

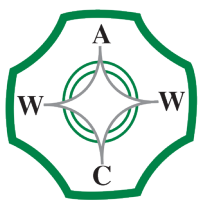
THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ISSUE 1 - 2018



Happy New Year! Sanad Wacan! Bliain Nua Shona! Честита Нова Година! هادي عيس هادي دج قن س Gelukkige Nuwe Jaar Selamat tahun Baru С новым



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CIO No. 1174798

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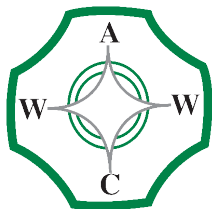
A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road
London SE21 8EN

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We look at a busy 2018 ahead

LADIES OF THE SOUTH
The Southern Africa Area Conference

ORANGE THE WORLD
#16days of Global Activism



DEAR FRIENDS...

A Message from the World President

Associated Country Women of the World
A04 Parkhall
40 Martell Road
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The Countrywoman is the official quarterly magazine of ACWW, and was named by Mrs Alfred Watt MBE, the First President of ACWW in 1933.

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Please note the following deadlines for submitting your articles, updates and photographs to The Countrywoman. We welcome new contributors and those in areas not recently featured- please get in touch with nick@acww.org.uk if you need any help in submitting.

April- June: 15th February 2018

July- September: 15th May 2017

October- December: 15th August 2017

January- March: 1st December 2017

The Editor's decision on acceptance and inclusion is final.

Dear Members,

Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are in, what is essentially, the final year of this Triennium, and it is certainly going to be a busy time.

Firstly, let us reflect on the past year and the way forward. We have had many hits on our website, lots of new followers on Facebook and a good reception of the E-newsletters (President's Blog). The Countrywoman is a very useful tool for all of us, and this is why once again we are sending multiple copies to Member Societies and Individual Members. This should help not only spread the word of our work, but allow you to share information with interested friends without losing your own copy!

In the past year, there have been many visits to societies, both in the UK and in most of the Areas and the appropriate people are attending these publicity events; the feedback is most encouraging.

Many of the invitations we receive for "outside" events which we have accepted have been at very little or no cost to the Association, as the costs were met by the organisers. This has provided us with a platform where we can provide information and insight into the work that we do, in all corners of the globe.

Those Area Conferences which have been held, namely South Pacific, Europe, Canada, USA and Southern Africa have been particularly well organised and well attended. Congratulations to the Area Presidents and also the Societies which have hosted the events. It was my pleasure to attend these events and the hospitality, support and respect I received was overwhelming. These visits will remain with me forever.

You will find the synopsis of the Financial and Annual Report for 2016 in this issue of the magazine and it is very encouraging from all aspects.

The plans for the Rural Women's Survey are well underway and this survey is to be launched in New York on 15th March, 2018. This is during the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, which has a rural theme this year. It was decided that this is where many NGO's from all over the world gather to discuss Women's issues, and this will certainly be a great opportunity to engage with many NGO's who can actively take part in this survey. We have also been able to secure offers of assistance with the function and this has come from the contacts we have made attending other events, some of which we have spoken of previously.

There will be a further four Area Conferences in 2018, a Board meeting and CSW meetings

and also the 2nd Eurasian Women's Conference in St Petersburg, Russia in September, and we are proud and grateful to have been able to have input into the organisation of this last event.

I attended an awards ceremony this morning and it bought to mind that not many women are nominated for, or receive awards in their communities. There are also not many statues around the world honouring women. So please, if you have local, community and/or government awards, please think about some of the "champions" within your communities who would be worthy recipients. Awards cannot be given unless someone takes the time to write the nomination! Maybe we could have a section on the Website where these award recipients could be acknowledged. So please members, nominate someone you know and then let Central Office know of the results.

Our Board members are a wonderful group of ladies, elected by the members, who give of their time and energy for no remuneration. We work extremely well together and most of the decisions made have been unanimous. We need to thank, not only these women, but also our staff, who work tirelessly for the good of ACWW and because they believe in the cause.

If you have any concerns about how, why, when and where of ACWW, please make contact with me, as there have been, in the past year, some incorrect comments, accusations and "gossip" we have heard around and about. Unfortunately, the responsibility for ACWW is mine, and to a lesser extent, the Board, but issues cannot be dealt with in a timely manner if they are not reported in the correct way.

"Teach us to be Kind"- from the words of the State President of CWA of Tasmania. We must not be an Association that rewards the gift of being actively involved with incorrect accusations, ungrateful remarks and petty point scoring. Why would anyone do any work if they knew they were leaving themselves open for criticism and unhelpful comments?

On a brighter note, let us look forward to opening ACWW to the world, and opening the world up to knowing and belonging to our wonderful Association.

My thought for this issue is:
*To actively protect and enhance people's lives, the World is what you make it.
Your World, Your Way.*

Ruth Shanks, A.M.
ACWW World President

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COVER IMAGE

Ladies of the South:

World President Ruth Shanks AM assembles her colleagues at the Southern Africa Area Conference, with Southern Africa Area President Maybel Moyo (dark blue dress); East, West & Central Africa Area President Irene Chinje (black dress); Secretary Henrietta Schoeman (orange top) and Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman Magdie de Kock (light grey dress).

Many thanks to Sienie van Vuuren for sending the photo in.

**DON'T FORGET
YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP
IS DUE NOW!**

**PLEASE CONTACT
CENTRAL OFFICE TO
PAY NOW IF YOU
HAVEN'T ALREADY**

MAKING YOUR MAGAZINE SUSTAINABLE

We deliver *The Countrywoman* in an envelope rather than a plastic wrapper. This is because we use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of this issue, three are planted in its place. This is part of ACWW's commitment to a healthier planet, and Sustainable Development Goal 12.





CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Tish Collins, ACWW Chief Executive Officer

Happy New Year! I am pleased to report we are now back up to a full complement of staff at Central Office and the new premises are working well for Committees and staff. We welcome Ms Safia Roble to the post of UN and Agriculture Committees Administrator (read more about her later in the magazine).

Feedback from the 'Denman Day' of information and Princess Azizah's cookery demonstration in 2016 was that members wanted to know more about ACWW and that we should organise similar events to keep ACWW alive in the minds of member societies. Arising from the autumn 2017 meeting of the WI Southern Counties Support Group, we are planning a national workshop for UK based WI representatives (provisionally 9 October 2018) as we can now accommodate up to 50 people seated in Central Office. Materials produced for this will be made available to Area Presidents and other organisations online and in printed or electronic format to fly the flag.

As the Communications and Marketing Committee has offered, we can print our general leaflet in other languages on demand (using friendly translators rather than Google!). Although our official language is English if there are thousands of members in a country who would like to know what their executive has signed up to we will be happy to oblige. Please contact Central Office if you are interested in this, and of course remember to leave us sufficient warning time to follow up.

The new Constitution, Bye Laws and Standing Orders are being produced as a booklet and will be sent with the Report of the 28th Triennial Conference shortly. If you require a larger format document, these can be produced on demand but will also be available on our website for you to download yourself.

As is traditional at this time of year, this magazine carries a synopsis of ACWW's 2016 Annual report and accounts, which was finalised in October. The full report will be available on our website.

This copy of the magazine includes updated and detailed information on the 29th Triennial Conference, and registration forms will be printed in the next issue of The Countrywoman, with registration opening on 29 April 2018. Conference Circular 2, calling for nominations to the Board of Trustees will be sent out in January.

As you will have noticed, you have received multiple copies of this issue of The Countrywoman. We ask that you pass these on to those you think would be interested in the work of ACWW, and encourage them to get involved with our good work.

Tish Collins
Chief Executive Officer

Dates for your Diary

- ACWW Date
- UN / International Days

January

- 1st Membership fees for 2018 due
- 2nd Central Office re-opens after seasonal break
- Circular calling for nominations for Board members to be sent
- 27th UN International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

February

- Week 1 UN World Interfaith Harmony Week
- 6th International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 15th Deadline for contributions to Issue 2 of The Countrywoman
- 20th UN World Day of Social Justice
- 21st-25th South East Asia & The Far East Area Conference, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 27th First day of ACWW Committee Meetings at Central Office, London

March

- 1st Deadline for Resolutions and Recommendations for 29th Triennial World Conference
- Circular calling for Society reports to 29th Triennial World Conference to be sent
- 1st UN Zero Discrimination Day
- 2nd Last day of ACWW Committee meetings
- 6th International Women's Day Concert: Messiah at St John's Smith Square, London
- 8th UN International Women's Day
- 5th-10th ACWW Area Presidents and Full Board meeting
- 12th-25th CSW62 New York (Theme: Rural Women)
- 15th Launch of ACWW's Global Survey of Living Conditions of Rural Women (New York launch for NGOs at CSW62)
- 21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21st UN International Day of Forests
- 22nd UN World Water Day
- 24th UN International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- 25th UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 21st-27th UN Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
- 31st Last day to receive membership renewal fees (Note: only paid up Category 1,2 and 3 Societies will be able to vote at Triennial Conference!)

April

- 7th UN World Health Day
- 19th-23rd UN Global Soil Week
- 25th UN World Malaria Day
- 24th-30th UN World Immunization Week

May

- Circular with text of Resolutions & Recommendations and Call for Amendments to be sent
- 8th-14th UN Global Road Safety Week
- 15th UN International Day of Families
- 16th UN International Day of Living Together in Peace
- 25th-31st Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of non- self-governing territories

June

- 1st UN Global Day of Parents
- 4th UN International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5th UN World Environment Day
- 8th World Oceans Day
- 12th UN World Day Against Child Labour
- 13th-15th ACWW Finance & Membership and Executive meetings
- 15th UN World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 17th UN World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 19th UN International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- 20th UN World Refugee Day
- 21st-23rd Caribbean, Central & South America Area Conference, Trinidad & Tobago
- Circular calling for nominations for members of Specified Committees to be sent

FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP



Heather Brennan, ACWW Finance & Membership Committee Chairman

With the dawning of a new year, we look forward to all that ACWW hopes to achieve. Our members make ACWW what it is, and we are of course so grateful for all your input, enthusiasm, and hard work in supporting this great Association.

As discussed in the last issue of the magazine, and with the adoption of the new Constitution, our membership categories have been slightly adjusted. Membership renewals are, as always, due in January, so we thought it would be helpful to remind you of the current rates and new membership titles:

Category 1 Societies (former Category I)
£105 + handling

Category 2 Societies (former Category II)
£64 + handling

Category 3 Societies (former Category III)
£53 + handling

Category 4 Societies (former Category IVa)
£35 + handling

Category 5 Individual (former Category IVb)
£35 + handling OR £65 + handling for 3 years

If you haven't already done so, please contact Central Office to renew your membership by March. If you need any assistance or require clarification on your membership, our staff will be very happy to help. They can be reached by email, telephone or post:

ACWW
A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road,
London SE21 8EN

Email: info@acww.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 3875
Website: www.acww.org.uk

The new Constitution will shortly be available on our website for you to download, and all Member Societies will be sent a printed copy early this year.

One consistent element of the Constitution, which is also highlighted in the guidance form that accompanies the Membership Application Form, is the commitment of Member Societies to "support, financially and otherwise, the work of ACWW".

We are grateful for the continued support of many Member Societies around the world, but also urge those Societies who have not contributed to Pennies for Friendship recently to make 2018 a year of change and greater impact. These donations and contributions keep ACWW alive, and we must all pull together to strengthen our organisation. Of course, we are also happy to encourage existing contributors to continue their support, and extend our thanks to all ACWW members and supporters worldwide.

In this issue of The Countrywoman you will find a copy of the Annual Review of 2016, a summary of the full Annual Report, which is available for download on our website if you would like to read further.

As always, I wish you and your Societies well in the year ahead, and urge you to not only make an impact in your communities, but remember your role in the wider world and how important you are to our mission. Please don't forget to let us know what you're up to. Happy New Year, and thank you for all your efforts in supporting ACWW.

Heather Brennan
Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account:
Associated Country Women of the World

Account Number:
01244108

Sort Code:
56-00-33

Bank:
NatWest Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London
United Kingdom, SW1H 0HP

Branch:
Westminster

Swift Code:
NWB KGB 2L

IBAN:
GB67NWBK56003301244108

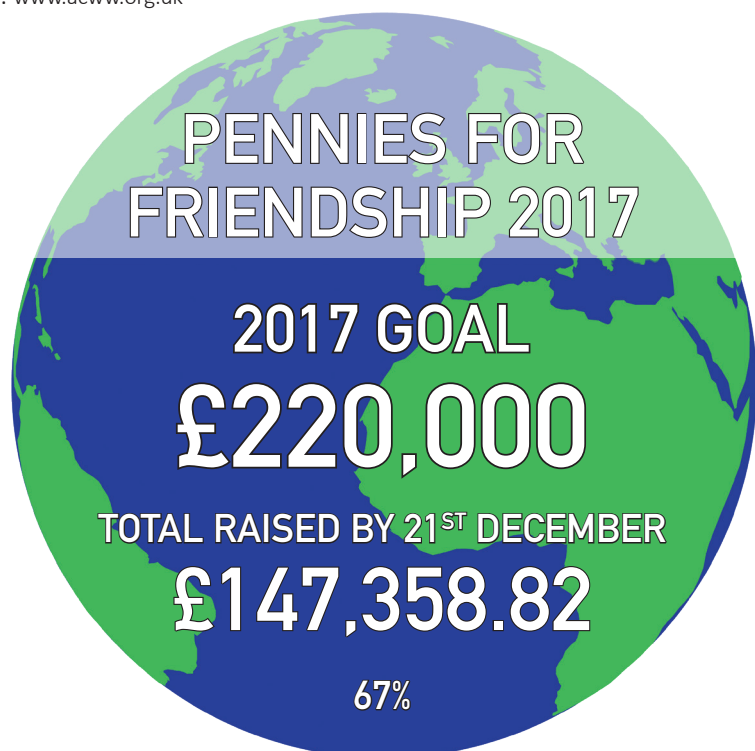
If you are sending a bank transfer, please use your name or membership number as a reference. Please don't send cash in the post!

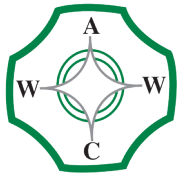


LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Bequests are incredibly valuable to the work ACWW does – not just for the women and communities who benefit from projects and the connections made globally through our work now – but to women and communities to come. Such legacies enable ACWW to continue to deliver a broad vision of seeing generations of women empowered through the relief of poverty and sickness, the protection and preservation of health and the advancement of education.

You can be assured that your gift will make a genuine difference to our work. To find out more please email tish.c@acww.org.uk to receive a Bequest Information Pack.





CONFERENCE INFORMATION FOR THE
29th TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE
MELBOURNE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
4-10 APRIL 2019



Theme: 90 Years of Achievements, Building 90 Years of Opportunities

TIMETABLE: Please note that this was updated in October 2017 and detail may be subject to change
NOTE: Discussion of Resolutions, Recommendations and Reports from Area Presidents will be distributed throughout the days of the Conference.

Thursday	4 April	Registration at Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre / Outgoing Board Meeting / Area Meetings / Briefing for Returning Officer, Tellers, Stewards & Scrutineers
Friday	5 April	Opening Ceremony / Conference Sessions / Elections
Saturday	6 April	Conference Sessions
Sunday	7 April	Non-Denominational Thanksgiving Service / Conference Sessions
Monday	8 April	Conference Sessions / Invitation to host 2025 / Election results / Gala Dinner
Tuesday	9 April	Conference Sessions / Closing Ceremony / Area Meetings / Incoming Board Meeting
Wednesday	10 April	Excursion Day

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS & VOTING RIGHTS

The following may attend:

- The Officers (Executive & Area Presidents) of ACWW
- The Chairmen of the Specified & Ad Hoc Committees of ACWW
- A maximum of 5 voting delegates from each Category 1 Society
- A maximum of 2 voting delegates from each Category 2 Society
- 1 voting delegate from each Category 3 Society
- Representatives of Category 4 Societies
- Category 5 Individual Members
- Past World Presidents
- ACWW United Nations Representatives
- Visitors invited at the discretion of the Executive Committee

Fully paid-up Member Societies may send voting delegates according to membership category. Fully paid-up Individual Members of ACWW, and members of ACWW Member Societies, may attend as observers.

NOTES

Please note that ACWW is not responsible in any way for:

- **TRAVEL** Participants must make their own travel arrangements
- **INSURANCE** All participants are advised of the importance of arranging comprehensive cover for personal accident, personal liability, medical expenses, baggage, cancellation charges etc. as soon as they register
- **VISAS** Participants must check whether you will require an entrance visa for Australia and apply for that in time.
- **ACCOMMODATION** Participants must make their own accommodation arrangements. A list of suggested accommodation options in a range of prices will be sent to you with your registration acknowledgement.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE:

ACWW is not liable for any event beyond its control. These include unusual, unforeseeable or unavoidable events beyond our control, the consequences of which could not be avoided even if due care has been exercised, including but not limited to war, threat of war, riot, civil disobedience or strife, government action, terrorist activity, natural or industrial disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, level of water in rivers or floods and closure of airports. This will include industrial dispute involving third parties, technical or maintenance problems or unforeseen operational decisions of air carriers, such as changes of schedule or any failure in the information technology infrastructure.

REGISTRATION FEES

ALL THOSE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE AS VOTING DELEGATES, NON-VOTING DELEGATES, OBSERVERS, SPOUSES/FRIENDS/FAMILY ETC. MUST PAY THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE (UNLESS ONLY COMING AS A DAY ATTENDEE)

- **EARLY BIRD** conference registration opens on **29 APRIL 2018** until **1 OCTOBER 2018**, the rate is **£440** per person
- After **1 OCTOBER 2018**, the fee will rise to **£475** per person, and the final cut-off date will be **31 DECEMBER 2018**
- The **DAY ATTENDEE** rate is **£105** per person per day. The cut-off date for Day Attendees will be **31 DECEMBER 2018**. Please note that Day Attendees may attend for 1 day only.

If you are attending the Conference as a spouse / partner / friend etc., your registration fee will include optional visits throughout the week. Details of these will be made available in due course.

Registration fees include your attendance at Conference Sessions, refreshments during Conference Sessions, lunches and Gala Dinner. Attendees are responsible for their own accommodation, breakfast and dinner. Day Delegates will receive refreshments and lunch on the day of their registration only. The optional Excursion Day at the end of the Conference (10th April) is not included- further details of this optional extra will be available in the next issue of The Countrywoman.

HOW TO REGISTER

All registration fees are payable to ACWW upon registration. To reduce costs, please pay in one transaction, itemising your requirements on the appropriate section of the form. **Please fill in one form per person, and carefully check which form you should complete:**

- FORM A:** This is the form for Attendees. Whether you are likely to be a voting delegating, non-voting delegate, member of a group from a society or an individual member, this is the form you should complete
- FORM B:** This is the form for Day Attendees. If you are only attending the Conference for one day, please complete this form. Also note that Day Attendees may attend for 1 day only.
- FORM C:** This is the form for Friends / Spouses / Family who wish to come to the Conference or accompany an Attendee, but are not active participants or delegates.

Online Registration

1. Visit the Triennial World Conference page of our website www.acww.org.uk/conference.html
2. Complete the Online Registration Form and submit **OR** Download the Registration Form and fill-in and email it to worldconference@acww.org.uk
3. Pay for registration online using the payment portal / make a bank transfer using the following details:

ACCOUNT NAME:	ACWW
BIC:	NWBK GB 2L
IBAN:	GB67 NWBK 5600 3301 2441 08
SORT CODE:	560033
ACCOUNT NO.:	01244108

Registration by Post

1. Complete the Paper Registration Form, sign and date it
2. Send the completed Form to: **ACWW, A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, UK** together with the Conference Registration Fee, payable by cheque, bank transfer, credit or debit card to arrive at our Central Office no later than the cut-off dates.

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PRINTED IN THE COUNTRY WOMAN AND MADE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE IN DUE COURSE. THE REGISTRATION FORM WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE COUNTRYWOMAN. Please visit www.acww.org.uk/conference.html

FOR ANY AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: worldconference@acww.org.uk



APPRECIATIVE LEADERSHIP

Magdie de Kock, Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman

A philosopher once observed, *“The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.”* We might dispute his conclusion; however, we would all agree that people have a need to feel valued and appreciated. Mark Twain expressed how much the affirmation of others meant to him when he said, *“One compliment can keep me going for a whole month.”*

To empower an organization, you have to empower its people. To empower people, leaders have to find ways to demonstrate appreciation for each individual. The majority of members of ACWW’s affiliated societies are volunteers and they are worth their weight in gold. They are willing and keen to share their time and talents without any compensation. Therefore it’s very important to acknowledge their contributions and let them know they are valued. There is nothing to be lost and much to be gained in trying to be more effective communicators of appreciation.

It was Winston Churchill who said: *“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give”.*

According to Paul White, another wise man, volunteering has been described as an activity in which time is given freely to benefit another person, group or organization. Being a renowned psychologist, he discovered various reasons why people become involved with voluntary work or joining a voluntary organization. Being part of an organization engaging in voluntary service can be due to the fact that such service has been part of their family’s values and lifestyle while growing up. I can recall very well how, as a toddler, I stood at my mother’s side when she used to collect money for an orphanage supported by her society. When our children were young, they too joined me when I followed her example and now as independent adults engaging in voluntary work is part of their lives as well.

Additional reasons given by the psychologist for people to volunteer include experiencing a sense of contribution to a cause greater than oneself; being able to make a difference in one’s life or in one’s community; enjoying the social relationships developed while working together on meaningful projects; receiving positive feedback regarding the service one provides and having a sense of loyalty toward the organization or cause.

In recognising volunteers’ or members’ sense of both social connectedness and perceived impact, the role of the chairman to show appreciation and the encouragement of colleagues are exceedingly important. Effectively conveying your appreciation for the work they are doing in ways that are

meaningful to them can significantly boost retention of all parties involved. I have found that organizations that take the time to find out how their members are best encouraged and to discover their primary languages of appreciation, have far more success than those not showing any or very little gratitude.

Always keep in mind that volunteers are not the same as employees. They can choose to stay or walk away at any time, and that’s one reason why it’s so important to show your appreciation. Let your members know you care by demonstrating your appreciation and gratitude. Since many volunteers are the backbone of organizations and do a lot without expecting anything in return, they deserve to be recognized.

Sending hand written thank you notes give them something they can hang on to and read again, especially during times when they begin feeling a bit drained. It is said that Abraham Lincoln used to carry around a newspaper article in his pocket that described him as a great leader. Your notes can become a source of encouragement that gives them the reason they need to continue donating their time and efforts. Its important to include details so your thank you sounds as sincere as you mean it to be.

There are endless quotes floating around that are tailored towards volunteer appreciation.

If you are creative, maybe you have even come up with some of your own. Some catchy quotes that recognize volunteers include:

- The gift of time is priceless.
- Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.
- No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.
- The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.
- Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.

The most important thing to remember when using a quote is make sure it relates to your specific group. Find something meaningful that will let your volunteers know that you realize that they are important to your organization and that you recognize that they help contribute to the organization’s success. Some other quotes to consider using are:

- Kindness is the greatest wisdom.
- No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.
- Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another.

It has been said many times that actions speak louder than words. In addition to using notes to thank your volunteers, be sure to let

them know in other ways how valuable their services are. You can honour them by taking them out to lunch, or list their names on a public display to highlight their achievements - giving them that public acknowledgement is a meaningful touch.

Sometimes it’s easy to get into the habit of taking for granted the efforts of individuals who consistently participate in your organization’s programs and activities. In order to make sure that you recognize the accomplishments of your most consistent volunteers, establish milestones for service to recognize members’ contributions. You can do so with some type of tangible award, such as a certificate or a plaque as well as mentioning each new accomplishment in the organization’s newsletter or other communication materials.

It was a proud moment for me when I recently received my badge for 40 years’ service by being an active member of my organisation.

Members are the backbone of many organizations. They are giving of their time and labour and expect very little in return. Recognizing them for their efforts is an important part of retaining and recruiting volunteers. Organizations that show their appreciation keep members as well as attract new ones to help with their cause.

Always remember people may forget what you said, and people may forget what you did, but they will never forget how it made them feel.

Compiled by Magdie de Kock
Communications and Marketing Chairman



ACWW CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Meet your Administrators



Tish Collins
Chief Executive Officer



Nick Newland
Media & Communications Manager



Manisha Vora
Finance Administrator



Juliet Childs
Projects Administrator



Viktoria Dimitrova
Projects Administrator

NEW STAFF! Safia Roble United Nations / Agriculture Administrator



Welcome to ACWW!

I honestly feel at home already and am glad to be part of Team ACWW. I also look forward to meeting some of you in March when the Board and Committees come to Central Office.

What did you do before you came to ACWW? Where are you from?

I was born in Mogadishu, Somalia, but grew up in London, England. My family arrived in the United Kingdom as refugees, but now call it home. I have since completed a bachelor's degree in Politics from Goldsmiths, University of London and a master's degree from The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. I have also volunteered and worked with troubled young adults in inner London.

Prior to my employment at ACWW, I worked as a Project Officer and Policy Analyst in the Horn of Africa. I began my career in international development and politics as an Intern at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where I was based in Nairobi at the Joint Constitution Unit. Subsequently, I moved to Mogadishu, Somalia, where I worked as a Project Officer mostly with marginalised communities and survivors of Gender Based Violence.

More recently, I was employed as a Policy and Strategy Analyst with the Somali Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I assisted in a wide range of projects, including capacity building, international trade and migration.

What exactly is your job at ACWW?

I have been hired as the new UN and Agriculture Administrator. My role is largely to support the UN and Agriculture Committees as well as liaising with UN bodies and updating members about the Sustainable Development Goals.

What do you do in your time off to relax?

I enjoy reading literature, especially poetry. I also love to cook, eat new cuisines and travel. I am particularly fond of learning new languages, but I am a bit hopeless – wish me luck!

I am also passionate about social and political issues. Hence, I can often be found at workshops, conferences or protests. Additionally, I regularly attend debates and public speaking events.



Sydney Salter
Office Administrator



Rebecca Ramsey
Office Assistant



ORANGE the world:

END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS

#orangetheworld

#16days

#Orangetheworld

#WeAreACWW

At the end of November, organisations around the world stood united in marking sixteen days of activism in response to violence against women. This campaign is spearheaded by UN Women, and for the second year in a row ACWW was proud to be playing an active role.

The campaign is promoted using the hash-tags #16days and #Orangetheworld, with the visibility and clarity of message being the priority.

On 25 November, ACWW 'oranged' its website and social media channels, and began releasing statements and press releases to help our members in raising awareness of the crucial issues surrounding gender-based violence. We were delighted to see such a fantastic response from our members, that we would like to share with you. In 16 days, our engagements included:

- 24,415 people had seen our statements online and responded
- 503 specific engagements ('likes' etc)
- 368 people shared our posts

We were also pleased to hear from several members and see their efforts during the campaign. South Pacific Area President Gail reported that 300 women in Fiji had marched in public to raise awareness of violence against women, and the Country Women's Association of New South Wales, Hume Group, had welcomed a speaker on violence against women to their meeting.

Gail further reported that she had received photos from Alice Melpa, President of the Mubalu Women of Hope Federation in Papua New Guinea. These photos were sent on the International Day for Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls.



The pictures show the new water facilities supported by CWA NSW and ACWW, and also the women gathering outside. Alice says that "our classroom for adult literacy and sewing will be on the land cleared, which we used to gather to observe the International Day for eliminating violence against women and girls".



ACWW Central Office staff started the 16 days in front of our new orange curtains, and holding copies of ACWW's first statements issued on the 25 November.



The photo below shows ACWW United Nations Committee member Pat Twiss with two colleagues, marking the 16 Days.



The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to raise awareness of the issues facing rural women and work to improve their living conditions.

Since 1950, ACWW has been publicly calling on international bodies to ensure that rural women can be supported safely, with dignity, respect and cultural sensitivity.

This issue is more crucial today than ever before.

Rural women keep the world alive. We must ensure their safety and security. We must act together.

We do not accept violence against women as inevitable. It can be prevented, and everyone must commit to this. Prevention is crucial.

We believe empowered women and girls are our future, and will support survivors in rebuilding their lives, and stopping further violence.

Perpetrators must be held accountable, and victims and survivors helped in any way possible. Laws must be enforced, and strengthened, to ensure that violence is not accepted as the norm.

The ongoing stigma, re-victimisation of those who report violence and the lack of social support for women who survive violence must all be addressed by our governments, communities and individuals.

Women worldwide are fighting for their rights to be recognised, and are standing against gender-based violence.

They do not stand alone. Men and boys do, and must continue to, champion gender equality. Our humanity demands that we stand united as one, against violence and its perpetrators.

We have a future, and women do not stand alone.

We must fix our societies, we must fix our communities and we must educate our future generations. Young men and women must stand together against violence, and must be united in action against perpetrators and accepting attitudes.



ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2017

Women who have suffered domestic abuse are...

twice

as likely to have an abortion

1.5

times more likely to acquire HIV

35%

of women worldwide have suffered physical or sexual violence

twice

as likely to experience depression

120 million

women and girls alive today have suffered forced sexual acts or intercourse

750 million

women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday

this is **MORE THAN**

1 in 10

women around the world

less than

40%

of violence victims seek any help at all

37

countries forgive rapists married to their victims, or who marry them later

ORANGE the world:

END VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS

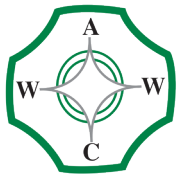
#orangetheworld

#16days

#orangetheworld

#LeaveNoOneBehind

#WeAreACWW



#WeAreACWW

Competitions for Melbourne 2019



We know that one of the most popular side activities of any Triennial Conference are the competitions that bring all our members together in celebrating their connection with ACWW, and of course give the opportunity to show off their craft or photographic talents.

For the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne in April 2019, there will be two main competitions; the #WeAreACWW Photographic Competition, and the Tree Competition.

#WeAreACWW is the 'hashtag', or label, we use online to tag our posts on social media and forums, it unites our members and their interests and allows people to search the whole of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for posts that relate to ACWW. Some of you may remember that at the last conference in Warwick, we decorated large letters and presented them on the stage for all to see.

To enter the photographic competition, you will need to submit a photograph that meets the following requirements:

Subject: #WeAreACWW
Any photo that features this hashtag and which demonstrates the relationship you or your society have with ACWW

Format: Must be your original work
Image printed on plain, matt or glossy paper
High resolution (at least 300dpi)
Printed 6" x 4" (15cm x 10cm) OR
Printed 10" x 8" (25cm x 20cm)

Submit: Bring to the Competitions stall in the Registration Area when you register, or as soon as possible thereafter.

ACWW has always had a close relationship with trees. Whether it has been planting them as part of projects work, or the use of the 'tree of life' in older logos or promotional materials, the tree reflects us putting down roots, building a community and the renewal of the passing seasons.

Our second competition is to use the theme of trees in making a beautiful tissue holder for the tissue travel packs size 11cm x 5cm x 3cm (4,5" x 2,5" x 1,2")

Make a tissue holder for a purse depicting the theme of "Trees" using the technique of quilting. It can be done by hand or sewn with a machine.

Use 100% cotton fabric (quilter's weight cotton) if possible. Any other good quality fabric like linen can also be used. Make sure the fabric is colorfast and washable. Use good quality thread to compliment the finished article.

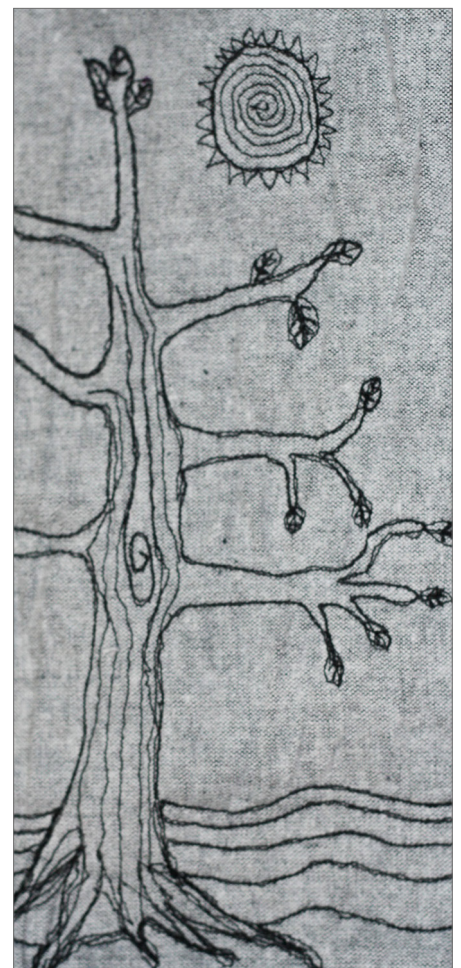
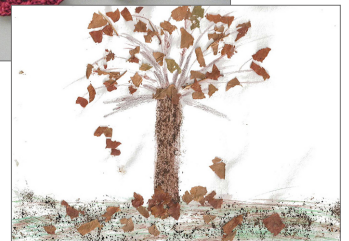
Fasteners like buttons or zippers may be used but it should be easy to open. The tissue holder should be lined. Be creative!

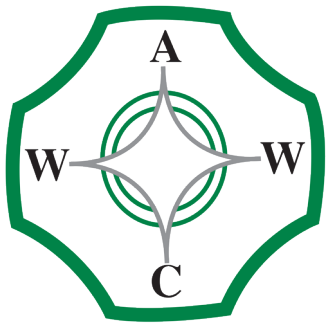
Submit: Bring to the Competitions stall in the Registration Area when you register, or as soon as possible thereafter.

For both competitions, please ensure that you remember to comply with the following:

- 1) You include your name, society and country on the back of the piece
- 2) You agree to allow ACWW free use of the image, or images of your artwork for promotion and publicity

We look forward to seeing your entries, and hope you will enjoy putting them together in time for April 2019!





2016 ANNUAL REVIEW

ACWW was founded in 1929, and registered as a Charity in 1984, number 290367.

SUMMARY OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

In 2016, the 28th Triennial World Conference was held at the University of Warwick, England.

17-23 August 2016

642 Participants attended

There was discussion on resolutions, receipt of written and verbal reports from the six Specified Committees and Area Presidents. Written reports from 103 Member Societies were published as an 80-page book.

A Board of 16 was elected. Guest speakers informed members on topics such as living well with dementia, non-communicable diseases with reference to tobacco, and recognition of women in science academia.

A social programme and opportunity to mix informally also contributed to a very successful conference. Feedback from questionnaires was analysed and used to inform activities of the Communications & Marketing Committee and the Triennial Conference Committee.



Board of Trustees

President
Deputy President / Chairman Agriculture Committee
Secretary / Chairman Triennial Conference Committee
Treasurer / Chairman Finance Committee

Elected August 2016

Mrs Ruth Shanks AM
Mrs Margaret Yetman
Mrs Henrietta Schoeman
Mrs Heather Brennan

Previous Office Holder

Mrs Ruth Shanks AM
Mrs Margaret Yetman
Mrs Henrietta Schoeman
Mrs Alison Burnett

Other Specified Committee Chairmen

Communications & Marketing
Projects
United Nations

Mrs Magdie de Kock
Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad
Mrs Kerry Maw-Smith

Mrs Magdie de Kock
Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad
Sharon Hatten

Area Presidents

Canada
Caribbean, Central & South America
Central & South Asia
East, West & Central Africa
Europe
South East Asia & the Far East
Southern Africa
South Pacific
United States of America

Mrs Sheila Needham
Mrs Dotsie Gordon
Mrs Thilaka Perera
Ms Irene Chinje
Mrs Margaret McMillan
Mrs Maria Abdul Karim
Mrs Mabel Moyo
Mrs Gail Commens
Mrs Jo Ellen Almond

Mrs Sheila Needham
Mrs Dotsie Gordon
Professor Momtaz Begum
Mrs Njugabui Njezesh Angela
Mrs Valerie Stevens
HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar
Mrs Mabel Moyo
Mrs Margaret Sullivan
Mrs Beverly Earnhart



NEW POLICY
RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED
2016

Approve
ACWW's new
Constitution
& CIO Status

Vaccination
against
eradicable
diseases

Protecting
the supply of
water

Women in
Refugee
Camps &
Shelters

Fructose &
Information
on health

The Charity
Commission
approved the new
Constitution in
September 2017.
CIO Registration
No. 1174798

New ACWW
Subscription
rates

Shale Gas

Civil Society
and Gender

Food
Sovereignty

Sustainable
Energy

Policy statements with supporting research and resource packs were made available to all ACWW members in print and for download on our website.

Public statements and press releases were issued in support of these resolutions and relevant UN Days.

New Policy
Recommendations
Adopted 2016

Illegal
Immigrant
Border
Children

Refugees

Regulation
of the Gold
Mining
Industry

ACWW EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES BY PARTNERSHIP IN 2016

412
Member
Societies

1,836
Individual
Members

382
Life Members

74
Countries
Represented

ACWW is proud to have maintained its relationships with the United Nations and its Agencies, and to have held special consultative status for 69 of the UN's 71 years. Our affiliations are shown below, with the year of their commencement.



ECOSOC - Economic &
Social Council

Special Consultative
Status since 1947



FAO - Food & Agriculture
Organisation

Consultative Status
since 1947



UNICEF - United Nations
Children's Fund

Consultative Status
since 1953



UNESCO - UN Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organisation

Consultative Status since 1949
Official NGO Partner



CoNGO - Conference of Non-
Governmental Organisations

Consultative Status since 1948



ACWW continues to work on the Zero Hunger Challenge programme (launched by then-UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in 2015). ACWW partners with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to reduce food waste.

Four ACWW-funded projects provide statistical data on inputs and yields to inform these offices and are cited on the FAO website as examples of good practice. Example impacts: Mothers in Pakistan were persuaded to breastfeed their babies for longer, in order to protect against infections. Women in Uganda found their families exposed to hunger because they had been forced to sell their maize or cooking bananas to cover costs of inputs, leaving no surplus to feed themselves.

The Zero Hunger Challenge obliges us to do all we can to eliminate food waste, and Committee Members have suggested various ways in which we can do this (articles have appeared in various issues of *The Countrywoman*).

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

Started in 2012, the Women Walk the World events see members, family and friends promoting ACWW by walking on or around ACWW Day (29th April) to raise awareness and funds, to help support women and communities worldwide. This event brings together women in fellowship, a core function of ACWW.

ACWW EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN 2016

ACWW funds grassroots community based projects with identified outcomes of alleviating hunger, poverty, sickness, or the advancement of education. Whilst many of these projects are initiated by Member Societies, applications from non-members are also welcomed. The benefit is generally far wider than the direct project participants and will often include family members and even whole communities.

ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations. Projects, led by local women's organisations, therefore vary greatly in their content and practice.

In recent years the time lag between awards and receipt of donations has resulted in the use of 'unrestricted' funds to pay for projects, their monitoring and administration with the 'unrestricted' funds becoming depleted. In March 2016, it was decided to follow advice on 'best practice' and the Board resolved to replenish the 'unrestricted' funds from donations received in 2016 relating to project grants which had already been paid out in previous years. This led to a healthier financial position at the year end.

A broad range of Projects were featured in our magazine and on our website during 2016, and we are always keen to receive photographs and information from our project recipients.



ACWW EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES BY SHARING KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER IN 2016



As always, four issues of *The Countrywoman* were printed and distributed to members worldwide. From April 2016, we welcome a new Editor and a new design for the magazine, and this continued across into the E-Newsletter (now the *President's Newsletter*) and our website. This site underwent a complete rebuild in August 2016 after some technical issues, and was thoroughly revamped in late 2016 with improved facilities and resources. You can of course see more at www.acww.org.uk

These channels, alongside ACWW's information sheets, flyers, posters and brochures on topical subjects, all contribute to ACWW's mission in sharing a wealth of information to members and the public. With greater use of social media by Central Office, viewing of ACWW material rose from 7,921 individual viewings in May 2016 to an annual high of 916,553 in October. We can also report that our website has had more than 1 million 'hits' in 2016.

The ACWW Board and Committee members are volunteers who contribute considerable time, energy and often personal money to furthering the aims of the Charity. Some member societies have International Officers or ACWW Representatives who act as a conduit between the two organisations. At conference many volunteers come forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what become great social occasions and opportunities to forge friendships with people from around the world.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER

Water & Sanitation: 7 Projects in 6 Countries = 16,553 beneficiaries

Access to clean drinking water is essential for good health but according to the UN, 663 million people are still without access to safe drinking water sources and each day, nearly 1000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrhoeal diseases. The presence of a clean water source in the community can reduce incidence of waterborne disease and health outcomes are further improved when projects also incorporate awareness about the importance of handwashing and careful water storage or treatment. Women and girls in the community particularly benefit from the installation of a local water point as they are often the ones responsible for fetching and carrying water from great distances, often risking their safety to do so.

ACWW funded the drilling of 26 community boreholes that are now supplying over 5000 women and children with improved access to clean drinking water. Reductions in incidence of waterborne disease have been reported as a result, as has a reduction in the burden on women and girls, who now have more time to spend on livelihood activities and education.

Globally, 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines and two of the funded projects sought to provide sanitation facilities to communities in Sri Lanka and Togo. In total, 32 latrines were installed that are now benefitting 920 women and children.

Water scarcity is also a threat to food security, and water provided by some projects is being used to irrigate fruit trees, vegetable gardens and small agricultural plots. In India, banana trees have been planted around the pumps to make good use of any spilled water, whereas in South Africa and Cameroon the water sources provided are helping to combat the effects of drought and irrigate community and household plots. In Papua New Guinea, a key outcome of the project is that households have enough water to also keep livestock.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Education & Capacity Building: 4 Projects in 4 Countries = 13,204 beneficiaries

103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of them are female. Basic education and vocational skills training for women can help to counter their disadvantage and provide them with the means to run their own businesses or gain employment.

In Sri Lanka, a combination of skills-training and education support delivered to over 12,000 people ensured that the children from vulnerable families were able to stay in school. The target families were taught home-gardening skills that enabled them to benefit from both additional income and improved nutrition from the sale and consumption of vegetables.

Another holistic package of training and support was offered to women and adolescent girls from indigenous communities in Cameroon. Over 1000 community members took part in activities to raise awareness on the education rights of adolescent girls and marriage legislation regulations, which resulted in a drop in the number of child marriages. Young women were also enrolled in a computer literacy programme to boost their employability and broaden their horizons.

Business skills training and practical support were both features of projects in India and Uganda that provided 124 women with the means to learn new income-generating skills and set themselves up on their own. As a result of the training and materials provided with ACWW funding, small businesses in tailoring, agriculture and environmentally-friendly fuels have now been established.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Health Education: 5 Projects in 2 Countries = 111,870 beneficiaries

Globally, adolescent girls and young women face gender-based inequalities, exclusion, discrimination and violence, putting them at increased risk of acquiring HIV, which remains the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age worldwide.

Thanks to funding from ACWW, two organisations in India have run village-wide HIV & AIDS awareness campaigns, reaching almost 110,000 people and providing information about preventive measures and safe behaviour. However, many of the women and adolescent girls were also at risk of sexual abuse and in some cases trafficking. Both projects, therefore, combined these community-wide education programmes with targeted activities and campaigns, informing the women and girls of their rights and demanding protection from abuse.

Family health and wellbeing was the focus of another project that reached 400 adults and 600 children with a holistic support programme, resulting in more family members practising good hygiene, adopting healthy diets and developing positive family relationships. A key reported outcome was a reduction in the number of adolescent girls dropping out of school to get married.

200 tribal women in India were targeted with a project to combat the “silent killer” of nutritional anaemia with a screening programme that also served to raise awareness amongst community health workers. Anaemic women were given advice about iron-rich foods, which they grew to improve their diets and increase haemoglobin levels.

According to the UN, only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of healthcare they need and access to appropriate healthcare is a particular challenge for women and children with disabilities. One funded project in a Kenyan urban slum, sought to train community health workers in sign language and managed to increase referrals of disabled women to primary healthcare services as a result.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Income Generation: 4 Projects in 2 Countries = 342 beneficiaries

Poverty is more than the lack of income and resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. The overwhelming majority of people living on less than \$1.25 a day belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The income generation projects funded by ACWW in India and Ghana have provided 342 women in the past year with the means to improve their livelihoods, meet their needs, build their autonomy and grow in self-confidence.

Providing seed money in India for the purchase of cows or pigs was a way to provide women with a regular source of income and also improve their diets. The projects are sustainable because money has been repaid into a revolving fund for redistribution to others, or livestock has been given to new beneficiaries. Another project in Ghana provided loans in the form of materials and equipment and training for 150 women to earn an income from dressmaking and soap production.

It is reported that with the additional income from the projects, women have paid off their debts to money lenders, started saving and been able to meet unexpected medical expenses or pay for their children’s education.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

Agricultural Training & Development, Nutrition and Home Economics

3 Projects in 3 Countries = 406 beneficiaries

500 million small farms worldwide, most still rain fed, provide up to 80 per cent of food consumed in a large part of the developing world. Investing in smallholder women and men is an important way to increase food security and nutrition for the poorest, as well as food production for local and global markets. The agricultural training and development projects funded by ACWW, support organisations to build the capacity of mainly women smallholders in sustainable agricultural techniques that increase productivity and food security.

85 women farmers in Uganda benefitted from a comprehensive training programme covering crop and animal production, agribusiness and access to “model” farms and seed banks. The participating farmers all reported increases in yield and saw their incomes and savings rise as a result.

Another project in Cameroon targeted a small town community and built snail pens and “eru” (spinach) propagators to farm these products within a cooperative. With the skills learned, women were also able to grow these products at home for themselves and set up small individual businesses to meet high local demand.

In Pakistan, six Farmer Field Schools taught participants about use of waste materials, methods for producing organic fertiliser and techniques for growing organic plants. As a result, women were able to set up kitchen gardens and grow their own vegetables. 175 women also took part in nutrition education, food safety and food preservation seminars to improve understanding of what constituted a balanced and healthy diet and reported a reduction in the consumption of junk food as a result.

One in nine people in the world today (795 million) are undernourished. ACWW has signed up to the Zero Hunger Challenge and the project funding plays a significant part in our commitment to reducing global hunger.

2016 PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE



EAST, WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

3 Projects 2 Countries Total Grants awarded = £12,192

Kenya

Coast Development Lobby Group
Ufanisi Women Group

2 Projects

Enhancing women's participation in leadership & economic activities in Kwale County
Lifting socioeconomic status of young mothers by revolving loans for dairy goat farming

£7,672

£3,792
£3,880

Uganda

Bayira Rural Women's Development Association

1 Project

Community sanitary pads production project

£4,520

£4,520

SOUTHERN AFRICA

3 Projects, 3 Countries, Total Grants awarded = £9,620

Malawi

Youth Active in Community Development (YACODO)

1 Project

Naotcha sustainable livelihoods development project

£2,453

£2,453

South Africa

Federation of Women's Institutes Kwazulu Natal

1 Project

Water Harvesting for Completion of Project 980, Yenzanathi Community Garden

£1,940

£1,940

Zimbabwe

Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo

1 Project

New Hope Gardening Project

£5,227

£5,227

CENTRAL & SOUTH ASIA

7 Projects 2 Countries Total Grants awarded = £37,114

India

Centre for the Development of Rural Women
Organisation for Community Development

7 Projects

Apiary and warren for the economic self-reliance of Malayali (tribal) women
Strengthening and developing head load fish vending women in coastal villages through income generation activities

£37,114

£6,313

£9,237

Sarojini Naidu Rural Welfare and Education Trust
Snekithi Charitable Trust

Innovative education for adolescent health and skill development training for their mothers
Enhancing the livelihood of women through *Milch* cow-rearing activities

£2,226

£8,813

Success Trust

Promotion of indigenous rice and vegetable cultivation among marginal women farmers

£3,388

Women and Rural Development (WORLD) Trust

Cooperative dairy development project to educate and empower Dalit widows

£4,750

Women's Organisation for Rural Development

Safe and potable drinking water to families of low caste Arunthathiyar and Dalits

£2,387

Sri Lanka

Nest

1 Project

HIV and AIDS prevention, education, caring and improving attitudes for women and children

£4,500

£4,500

SOUTH EAST ASIA & THE FAR EAST

1 Project 1 Country Total Grants awarded = £4,839

Philippines

Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development

1 Project

Women's action against climate change and hunger

£4,839

£4,839

EUROPE

2 Projects 2 Countries Total Grants awarded = £10,881

Georgia

Koda Community Education Center

1 Project

Project bio-farming: supporting vegetable gardens in Koda

£3,891

£3,891

Romania

Women's Association from Sibiu

1 Project

Art Therapy

£6,990

£6,990

Projects
completed in
2016 reached



beneficiaries in
total, including



and





CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Permanent Endowment £	Connected Charities £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
Income:						
Donations, membership & legacies	413,606	91,727	-	2,886	508,219	432,209
Investment income	71,362	-	-	-	71,362	82,079
Charitable activities	419,794	-	-	-	419,794	4,338
Total Income	904,762	91,727	-	2,886	999,375	520,626
Expenditure:						
Raising Funds:						
Investment management costs	8,250	-	-	-	8,250	8,124
Charitable Activities:						
Project activities	139,764	91,714	-	-	231,478	295,501
Education	59,899	-	-	-	59,899	24,615
Outreach	79,865	-	-	-	79,865	47,930
Information & Research	99,831	-	-	-	99,831	101,712
United Nations Representation	19,966	-	-	-	19,966	37,503
Conference	396,701	35,558	-	-	432,259	-
Total Expenditure	804,276	127,272	-	-	931,548	515,385
Net Income (expenditure)	100,486	(35,545)	-	2,886	67,827	5,241
Transfers between funds	(25,135)	25,135	-	-	-	-
Net Income before other gains (losses)	75,351	(10,410)	-	2,886	67,827	5,241
Gains (losses) on investment assets	74,295	17,427	19,773	-	111,495	(3,716)
Net movement in funds	149,646	7,017	19,773	2,886	179,322	1,525
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2016	1,386,033	466,250	644,131	177,205	2,673,619	2,672,094
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2016	£1,535,679	£473,267	£663,904	£180,091	£2,852,941	£2,673,619

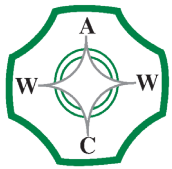
Note:

As is normal practice, Conference expenditure and income have been shown in the year of the Conference, (2016).



BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	<u>Group</u>		<u>Charity</u>	
	2016 £	2015 £	2016 £	2015 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	10,278	13,901	10,278	13,901
Investments	2,327,642	2,219,731	2,327,642	2,219,731
	<u>2,337,920</u>	<u>2,233,632</u>	<u>2,337,920</u>	<u>2,233,632</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors	45,566	40,894	45,566	40,894
Cash at bank and in hand	531,677	497,834	429,397	395,538
	<u>577,243</u>	<u>538,728</u>	<u>474,363</u>	<u>436,432</u>
Creditors:				
Amounts falling due within one year	(62,222)	(98,741)	(140,033)	(173,650)
	<u>515,021</u>	<u>439,987</u>	<u>334,930</u>	<u>262,782</u>
Net Current Assets				
	<u>2,852,941</u>	<u>2,673,619</u>	<u>2,672,850</u>	<u>2,496,414</u>
Net Assets				
	<u>2,852,941</u>	<u>2,673,619</u>	<u>2,672,850</u>	<u>2,496,414</u>
Funds				
ACWW				
Permanent endowment fund	663,904	644,131	663,904	644,131
Restricted Funds	473,267	466,250	473,267	466,250
Designated Funds	161,904	161,904	161,904	161,904
Unrestricted Funds	1,373,775	1,224,129	1,373,775	1,224,129
	<u>2,672,850</u>	<u>2,496,414</u>	<u>2,672,850</u>	<u>2,496,414</u>
Connected Charities				
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	75,792	74,378	-	-
Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund	33,296	33,296	-	-
Nutrition Education Trust Fund	71,003	69,531	-	-
	<u>180,091</u>	<u>177,205</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds	<u>2,852,941</u>	<u>2,673,619</u>	<u>2,672,850</u>	<u>2,496,414</u>



SEFWI'S INDIAN DAY

C&M Committee Member Moira Hammond reports on an exciting day

Having been told about this forthcoming event at the October meeting of the Communications and Marketing Committee, we were very excited to receive this report from Committee member Moira Hammond:

"Suffolk East Federation of WIs has managed to far exceed its promised contribution towards ACWW Project N^o. 2011 (for the Head-load Fish vendors of Tamil Nadu).

Throughout 2017, our walks, teas, coffee mornings and other events had almost raised sufficient funds, but an 'Indian Day' at Henley Community Centre on 8 November added more than a thousand pounds to their original pledge.

A hundred or so members, many in Indian saris, pashminas and other colourful outfits, heard Tish Collins (Chief Executive Officer of ACWW) explain how the charity works and then May Kidd, related some memorable experiences of her time as ACWW World President from 2010 – 2013.

Moira Hammond (SEFWI Representative for ACWW) gave a PowerPoint presentation about the actual project and a lively session of questions from the audience followed. There was time to look around the various stalls too before Gill Denny (the Federation Secretary) and her daughter provided a delicious, authentic curry lunch for everyone.

Afterwards, WI member Kirsty Wilmot gave a delightful personal account of life during her seven month stay in the Tamil Nadu coastal villages, and we enjoyed a spectacular demonstration of Indian Bollywood-style Dance. Then it was time for audience participation. A few courageous ladies took to the stage to learn some dance-moves and everyone in the audience was encouraged to join in too. We were shown the intricacies of putting on a sari and several ladies were persuaded to be dressed in one.

The busy day ended with the raffle, followed by the singing of the ACWW Anthem, the Song of Peace."

Congratulations and thanks to all those who took part, and of course organised this fantastic event.

Editor's note: *The ladies of Suffolk East are also due an apology for an error printed in Issue 3 this year- East Suffolk organised 15 separate walks, involving more than 150 people, not 15 walkers!*

From top to bottom: (a) Our members hear about life in Tamil Nadu, India. (b) We learn how to put on a sari, and discover its not a simple process. (c) Our ladies strut their stuff and learn some nifty moves!





LADIES OF THE SOUTH

Area President Maybel Moyo reports on the Southern Africa Area Conference

We convened in Johannesburg on the 17th of October, and what a blessed Conference it was to be; we opened with the Song of Peace with organ in the background, then a prayer and reading from scripture led by Marielle de Vos. Candles for Peace and Remembrance were lit by ACWW World President Ruth Shanks and myself.

Area President Mrs. Mabel Moyo and Hostess Society Ina Booysse. The Hostess Society, WAU Overvaal, welcomed all the delegates to Johannesburg. *“As a family we should share our problems. As hosts, we feel as the parents and welcome everyone home as children.”* Delegates were told to feel at home and enjoy the conference.

As Area President for Southern Africa, I was pleased to be able to welcome World President Ruth Shanks, and my fellow Area President, Irene Chinje from East, West and Central Africa. Together we were joined by members from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana. We were also pleased to welcome Mauritius as a new ACWW member. I was also honoured to welcome past Area Presidents, and grateful for their attendance.

Our Conference Theme was ‘Water is Life’, and I was keen to remind members that water is the best gift we have to give, and wasting it harms us all. Our environment and the world at large are improved by our understanding of our needs, our ability to communicate and through communication our ability to make a difference in our communities. Sharing ideas and getting to know what other women around us are doing is crucial. Modern communication methods will assist us all in our futures.

We welcomed Malawi to our conference in absentia, knowing that we would communicate the proceedings of the conference to these members. In 2016 our Area Conference welcomed 150 delegates, and this year more than 200 delegates came together. Our interaction, our gathering, shows us all how important our network is, and I encouraged members *“never allow anyone to tell you that you cannot do anything, yes, you can!”*.

World President Ruth Shanks introduced the Global Survey of the Living Conditions of Rural Women that ACWW will be conducting in 2018, and urged members to participate. Surveys are often done, but have generally ignored rural women and we know that our Association plays a unique role in speaking for these women around the world.

After a presentation on Food Security by Anphia Grobler, we heard reports from our members. The Bafokeng Women’s Club told us of their partnership with correctional services, in helping with the rehabilitation of offenders and their care for senior citizens. The Programme for Vulnerable Children and Women joined ACWW in 2013, and are



working hard on the Sustainable Development Goals. We also heard from the Zimbabwe Farmers’ Union, and their fantastic outreach programmes for rural subsistence farmers in gardening, poultry and animal husbandry.

The Mpumalanga Women’s Group works with women in prisons, and holds work-shops for them. They also donate groceries and clothes to the needy, and aims to stop poverty in communities, and has a focus on violence against women. The Free State Society has 56 branches and 1,400 members, and we heard from the 400 members of the Cape Women’s Agricultural Association who’s common goal is to empower women and establish a healthy family. Our final report of the first day was from Eastern Cape Women’s Association, who have more than 1000 members.

On our second day, we introduced East, West and Central Africa Area President Irene Chinje; she told our members she was pleased to attend so that she could take the lessons of the Southern Africa Area Conference back to her own members for next year’s meeting in Kampala, Uganda.



We then heard from Secretary Henrietta Schoeman, who led a session on the 29th Triennial Conference which will be held in Melbourne, Australia in April 2019.

Following this, World President Ruth Shanks told our members about the new Central Office, and explained more about the structure of ACWW. Members were encouraged to send their society reports to Area Presidents to report to the next Triennial Conference, and also to think about nominations for the next Area President who will be elected in 2019. It is crucial that this member will be able to visit societies and travel to London every year for Board meetings.

Presentations on Human Trafficking, Peace Building and UN Resolution 1325 (calling for the active engagement of women in peace and security in Zimbabwe), Sustainable Vegetable Gardens and Interesting Gardening Techniques were given, followed by ACWW's Communications and Marketing Chairman Magdie de Kock who discussed the communications methods open to ACWW members.

We then heard further society reports from Jekesa Pfungwa Vulinondo in Zimbabwe (who told us of their 5,000 members and 30,000 beneficiaries), and the Lesotho Homemakers, whose activities range from sewing to woodwork, gardening to poultry!

Rikalize Reyneke discussed the importance of Water Conservation with our members, before members enjoyed entertainment from the Koeksisters Group and their songs.

Our third day opened with a Reverend from the Lutheran Church, and then a discussion of postal voting for the 2019 Area President election; this was approved as it gave better access for all members.

Our final sessions included a presentation of immunization from Steven Miller (the Department of Microbiology and Virology, Lancert Laboratories), who reminded us that vaccination saves lives, and that myths and hysteria should be ignored- mothers and guardians should ensure their children are vaccinated, especially against the main 6 killer diseases. Our final discussion was led by cancer survivor Petra Cronje, and focused on breast cancer.

After discussion for the 2019 Area Conference, we brought our meetings to a close. All our societies are facing financial difficulties, but we are thankful to ACWW for its continued support. Despite the challenges the societies face, they managed to be present at the Area Conference and did very well. We presented all attendees with a certificate for their societies, as a gift from myself and the World President.

I must thank all delegates, sponsors, speakers and all who attended, and especially Area President Irene Chinje for coming all the way from Cameroon, and World President Ruth Shanks for honouring our Southern Africa Area Conference 2017 with her presence. As always, we ended with the Song of Peace, and this is our message forward into 2018.

Happy New Year from me, and our Area!



1) C&M Chairman Magdie de Kock with Southern Africa Area President Maybel Moyo, World President Ruth Shanks A.M., Secretary Henrietta Schoeman and East, West & Central Africa Area President Irene Chinje

2) Sonja Fischer, guest speaker on Human Trafficking

3) Maybel Moyo with members from societies in Zimbabwe

4) Ruth Shanks, Maybel Moyo and Irene Chinje with Society members.

5) Maybel with members of the Bafokeng Society

6) Gerda Swart, Sienie van Vuuren, Judy Steynberg, Pam van Rensburg President of NWWAU and Elaine Smit

7) Maybel Moyo with Zambian ladies from the Programme for vulnerable Children and Women; Joyce Ngoma, Alice Nkwani, Mary Lusoke, Mathilda Kaira Mwamza and Josephine Musawa

8) Even the Area President has to try Arm Knitting!

FIRST CONFERENCE FOR LECIA STEELE

I attended my first Area Conference as a WAU member in October at Benero Park, Benoni. The Southern Africa Area Conference was hosted by WAU Overvaal, and we received such a warm and sincere welcome from their members and the staff of Outlook Lodge.

Women from all over the Southern Africa area attend, and what I realized was that all affiliated with ACWW have the same goal in life, and that is to empower the women and girls, to make a real difference in the world.

We as women work together for our country and youth, as our youth is the future. Women standing together, can make a difference, even if it is only for one person, that can mean the world to her. During the conference, educational activities were presented, I even learned to Arm knit.

To be with these dignified women brought me inner peace. Peace and joyfulness can keep you standing, even when life puts you down. It is peace that made women stand together, inspire, support and encourage each other to look forward with a positive attitude. We were inspired by motivational speakers, and this experience will stick with me for life.

ACWW members give hope to women that don't have anything to look forward to. We as women must reach with compassion for those who are forgotten and hungry of heart.

My sincerest thanks to ACWW, Madam President and WAU Overvaal as well as WAU Mpumalanga for the unforgettable and inspirational experience. May ACWW go from power to power.

Submitted by Lecia Steele
Vice President, WAU Mpumalanga



PROJECTS UPDATES

Progress Reports and Case Studies from the Projects Team

PROGRESS REPORT: KENYA Upendo Okatekok Women Group

Grassroots engagement for sustainable sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls

Project 1024: Upendo Okatekok Women Group reports that five adolescent girls' youth-to-youth school clubs were established in five selected primary schools; 150 club members (30 from each school) were trained in adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and they are currently working as peer educators.

Educational materials (50 T-shirts, 500 brochures and 200 posters) with simplified information on adolescent sexual health were produced and distributed. All these activities testify to a well thought out, practical approach to reducing school dropouts due to unwanted pregnancy and early marriage.

The project has created strong partnerships and links with community based health facilities. As a result, 'youth-friendly' corners have been established within them. These alternative points of contact have attracted and encouraged a number of girls to access sexual and reproductive health services without fear.

Moreover, the group is working hard to raise awareness and gain wider support from parents, teachers, community leaders, and health facility workers. Two film shows, two community dialogue meetings, one HIV/AIDS testing and counselling (HTC) family day, six monthly meetings with health facility staff and six monthly M&E meetings have been conducted during the implementation period. The group reports that intensive dialogue is taking place at all levels of implementation, which is contributing to the success of their strategy.

Nonetheless, certain issues have arisen along the way. At the beginning of the project, Upendo encountered problems with fitting the youth-to-youth clubs into the school programme, as well as convincing adolescent boys that they shouldn't feel excluded from the Programme. Also, the group received less than expected from ACWW due to exchange rate fluctuations, and they adjusted their activities accordingly.

The Upendo Okatekok Women Group feels very positive about the impact which this project is having on the target beneficiaries and the community in general.

Photos: A Community Meeting; Family Day Presentation; Obekai Primary Schools Club members with their Deputy Headteacher (seated); Parents during Family Day event



Case Study

Emily Ofestus

(Deputy Head teacher, Obekai Primary School)

"Before the project, many girls in my school did not perform well and would not attend classes during their menstrual period. But with the training of peer educators, girls have become so open to teachers that they can get the relevant assistance."

Previously, it was not easy to talk about issues of sex and sexuality and it was almost a taboo amongst most teachers and parents, but with the introduction of SRHR trainings and community outreaches, it has become easy and people are free to talk with their children about sexual and reproductive health."

Case Study

Felistus Chingili

(Pupil at Okatekok Primary School)

"As a 12 year-old class 6 pupil at Okatekok Primary School, I appreciate the ACWW Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights trainings and sensitization on children's rights and life skills conducted by Upendo Okatekok Women Group. These have made me empowered and people no longer take advantage and lead me into wrong acts. The trainings have also empowered me to take responsibility for my actions. Previously I used to fall into boys' traps, but things are different today as I have the courage to look at them direct and able to challenge them. I know my SRHRs and areas to get relevant support."

Case Study

Mary Auma

(Parent, Atarait Primary School)

"I am grateful to Upendo Okatekok Women Group for their training on parent-child communication for it has bridged the gap between parents and children. I did not have the confidence to do this before, but now I sit and hold talks with my children about sexual reproductive issues. This was a taboo previously but I am happy my girl can now appreciate and trust me as a mother."

MONITORING REPORT: INDIA Rural People Development Society

Releasing marginalised tribal women from poverty through goat-rearing and organic kitchen gardens

Project 1021: Hazel Armstrong visited RPDS's office and viewed the files which have been kept on each project beneficiary, together with case notes. She found that RPDS keep a register of attendance at training and evaluation sessions.

She also travelled to the project village of Vilampatti, some 50 km away, up a narrow mountain road. Here she interviewed three beneficiaries who are members of the 'Hindumalayali' scheduled tribe (a tribe officially designated by the Indian Government as being historically disadvantaged).

Hazel was told that doctors who visit these communities once per year had identified nutritional deficiencies, and expects that the same doctors will be in a position to report an improvement when they next visit. She found that the beneficiaries have learned to grow a wide variety of vegetables using organic methods, and to harvest seeds.

The goats are sold in the market at Belur, some 14 km away. The beneficiaries have understood the scheme well and are repaying their loans on schedule. Each woman has a repayment book into which the RPDS team enter the amount of the loan. A spreadsheet is also being kept to track loans and repayments, and this was all seen by Hazel. The repayments are being used to help new beneficiaries and Hazel concludes that the revolving loan element of the project is working 'admirably'.



Case Study

Saramya, aged 25, is married with no children. As a result of this project she has four goats, a goat shed and a kitchen garden, all visited and photographed by Hazel. Saramya expects to earn Rs 24,000 from her goats in the first year, and a further 200 Rs every two weeks from selling surplus vegetables in the market. She, her husband and her elderly relatives have a better diet than before, including meat, a wider variety of vegetables and ragi (a type of millet), which she grows in a small, terraced field above her house on the mountainside.

Case Study

Cimthamani, aged 40, is a widow and has a 22 year-old son and a 20 year-old daughter. She has four goats, a goat shed and a vegetable garden. She grows tomatoes, aubergines, okra, chilli, gourds, green beans and pumpkins, and sells these in the market. She and her family are enjoying an improved diet and income as a result of the project.

Case Study

Sudha, aged 28, has been deserted and divorced by her husband and has a son aged six. She is a second phase beneficiary, resulting from the repayments from the first phase of the project. She has four goats and is looking forward to being able to sell them for income once they are grown up, and to reinvesting in new baby goats to rear.

MONITORING REPORT: INDIA Deepam Trust

Enhancement of nutritional health security through home gardens for Dalit women

Project 1023: Hazel was shown Deepam Trust's offices, located in a sound but small building, and found that they include an office, a meeting room and a training room. She viewed the paperwork which shows that the beneficiaries of this project are receiving ongoing training in kitchen gardening. Hazel visited two of the project villages and was impressed with what she found. The women beneficiaries had attended training and each been given good quality start-up seeds. This has enabled them to grow a variety of vegetables, including okra, aubergines, bitter gourd, spinach, tomatoes and pumpkins, and fruits, including papaya, plantain, pomegranate, guava, plums, as well as medicinal plants such as turmeric.

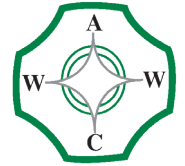
Project volunteers in each village monitor the kitchen gardens three times per month to check that weeding is being carried out and that the plants are thriving. The beneficiaries have to rely on the village borewell for water but this does not seem to present too much of a problem.

Hazel discussed with the project team the nutrition awareness training which had been carried out, and noted the prevalence of breastfeeding mothers in the two villages.

She was told that medical camps carried out two years ago by Tamil and French doctors exposed the high levels of nutritional deficiency in the community. The women report that they are feeling healthier as a result of the project, but this is hard to quantify and Hazel has suggested that a further health camp, including blood screening, be carried out next year to evaluate changes in nutrition levels in a scientific manner.



SOCIETY FOCUS



We hear from Members and Member Societies around the world

ILLINOIS LADIES VISIT BALTIC STATES

October of 2017 Mary Johnson and myself set off to visit ACWW members in Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, representing the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education. Our three-week tour followed Rutt Tuvike and Ene Paks visit to Illinois in 2016. Rutt Tuvike's Village Development Society was instrumental in making this connection and then organized the travel and visits. As a result, we were able to meet societies in each Baltic country to learn about their cultures and the goals of their groups. We, then, shared the goals of our IAHCCE and subsequently discovered many of the goals are the same! All of the societies in the Baltic States promote their cultures through crafts and handiwork. We were thrilled to witness the art of weaving and had the opportunity on several occasions to experience sitting at a loom to complete a strand or two. Some of the handiwork made by these kind, beautifully spirited ladies found its way into our suitcases so we can show their beautiful work to our Illinois ladies.

In Estonia we toured Tallinn, including the fairy-tale Old Town which helped us connect with their treasured past. Our HCE organization recently studied the Baltic countries so we learned about the Tallinn Song Festival, with a stage that fits 15,000 singers. We STOOD on that stage... just the two of us! Visiting the Open-Air Museum near Tallinn gave us an opportunity to enjoy the Onion and Fish Festival of the Russian Old Believers. These people live on the western shores of Lake Peipsi in Estonia. (When we visited Tartu, we had the opportunity to visit this area.)

We were so happy to visit Rutt's farm. Here we had a "Welcome Tea" and met these lovely, friendly ladies who belong to Rutt's society. We were honored by planting an oak tree! In southern Estonia, we had the opportunity to visit Rutt's son's log home "factory." We visited the Haanja Nature Park where we climbed The Great Egg Tower which looks like a huge stork's nest with a huge egg.

In Tartu, a wonderful lady named Aime Jaagus received us into to her home so we could conveniently attend the Baltic State Conference. We gave a short talk at the conference about our HCE groups in Illinois. The conference was in Russian so the ladies from all three Baltic States could understand the speakers. We were not quite sure how many understood our presentation in English!

An eight-hour bus ride From Tartu, Estonia to Kaunas, Lithuania introduced us to a wonderful lady named Virginja. She drove us to several cities in Lithuania to present us to wonderful ladies. These ladies in Lithuania included us in their discussions about supporting methods for improving farming techniques and we learned about their economic concerns. Our visit to a 457-year-old school with a vibrant head master, teachers and students was remarkable.

After being given bus tickets, we traveled to Klaipeda where we met a visiting Chicago taxi driver who drove us to Latvia. We were privileged to meet many more new friends. Our final city was Riga, Latvia. Here we met a group of ladies who work with an organization called "Marta." They actively help women who are victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking. After a night at the ballet, we flew back to Stockholm on our way back to Chicago.

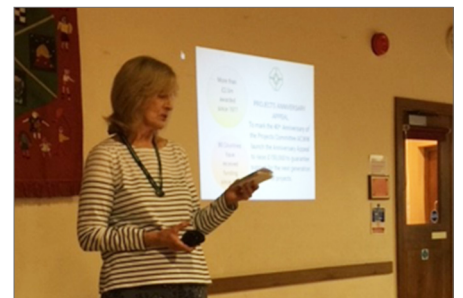
In summary, we must say this trip was incredible. We saw so much, (ate so much wonderful food), met so many beautiful ladies, and learned so much about their culture, history, and their hopes for the future of their countries! We are thankful for everyone who planned our activities and who touched our hearts. IAHCCE International Director Pat Weitzmann added a short note to this report: *"If my count is correct, there are now 3 trees planted on Rutt's farm by ACWW members. ACWW officers May Kidd and Valerie Stevens, and now the one planted by Eleanor and Mary".*

Sent in by Mary Johnson and Eleanor Gregory



CHIPSTEAD WI SCHWOPPING PARTY

On Tuesday 31 October, at St Mary's Church Hall, Riverhead, Kent, Tricia Ashdown, a West Kent representative of Associated Country Women of the World gave a talk on the objectives of the organisation and the work that they do to support a wide range of development programmes in rural communities across the world.



The evening started with a glass of bubbly and a variety of delicious snacks and after Tricia's most informative talk, we all enjoyed a Shwopping event. Shwopping is about swapping something that we don't use, for something new. You buy a ticket in advance and receive a special shwopping bag, which you return before the evening, containing 3 items: a book, a piece of jewellery and an accessory, such as a hat or scarf. Each participant then chooses one of each from donations made by other participants. A total of £175.76 was raised during the evening for ACWW.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY NEWS

We want to know what you do in support of ACWW and we'd love to see pictures. Please include some basic information so we can make sure we get the article right:

- Date of the event / conference / meeting
- Where was it?
- Roughly how many people attended?
- How much was raised for ACWW?

Send Society News to nick@acww.org.uk

ORANGE THE WORLD



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. This initiative was supported by ACWW when the website and social media channels were temporarily changed from green to orange. This campaign was originated by the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and is coordinated by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership.

In support of this civil society initiative, the members of Die Dameskring (The Ladies' Circle) of the Suikerbosrand Branch in Heidelberg, South Africa, joined the campaign to 'orange the neighbourhood' to raise public awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls. During this time, the caring ladies visited a local Children's Village to hand over gifts, stationary and refreshments to the 10 orphans who have to grow up without their parents as a result of domestic violence. Gifts were wrapped in orange gift wrap to support the campaign symbolizing a brighter future and a world free from violence against women and children.

The members of Die Dameskring were happy to be part of the initiative to support all people in all parts of the world to take action in their communities, play their part and stand up to violence against women and children.



Gift recipients at the Children's Village smile for the camera!

Submitted by Magdie de Kock
Member of Die Dameskring and Chairman of the C&M Committee of ACWW

100th ANNIVERSARY FOR MARY RILEY WI, ALBERTA

Thanks to Carol Brown for sending in this photo of Mary Riley branch, Alberta Women's Institute who celebrated their 100th Anniversary in 2017. Shown are Carol, Marie, Cheryl, Jean, Pat, Ruth, Shirley, Jackie and Peggy.



MANAIA CRAFT GROUP DONATE KNITWARE

Children and their mothers in a rural area of South Africa were delighted to receive a second donation of beautiful baby knitwear from the kind ladies of the Manaia Craft Group from New Zealand. Manaia is a small town in the province of Taranaki on the North Island of New Zealand. Among the population of between 900 – 1000 people, a group of skilful women use their free time to knit beautiful baby wear, and participate in other hand crafts. The women of the Manaia Craft Group, meet every week on a Wednesday to create hand crafts and donate their work to various organisations, and as a group they enjoy the fellowship and friendship of each other.

When attending the ACWW South Pacific Area Conference, Magdie de Kock, Chairman of the C&M Committee, received a large parcel of baby clothing to take back to South Africa to give to needy children. She was delighted to be approached by Helen Bayliss on her visit to South Africa, to collect yet another large parcel, which contained useful knitwear, but also pictures of the kind ladies who contributed to the donation. The recipients, mothers of Mafube, a small rural town in the Northern part of the Free State Province of South Africa, were excited to 'meet' these talented women.

The information on the Manaia Craft Group was provided by Mrs DS McCallum who is the Secretary of the South Taranaki Provincial Rural Women New Zealand.



Submitted by
Magdie de Kock

MEMORIAL LECTURE

ACWW's affiliated society, North West Women's Agricultural Union in South Africa, was represented by Judy Steynberg and Pat Janse van Rensburg at the 20th Kgosi Edward Patrick Lebone 1 Memorial Lecture which took place on the 21st October 2017.

The Queen Mother of the Bafokeng, Dr Semane Molotlegi (also a former Southern Africa Area President), hosted this annual event in honour of her late husband and former King of the Bafokeng to raise funds for the Thuto Thebe Educational Trust Fund.

Participating in the ceremony were the musicians of the Lebone 11 College Of The Royal Bafokeng Marimba Group.

The keynote speaker at this auspicious occasion was Advocate Thulisili Madonsela, Former Public Protector of South Africa. In the words of the Queen Mother, the speaker is "... a leader that we all can be proud of. A Leader who has had the courage of her convictions and become a shining example of what true leadership looks like, in South Africa and the world today".

Adv. Madonsela started by saying: "It is time to lead for the Democracy you want". She compared the leaders' actions to a book written by Dr Spencer Johnson on the story of a fable on how to cope positively with change. You have to decide if you are a leader or a victim! A victim complains and a leader influence, change!



Photo from Magdie de Kock:
Advocate Thuli Madonsela, Dr Semane Molotlegi (Queen Mother of the Bafokeng), Isabel Naude (headmaster of Koster School), Pam Janse van Rensburg (President of NWWAU), Judy Steynberg (NWWAU) and Seanokeng Charlotte Selaolane

DO YOU RECEIVE THE WORLD PRESIDENT'S E-NEWSLETTER?

If you don't currently receive the online newsletter sent out by the World President and would like to, please contact ACWW Central Office to register.

All you need to do is email us, and ask to sign up. The address is: info@acww.org.uk



AREA FOCUS

Margaret McMillan, Area President - Europe



AREA FOCUS

Name: Mrs Margaret McMillan

Country: Northern Ireland

Role: Area President, Europe

Term: 2016- 2019

In October 2017, I was invited to attend the 'Women Refugees' Safety' symposium in Utrecht, The Netherlands, as the ACWW European Area President.

In 2016 an urgent resolution regarding the increasing sexual abuse of women and children in refugee camps and shelters was passed unanimously at the 28th Triennial World Conference. It was proposed by our Dutch member societies.

Together with the Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (an umbrella organisation of more than 50 women's societies in the Netherlands) and Zonta Nederland, they put their urgent resolution into action by organising a follow up symposium, about the safety of women and girls in care settings for refugees in Europe, and in particular in The Netherlands. A clear picture about the security situation of refugee women and girls was missing and exhibits information gaps. The symposium 'Women Refugees' Security' wanted to change this.

Keynote speakers were Eduard Nazarski (Dutch Director of Amnesty International)

about the European context of sheltering refugees; Janet Helder (board member of COA) about recent developments in resettling refugees in The Netherlands; Carla Lebesque (from policymaker Nidos) about minor female foreigners within The Netherlands; and finally Domenica Ghidei (past member of the College of Human Rights) talking about how the voices of women can be heard.

After the main speakers, everyone joined workshops on Trauma; Legal possibilities & and obstacles; Safety & privacy; Municipal approaches and shared experiences with stakeholders from civil society, governments, scientists and the Refugees Act.

The findings will be processed into a manifesto with concrete advice and recommendations to be passed to the Dutch government and to ACWW.

Thanks go to the Dutch Societies Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK, Passage, christelijk-maatschappelijke vrouwenbeweging, Vrouwen van Nu and my wonderful translator Minke Harkema.

MAKE AN IMPACT

ACWW member Elisabeth Rusdal, of the Norwegian Women and Family Association has sent us updates on her society's campaign work in support of ACWW resolutions. This is a fantastic example of how ACWW Member Societies can make an impact, and how contacting local, regional, national and international governments can make a real difference when campaigning.

The Norwegian Women and Family Association has written to government departments and officials, including the Minister of Children and Equality, with the text of ACWW resolutions on domestic violence. The text of the response is shown here, along with the original letter (in Norwegian);

From: Solveig Horne

Resolution: Domestic violence

Thank you for sending me the resolution about domestic violence that the international women's organisation, Associated Country Women of the World has approved. I am happy to hear that ACWW and its member organisations urge their governments all over

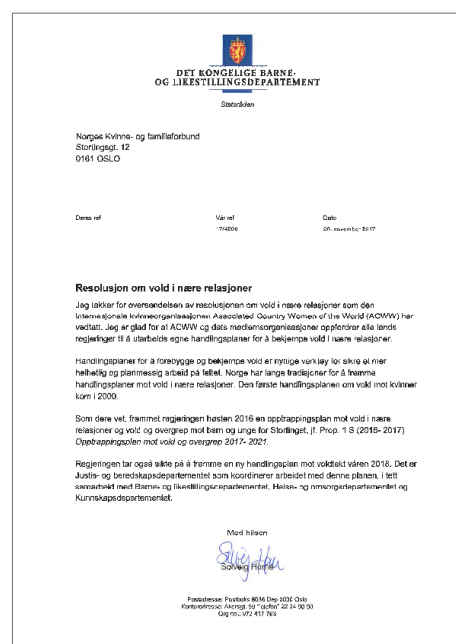
the world to produce plans of action to strive against domestic violence.

Plans of action to prevent and defeat violence are useful tools to ensure comprehensive and methodical work in this field. Norway has a long tradition for producing plans of action against domestic violence. The first plan of action for the prevention of violence against women dates from 2000.

As you know, in the autumn of 2016, this government introduced in a white paper, a new plan for increased action against domestic violence and child abuse. Prop 1 S (2016 -2017). Acceleration plan against Violence and Abuse. 2017-2021.

The government intends to introduce a new plan of action against rape in the spring of 2018. The Dept of Justice and Public Security are co-ordinating the work with this plan, in close association with the Dept of Children and Equality, the Dept of Health and Care Services, and the Dept. of Education and Research.

*Yours faithfully
Solveig Horne, Minister of Children & Equality*



Congratulations to Elisabeth, and all her colleagues in the Norwegian Women and Family Association for their efforts, and we hope that this example of impact will encourage ACWW members worldwide.

G.F. HANDEL MESSIAH

TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2018
18.30pm

Join ACWW and The Amadè Players in celebrating

International Women's Day

at St John's Smith Square, London

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT www.sjss.org.uk/events/handel-messiah-3

EDITOR'S NOTE

Nick Newland

Happy New Year! It seems that as I sit and type this, finishing the magazine before it is sent to print just before Christmas that 2017 has flown past. Of course, this time next year, I'm sure I'll be feeling the same about 2018, and we'll be preparing for the 29th Triennial Conference in Melbourne.

The office has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks, with our team now completed by UN and Agriculture Administrator Safia Roble. As many of you will have seen, just before Christmas we started sharing some videos on our Facebook pages from Area Presidents Maybel Moyo (Southern Africa) and Irene Chinje (East, West and Central Africa), World President Ruth Shanks and lastly our own video, sending you seasonal wishes from the Central Office staff.

We'll be doing more with video resources over the coming year, including making some report videos, and some that help cover issues relating to our advocacy and policy agenda. We hope that you will find these useful and that you'll be able to share them with your society members, friends and colleagues.

As ever, I welcome contributions to The Countrywoman, and send my thanks to all those who have sent in articles in 2017. We do try and include as many as possible, and I love reading your updates, articles and information. Please do keep sending in articles and photos, and remember to include your contact details with photographs. Please note that by sending us an article or photo you are indicating that you are happy for us to print them, and that the Editor's decision on acceptance is final. My email is nick@acww.org.uk

Please remember that if you are communicating with Central Office, we need a way to respond. This is easy with email, but if you writing through post, please ensure that you include a return address so we can reply. If you are moving house or change your email address, please also remember to let us know! One of the main reasons people contact us is to renew their memberships- please note that these renewals are due in January, and must be paid by the end of March at the latest. If you need assistance, please contact our Office Administrator Sydney Salter by emailing info@acww.org.uk

WE ARE OUT HERE

Pat Weitzmann, Friendship Links Coordinator, USA



It is a new calendar year. Like many of the volunteers in ACWW and its member societies around the world it is a time for a lookback and a look forward.

I became a Friendship Links Coordinator in 2017 because I believe in the value of friendship on a global basis. The members of ACWW are a fantastic resource of people who share many of the same interests and values in life, no matter where they live in the world. It is the connections part of the ACWW tag line "*Connects and Supports Women and Communities Worldwide*" that the coordinator position is all about.

When I look back to 2017, my experience as a Friendship Links Coordinator has included communicating with the other Coordinators and the Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee, Magdie de Kock; but also reaching out to ACWW member societies and members- contact has been through telephone calls, written correspondence, emails, in-person meetings and through attending conferences and branch meetings around the USA. I've had assistance from the USA Area President Jo Ellen Almond in promoting Friendship Links at society conferences around the country when I have been unable to attend myself. But most of all, my Lookback includes the wonderful process of linking or matching ACWW members with some interest or value in common. Hopefully it began their journey to a rewarding international friendship.

Connections like these were made: a woman with a crop producing farm in Illinois and a woman who raises show poultry in Australia; a Kentucky woman who enjoys piano playing, craft making, reading and volunteering with a woman in Scotland who enjoys reading, knitting, music and travel; a North Dakota woman who loves dogs, walking, spending time with friends connected with a Canadian woman who is into preventative medicine, very health conscious and "*Loves life and meeting new people*".

Looking forward in 2018, I have plans to expand my promotional efforts in the USA for the ACWW Friendship Links scheme, to continue to collaborate with my fellow friendship Links Coordinators worldwide, touch base with 'linked' members to see how they are doing, assist requesting and current participants however possible to make their Friendship Link a great experience.

The ACWW Friendship links scheme is the 'pen friend' programme of ACWW. It began in 1936 when mailing a letter through the land based postal service was the only available option. In today's world, communication with a pen friend can be through traditional handwritten letters or any number of Internet and phone based means. I invite the readers of this article to consider becoming a Friendship Links participant and recommending the same to their society members.

To get involved with Friendship Links, contact ACWW Central Office and they will connect you with your local Friendship Links Coordinator. The contact details are here:

ACWW
A04 Parkhall
40 Martell Road
London SE21 8EN
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7799 3875

Email: info@acww.org.uk

Always remember that ACWW is a network, first and foremost. We connect women all over the world, and Friendship Links is a crucial part of this. We are Out Here for You!

Pat Weitzmann, ACWW Friendship Links Coordinator – USA



Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW Connects and Supports Women and Communities Worldwide

APPLICATION FORM FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP OF ACWW (Category 5)

SECTION 1: CATEGORY 5

Membership Fees are due for renewal on 1st January each year

Category 5 members (formerly known as Category IVb):

- You are an individual interested in the work and activities of ACWW
- You may attend Triennial World Conferences and Area Conferences
- You will receive a copy of The Countrywoman Magazine each quarter, and an Annual Report

SECTION 2: CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure you inform ACWW Central Office if you change your contact details

DATE OF APPLICATION: New Member Renewal

TITLE: Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other

SURNAME / FAMILY NAME:

FIRST NAME(S)

POSTAL ADDRESS:

ZIP / POSTAL CODE: COUNTRY:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER: Please include country dialling code

CELLPHONE NUMBER: Please include country dialling code

DO YOU WANT TO RECIEVE THE ACWW E-NEWSLETTER? YES NO

DO YOU BELONG TO AN ACWW MEMBER SOCIETY? YES NO

IF YES, WHICH SOCIETY:

SECTION 3: PAYMENT

1 Year = £25 + Bank Charges / 3 Years = £65 plus Bank Charges

HOW ARE YOU PAYING? Cheque Made payable to ACWW Credit / Debit Card
 Online Payment Bank Transfer

I AM PAYING FOR: 1 YEAR 3 YEARS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: EXPIRY:

CSV: 3 digits on the back of the card

Notes on Payment

- This is a 4% charge levied by the Bank for payment by Credit Cards, and £0.99 charge for Visa Debit Cards
- ACWW processes personal data in line with the Data Protection (2010) Act and does not store Card details after payment is made
- If paying by Online methods or bank transfer, please include your name as a reference so we can track payments

Please send your completed application form and fee to:

ACWW Central Office

A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road London SE21 9EN United Kingdom
W. www.acww.org.uk T. +44 (0)20 7799 3875 E. info@acww.org.uk



#WeAreACWW



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