meet at the WI Booth between 12:30 and 12:45 for a 1 o'clock Luncheon. While you're there, plan to attend the Opening Night Horse Show at the Royal and watch the spotlight focus on the recipients of our "Excellence in Agriculture Award." Call the FWIO Office and order your Horse Show tickets today!

Scholarship

After much discussion, the FWIO Board of Directors passed a motion to make the 90th Anniversary Educational Award one award of \$1000 to one recipient per year.

Conference Updates:

FWIO Conference 2000

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Provincial Conference is being planned for some time during July to mid-August, 2000. It will be held in the Northern Region. Watch for more details in the Winter 1999-2000 issue of *Home & Country*.

ACWW 2001

The Ontario Coordinating Committee (OCC) has set a proposed budget for the upcoming ACWW 2001 Conference in Hamilton, Ontario. The budget will be presented at the Triennial Conference Committee meeting in London, England, in October. Plans regarding programming and tours are ongoing. Mary Janes, Publicity Director for the OCC has sent articles to *The Countrywoman* and to all Canadian Societies. She is also working on distributing information throughout the United States.

A Conference Badge was designed by Rosella Clancy from the River Valley WI, Hastings West District. Rosella has also donated a framed watercolour, "Springtime in Ontario," to help raise funds for ACWW Conference 2001. Tickets will be sold at Area Conventions and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and at other suitable opportunities. Tickets are also available from your Provincial Advisory Councillor (PAC) and from Donna Russett, Chair of the Displays and Sales Committee for Conference 2001. Donna can be reached at RR 3, Stirling ON K0K 3E0, Phone/Fax: 613-395-4305.

