



# NEWS & NOTES

May  
2023

Monthly Email Newsletter from our President - Diane Dammann

## UPDATE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



The Convention registration package is out. It looks like a fun convention. Save some money by registering before May 12, if sending it by postal mail, registration MUST be postmarked by May 12th to qualify for Early Bird savings. [www.awialberta.com](http://www.awialberta.com)

Our website had over 12,000 views in March, 945 engagements, and 11 new followers. The word is getting out. Let's keep the momentum going. I am passing out lots of WI brochures that say "Reward Yourself" You can pass some out too.

Constituency Conveners please bring some cookies to the Convention for our coffee breaks. District Directors will be bringing door prizes. Members are encouraged to bring jewelry to the swap. Branches please bring an item for silent auction. There will be books to buy as well as AWI items at the sales table.

Thank you to Lorraine Langille- Brooke, a new member, for joining the proof-reading group. The Report Book will be out soon and the proof readers will give it the go over. There is a need for a new Provincial Handicraft Coordinator. The incoming Coordinator usually works alongside the current Coordinator to set up the display and learn the ropes the day before the convention starts which will be Monday June 5. If you have any thoughts about filling this position give Marilyn Wattenbarger a call or the AWI office.

District 5 had a successful conference with interesting speakers and guests on April 22 Stony Plain/Lac St Anne Constituency had an interesting conference also on April 22. There were first time attendees at both conferences.

It is imperative that we get some nominations for the President-Elect position. President-Elect is a three year term. Council meetings are about every 6 weeks and are held virtually by computer or phone. President-elect fills in for President in her absence, has a vote on council, approves expenses, receives the Branch Secretary reports, and sends out new member packets that the office makes up. Once a year the sales inventory is checked by the President-Elect or appointee. Her expenses for attending AWI conferences and travel are covered. President-Elect moves up to President at the end of her term. That is the duties now the requirements are summed up pretty well in the Mary Stewart Collect. It is not the length of time in WI, or a popularity contest but good organizational skills help. If you are asked to let your name stand for election, please give it some serious thought. There is lots of help available and you will learn a lot and I know you would find it a very rewarding experience. I speak from experience.

*See you in Camrose,*

*Diane*

*AWI President*

## NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

We still do not have a nominee for the position of Provincial President-Elect. Somewhere out there is a member who could take on this position. On-the-job training is available. Assistance from previous Provincial Presidents is just a phone call, email, or text away. Think about it. Really think about it. And get your name to me as soon as possible. We're counting on YOU!

**Send Nominations to:** Cathleen Thurston Box 45

Wabamun, AB T0E 2K0

ph: 780-892-2252 email: rigby9@canadasurfs.net



## UPDATE FROM HANDICRAFT COORDINATOR

Just a heads up that the entries for the Handicraft competition for AWI Convention to be held in June need to be submitted by May 12, 2023. These can be sent via mail or email; both are listed in Home & Country. Forms and the Handicraft List can be found on the Alberta Women's Institutes website on the Handicraft Page, find it under Awards & Competitions.

Please send a cheque to cover the cost of entry. This is something new this year. Cost is \$1.00 per entry per member up to a maximum of \$25.00 per member. If a member has two articles for entry, then her cost would be \$2.00. If a member has 27 entries, then her cost is \$25.00. **This is a per member cost not a total entry for branch cost.** We are trying to cover the cost of the Handicraft competition and room for this to be displayed in.

I am looking forward to seeing all of the wonderful entries again this year. This is my last year and I am looking for a member to step forward to assume this role. It would be nice to work with someone this convention to help them get to know this position going forward. ~

*Marilyn Wattenbarger, Handicraft Coordinator  
see Handicraft Coordinator Job Description on last page.*

## UPDATE FROM CONVENTION CHAIR

We are looking for a branch to make centerpieces for the tables for Convention. We also ask that you bring to Convention:

- silent auction items valued at \$10 or more, we are only running a Live Silent Auction this year.
- a reminder that Constituency Conveners and anyone else who would like to do so to bring 2 dozen cookies for coffee break for this year,
- Council members are bringing 2 door prizes valued at \$10 or more and anyone else who would provide door prizes is most welcome to do so

Thank you to Round Hill WI for sponsoring the coffee service again this year!

*See you at Convention!*

*Linda Toews*

## HANDICRAFT COORDINATOR – JOB DESCRIPTION

This position in Alberta Women's Institutes is very rewarding and you get to work with an awesome group of ladies... A general knowledge of various crafts is great but not a requirement but sure comes in handy when viewing submissions and looking for judges.

The Handicraft Coordinator needs to review the categories stated in the Handicraft List and see if there needs to be any changes. This should probably be done after the convention when the changes become apparent. Changes can be done once a year but needs council approval. List for the upcoming year of competition need to have Head Office distribute them no later than February prior to convention.

The biggest part of this position starts in April of each year or two months prior to the AWI convention. The Handicraft Coordinator needs to obtain judges for the different categories. You also need to ensure you have enough helpers for Monday to assist the judges and yourself. You will need a recorder for each judge, a runner to place handicraft entries on table to be judged and general persons to start displaying judged articles. There is a list you can rely on but not everyone is available each year. You must decide what date the handicraft entries must be received by yourself and the accompanying cheque to cover the cost of entry. Usually one month prior to the date that entries are to be received for judging. The day that handicraft must be received is Sunday at 4:00PM. Please contact the hotel to allow for storage of articles received prior to you getting on site. Judging is done on the next day. You must set out all entries into the different categories prior to Monday morning. Set up tables for judging depending on the category to be judged. On Monday morning welcome all judges and helpers. When judging is completed by all judges, then you can designate persons to display handicraft articles.

After all the judging is done collect all the sheets from the recorder. Make sure the judge has signed all sheets. You need to compile the statistics for the competition. Highest points in all categories, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Each judge should have selected an "Outstanding" article in the different categories. You also need to calculate the branches standing on number of articles entered. When you have compiled this list then the certificates must be printed out. You must ensure that you purchase enough certificates (usually from Staples or any other stationary store) to be able to print off all the categories.

You will also need to get an individual plaque printed out for two awards. Also, small plaque to be placed on the main plaque which is a permanent record of who placed in this category. All certificates and plaques are given out during the banquet presentations. This is a fun and great way to meet other members and the public.

