

“You cannot raise your children as your parents raised you, because your parents raised you for a world that no longer exists”. (Quoted by Ruth Shanks, Associated Country Women of the World Immediate Past World President during her 2019 Triennial Report.)

Ruth used this quote to emphasize the importance of responding to the changes occurring in many of our organizations and to remind us that some changes are inevitable for organizational survival.

A few of you have asked how I feel about change. I do not feel that we should make change for the sake of changing, but as a business woman, I know that certain changes are inevitable. As I have talked with several of you it is evident you feel that the ACWW USA Area needs some changes made. I hope that we can all work together as we navigate changes.

I was asked to share my personal vision for my term with the new board during our first board meeting. I would like to share part of that with all of you.

I realize that it is important to educate members about the Associated Country Women of the World in the areas of Funding for ACWW, funding for the projects and the work resulting from the Resolutions and Recommendations. That education will be one of my top priorities. I want to continue the open two-way communication with the members and the Area President. I also feel that we all need to work on increasing Society and Individual memberships. I hope I can enlist, and count on, the help of all society members in the ACWW USA Area to accomplish these goals.

I was impressed with the Resolutions that were passed at this Triennial Conference. They were well thought out and well supported. A few that made an impact on me were: The Registration of Old Landfills, Protection of Shared Marine Environment-Sustainable Coral Reefs and Fish Stocks, Domestic Violence, Iron Deficiency and lastly Pollinator Protection. I'm sure there will be a more complete report on the resolutions in your organization newsletters, but I will be getting a brief description of each one put together for the website.

As I begin my term as the ACWW USA Area President I want to thank you all for your support and confidence in me. One of the other visions I have for my term is the importance of unifying the USA Area. I do feel that the vote of confidence I received shows me that many others share my vision.

“Everything you do matters. Every move you make, every action you take...Matters. Every single thing you do matters. You have been created as one of a kind. You have been created in order to make a difference. You have within you the power to change the world.” (The Butterfly Effect by Andy Andrews)

We all have that power within us to make a difference in the world. Working together will make it happen. I look forward to working with all of you!!

Bonnie Teeples

ACWW USA Area President