



## ACWW USA Area Newsletter Fall 2022

Hello ACWW USA Area members!

As Fall creeps toward Winter, I am reminded of a quote I read, 'Autumn is the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful.'

By now I am sure that you know that ACWW is undergoing changes. Change can be hard, but it can also be good! I feel that the changes put in place by the ACWW Board are good changes, and that ACWW, and all of us, will be in a better place when the changes are implemented as intended. A place where we can grow, strengthen the organization and our members worldwide.

I do encourage each society to nominate an ACWW coordinator to work with me and ACWW to ensure that information is flowing from ACWW to the Societies and from the societies to ACWW. The coordinators will be trained and have wonderful resources at their disposal to share with members to increase understanding of ACWW, and help build membership. I am excited about the work going forward and the coordinator program.

This year has been a fruitful year as far as the ability to attend member society annual meetings. Unfortunately, in the first half of the year, members were still hesitant to fly and gather in larger groups, so conferences were not as well attended as normal.

In July 2022 I was able to attend the annual conference for the National Association for Family and Community Education. They had asked that I speak on the new strategic plan and give information on some of the projects that have been successful. I had two PowerPoints from ACWW and was able to use them for an informative session. There was a good question and answer period after the presentation. Most of those attending took a copy of the new strategic plan copied from the ACWW website.

In September I attended two society conferences. The National Master Farm Homemakers Guild held in Bowling Green KY, and the Country Women's Council meeting held in Little Rock Arkansas.

World President Magdie de Kock was able to attend both conferences and the NMFHG meeting was a good one for both of us to attend. The meeting was a 'moving meeting' with the theme "Planes, Trains and Automobiles." We spent the first morning at 'Just Piddlin' Farm' for breakfast and the National NMFHG business meeting. I received written reports from the four societies that make up their National Society. During the conference, a vote was taken to dissolve the National Society after Colorado hosts the NMFHG meeting in

2023. The four state societies, Kansas, Kentucky, Iowa, and Colorado will remain active, and I have encouraged them to join ACWW on their own.

After the meeting we traveled to the Heritage Aviation Museum. Then on to Chaney Dairy farm where we saw robotic milkers at work, had lunch, and a treat of ice cream made on site. Next stop was Western Kentucky University Agriculture and Research Center for a tour of the center and then a tri-tip dinner cooked by the Agriculture Department and students at the university.

Day two of the NMFHG conference we visited an historic Railroad Park Museum, a tour of Jacksons Orchard with a lunch, and lastly a tour of the Corvette Museum where we had the closing banquet. Our speaker for the night presented a program on the Frontier Nursing Service in the Appalachian region of Kentucky. What an inspiration it was to hear about the beginnings of that great service to women and families in the early 1900's.

The second conference, the Country Women's Council (CWC) meeting was in Little Rock Arkansas. During the business meeting a vote was taken to have a new conference rotation schedule that includes a separate year for the ACWW Area Conference and the CWC conference. This schedule is on a trial basis until after 2026. It will be reevaluated and voted on again to keep it in place or go back to the original, which is CWC meeting two times a triennium that includes time for ACWW Area Meeting. This year I was able to have a full day for the USA Area Meeting and the conference committee selected some very good speakers to cover the topics of women in farming and human trafficking. Due to the trial format the next USA ACWW Area Conference will be held in 2025.

The National Volunteer Outreach Network, National Family and Community Education, and National Master Farm Homemakers Guild all gave reports of their work during the business meeting. It was good to hear societies are working on Resolutions passed in 2019. NVON and its member states have had programs on Pollinators, with the theme being 'Because Pollinators Feed the World.' They shared information cards they used for reminders on pollination. National FCE has had program on rabies, human trafficking, and have a Tune out Violence program that encourages families to "tune" out violent video games, movies, TV shows and music.

Several states also gave reports and mentioned that they participate in Women Walk the World and collecting donations for PPF now known as Rural Women in Action Fund.

World President, Magdie gave wonderful presentations during the two-day conference, answered questions, and helped members understand the relationship of their organizations to ACWW.

On ACWW Day Magdie and I gave the presentation 'ACWW: Past, Present, and Future'. Magdie talked about how the projects will look going forward. It was a great presentation for the setting. So many members stated that they did not know all the facts about ACWW and how it related to them. To those members that asked to get a copy of the PowerPoint and speakers notes, please know it is just too large to email, and I know Tish is hopeful that

it could be on the website for members to access it. I will let you all know when that presentation is accessible.

There were presentations on topics pertinent to our members on both the CWC Day and ACWW Day of the conference. Presentations were on the 'Invisible Woman-Gender Bias in Data-Tech', Human Trafficking, Agriculture and Law, Century Farms and Women in Agriculture.

In October, I was asked to give a presentation called 'ACWW, Our Global Sisterhood' for the Oregon FCE Society. I used the PowerPoint prepared for the Society Coordinators and information gathered from some of the other Area Presidents on what the member societies do in their areas. The members enjoyed seeing pictures of some of the projects and hearing what other areas of the world do in meetings and service they give to others. We had a very good discussion on ACWW's relationship with the UN and the advocacy work ACWW does all over the world.

I have a conference in November in Arizona for the Southwest FCE, where I will give a program on ACWW, talk about the Rural Women in Action Fund and the Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. After their conference they will be hosting a bazaar where they will have displays set up for ACWW. Also, as part of the service they are performing, they are working with veterinarians and animal shelters in the area and are sponsoring a Rabies clinic in the parking lot of the event center where the bazaar is being held.

Please remember that the registration for the 2023 Triennial is due by December 31, 2022. That date is fast approaching! Take some time to look at the pictures on the ACWW website and select your tour. Also, a look at the website will give you information and a code to use to book your flight to Malaysia with a discount! There is so much information about the conference, tours, flights and more on the ACWW website. I am so very excited for the conference and hope many of you will join us in Malaysia!

I appreciate the time at the conferences spent getting to know many of you, getting to know some of you better, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with you in the future. I like this African Proverb- 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'. We want to go far, so let us go together.

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. I love hearing from you!

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