



NEWS & NOTES

September
2022

Monthly Email Newsletter from our President - Diane Dammann

UPDATE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

September, the kids go back to school, meetings resume, it seems like new beginnings.



AWI Council had a meeting on Aug. 30. Good to see the ladies again. District 2 has a new Director, Ina Webster from Stony Plain WI. Welcome to Council Ina!

The ACWW Coordinator position has Elaine Kaiser sent in as a nomination for Alberta.

It was a busy summer for branches celebrating anniversaries. I was happy to attend 75 of Ridgewood in Red Deer and the 110th of Verdant Valley & Dorcas at the Verdant Valley Community Hall. Both were lovely events.

Visitor from Down Under: Darlene Taylor of Charter Towers Branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association visited her sister (Bernadette Logozar) and presented AWI with a tea towel which I was happy to accept. We sent her with some mementos from the office to present to her branch. Queensland CWA is celebrating 100 years next year.

Branches, we start our meetings again in September. Our memberships are due in January. Our annual convention and AGM are held in June and our fiscal year end is Aug. 31. As Council, we are wondering if this is a bit awkward.

Most organization and businesses have their annual meeting within 90 days of fiscal year end. So if AWI did that we could have a convention in October or November. Another solution would be to change the year end to March 31 and continue with the Convention in May or June. At present the audited financials at the AGM are from the previous year (than the chronological year we are holding the convention in), which can be a bit confusing and lead to potential mistakes or omissions.

Let your District Director know your thoughts regarding whether to change our fiscal year end or simply move our convention to be in line with our current fiscal year end (August 31) thus would you like to have a convention in October or November.

UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT - CONT'D



FWIC (Federated Women's Institutes of Canada) asked me when AWI started, when was our membership the largest, when did membership decline and why, and what are our plans to attract new members? I used "Many and Remarkable" The Story of Alberta Women's Institutes, to find most of the answers. It is very interesting reading.

E.g. Verdant Valley & Dorcas WI Branch started in 1912. In 1953 Dorcas requested to amalgamate and the council of the day approved therefore Verdant Valley & Dorcas celebrated 110 years.

In answer to what we were doing to find new members, I replied that I have asked each member to bring in another member. Personal invitation is much better than anything else. Let's try to Grow by One!

We had several comments on the evaluations from the convention. We are working on them.

Looking forward to working together for Home and Country

Diane Dammann,

President AWI



Tuesday Coffee Chat

CRO-HOOKING DEMONSTRATION



In August, AWI hosted the first monthly, Tuesday Coffee Chat with AWI Ladies. The first session was a get-to know you and idea sharing. Fern Killeen, former Executive Director of AWI shared her latest crafty passion - cro-hooking or cro-knitting.

The cro-hook is a special double-ended crochet hook that has a crochet hook on each side. Cro-hooking creates a beautiful reversible item that looks as if it was knitted.

Join us at **Tuesday, September 27th, at 9 am MST** on Zoom for a cro-hooking demonstration, conversation and of course coffee! To register and get your Zoom Link go to Online Learning on the AWI website. Registration ends on September 26.

ACWW Pennies for Friendship - Changed to "We Fund"



There have been many objections to the name 'Pennies for Friendship'. An issue that has been raised many times over the years is that 'if you only ask for pennies, you'll only get pennies.'

ACWW's model, in the past, has been that small efforts across a vast membership are enough to sustain the organization. However, over the last 5 or so years, it has become clear that our existing members are giving as much as they can, but as our Members' societies reduce in size, so too does our potential for support. As a network of rural women's organizations, ACWW considers it our responsibility to help support and build up Member Societies. With this ACWW has a new strategy and projects to support. Read their strategy and learn more <https://acww.org.uk/acwws-strategy-2022-2026>