

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO

ASSISTANCE FOR CONVENERERS OF RESOLUTIONS

1966 - 1967

(Mrs. Leonard Trivers, Thessalon, Convener)

First, it must be repeated that the work in resolutions is primarily the responsibility of the Convener and/or committee at Branch level. Each Convener should see that her file is up-to-date, containing the outlines and reports from the Provincial Convener from previous years. These must be handed on to a new Convener when a new Convener assumes office.

Again, may we stress the importance of complete and prompt reporting at Branch, District and Area level. While there is great improvement this year, we are still far short of the ideal which may be reached. As a Convener, please see that your report is properly directed to the next level. There is obviously a need for more communication between the level. It has been suggested that the name of the District Convener for each District be sent to the Area Convener immediately after the District Annual, in order that she may contact you if the need arises. If the District Convener was provided with the same information concerning the Branches in her District, it would be helpful. If each Branch Convener accepts her responsibility to forward a report **WHETHER OR NOT ANY WORK HAS BEEN DONE IN THIS CONVENERSHIP**, our battle for 100% reporting would be won.

Thirdly, make yourself thoroughly familiar with your duties, as set out in the Hand Book, and the revisions.

We are sorry to note that some Branches do not have a Resolutions Convener and that many Branches do not undertake any work on this topic. Some are discouraged by the reception which their resolutions have received in times past, some by the strict requirements laid down in the preparation of resolutions. We must remind you that these resolutions are presented to the highest authority in our Province, in many cases, and we wish them to present our Organization in the best possible light. If a resolution has not been sustained, possibly it has asked for introduction of a law which already exists, where it should rather ask for enforcement of the law. Possibly the situation has already been remedied or possibly the situation does not exist throughout the Province. Possibly you have not included supporting material, or have not had informed women at the meeting to explain your reasons for introducing the resolution. All of these things must be carefully considered and prepared for, if you wish to have the resolution sustained.

You may have the impression that, to do anything in the Resolutions Con-  
vener'ship, you must bring in a resolution. This is not entirely true, for resolutions are usually brought in to request changes in existing conditions, and under our system of government there are not too many glaring needs for change. However, as Branch members, we should be informed as to what the Organization as a whole is doing about changes that are needed. The Branch Resolutions Convener has a duty to keep the members informed about resolutions which are brought before the Provincial and National Boards, and how we are being involved in changes in our country. Your Board Director and your Area Convener can both provide you with material for informing your Branch at the Resolutions Meeting. In some Branches, it has proven worthwhile to hold workshops with a District Convener, or to hold practice sessions to improve sample resolutions. This can be a very valuable part of our work as an educational organization. If we can become more