



ACWW USA Area Newsletter

Spring 2020

Dear ACWW USA Area members,

A quote attributed to Helen Keller sums up the actions of the members of this great organization: “When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or in the life of another”. I see this daily as you and I communicate and share the work of ACWW.

As a nation we have joined the rest of the world in changing our lives due to the Coronavirus or COVID-19. Many of you are in self isolation or, under the request of your state government, are staying in and not going out in public. Some of you may still have activities planned for the year and I would caution you to follow the guidance of your local government. Staying home will save lives and that life might be yours or the lives of someone you love.

Some may be feeling a little isolated or maybe having a little “cabin fever” and I know we can only clean the house so many times and read so many books before a little boredom may set in. Please look around you for those who may need a cheery phone call, maybe you could run some simple errands for them or you could drop off some of those books you have read! Just practice good “social distancing”! Take time every day to get some fresh air and a little exercise. Now may be a good time to tackle some of those unfinished projects on the top shelf of the closet. (Yes, I know they are there!)

If you still need some thing to keep you busy at home, you may want to make some fabric face masks. Some medical facilities are in need of fabric masks to wear over the N95 or other protective masks to help the masks last longer. These fabric masks can also be used in non COVID-19 areas, thereby saving the proper masks for where they are needed the most. There are several patterns on the internet, but if you need one let me know and I will email it to you. Some states are asking people to wear the fabric masks when going into public areas.

We are living in some frightening and trying times. It seems that nearly every day the news about the spread of the virus is worse, and in some cases is hitting close to home. One thing I am doing, and encouraging my family to do, is to keep a journal and record your thoughts, no matter if those thoughts may get a little depressing at times. Journal writing is a great way to keep our spirits up. A journal will be a legacy for your posterity, and a good way for you to track your activities and feelings about the times we are living in.

ACWW celebrates “ACWW Day” on April 29 each year with “Women Walk the World” events held around the world. The day is used to raise awareness about ACWW, to promote women’s rights and raise money for Pennies for Friendship. Due to the COVID-19 challenges around the world, “Women Walk the World” events have been postponed to October 15, 2020 which is International Day of Rural Women. Please take this time to plan a walk where you can share information about ACWW and raise funds for the Pennies for Friendship fund.

Many of you know that as an organization ACWW is very active with the United Nations. This March, fourteen members of the ACWW board and home office staff were to attend the "Commission on the Status of Women 64" in New York. Because the meeting was canceled that was not possible. I do thank all of you that participated in the letter of support that was sent out by the Head Office. Here is a quote from Magdie de Kock our ACWW World President: *"At the Triennial World Conference in Melbourne last year there was a lot of interest expressed in our UN work, but particularly a desire to understand how individuals and member societies could directly participate in our advocacy work. Last month we sent a letter to all member societies asking for their support for a letter to UN negotiators working on the Political Declaration for the Commission on the Status of Women. This pointed out that women's rights are human rights, and cannot be removed from important legal treaties. This letter was signed by 185 organizations in 35 countries, representing more than 11.95 million women. It was the strongest response from ACWW's network of members and supporters in many years, if not ever, and I was delighted to see so many unite behind our message. The letter was read during negotiations at the UN, and the UK negotiator was able to use this to leverage our point and ensure as strong a Declaration as possible was agreed."* Thank you again for your participation.

The ACWW Rural Women in Action packs have been received by the home office and some of them were sent out to those who ordered them before the UK government regulations ordered the shut down of non-essential businesses. As soon as it is business as usual more orders will be filled. The staff are now working remotely in order to keep most of the work of ACWW moving forward. We really appreciate all the staff are doing to keep themselves and others safe and to keep us updated.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the ACWW World President's newsletter, please contact the Home Office in London, Info@acww.org.uk and ask to be put on the list for the newsletter.

The ACWW USA Area Conference is planned for August 1-3, 2021 in Cincinnati OH. Hotel information will be sent later this summer so you will have it in good time. I am very excited for this conference and am looking forward to meeting many of you.

Some of our members contacted me during the horrific wild fires in Australia. They were interested in what we as the USA Area could do to help. I contacted ACWW and was told that ACWW was not doing anything as an organization, but what ever we could do as an area would be of help. I think some of you donated money to the CWA (Country Women's Association) and some were making the little animal pouches for burned animals. Thank you so much for what ever you did to help, you never cease to amaze me with your giving hearts. What ever you did, could you please let me know so I can add the info to my reports to the ACWW board.

As always, please let me know if you would like me to attend your state conferences. I am always willing to give a presentation on ACWW. I love being with the members and getting to know more of you. Hopefully, we will be able to meet together before too long.

Please, take care of your selves, and remember to be cautious and careful as we navigate these perilous times.

Stay Strong! Stay Positive! Stay Healthy! Stay Home!

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