



ACWW USA Area Newsletter Winter 2021

Cold dry greetings from the Pacific Northwest!

I wish our area had some of the wet cold stuff that other areas of the Nation have an over abundance of. We have the cold but, as of yet, very little snow and very little rain. We do need it so badly or we may have another summer and fall fire season like we had last year. Those of you that are getting a lot of snow and cold please stay safe and comfortable.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season and were able to spend some quality time visiting with the most important people in your lives, whether it was in person or virtually. Scott and I spent over three weeks in December dealing with COVID. It was the sickest I ever remember being and I hope you all escape getting it.

I'm sure that by now society leaders and individual members have received the letter from the ACWW home office about the Special World Conference 2021. Due to the uncertainty of the path of the virus and the increase in infection rates in many countries, the board thought it prudent to reschedule the 2022 Triennial World Conference to May of 2023. The Special World conference being called is to vote on a proposal from the Board of Trustees. If you are a paid individual member, or a President or Chairman of your Society and have not received the notice, PLEASE, contact me as soon as possible. Please make sure your dues are current so you will be allowed to vote on this very important issue.

In my fall newsletter, I shared information about the December 2020 "Cup of Coffee" challenge, where ACWW asked each of us to donate \$30.00, (or the cost of one cup of coffee each week for a total of 10 weeks) to ACWW to help off set the shortage of Pennies for Friendship donations. I hope many of you participated in that. We are now being asked to support an new appeal. It is called "2021-Secure ACWW for Future Generations". Here is a quote from the ACWW website "The global impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic has been stark and distressing. All over the world our members have been affected and their lives have changed. ACWW has done it's best to maintain the network of membership for future generations, and keep our members working together for a better future." The information goes on to explain that as many groups have stopped holding meetings, donations to Pennies for Friendship have dropped drastically. We all know that the PFF fund is the enabling fund for ACWW. It is the fund that keeps us going, it enables the Board to meet and engage with members in their areas, it enables the office, which we all know is the HUB of ACWW, to function, it maintains the staff, and most importantly it helps facilitate our global network. Each member is being asked to raise and donate \$69.35=50 BPS. The target date for this fundraiser is April 29, 2021, ACWW Day. Please do what you can to help this organisation we all love and are so grateful for to stay solvent and growing.

In January, our World President Magdie de Kock, held a virtual "Afternoon Tea with the World President". I couldn't join in person, but I was able to view it while getting ready for work that morning. What fun to hear Magdie talk about ACWW and share some of the happenings in ACWW. We will have another opportunity to join Magdie for a cup of tea, Tuesday, February 23. There will be two times scheduled. The first is 6:30am London time, and the second is 2:30pm London time. (I'm not even going to try and figure out all of the times for the US!!) Please see all of the login information on the ACWW Facebook page. If. You need any other help finding the facebook page

please email me, my info is at the end of this newsletter. You can still view the first afternoon tea on the Facebook page.

Many of us have never had the opportunity to attend a United Nations Meeting. This year you will all have that wonderful opportunity! All members have been invited to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women. It is being held virtually on March 18, 2021. The title of this years meeting is "Rural Women's Role in Global Citizenship". Again see the ACWW Facebook page for details. This probably the only time we can attend for free!

I know that the worldwide pandemic has been hard on all of us, our groups, and organisations. I am so grateful that we have the technology to be able to hold conference calls, ZOOM or other virtual meetings. It gives us the opportunity to keep our organisations moving along. I'm pleased to hear about groups that are meeting in person where possible, about groups that are having virtual meetings and sharing information that way. I know that in areas where the Extension Service is still actively helping our members, they are holding virtual lessons and workshops for the members. In my state we are holding a state wide workshop/lesson once a month. It has been fun to connect with members we usually only see a couple of times a year.

As I prepare to write my year end report for 2020 I would ask that the society presidents/chairmen please send me a report that includes but is not limited to: how your group is meeting (if they are), what lessons/workshops are being shared and how; what ACWW related information is shared and how are you fund raising for ACWW. What are your goals to move the work of ACWW along and what I can do to help you spread the word about the purpose of ACWW, how I can help you find the information on the website dealing with the work on ACWW resolutions and other work of ACWW.

I have a beautiful Tree Of Life pendant that I wear daily. As I look at it, I see the intertwined roots making the trunk strong to support the large canopy of intertwined branches. I see those roots as our organisational beginnings, the trunk as our board and great office staff, and the branches are our many thousands of societies, the local leaders and members. How blessed we are to have the full tree to support us and protect those who are not as fortunate we are. It takes us all to make the work go and make the organisation grow. We have a great opportunity to make this organisation grow this year as we work to support each other. I would like to issue each of us a challenge to get one new person as an individual member of ACWW. Start with someone who is a member of your local group, introduce them to the many things that ACWW does around the world. Ask them if they would like to become a part of an organisation that gives women and families an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that can help them become self sufficient and able to care for themselves.

Many years ago I was given a book called "The Butterfly Effect" by Andy Andrews. Have you had the chance to read it? I love the thoughts and theory put forth in the book. It begins by asking "How significant is my life? Do I make a difference? When I move...when I act...when I do something...does the universe notice? DO I REALLY MATTER?" The book ends with "The very beating of your heart has meaning and purpose. Your actions have value far greater than silver or gold. Your life and what you do with it today...MATTERS FOREVER". You, all of you, matter. Your life matters as a person, a leader, a teacher, a member, and most of all you matter for all the good you are doing. Thank you so much for all you do in service to others.

I wish you all the best for this coming year as we work together. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please do not respond to this email, but use usa@acww.org.uk

Have a great day and remember "YOU MATTER"!