



## RURAL WOMEN IN ACTION

## USA Area Newsletter Winter 2020

Area President Bonnie Teeples



Happy New Year to you All!

By way of introduction, I am your ACWW USA Area President, Bonnie Teeples. I was elected at the 2019 Triennial World Conference in Melbourne Australia. I am honored to be serving with you and for you in this capacity. I do meet this responsibility with a little bit of trepidation and a lot of excitement. I feel your support, even though I haven't met you.

I would like to get to know each of you and I would like you to know a bit more about me. I am first and foremost a wife, mom to 6 grown children (and spouses), and grandma to 11, and I love all three roles! I started my journey to this position when I joined the National Extension Homemakers in 1979 (now known as the National Association for Family and Community Education). I can remember going to the meetings with three small children in tow and being so thankful for the time I spent in the company of other adults learning so many things. Things that made my life as a homemaker easier and things that impacted my family and families around me.

At our first board meeting after the Triennial World Conference, our new World President Magdie de Kock asked each member of the board what our vision was for our term of office. I would like to share that with you as well. I hope to educate members about ACWW and how it is funded; relay information about the Resolutions and Recommendations; communicate with the members and have open two-way communications; increase membership of both Societies and Individuals; continue to unify the ACWW USA Area through common goals and activities; increase my knowledge of and share the information about the Sustainable Development Goals. I know I can count on your help!

I have had a busy start to my position as your ACWW USA Area President. In July I attended two National Conferences, National Association for Family and Community Education and National Volunteer Outreach Network and was honored to speak at both. I was also honored to bring Greetings from our World President to each Society. As ACWW is celebrating 90 years I was asked to present a program to National FCE on the History of ACWW in the United States and the formation of the Country Women's Council and where each of our organizations fit in this grand organization.

I also have had the opportunity to attend two society state conferences. I enjoy attending with the members, having the opportunity to meet so many of you and sharing information about ACWW, what is happening with in the organization and what we can do to advance the name and work of ACWW.

In September I was privileged to attend the historic 68<sup>th</sup> United Nations Civil Society Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Historic because this was the first time that this conference was held outside of the UN buildings when held in the US. I was impressed with the sessions I was able to attend. The conference was centered around the Sustainable Development Goal #11, Sustainable Cities and Communities. I was excited to learn that there are areas in the world that are making strides in achieving this goal, but I was disheartened to be reminded of how far we need to go as a civil society to help our fellow man.

I would like to invite you to remember to donate to the Pennies for Friendship Fund for ACWW. These funds are the lifeblood of ACWW. This money keeps the organization going, it pays for everything that is not "Projects". We are so blessed in this country and we can bless the lives of others as we keep the ACWW going and growing!

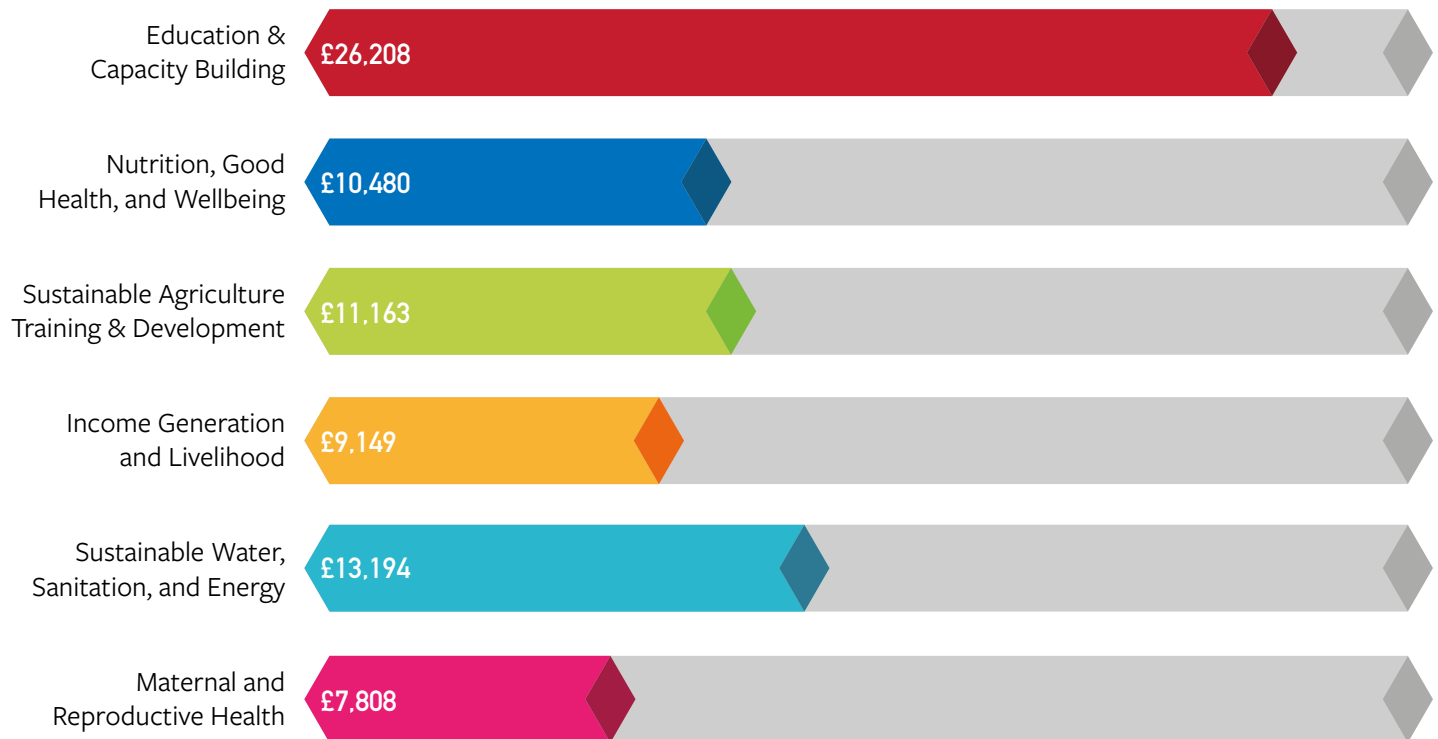
Some of you may not know that ACWW has changed the way we fund the Projects we support. Societies no longer fully support a certain project. We now have the Women Empowered (WE) Fund. It is set up with six Focus Areas and your society can donate to a certain area that you want to support. On the following page are the WE Fund totals as of January 16, 2020.

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## Women Empowered Fund Totals as of 16 January 2020



I returned from the ACWW October board meeting in London excited and eager to share the word and work of ACWW! I have so much information to share with you. ACWW is launching a new campaign dealing with Rabies. It is in partnership with the “Global Alliance for Rabies”. The training link is available on the ACWW website beginning now. Each of us are encouraged to take the training and to encourage our friends and family to take it as well. The more people that are informed about the Rabies Disease the safer and healthier our communities will be.

While at the board meeting, we also were introduced to the new “Rural Women in Action” pack. It is phenomenal! I cannot wait until it is rolled out. You will find that it contains so much usable information and material! It will be a great tool. If you would like to order a copy, please contact ACWW Central Office.

I encourage you to go to the new ACWW website and take time to really look at all the pages and see the many helps there are for us to use as we spread the word about ACWW. There are posters, campaign packets, PowerPoint presentations, and so much more!

I am in the process of planning the ACWW USA Area Conference. I am planning on holding the conference in Cincinnati, OH August 1-3, 2021. I have made inquiries into the Cincinnati hotel and am very pleased with what they have to offer. I will be signing the contract in the next few days. If you have ideas for speakers or workshops, please let me know. I want the conference to be something worthwhile and beneficial to all ACWW USA Area members.

I sincerely hope you will take the opportunity to contact me and share your thoughts about ACWW. I want to have a good communication with each of you individually and within the societies. The best way to connect with me is through email, [usa@acww.org.uk](mailto:usa@acww.org.uk) but if you prefer a voice chat please do not hesitate to call me at 541-891-2662. I use that phone for work also, so if I don't answer please leave a message!

Thank you for all you do for your society, for ACWW and for our sisters around the world! You are truly making a difference in the lives of others.

**Bonnie Teeples, USA Area President**

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