

ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES CONVENTION 2022
held at Norsemen Inn in Camrose, Alberta
June 6-7, 2022
Minutes

The annual Convention of the Alberta Women's Institutes theme was "Building on Our Strengths."

The following abbreviations are used throughout these minutes: AWI – Alberta Women's Institutes; FWIC – Federated Women's Institutes of Canada; WI – Women's Institutes; ACWW – Associated Country Women of the World.

There was a pre-convention tour of local theatres and train station, starting at 3:00 pm, June 5. Attendees visited local theatres and the railway museum where they had tea and refreshments prepared for us. It was a delightful tour.

There were two workshops presented in the evening of June 5. From 6:30-8:00 was "Card Making" with Hilda Tomaszewski and her helpers. Attendees were able to make 10 different cards. It was a most enjoyable workshop. From 8:00 – 9:30 was "Creative Writing" with Linda Toews, President-Elect. Attendees worked on various aspects of creative writing and came up with a series of sentences which teams of two worked into different scenarios to be read at the Tuesday banquet.

Registration for the Convention began on Tuesday, June 6 from 9:00 AM.

Opening Ceremonies commenced at 10:00AM with the flag bearers: ACWW Flag – Fern Killeen, Associate Member; AWI Flag – Elizabeth Rushton, Stony Plain WI; Canada Flag – Faye Mayberry – Ridgewood WI; Alberta Flag – Donna Henderson, Associate Member; FWIC Flag – Carol Brown, Associate Member. All the flags came in together, followed by the Parade of Dignitaries. AWI President – Diane Damman; AWI President Elect & Convention Coordinator – Linda Toews; District 3 Director – Yvonne Erikson; District 4 Director – Colleen Bianchi; District 5 Director & FWIC Representative – Linda Mason; Norsemen Inn Operations Manager – Geri Ferner; Handicraft Coordinator – Marilyn Wattenbarger; Convention Secretary – Vickie Cloakey; and Executive Director – Bernadette Logozar.

President Diane Dammann asked Associate Member Fern Killeen to lead the singing of *O'Canada*. She was accompanied on the keyboard by Betty Milne, Duffield WI. The flag salute was led by Linda Mason, District 5 Director & FWIC Representative. The *Mary Stewart Collect* was recited, led by Linda Toews, President-Elect & Convention Coordinator. A minute of silence was observed for AWI members who had passed away.

President Diane Dammann introduced the flag bearers, Council members, and guests that were on the stage. Greetings to the convention were brought by the Geri Ferner, Operations Manager, Norsemen Inn.

President Diane Dammann gave her address to the Convention. She expressed pleasure at being together face-to-face, and disappointment that our membership numbers have not reached the goal she set of 1000 in her term, but there is still one more year.

Announcements were made about cell phones, washrooms, memorial table, silent auction items, 50/50 draw, jewellery exchange, & AWI sales items, and door prize draws.

The first door prize of an Oscar Peterson book was won by Carol Brown, Associate Member.

Yvonne Erickson, District 3 Director introduced guest speaker Kari Cameron, Older adult Support Worker & Advocate, Mirror Lake Centre and Service Options for Seniors (SOS) Program. Kari gave a very informative presentation on elder abuse and the services provided to older adults through the Mirror Lake Centre and SOS Program.

Yvonne Erickson, District 3 Director, thanked Kari for an informative presentation and presented her with a small gift.

Diane Dammann explained the tours available: pre-convention - The Bailey Theatre, Peter and Jenny Loughheed Theatre and the Camrose Train Station Museum; post-convention – shopping tour to the quilt shop, Henry's Shoes, and other shops participants would like to visit.

Linda Toews introduced the Sophie Miles winner, Paula Bill of Ridgewood WI

Voting strength was 31.

Linda Mason, Financial Officer presented the financial report. Gloria Coates and Doreen Whitenett had done the review. Linda Mason pointed out that the expense page sent in to the Report book was incorrect and provided a corrected page.

MOTION 01-06-2022: Moved by Elizabeth Rushton, Stony Plain WI, and seconded by Mae Deans, Associate Member, that AWI explore the possibility of changing the financial year end to align more closely with the date of Convention, Carried.

It will be put to the membership to decide.

MOTION 02-06-2022: Moved by Linda Mason, District 5 Director & FWIC Representative, and seconded by Elaine Kaiser, Associate Member, to accept the financial report to August 31, 2022, as amended. Carried

Pennies for Friendship were collected as the meeting broke for lunch. Lunch was a buffet of meat and vegetable baked lasagna, salads, fruit tray and a selection of desserts. Grace was led by Elizabeth Rushton, Stony Plain, WI. \$194.90 was collected for Pennies for Friendship.

Linda Toews, President-Elect & Convention Coordinator called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Voting strength was 37.

The minutes from Convention 2021 were distributed prior to Convention. There was one correction. President Diane Dammann approved the minutes as corrected.

MOTION 03-06-2022: Moved by Faye Mayberry, Ridgewood WI, seconded by Julia Feltham, Argyle WI, to ratify actions of Council during the 2020 year. Carried

It was brought up that Motion 05-02-2021 was missing from Home & Country regarding opening an ATB Spirit Account.

MOTION 04-06-2022: Moved by Carol Brown, Associate Member, seconded by Gloria Coates, Hogadone WI, to ratify actions of Council during the 2021 year. Carried

A question was brought up regarding paying for Norton protection. Executive Director Bernadette Logozar explained that the AWI office has to have Norton protection on the internet because the free Avast would not allow some of our programs to function. This created a critical situation that Bernadette had to deal with on the spot even though Council had voted to go the free route which they didn't realize would cause problems.

MOTION 05-06-2022: Moved by Colleen Bianchi, District 4 Director, seconded by Julia Feltham, Argyle WI, to approve the renewal of Norton protection. Carried

President Diane Dammann and Handicraft Coordinator Marilyn Wattenbarger led discussion on the costs of handicraft at the Convention, and the need to recover some of the costs.

MOTION 06-06-2022: Moved by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI, seconded by Julia Feltham, Argyle WI, that we have an entry fee for handicraft of \$1 per entry per person to a maximum of \$25 per person to help cover the expense of the handicraft competition. Carried

Archivist Mae Deans spoke about the archives. They want to recognize members who photographs of all the AWI Presidents. They would like to add pictures to the panels to make it more up to date. The panels can be loaned for display. They are very light weight. The display is the most traveled exhibit in Alberta Government history. The Archives will ship the displays to any Branch who would like the display. Mae was not sure who covered the cost of shipping. They are looking for \$150 for a new panel to add the last few AWI Presidents and leave space for the next ones. A collection was taken up; Julia Feltham from Argyle WI collected the donated funds to go to the Archives. \$80 was collected by end of convention towards this project.

Upcoming events were mentioned. Ridgewood WI celebrates its 75th Anniversary in Red Deer on July 10. Verdant Valley & Dorcas WI will be celebrating its 110th Anniversary on August 10th.

The next door prize was won by Pat Scott, Duffield WI.

Discussion on Resolutions was opened. President Diane Dammann read out the Rules of Debate. Linda Toews, President-Elect, will lead the discussion and act as Parliamentarian. Paula Bill, Ridgewood WI, will act as timer.

Resolution #1: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes request the Canadian government to look into requiring improvement of the construction of the poles that hold the netting around trampolines so that they are strong enough to hold up in strong winds rather than falling inward or breaking, and so posing a risk to people using the trampoline. **Moved by Gloria Coates, Hogadone WI, seconded by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI. Carried.**

Resolution #2: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes request that the Alberta government encourage grocery stores in all locations to offer a discount on perishable products close to their best before date or donate them to the food bank, rather than throwing them in the dumpster. **Moved by Gloria Coates, Hogadone WI, seconded by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI. Carried.**

Resolution #3: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes request the Canadian government to look into the poor quality of household appliances as many do not seem to have a work life of more than 3 or 4 years. **Moved by Leona Pryor, Hogadone WI, seconded by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI. Defeated.**

Resolution #4: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes urge the federal government to remove the carbon tax and federal fuel tax. **Moved by Linda Toews, Wild Rose Go Getters WI, seconded by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI. Carried.**

Resolution #5: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes urge the Alberta Ministry of Health and Alberta Health Services to require mandatory training for all those providing personal services such as esthetics, salon and spa services providers. **Moved by Elizabeth Rushton, Stony Plain WI, seconded by Marilee Kosik, Darwell WI. Carried.**

President-Elect Linda Toews thanked everyone for sending in resolutions and said that letters will be sent out to the appropriate parties.

The meeting broke for a refreshment break. President-Elect Linda Toews thanked Round Hill WI for providing the coffee, and thanked Constituency Convenors and everyone who had brought cookies.

The meeting resumed at 3:00 PM. President Diane Dammann conducted the memorial for Past President Marie Plaisier.

Another door prize was won by Betty Sherry, Duffield WI.

The afternoon session ended with the District Directors holding meetings in individual rooms.

Tuesday Evening – Banquet

Everyone convened in the convention hall for the Banquet.

AWI grace was led by Carol Brown, Associate Member. The evening was chaired by Linda Toews, President-Elect & Convention Coordinator.

The Toast to the Queen was given by Yvonne Erickson, District 3 Director.

The Toast to the Past Presidents was given by Colleen Bianchi, District 4 Director

Sponsorship Committee co-chairs, Yvonne Erickson, District 3 Director & Linda Mason, District 5 Director & FWIC representative, thanked all the sponsors that enable AWI and all Branches to continue our mandate.

The banquet commenced. Dinner was roast loin of pork served with spinach salad, seasoned rice and vegetables, and strawberries and cream for dessert. All enjoyed the meal.

After the banquet, MC President-Elect Linda Toews recognised the contribution of Home & Country Editor, Denise Campbell, and thanked her for all her work. She thanked the Convention Committee: Past President Cathleen Thurston, Eunice Horte, Valhalla Busy Bees WI, President Diane Dammann, and Executive Director

Bernadette Logozar. She also thanked Elizabeth Rushton, Stony Plain WI for her work on the Resolutions Committee.

The 50/50 draw was made by District 5 Director & FWIC Representative Linda Mason. The winner was Marilee Kosik, Darwell WI with a prize of \$98.

The assembly enjoyed the Witty Witticisms that had been completed, as well as the stories that had been produced from the Creative Writing workshop.

Announcement: Yvonne Erickson, District 3 Director announced that the silent Auction was closed for the evening with most items being pulled and a few left for the next day.

Alberta Women's Institute Award of Excellence was presented by President Diane Dammann, Fern Killeen, Associate Member, and Francis Bogner, Berwyn WI to Diane Smith, Berwyn WI

Creative Writing Awards were presented to the 2021 and 2022 creative writing competition by Linda Toews, President-Elect.

For 2021, she presented certificates to

Non-Fiction Article 1000-3000 words - Memoir

- 1st Cathleen Thurston, Darwell WI
- 2nd Helen Andrew, Round Hill WI
- 3rd Diane Dammann, Argyle WI

Non-Fiction Article 1000-3000 words - Essay

- 1st Barbori Streibl, Associate Member
- 2nd Diane Dammann, Argyle WI

Fiction: Short Story 1000-3000 words

- 1st Barbara Streibl, Associate Member
- 2nd Barbori Streibl, Associate Member

Fiction: Long Story Over 5000 words

- 1st Anne Teeuwsen, Half Way Grove WI

Overall Winner

Barbori Streibl

For 2022, she presented certificates to

Non-Fiction Article 1000-3000 words - Memoir

- 1st Mary Leighton, Half-Way Grove WI
- 1st Frances Bogner, Berwyn WI
- 3rd Diane Dammann, Argyle WI

Non-Fiction Article 1000-3000 words - Travel Story

1st Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI

Non-Fiction Article Over 5000 Words

1st Anne Teeuwsen, Half Way Grove WI

Overall Winner

Anne Teeuwsen, Half Way Grove WI

Handicraft Awards were presented by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Handicraft Coordinator

Knitting:

First – Dorothy Fisher / Argyle

Second – Linda Toews / Wild Rose Go-Getters

Third – Pat Scott / Duffield

Crochet:

First – Ruth Twerdun / Roundhill

Second – Dorothy Fisher / Argyle

Third – Paula Bill / Ridgewood

Sewing:

First – Paula Bill / Ridgewood

Second – Marilyn Wattenbarger / Ridgewood

Third – Diane Dammann / Argyle

Quilting:

First - Paula Bill / Ridgewood

Second – Vi Moore / Ridgewood

Third – Marilyn Wattenbarger / Ridgewood

Stitchery:

First – Paula Bill / Ridgewood

Second – Vi Moore / Ridgewood

Felting:

First – Linda Toews / Wild Rose Go-Getters

General Handicrafts:

First – Randy Wickstrom / Argyle

Second – Vi Moore / Ridgewood

Third – Linda Toews / Wild Rose Go-Getters

Over 70:

First – Paula Bill / Ridgewood

Second – Betty Milne / Duffield

Second – Grace Scheffelmair / Ridgewood

Third – Pat Scott / Duffield

Third – Betty Sherry / Duffield

Over 80:

First – Betty Milne / Duffield

Second – Pat Scott / Duffield

Third – Dorothy Bickley / Ridgewood

Over 90: First – Pat Scott / Duffield

Photography:

First – Marilyn Wattenbarger / Ridgewood

Second – Linda Toews / Wild Rose Go-Getters

Third – Vi Moore / Ridgewood

Artwork:

First – Marilyn Wattenbarger / Ridgewood

Second – Faye Mayberry / Ridgewood

Third – Vi Moore / Ridgewood

Edna May Ridley Quilting Award: Paula Bill / Ridgewood

Myrtle (Olson Roberts) Heyer Doily Competition: Ruth Twerdun / Roundhill

Branch High Points:

Ridgewood – 97.97

Wild Rose Go-Getters – 40.3

Duffield – 30.9

Cash Raffle Winners were drawn by Bernadette Logozar, Executive Director, and Paula Bill, Ridgewood WI, and the winners are: First prize -\$600.00 went to Joan Bogner, Berwyn WI, and second prize of \$400.00 to Corey Lawrence, both from District 1. Congratulations to both.

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 - Morning

The early bird draw was won by Pat Scott.

The business session reconvened at 9:00 am with announcements.

As the 2020 Convention was held via Zoom, the Installation Ceremony could not be held and so the ceremony that should have been conducted then was held next. Past President Cathleen Thurston was presented with the Past Presidents pin by previous Past President Faye Mayberry. Past President Cathleen Thurston presented President Diane Dammann with the President's pin.

President Diane reminded members that positions would be coming open for next year and asked the members to volunteer. She said "If I can do it, you can do it." President-Elect Linda Toews also mentioned positions coming open and encouraged members to volunteer for these rewarding positions. Positions needed are President-Elect, District Directors, Handicraft Coordinator, ACWW co-ordinator, and FWIC Representative.

Lillian Nordhagen of Valhalla Busy Bees WI asked for cost breakdown of handicraft which was provided.

President-Elect Linda Toews thanked Vickie Cloakey from Argyle WI for the centrepieces. She then called on Eunice Horte, Valhalla Busy Bees WI to report on Newsworthy Notions. Participants were Lillian Nordhagen, Valhalla Busy Bees WI, Diane Dammann, Argyle WI, Diane Smith, Berwyn WI, and Frances Bogner, Berwyn WI. People's Choice votes were \$1 each to raise funds for the FWIC/ACWW Travel Fund. The winner was Diane Smith, Berwyn WI.

President-Elect Linda Toews recognised branches with new members and presented certificates to the following branches:

- Roundhill WI - 1 member
- Verdant Valley & Dorcas WI– 1 member

- Stony Plain WI – 2 members
- International Wild Rose – 1 member
- Ridgewood WI – 1 member

President Diane Dammann and President-Elect Linda Toews recognized Constituency Convenors and presented them with a certificate of thanks: Joan Bogner – Peace River Constituency (absent); Lillian Nordhagen – Grande Prairie Constituency; Merla Richards – Stony Plain/ Lac St. Anne Constituency (absent); Beverly Hollen – Yellowhead East Constituency; Diane Campbell – Ohaton, Constituency; Colleen Bianchi – Chinook Constituency; Barb Stuart – Bow Valley Constituency (absent); Linda Toews – Innisfail/Olds/Sundre Constituency, Lila Bird – Acadia Constituency (absent); Dorothy Ungstad – Stettler Constituency.

Handicraft Coordinator Marilyn Wattenbarger reported that we had six branches enter the competition for a total of 228 entries. The breakdown is as follows: Argyle - 20, Darwell - 5, Duffield - 25, Ridgewood - 119, Roundhill - 19, Wild Rose Go Getters - 40. Marilyn thanked everyone for their entries and the talent displayed by our members.

President-Elect & Convention Coordinator Linda Toews gave her Creative Writing report. She reported that there were 8 entries in 2021 in 4 categories and for 2022, there were 5 entries in 3 different categories and applauded the writing skills demonstrated by our members. She encouraged all to enter next year.

Reports were also given from the District Meetings. District 3 reported a handicraft competition March. District 4 reported that Bow Valley constituency had a Constituency meeting planned in June as well as a District gathering in summer. District 5 reported they had produced 2 motions that they wanted to bring to the attention of the meeting. President Diane Dammann noted that this was the time for District Meeting Reports, so motions could be presented here for information only. The associate members also held a meeting and they will have future meetings online.

The next door prize was won by Sharon Moltzan, Stony Plain WI.

A short coffee break was held.

Following coffee break, Past President Cathleen Thurston introduced guest speaker Margaret Lyseng from Maplewood Garden and Greenhouse. Margaret Lyseng gave a very interesting talk on how the Greenhouse came to be and what they grew. Past President Cathleen Thurston thanked Margaret for her talk and presented her with a small gift.

District 3 Director Yvonne Erickson reported that the Silent Auction was completed, and all items available for pickup and payment. The total raised was \$1,019.00.

District 5 Director Linda Mason reported that the 50/50 draw netted \$47.00. The winner was Eunice Horte from Valhalla Busy Bees WI who received \$23.50.

Executive Director Bernadette Logozar reported that the Online Auction garnered \$106.00.

The last door prize was won by Frances Bogner, Berwyn WI.

President-Elect Linda Toews thanked Marilee Kosik, Darwell WI, for running the jewellery / scarf swap which netted \$107.60. She thanked all the volunteers who had helped out so ably with the Convention.

President Diane Dammann gave her wrap-up speech which thanked everyone for coming and participating. As usual she encouraged members to ask friends to join WI and to consider taking on a position themselves within the WI organization.

President Diane Dammann invited Council and other officers up on stage.

Fern Killeen, Associate Member, led the singing of O Canada, accompanied by Betty Milne, Duffield WI, on the keyboard.

Members from the stage marched the flags out, followed by Council and officers:

- ACWW Flag – Frances Bogner, Berwyn WI, District 1
- AWI Flag – Marilee Kosik, Darwell WI, District 2
- Canada Flag – Yvonne Erickson, District 3 Director
- Alberta Flag – Colleen Bianchi, District 4 Director
- FWIC flag – Linda Mason, District 5 Director

The 2022 convention closed at 11:50 AM.

President: Diane Dammann

Secretary: Vickie Cloakey

Executive Director: Bernadette Logoza