



ACWW USA Area Newsletter

Fall 2021

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

It is finally Fall here in our part of the Pacific Northwest! The pretty fall colors are everywhere, the smell of burning leaves is in the air, some trees are bare of their leaves, there is frost on the car windows most mornings, and the sun is setting further and further south each day. And joy of joys...we have received some long-awaited rain in the lower elevations and some snow in the mountains! I always look forward to Fall, it is my favorite season. Autumn reminds me of how beautiful it can be to let things go. I find myself reminded that I need to let go of preconceived ideas, harmful thoughts, things I let steal my time, and a not so welcome acquaintance...procrastination! Fall is also a time of preparation, preparing my home, yard, and myself for the anticipated 'slow-down' that winter brings. I hope you find joy in the seasons also.

For a portion of 2021, society meetings and conferences were canceled, rescheduled, or held via electronic means. It has saddened me to not be able to meet in person with the society members, but I also have had tremendous opportunities for contacts via ZOOM, TEAMS, phone calls, emails, and letters. I have had more personal contact with smaller societies than I had planned, and it has been wonderful to speak one on one with the members, not necessarily always the society leaders. It is exciting to 'meet' the members, and talk with them about their lives, families, and what their understanding is of ACWW and the work we do. Talking with grass roots members has helped me realize what I should emphasize in the Area conferences and my presentations.

This newsletter is going to be longer than usual. Members contacted me after the virtual ACWW Area Conference and thanked me for including information about the National Societies in the USA Area. After talking with those members, I felt I should use the newsletters to relay to you the work different societies are engaged in. I am putting the reports the order of their conferences in 2021. I have taken the information from what I heard while at their conferences, reports they submitted to me, their websites, magazines, and newsletters. This issue will focus on the five National Societies and a few of the State Societies meetings I was able to attend. A later issue will cover more of the State Societies. I am trying to highlight activities, educational programs and projects that are associated with the work of ACWW. **PLEASE**, if your society's work is not listed, send me the information so I will know what you are doing, and can include it in another newsletter. **I love to hear from you!**

Women's National Farm and Garden Association held their National Conference virtually in June. They are hoping to hold an in-person conference in June of 2022 in Pennsylvania. In the report sent for the Area Conference a list of scholarships and bequests supported by the organization are noted. The report also outlined donations made to ACWW for Pennies for Friendship and an annual donation to a WE Fund focus chosen by the members. Branches focus in their communities on areas from Education/Scholarship; Civic Service; International Cooperation; Floral Arts; Horticultural Therapy; Gardening; and Environmental Concerns. The members of WNF&GA are proud to have supported and been involved with ACWW with participation as Board Members, Area Presidents,

Individual, Branch, Division and National members while supporting ACWW programs, projects, and initiatives through donations since the very beginning of the organization in 1914. They have an interesting article in their magazine about apples and a fascinating article about the 'Lost Apple Project.' Here is the link to the web site if you would like to read those articles! <https://wnfga.org/>

National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) reported that several societies focus on two ACWW Resolutions, Pollinator Protection, and Iron Deficiency. The societies within NVON will work for a three-year period on the Pollinator project. This project was designed to support a 2019 ACWW Resolution on Pollinator Protection as well as resolutions supporting healthy eating, environment, and local, national, and international farming practices. Congratulations on a well-chosen "project in common"! The report also focused on community service projects and the impact their service is having on the communities. The 2021 NVON Conference in Owensboro KY had several workshops/seminars that dealt with improving health, home, and the environment: "*Feed FiFi, Help the Iron De"Fish"ent*"; "*Fad, Fiction, or Fact: What's in Your Diet*"; "*Butterfly Garden*"; "*Ready or Not, Organizing your Essential Documents*"; and "*Scam Red Flags and Avoiding Fraud*". You can look at information for their Pollinator Project on their website. <https://www.nvon.org/>

National Family and Community Education held their Conference via ZOOM in July, it was a very well attended meeting. The main speakers for the conference dealt with the issue of Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking continues to be a concern for the organization and many state societies also have informational programs teaching members what they can do to educate communities on how to be involved in combatting the issue. Reports included information on two lessons that coincide with 2019 ACWW Resolutions and the Sustainable Development Goals. One on '*Pollinator Protection*' and '*Family Community Environment*' dealing with SDG#1 and integrating resolutions dealing with health and nutrition for women, homelessness, and environmental health. A new program was announced focusing on '*Tune out Violence*' on social media and unplugging from social media and electronic devices for a set period of time. The desired outcome is that members, and others they contact about the project, will realize the impact that unplugging from too much time spent on-line will have on their lives and mental health. www.nafce.org

August 2, 2021, the **ACWW USA Area Conference** was held via electronic means. I was pleased with the turn out. We had forty-nine registered and forty-three attended. I do know that there were groups that met to watch, but I do not know how many members were in those groups. I asked each of the National Society Presidents to give a report on their work and what ACWW programs they work on. Their full reports will be attached to the Area Conference report and sent to each National Society President, although bits of their reports are included in this newsletter. I have also received reports from eleven State Societies, and their information is also included in the umbrella societies reports. I appreciate all the members that attended, and I am grateful to the ACWW office staff and ACWW Board for their help and support for that meeting.

The National Master Farm Homemakers Guild, and the **Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild** conferences were held back-to-back in late August. It was exciting to attend them both. It was amazing to meet with those women, who are selected and recommended by their peers to belong to the Guild. There were two younger homemakers inducted into the guild during the Iowa conference. I was so impressed with their qualifications and all those women do for their families, their communities, their country, and the world around them. One of their members has a prison ministry. They shared their experiences helping men in prison. There was also a great speaker whose mother had been on the 'Orphan Train.' What an incredible journey the family had trying to track down information about their mother. <http://nationalmasterfarmhomemakersguild.org/>

Less than two weeks after those conferences I attended the **Country Women's Council Conference**. It was good to meet with like-minded people to hear their reports and learn about the things the various ACWW societies in the USA are doing. Among the workshops at the conference were workshops on *Iron Deficiency, Products from the Hive, and Human Trafficking*, as well as a workshop on how to write, research and develop Resolutions and Recommendations. All were very well written and presented. The attendees started working on Resolutions to be submitted for the 2023 Triennial. I distributed Action Packs to the societies that were there. The Action Packs are such great tool for our members to use. They generate interest and excitement in ACWW! If you would like to see one, check on the ACWW website, or contact me, I do have a few left and would love to send you one!

In early October I had the opportunity to send a letter of good wishes and encouragement to the **Washington Home and Community Educators**. The officers had invited me to attend, but unfortunately, I had a previous commitment. They are a wonderful society and I look forward to attending their conference next year. Their website information shows a strong connection to ACWW projects and Pennies for Friendship donations, as well as several community service projects they participate in.

I was able to attend **Oregon FCE State Society** conference and participated in a workshop titled "*Rabies-Facts and Fears*." It was informative and held useful information for the members. Other relevant workshops held at that conference were on '*The Fight for Safe Food in America*' and, '*Protect Yourself from Scams and Fraud*.' There was also a presentation on Malaysia to help the members gain more understanding of the country hosting the 2023 Triennial Conference.
www.oregon-fce.org

The **Southwest Family and Community Education** invited me to attend their society conference in November, unfortunately I could not attend this time. The conference was held in conjunction with a huge bazaar they sponsor as a fund raiser for their organization. They will be promoting their umbrella organization, National Family and Community Education, and ACWW. This year the focus for ACWW will be on the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals and ACWW Projects; Rabies; and how poverty and homelessness affect the environment. They have gotten much their information off the ACWW website as well as other sources. I wish I could have attended and seen the presentations first-hand.

It is encouraging to me to see so many of the Societies promoting the work of ACWW in their meetings. PLEASE, send me the information about what your society is doing to promote ACWW. I would love to put that information in my newsletter so other societies can learn from you!

I had the opportunity to speak during some of the conferences I attended and was able to share a little history of ACWW and the USA Societies. It was humbling to share about what our fore-mothers did to plant the seeds of our various groups as early as 1797 in Finland, and in the early years of the 1800's in North America, Germany and some of the Scandinavian countries. The beginnings of our first organizations in the United States began right after the Civil War. There is a rich heritage of caring for the women in the world around us. We have taught so many women and given them the skills they need to keep their families safe and healthy.

During the Country Women's Council board meeting, a discussion was held on having an Area Conference and the CWC conference in one year. Members feel that it is a financial drain and takes a toll on the members time to have two major conferences in the same year. A committee was formed to work on a new rotation schedule for the meetings. An email vote was taken from the CWC

member societies to see if there is a desire to hold the meetings in separate years. Twenty four of twenty-eight societies voted “yes” to have a ‘trial’ rotation for one triennium. The other four did not vote. The trial rotation will begin with the ACWW Triennial Conference in 2023, in 2024 CWC will hold a conference and in 2025 the USA Area President will hold the Area Conference. I have spoken to many members that feel this is a good step toward the goal of the Area President being more visible to the societies and getting more of the non CWC societies to attend the conferences. I will contact the Societies that do not belong to CWC to give them the information and enlist their support.

I am working with Arkansas HCE, who are hosting the CWC meeting in 2022. I want to be more involved with the day devoted to ACWW. I am looking for more ACWW related workshops, speakers, and presentations. The conference chair is helping me with contacts for speaker and presenters. I want to have more ACWW materials used, and topics covered in those meetings. I feel that the more information about ACWW, the programs, and projects our members receive, the more individual members will join to help further the work. I am looking forward to 2022 and all that it may hold for the work of ACWW in the USA, and around the world!

I hope you have had the opportunity to watch **ACWW World President Magdie de Kock** speak from Russia. She spoke during the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women. Her message is available on the ACWW Face Book page. We are proud of the way ACWW was represented at the Third Eurasian Women’s Forum.

Thank you, thank you for donating to Pennies for Friendship. Your donations are appreciated and do much to further the work of ACWW. During the pandemic, donations to the Fund worldwide dropped because our members were not meeting. I encourage you to try to increase your donations this year. I am getting reports of donations that have been made in the name of PFF and I am so pleased that you are stepping up to help this great organization keep going.

As I have had the opportunity to visit with you, and with other organizations, with the women serving on the ACWW Board, and with great mentors who are past ACWW USA Area Presidents, I have been filled with the sweet knowledge that **‘Every woman worldwide has the same heartbeat for her family.’**

It does not matter where her feet lead her, what land she walks on, whether she lives in a hut, a tent, or a stick built home, she wants the same things for her family; health, security, and peace. ACWW, is there to help that happen for women and families around the globe.

May your Holidays be brightened with memories, family, and the love for and of those around you.

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