



ACWW USA Area Newsletter Fall 2020

Dear Members,

It is well and truly Fall! In my area fruit is being picked and the pretty fall leaves are coming down. Last week we picked our apple tree and filled ten 5 gallon buckets of apples, plus a 5 gallon bucket I picked up off of the ground. Due to a bad frost last spring the tree didn't yield as it has in past years, but it is still a good many apples. I would love to be able to share those apples with any one of you! I made a batch of slow cooker apple sauce and the house smelled heavenly! That afternoon was spent getting the leaves off the driveway and lawns only to get up the next morning to start again.

The frost that took so many apple blossoms was certainly unexpected and out of our control, but still hampered the yield on the tree. This year there are so many unexpected and 'out of our control' events. We have cancelled National, State, and CWC Conferences where we gather to learn, renew old friendships and form new friendships. Conferences are also normally a place we collect for the Pennies for Friendship Fund. Many of our group and club meetings have been cancelled or are held virtually. Those cancelled events notwithstanding, we still need to look to the yield of donations for Pennies For Friendship. In my last area newsletter, I gave you a few ideas to help you put a unique spin on raising funds for the Pennies for Friendship fund. I hope you had fun with those ideas and put some money aside for donating.

Another way that we all can raise funds for Pennies for Friendship is the Women Walk the World event usually held in April, but because of COVID-19 it had been moved to October. I hope each of you got out to walk, contact your friends and family and ask for donations for your walk, it does not need to be a formal walk, but you can still get creative with it. I know someone that cannot walk outside right now, so she is walking on the treadmill. That is a way someone could walk and use it as the ACWW WWTW for this year. You might try a Pedometer, walk and walk some more, get donations per step or per mile you walk in a given day or week. If you have set up a group Walk, or if you are doing the Walk on your own, please let me know how many people walked, how far you walked and how much money you raised. Remember that ACWW runs on Pennies for Friendship and here in the United States we are certainly blessed and can share those blessings to help the work of such a beneficial organisation such as ours. I know that the WWTW was scheduled to be around the 15th of October, but I'm sure you can conduct your walk anytime in the near future and donate the money to ACWW.

Just like the beautiful leaves that continue to fall and need to be cleared away, we need to continue to support ACWW especially during these tough times. ACWW is calling for support from all members. This is the first time in many years that ACWW has had to dip

into financial reserves. In Issue 4-2020 of the Countrywoman magazine, each member is being asked to put aside \$3.00 per week, about the cost of a cup of coffee, for the next ten weeks and send that amount, which totals only \$30.00, to ACWW by the 31st of December. If only 10,000 members do this it will generate about \$300,000. That amount of money will go a long way to replace the reserves and help have funds into the future. Please join your ACWW sisters world wide and donate extra funds for our great organisation. All donations can be made on line on the ACWW website, the portal is secure and saves ACWW the fees charged when checks are used.

I hope you used the Women Walk the World resources on the website as you planned your walks. There are more resources on the ACWW website that can be used to teach others about ACWW than ever before. They are useful, beautiful and informative. I hope you take advantage of them as you plan ACWW-International lessons/programs for your groups.

Please make sure you download Issue 4-2020 of the Countrywoman, it is full of information we all need. There is a section on the 16 Days of Activism, an initiative to spread education on the crisis of violence against women and girls. The "16 days of Activism" run from the 25th of November to the 10th of December. This years Orange the World will "Shine Light on the Shadow Pandemic". There will be ideas on the website beginning November 1, for use as you plan activities to educate people about ways to fight against domestic violence.

Also included in the newest issue is exciting information about the 2022 Triennial in Malaysia, and a new competition for designing a tea towel to be sold by ACWW. This Tea Towel will not be associated with the Triennial. The deadline for entries is December 31, 2020 so get creative!! Don't be the last to know! Download your copy now. The link was included in the last newsletter from our World President. Just in case you did not receive the World Presidents letter, let me know and I can forward it to you. And just a reminder, if you want to receive the World Presidents newsletter and do not at this time, send an email to info@acww.org.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list.

Another item in the newest newsletter is information from the Agriculture Committee asking for information on women in farming. Please check it out, answer the questions from the committee and help ACWW stay informed about the issues facing the farming community. Remember to share the information and questions with others in your groups that may not receive the Countrywoman magazine. The more information collected on the questionnaire the more helpful to the committee.

It is enlightening to receive information about your groups and the many things that you are doing to keep your members engaged in the work. I see pictures of groups meeting responsibly and performing acts of service for their communities. Many of you are making masks for senior facilities or schools. One group made adult bibs for a senior home, and others are donating books for a fund raising sale for their library. Some are holding virtual conferences. I've seen the agendas and they look so fun and of course educational. Others are holding virtual meetings for lessons/programs or planning for the future. Thank you for all of the work you perform to benefit your members and the community. I appreciate those of you that have let me know if you have a facebook page or a website. If you have either, please let me know so I can follow the page and see your activities and some of the

service projects you are doing. I also love to receive your newsletters, you are welcome to send newsletters to me via mail or email. If you would like to receive the ACWW USA Area newsletter directly, please email me at usa@acww.org.uk Or email info@acww.org.uk and give your permission for the area newsletter and other area communication to be sent directly to you.

I want to assure you that the work of ACWW is going forward. The ACWW board and Committees have held virtual meetings to keep updated on what is going on within ACWW, report, plan and share. It is always good to see each other even if it is a virtual meeting.

I am grateful for the strength I see in our members. You are resilient, strong, resourceful and most of all you do not let challenges get you down. You rise to the task of helping others, of being the good you want to see in the world. Richard G. Scott said "It was intended that life be a challenge, not so that you would fail, but that you might succeed through overcoming." I know that we are stronger together, that we find strength in our differences, that we "reflect the ACWW spirit; Together, we can achieve more." (Page 8 Issue 4-2020-Country Woman). Thank you for all you do for your various organisations and ACWW, this world would not function well with out the work that volunteer organisations do. We are a strong force for good in the world.

If you need further information on ACWW programs and issues, please do not hesitate to email me. If I do not have the answer I will get it for you!

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