

Conference '98 Competitions

The winners of the various Conference '98 Competitions are as follows:

Hand-crafted Doll

Porcelain

1st - Grace Williams

Demorestville WI, Prince Edward

2nd - Grace Williams

Cloth

1st - Mary McLaren

Bethesda Reach WI, Ontario North

2nd - Alta Vance, Roslin WI, Hastings East

3rd - Kathleen McBlain

Riverside WI, Brant North

Other (Dolls with Plastic Parts)

1st - Doris Van Camp, Peace WI, Perth North

2nd - Lenabell Campbell

Hampstead WI, Perth Centre

Quilt

Pieced

1st - Joy Forge

Maple View WI, Northumberland East

2nd - Alice Hadden

Vinemount WI, Wentworth South

3rd - Esther Clarke, Union Street WI, York North

Group

1st - Pittsburgh WI, Frontenac

Applique

1st - Phyllis Van Home

Pittsburgh WI, Frontenac

Mixed Media

1st - Mary McLaren

Bethesda Reach WI, Ontario North

2nd - Helen Tripp

Consecon WI, Prince Edward

Counted Cross Stitch Picture

1st - Corinne Coxall

Bethesda Reach WI, Ontario North

2nd - Helen Anderson

Hampstead WI, Perth Centre

Louise Humphrey

Hillier WI, Prince Edward

Barbara Oldfield

Vinemount WI, Wentworth South

3rd - Evelyn Arthur, Browns WI, Oxford North

4th - Doris VanCamp, Peace WI, Perth North

5th - Celine Kollmer

Hampstead WI, Perth Centre

No Count Cross Stitch

1st - Rena Cunningham

Consecon WI, Prince Edward

The PRO Line

A Fair Amount

Recently I was asked, "Why would potential sponsors or partners want to support Women's Institute (WI) projects and programs financially if WI members are unwilling to pay a fair amount for the benefits they receive from their organization?"

This made me stop and think about the benefits of Women's Institute and what is "a fair amount" for the services and resources WI offers.

What are the benefits of belonging to Women's Institute? As a member of FWIO, each person:

- has the opportunity to attend 10 to 12 Branch meetings, opportunities for stretching the mind, fellowship, fun and food
- has access to displays, brochures, promotional material, program material, leadership workshops and other resources from the provincial level
- is represented by the FWIO Board and its representatives to lobby the government and other agencies with resolutions and briefs
- is part of an organization which has credibility because of its long history of getting things done
- is part of a respected organization which speaks for women and their families with a reasonable voice
- has the opportunity to obtain scholarships to further her education
- receives liability insurance coverage at WI halls in case non-WI members have an accident and wish to sue
- may become involved in projects which make a difference in the local community
- may participate in District rallies, life skills workshops, general meetings and other opportunities for personal development and community action
- may attend Area Conventions to network, expand her horizons and learn new ideas
- supports the Erland Lee (Museum) Home which houses the history and the roots of the WI movement by attending its diverse events
- receives 4 issues of the Home & Country newsletter - 16 pages full of ideas and news about WI projects, activities and members

Each member of FWIO is automatically a member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. This means that each member:

- has a voice at the national level
- may participate in a national convention
- supports the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless by attending events at the home where Hoodless was born
- may receive Federated News 3 times at a subscription rate of \$4 per year

Each member of FWIO is also automatically a member of the Associated Country Women of the World. This gives WI members:

- global travel opportunities
- communication with 9 million women in 71 countries
- opportunities to attend international conferences
- a voice at the United Nations through many representatives at various agencies, such as the Economic and Social Council, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization in New York, Geneva, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Nairobi and Bangkok
- a subscription to the Countrywoman at a cost of 15 pounds per year

These are all benefits of being a member of Women's Institute.

The total fees that a Women's Institute member pays are \$18.15 per year. The breakdown is as follows:

- \$15 - FWIO fee
- \$0.30 - Liability Insurance assessment
- \$0.60 - Erland Lee (Museum) Home assessment
- \$2 - FWIC fee
- \$0.25 - ACWW fee

Most Branches have no fees to support local work, but rely on fund raising activities and volunteer donations of resources. Some Districts and Areas set fees for Branch membership at these levels.

If you consider the fees in terms of current average daily wages (according to Statistics Canada, 1996), they are 12%, as compared to the 25 cent fee being 33 1/3% of a man's daily wage in 1897.

For the same amount as WI membership, you may have a good meal in a restaurant, get your hair cut and styled or buy half a tank of gas. Where do you get the best value for your money? Is \$18.15 a fair amount to pay for what is offered?

Past President Peggy Knapp once compared FWIO to a car. The Branches are the car parts. They can't go anywhere until they are put together. The provincial level is the body that holds them together and keeps them running.

Many members see WI as their local Branch. The grassroots is certainly the most important part of WI. But in the same way as Adelaide Hoodless led and inspired women with new ideas, so the provincial organization offers members ideas that are still just as important in today's world. Some of these are a revitalization of ideas with which members are very familiar. However, they need to be restated in modern terms for today's generation to understand and take them seriously.

The issue of money and higher fees is never popular. The question remains, "Is this a fair amount?" Please think about this and send your comments to the Public Relations Officer or express them to your representative.

Mary Janes is the Public Relations Officer for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at 6868 Egremont Rd., RR 8, Watford ON N0M 2S0, Phone: (519)786-5511, Fax: (519)786-5069 (phone first).