



ACWW USA Area Newsletter Winter 2023

I hope you are all keeping well during the many severe weather events happening around the USA. As badly as part of the national needs the moisture I am saddened at the floods, tornadoes and other major storms that are taking lives and livelihoods. I have not heard that any of our members have been affected and I pray that continues!

I have a new sign in my office. It reads 'Today I Choose Happiness'. It is a beautifully simple sign with a beautifully simple message. I love that message- choose to be happy- regardless of outside influences, dissention, rumours, and those who seek to undo the good work of this great organization. It goes along with a poster I have had for a long time that reads 'Choose to be Grateful.' Gratitude and Happiness go hand in hand and are the hallmarks of good people. The kind of people that do all in their power to advance the good work we do in ACWW and are also willing to work together to lift and uplift those they serve with.

I enjoy getting to know the members that have been nominated by their societies to serve as ACWW Coordinators. We have had ZOOM trainings and informational meetings. I am pleased at the comments, suggestions, and good ideas the coordinators are making. It is obvious to me that they have the good of ACWW at the heart of what they think, do, and say. I encourage each society to nominate an ACWW coordinator to ensure that information is flowing between ACWW and the Societies. The coordinators have wonderful resources at their disposal to share that will increase understanding of ACWW and help build membership. If you need information about the coordinator program or need an application, contact me or Sydney at the ACWW office and we can help you get what you need.

Members have asked what the USA dress will be for the ACWW Triennial. We will stay with the white jacket/overshirt, dark blue or red pants or skirts, red, blue, or white tops with a red, white and blue scarf. Some have asked about a red or dark blue dress under the white jacket/overshirt, that will be fine also. I see no need to change from what we have always done and what seems to work well and looks so good!

If you are attending the Triennial, I encourage you to go to the Triennial Conference page on the ACWW website. There is an informational dropdown menu that talks about the dress code for the conference. Please look it over and print it off if you need to. It is essential information for us to observe while at the conference.

Also, for those of you that are ACWW society presidents you should have received the latest two circulars, Circular 8 dealing with lead delegate information and Circular 11 about Proxy

Delegates. If you have not received these Circulars, PLEASE make sure your contact information is correct with ACWW.

In November I was able to attend the Southwest FCE conference. After their conference, this society hosted a bazaar and a Rabies Clinic. They made arrangements to have veterinarians and staff in attendance who did a free health check and free microchipping of all dogs attending. Through donations from SWFCE and the Jodi Mai Estate, the clinic was able to give free rabies vaccine to 106 dogs with money left over for future clinics. Members from the SWFCE society researched and wrote an informational workshop on Rabies. It has been used for several of the FCE society conferences.

I received a picture and report from the International Chair for the Wisconsin Assoc. for Home and Community Education board meeting held November 7, 2022. The picture taken shows the board members under umbrellas. They were given a summary of the "Orange the World" information, UNESCO, and discussed (here I quote) 'the Orange the World project to reduce violence against women and children in all parts of the world including our own neighborhood'. Good for you all!!!

I also received a report last year about the work Illinois HCE accomplished on the 2019 Resolution dealing with Iron Deficiency. NVON has been working on a multi-year project on pollinator protection, and National FCE has projects on Human Trafficking and Food Waste.

I appreciate the information submitted by these societies about the work they are doing on ACWW resolutions and the work ACWW supports that AMPLIFIES the voices of women and families around the world. It is exciting that the societies are basing some of their programming on ACWW, the resolutions, and participating in the Women Walk the World, as well as Orange the World and other events. Thank you and keep up the excellent work!

Please do not hesitate to send me information on what your society is doing to spread the word and work of ACWW. I love to hear about your projects, how it impacts your communities and your members. I like to share those projects in my newsletters as it may spark ideas for another society to work on.

Robert Louis Stevenson said, '**Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.**' Every time you share information about ACWW, the projects we sponsor, and the Resolutions we work to implement, we plant seeds that will amplify the voice of those whose voices are not heard. When those voices are **heard and recognized**, we reap the harvest. Sharing ACWW information and collecting and donating funds for the Rural Women in Action Fund are two great ways to plant seeds for a good harvest.

Thank you all again for all that you do to help others. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Triennial and at conferences this year!

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