



NEWS & NOTES

December
2023

Monthly newsletter from President Linda Toews

I hope this edition of News & Notes finds you well and deep into preparations for your celebrations of Christmas or whatever holidays you celebrate at this time of year.

As I write this, our weather here in central Alberta is still quite unseasonal – I’m not complaining about warmer temperatures, although I am concerned about the lack of moisture as we will certainly need it in the spring. Forecasters are predicting another drought year. I hope that is only a pessimistic outlook and that we will have good moisture in 2024, and at the right times!

I’ve been attending quite a number of meetings on AWI’s behalf, including FWIC board meetings, and the discussion on three resolutions FWIC is bringing forward at their triennium in September. It is a reminder to start coming up with our own resolutions for which the deadline is March 31. That is also the deadline for Creative Writing so I urge you all to get working on submissions.

I attended the Alberta Association for Gerontology’s (AAG) Conference which was most informative. AAG also has a survey out for which they would like input. Details are on the second page.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the sudden passing of Holly Guterson, President of Verdant Valley & Dorcas Women’s Institute. Holly was a truly amazing woman and a great contributor to her branch and district. VV&D WI will greatly feel her absence. I very much enjoyed and appreciated all the time I spent with her. She will be missed.

I am sure many of your branches will have a Christmas gathering; as will my own branch.. My family and I will be celebrating Christmas twice, once as our own immediate family and again with our extended family. And remember that some people have no one to spend Christmas with, so if you are able, invite someone to spend Christmas with you who would otherwise be alone, help out at a charity or nursing/senior home for Christmas dinner, or do what you can to help out others at this time. Helping others is something at which our AWI members excel.



I wish you all a joyous Christmas, Hanukkah, or whatever holiday(s) you celebrate!

AWI News

Convenorships

We are still looking for feedback from members on what convenorships you think hold most relevance to you today. Please email me at lindat4awi@gmail.com and let me know your thoughts.

ACWW Coordinator appointed

Welcome to our new ACWW coordinator. You will soon be seeing information from her appearing in Home & Country, and possibly in news & Notes. Although new to this position, you all know the person appointed to it: Past President Diane Dammann. Welcome, Diane. We look forward to you working with us in this position as you take on a new challenge

Reminder - Secretary's Reports go to Marilyn Wattenbarger

I am pleased to still receive them if you would like to include me 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 marilyn_wattenbarger@hotmail.com; mine is lindat4awi@gmail.com.

Dues

Dues and the other required payments to AWI need to be sent in by January 15. Getting them in on time helps us to get the dues AWI must pay paid on time too, and helps us plan for the coming year.



FWIC News

Does your branch donate to schools?

FWIC's 'We Care' project regards donating to schools. Our Alberta FWIC representative, Donna Henderson, is wondering which branches currently donate to schools, and what sorts of things do you donate? If you haven't already, please let her know at donna_ross_h@yahoo.ca.

FWIC Online Auction

FWIC's on-line auction, after auction fees, was \$1206.55. Thank you to those AWI branches and members who donated to the auction. When we work together, we achieve more!



FWIC Triennial Convention, Sept 17, 18 & 19, 2024 in Truro, Nova Scotia

The theme is "Sailing into the future with a recipe for success!" Mark your calendars if you think you might like to attend. Early bird registration is \$375 and will be open from January 1 – April 30. From May 1 to July 15, registration will be \$425. Rooms at the Inn on Price begin at \$164 plus 15% tax. More information will be forthcoming.

ACWW News



Sixteen Days Against Gender-based Violence

This is an international campaign to call out and speak up on gender-based violence. AWI has been posting the information for the 16 days on our website and facebook page.

Winter Afternoon Tea with World President Magdie de Kock

World President Magdie de Kock is holding two final Afternoon Tea sessions on December 18, 2023 to meet with members around the world. You can use the buttons below to join these online events. Remember UK time is 7 hours ahead of Mountain when you choose your link. The link for the earlier time (9AM UK Time), which is probably better for most of us, was not working. I had hoped to have the correct link before this went out but in the interests of time, we will have to send it out separately.

[Afternoon Tea - 1pm UK Time](#)

Alberta Association on Gerontology (AAG) Survey

AAG needs your help. Can you complete this short survey?

By 2046, a striking 20% of Albertans—the aging baby boomers and their echo boomer children—will be 65 years or older. Next year, the first baby boomers turn 75. If we persist with the status quo, the operating costs of continuing care will double by 2032. Innovative solutions are imperative in tackling this looming care crisis head-on.

AAG is engaged in a significant consultation process (see AAG website, <https://albertaaging.ca>) to understand what needs to change. The upcoming work includes a Community Forum (web-based session in early March 2024) bringing people together from a variety of communities to discuss and share learnings about their lived experiences and leading practices for addressing inclusion and diversity in the care of older persons. To facilitate the planning of the Community Forum, the AAG wishes to receive your input about the content and potential speakers for the Forum. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Individual responses will be confidential; only summary information will be provided to AAG. Here is the link to access the survey: : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ab inclusion>

Please complete the survey no later than Tuesday, December 19, 2023

