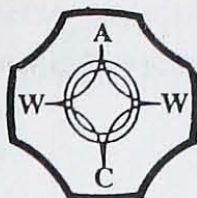


# About ACWW

By Peggy Knapp



## Areas of Concern from the Beijing Conference

It was brought to the attention of the ACWW Board in October, that some Societies are prioritizing the items included in the Platform for

Action in their own countries. The following question was asked at the Eastern Region Conference: "What would you choose as the top three issues of concern to our societies in Canada at this time?" Several were brought forward, but the following seemed to be of the utmost concern:

- National Unity - keeping our country together
- Equal Access to Health, Education and Employment
- The Girl Child

If your society does not have a condensed version of the UN Platform for Action, you can obtain one by sending \$5 to: Quaker United Nations Office, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

## Projects

The Uganda "Goats & Pigs" Project is now complete with over \$10,000 forwarded to ACWW. Please extend my heartfelt thanks to all members who contributed.

## Pennies for Friendship

Canadian members are always generous with their Pennies for Friendship, but ACWW Treasurer Margaret Munro points out that we are down in our donations this triennium. Voting delegates in New Zealand voted to continue to aim for the equivalent of ten pence per member - about 22-23 cents. Remember, it is our Pennies that enable ACWW to continue its work.

## Some Reminders

Category I and II Society fees are due and payable to ACWW Central Office by January 1 each year. Please check and be sure 75 pounds sterling for Category I and 45 pounds sterling for Category II have been sent for 1997. Some of our Societies came very close to lapsing last year, and would have had to come to the Board for approval to join as a new society!

Many individual memberships (4b) at 15 pounds for one year and 40 pounds for three were sent from the two Area Conferences. Please encourage this category of membership. Anyone wishing to attend the World Conference in Pretoria must be a Category 4b member.

Also encourage 4a membership to your local Branches at 25 pounds per year, to receive their own Branch copy of *The Countrywoman*.

The Mrs. Alfred Watt Fund payments of \$400 per each Category I Society must be sent to the Area President by September 1.

## World President's Visit to Canada

We look forward to a visit from World President Mrs. Lyndsay Hacket-Pain in June. On Wednesday, June 25, Mrs. Hacket-Pain will take part in the unveiling of the grave marker honouring Mrs. Alfred Watt, founder of ACWW.

As this busy and exciting year progresses, may I wish each of you a very fulfilling year as you work in your communities to "Shape Tomorrow's World."

"If you think you're too small to make an impact, you have never been in bed with a mosquito!"

Sincerely,

Peggy Knapp

ACWW Area President for Canada

## Canada Area Conferences

Through the two Canada Area Conferences (held in the Western Region in Edmonton, Alberta, and the Eastern Region in Gander, Nfld.), 240 women from 13 of the 14 Category I Societies across Canada were able to join in the programs that had been planned, contribute to the discussions, have their questions answered and share in the joy of renewed friendships - or the forging of new ones.

The theme for both events was "Shaping Tomorrow's World," which is also the focus of the World Conference to be held in Pretoria, South Africa, from April 1 to 7, 1998. (You will find the registration form for this important conference in the recent issue of *The Countrywoman*.)

Two recommendations previously reported to all Societies - on female circumcision and violence on television - were ratified and supported by each conference. A third recommendation, drafted by the Women's Institutes of Newfoundland and Labrador, was presented, carried and forwarded to ACWW from the Eastern Regional Conference through the Area President. It read as follows:

### Because

- of the depletion of the fish stocks in our oceans,
  - of the risk to the balance of its eco-systems due to dumping,
  - of the need to rejuvenate our fish stocks and clean up the environment,
- the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes recommend that the Associated Country Women of the World ask its members to take action in their own countries on the issue of the preservation of fish species in global waters.

I am so pleased that all three recommendations from Canada address the theme, "Shaping Tomorrow's World."

## Knitted Squares for Zambia

Well done members! There has been a fantastic response to this project. There have been knit-a-thons in homes and halls across the country. Some members held weekly get togethers involving other members of the community. Some have even taught school children to knit so they could take part as well. Thanks to all who have participated in this project. It will end at the FWIC Convention in June 1997. At this time, final numbers will be reported. If you haven't yet reported the number of squares your Branch has knit, please let your provincial office know today.

Zambian children are pictured wearing their sweaters of knitted squares sewn together by disabled women.

Submitted by Margaret Munro, Treasurer, ACWW.

