



Monthly newsletter from President Linda Toews

No doubt some of you were beginning to wonder if News & Notes were going to continue after a summer break. As this is the communication tool from the President, it is solely at my door that you have not received one for some time. For my family the last few months has been largely spent in and around hospital and medical issues. First, my husband had to be rushed to hospital in Calgary for emergency open heart surgery. As you can understand, this was a difficult period for our family. It also took much time travelling to the hospital and being there all the time he was in, as well as keeping up with other obligations and running the farm. It was somewhat improved when he was home to continue recovering but there still many hospital and doctor visits as there were complications, as well as the day to day care until he was better recovered. More recently, my daughter, whom many of you met at Convention this year, has been ill and in hospital, and is still there as of this writing. Some of you are already aware of these medical issues and have been helping where you could. I appreciate that. Hopefully things will settle down soon so we can get back on a normal keel.

I hope that all of you had a great summer and are enjoying our unseasonably warm weather for as long as it lasts.

#### **AWI News**

#### Convenorships

We've had our first Council meeting with the new Council. Most of our Council members were able to be present; hopefully all will be able to make the next one. One of the things we discussed was Convenorships. Over the years, some of the traditional convenorships have rather fallen by the wayside. The traditional convenorships included Agriculture, Canadian Industries, Citizenship, Cultural Activities, Education, Environmental Conservation, Health, Home Economics, International Affairs, Resolutions & Legislation, and Social Services. In the last Council, we had Agriculture, Education, Environmental Conservation, Health and Resolutions & Legislation. This Council we have the following Convenorships taken up: Education (Ina Webster), Environmental Conservation (Marilyn Wattenbarger), Health (Colleen Bianchi) and Home Economics (Bernadette Logozar). As a couple of Council members were unable to make the meeting, there will be additional convenorships taken up.

We'd like to get some feedback from members on what convenorships you think hold most relevance to you today. Please email me at <u>lindat4awi@gmail.com</u> and let me know your thoughts on this topic.

#### New Horizons for Seniors Grant Application

AWI has applied for the federal New Horizons for Seniors Grant to run a series of virtual information and handicraft instructional sessions. As we found out the application period was open only a few days before it closed, our quickly-formed committee spent some intensive hours working on the application and meeting the deadline, and we were grateful that we had great support from the University of Athabasca and the Alberta Association on Gerontology.



### Welcome to our New Handicraft Coordinator

We are delighted to officially welcome Merla Richards as our new Handicraft Coordinator. Although the actual changeover between Marilyn and Merla has already happened, we needed to appoint her officially at a Council meeting. We know she will do a great job and have lots of support from Council, her branch, and our incredible WI members.

## Secretary's Reports

During my time as President-Elect, I really enjoyed reading your Secretary's Reports. It kept me in touch with all our branches and members, and let me know all the wonderful things that our members do on a regular basis. It's great for us to know what things branches are doing so we can share with other branches, and keep track of things like volunteer hours and donations which will help us in applying for grants, and to include with our sharing of information with Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Alberta WI members are truly amazing with their generosity.

Now that Marilyn Wattenbarger is President-Elect, she needs to receive your Secretary's Reports. She has started receiving some, but please do send your reports to her. If you feel inclined to still send me your reports as well, I would be glad to receive them as I feel very much in touch with each of you when I read them. If you are able to send by email, it is less costly, and easier to send to your district director at the same time. Marilyn's email is <u>marilyn\_wattenbarger@hotmail.com</u>; mine is <u>lindat4awi@gmail.com</u>.

### **FWIC News**

### Does your branch donate to schools?

FWIC is looking at a project regarding school donations. Our Alberta FWIC representative, Donna Henderson, is wondering which branches currently donate to schools, and what sorts of things do you donate? Please let her know at <u>donna\_ross\_h@yahoo.ca</u>.

### **FWIC Online Auction**

FWIC has an on-line auction running. Some of our branches and members have made donations to this auction. Help to support our branches and FWIC by bidding on the auction items at <u>https://new.biddingowl.com/auctions</u> (scroll down until you come to FWIC).

### ACWW News

#### **ACWW Coordinator Needed**

Alberta is in need of an ACWW Coordinator. If you think you may be interested in this position, check out the information on the ACWW website. If you would like to apply for it, please contact the office by November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Download the Call for Coordinators

# Alberta WI members:





