



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

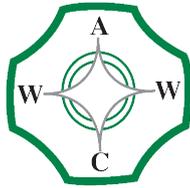
28<sup>th</sup> TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
17-23 AUGUST 2016 UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, UK

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# TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF ACWW







**ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD**  
**28th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE**  
**University of Warwick, United Kingdom 17-23 August 2016**

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Associated Country Women of the World  
Mary Sumner House  
24 Tufton Street  
London SW1P 3RB

Registered Charity no. 290367

Telephone: +44 (0)207 7993875

Email: [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

Website: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)



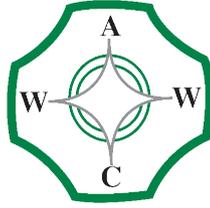
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## ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

### OFFICERS 2013-2016

WORLD PRESIDENT	Mrs Ruth Shanks, AM (Australia)
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Mrs Margaret Yetman (Canada)
SECRETARY	Mrs Henrietta Schoeman (South Africa)
TREASURER	Mrs Alison Burnett (Wales)
AREA PRESIDENTS	
Canada	Mrs Sheila Needham (Canada)
Caribbean, Central and South America	Mrs Dotsie Gordon (Jamaica)
Central and South Asia	Professor Momtaz Begum (Bangladesh)
East, West and Central Africa	Mrs Angela Njugabui Njezeh (Cameroon)
Europe	Mrs Valerie Stevens (England)
South-East Asia and Far East	HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia (Malaysia)
Southern Africa	Mrs Maybel Moyo (Zimbabwe)
The South Pacific	Mrs Margaret Mary Sullivan (Australia)
The United States of America	Mrs Beverly Earnhart (United States of America)
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Agriculture	Mrs Margaret Yetman
Communications & Marketing	Mrs Magdie de Kock
Finance	Mrs Alison Burnett
Projects	Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad
Triennial Conference	Mrs Henrietta Schoeman
United Nations	Sharon Hatten

### CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

OPERATIONS MANAGER	Ms Tish Collins
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	Mr Nick Newland
PROJECTS ADMINISTRATORS	Mrs Juliet Childs Mrs Sarah Kenningham
UN AND AGRICULTURE ADMINISTRATOR	Dr Sam Page
FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT	Mrs Manisha Vora
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Ms Helena Alty

## World President's Report - Mrs Ruth Shanks, AM (Australia)

2013-2016 has been a time of triumphs and achievements, but has also presented some challenges, most of which we have overcome and has made us stronger. This organisation is an amazing collection of wonderful women and the more one has the chance to interact with women from all walks of life, the more noticeable this is. Each Triennium a different theme is chosen and each one, at the time, becomes very relevant to an era. The theme for this triennium "*Working Together for a Better Future*" has, in itself, brought focus to the work we do in many areas of the world, providing skills, advocacy, partnerships, community developments and sharing of knowledge to equip women and children to take their place, in, not only their own world, but also in the wider world. It is a huge struggle for anyone at this time, to look to and have faith in the future, but with assistance from many areas, we hope to provide a brighter future.

A very successful 27th Triennial Conference was held in Chennai, India in September 2013 with a number of resolutions and recommendations agreed to, which our Member Societies were urged to work with their governments and other relevant bodies to make changes in the International arena.

The Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Constitution and to look at the legal structure of ACWW has worked very hard, in consultation with our lawyers, and as you can see, there is a resolution on the Conference Agenda as a result of this work. This was quite a task and a very necessary process to ensure the adherence to Charity Laws of England and Wales, and also to make ACWW a legal entity in its own right, thereby limiting the liability of not only the Trustees, but also Member Societies.

ACWW Specified Committees all have a very significant role to play within our framework and it is due to the diligence of the Chairmen, and the selflessness of the committee members, who attend meetings at their own expense, that we can report significant activities and successes throughout the Triennium.

**Communications and Marketing Committee:** The change of name from Promotions and Publications Committee to Communications and Marketing Committee reflected the diverse range of areas with which this Committee is involved. We have a far-reaching audience through our extension into 'social media' and this can only further assist us with 'getting our name out there' and hopefully become one of the better known charities. Through *The Countrywoman* Magazine, with the addition of our E-newsletters, use of email contacts etc., information is being distributed far and wide and in a much better time frame, so that by the time the Member Societies and Members receive the details, answers and information can be collected and collated to be used for promotion and reporting to various agencies in 'real time'. Most publications have been updated and made more relevant for what we do.

**Projects Committee:** Achievements, projects, and impacts are an important part of our role in the world and the significance of this area cannot be underestimated.

### Some 2013/2014 statistics -

- 37,781 women and children have been directly supported by our Projects Programme
- 434 women farmers have benefitted from agricultural projects, increasing knowledge, sharing techniques and improving yields
- 7455 men, women and children benefitting from water and sanitation projects, with reliable supplies of clean, fresh water.
- 48,000 additional family members from 12,021 families have been reached by our financial support of projects

**Finance Committee:** It is hard to make finances an attractive subject to report on, but without financial help from the Member Societies and Members around the world, we would not exist. In this world there are 'givers and receivers' and one helps the others, and this all 'makes the world go round'. This committee oversee the income and expenditure as a whole, but also plan and promote fundraising efforts (in conjunction with the Communications and Marketing Committee) at the World level.

**Agriculture Committee:** This committee approach ACWW's involvement with agriculture in many ways, and most importantly have a connection and work with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) part of the UN. 2014 was celebrated as the UN Year of Family Farming and this formed part of the ACWW Statement for International Day of Rural Women. Statements have been issued in 2013 and 2014 also recognizing World Food Day and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Recognition of 2016 as the UN International Year of Pulses has been a central part of the agenda in the past few months.

The **ACWW United Nations Committee**, through its members and our ACWW representatives to the UN, continues to support, promote and encourage participation of our Member Societies with the UN, and to disseminate information about relevant developments. The Millennium Development Goals have been a recent focus of the UN Committee and this has now moved onto the Sustainable Development Goals, which will form the agenda for the UN for 2016-2030.

The **Triennial Conference Committee** has been very diligent in making preparations for the 28th Triennial Conference to be held at the University of Warwick, Coventry, England and have engaged with the local Hostess Committee to ensure this is a great success.

ACWW committed to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Zero Hunger Challenge. I signed this commitment on 10 June 2015, and ACWW has begun monitoring projects in terms of Zero Hunger Challenge criteria – this can be seen on the Agriculture and Zero Hunger Challenge pages of the new website.

**Central Office Staff:** The work at Central Office remains the core of our Association and the staff are an integral part of this work. There have been quite a number of changes during this Triennium, but through it all, the process of work and obligations for us as an organisation have been continued and this is, in short, due to the commitment of the staff and their obvious enjoyment and support for our work.

### The Board

- During this Triennium the Board met five times and monitored the overall work of ACWW.
- Agreed the Triennial Conference theme would be "Working Together for a Better Future"
- Agreed to the name change of the Promotions and Publications Committee to Communications and Marketing Committee, which more correctly focuses on the work that committee does.
- Published a Cookery Book called "The Country Woman's Kitchen" containing 87 recipes for 87 years of ACWW.
- Lady Aberdeen and Elsie Zimmern Scholarships Funds have not been used this Triennium and maybe thoughts need to be directed as to how best to implement these Trust funds.
- The Nini Isabel Stewart Fund has been accessed to enable a representative from Malaysia to attend the 28th Triennial Conference.
- The use of tablet computers for the Board members was trialled as they had worked successfully in Committees, but the initial IT capabilities of the Mary Sumner House building made this impractical – the Central Office staff are working to develop the IT capabilities and this will be implemented for the forthcoming board meetings in October.
- The Area Presidents are some of the most important people in ACWW, and therefore at each of the Board meetings, training has been held for them and the participants have been very happy with the support and assistance given to them. These are the members of the Board who are those on the ground, out in the field and the face of ACWW in all 9 Areas of the world.
- We have reviewed the Board Members Handbook and various other documents and brought them up to date.
- The Executive
- The Executive has continued to meet three times a year and carry on the administrative role between Board meetings.
- The initiative was taken this Triennium to hold some Specified Committee meetings concurrently with other Committees to enable and encourage involvement of committee members for not only their committee but other portions of the work of ACWW. This has been very successful and accepted well by the members.
- In the latter part of the Triennium we trialled the use of tablet PC in some of the Specified Committee meetings and have now purchased these tablets for the use of the committee and Board members, thus reducing the need for them to carry large loads of paperwork to and from London. These have worked well in smaller committees and, as noted above, their use in the full Board is being developed.

### 2013

On my return after the 27th Triennial Conference in Chennai, I was afforded a civic reception by the Mayor of Dubbo, Matthew Dickerson, in recognition of my election as the World President, then it seemed no time at all before I was back at Central Office for the first Committee meetings of the new Triennium. This was also a time of getting to 'know the ropes' and meeting new Committee Members as, even though I had been a member of the Board, I had not been a member of the Executive- all went well.

### 2014

January saw me invited to represent ACWW at a local celebration on Australia Day, which is a big day in all Australian communities. Governance Training and a Strategic Planning Workshop were held as part of the Board Meeting in March, in a bid to set the course for this Triennium. On the way home from London I travelled to New York with the Chair of the UN Committee, Sharon Hatten, where we attended a number of UN meetings and also some side events. This was a good experience and we had the opportunity to network with other like-minded individuals and to see how the UN works. I wondered after this as to how we could become more involved with UN Women and we are still working on this process. The European Area Conference, which was held in Bergen, Norway, was the next port of call and this was an excellent Area conference with approximately 90 delegates from many societies in the European Area. This was an interesting conference with good engagement from Government and well organised by the Norwegian Women and Family Association. I also had a visit to Oslo and the offices of Norwegian Women and Family Association. I was invited to attend and open the Country

Women's Association of New South Wales, Australia Annual Conference in May. There were approximately 550 voting delegates with about 200 other members in attendance. The High Commissioner of Botswana was in attendance as this was the country we were studying. This is the association of which I am a member and I was very honoured to take up this invitation. Mrs Jenny Mitchell, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution and Mrs Suzanne Garrett from the UN committee, were both present. Subsequently I spoke to approximately 25 students aged 10-11, at a local school and the subject of the talk was working with the UN.

In June I attended two society conferences in Canada. Firstly in Kelowna BC for the British Columbia WI convention, where there were approximately 90 members in attendance. I was joined there by Mrs Marie Kenny, President of the FWI Canada, and also Mrs Sheila Needham, the Canadian Area President. We then flew to Edmonton and travelled to Camrose for the Alberta WI Provincial Convention. Immediately following this convention, the Canadian Area Conference was also held in Camrose. Deputy President Mrs Margaret Yetman also joined us for this conference with approximately 100 attendees. There were two societies who attended after having been absent for some time. It is really great to see and understand how people in different areas organise their Area conferences, but at all times the best interests of ACWW are always at the heart of the organisation. In the same trip I then continued onto London with Mrs Margaret Yetman for Finance and Executive meetings and then travelled to South Africa with Secretary and chair of the TCC committee, Mrs Henrietta Schoeman, to attend the Southern Africa Area Conference. This was held in Nylstroom, South Africa. This again was well thought out, with great speakers and much fun and friendship was enjoyed by all.

In July I travelled to Perth Western Australia, to help the CWA of Western Australia celebrate their 90th Anniversary. As the South Pacific Area Conference was to be held in Dubbo, NSW (where I live) I was part of the organising committee as well as an invited guest (and I did not have far to travel!!) There were more than 200 members in attendance (with some 30 husbands and/or partners) and a pre-conference workshop was held for the island delegates from Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Fiji. This workshop was funded by CWA of NSW and very inspiring for these women. A very inspirational speaker told the conference of ways the Clontarf Foundation are working with young aboriginal youths to encourage their attendance and participation in senior school. I then attended and spoke at a function at the Charles Sturt University Dubbo Campus and this was the first time a woman had been invited to address the meeting.

Combined with the trip to London for Committee/Executive meetings in October was a "Tea Time" event with representatives of the charity Salt of the Earth (SOTE) held at the office and then it was on to speak in Northern Ireland. This was the council meeting of the Northern Ireland Women's Institute and there were many interested members and we also met up with the Past World President Mrs Hilda Stewart.

In late October I had some local speaking engagements and then travelled up to Queensland for the QCWA AGM. November saw a visit to New Zealand for the AGM of Rural Women New Zealand. The Area President for South East Asia and the Far East, HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia visited Dubbo for about 24 hours and managed to speak with two branches of CWA of NSW and the members were delighted to welcome her and enjoyed the very down to earth opportunity to talk with her and her assistant Hamimah. There was then another visit to celebrate 90 years of service to the community for Millthorpe branch of CWA of NSW, where there were about 70 in attendance- all keen to hear about ACWW. My family and I attended a special function where I was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for my work with ACWW.

## 2015

In early January I set off for India, to be met by Sr Viji in Chennai and stayed overnight with the sisters from DMI. We then flew to Hyderabad and another 2 ½ hour drive to stay the night and monitor a tailoring project funded by ACWW. There were approximately 2000 women from self-help groups in the area who attended the welcome function and it is when you are speaking with women like these that you really get to see and realise how much good ACWW does in many parts of the world. Then an 8 ½ hour over-night bus trip to Kadapah to monitor a Vermiculture Project and a further 10 hour train trip back to Chennai. We also visited a project on the outskirts of Chennai where the DMI have been working in the quarry areas. Kolkata was the next port of call to attend the 90th Anniversary celebration for the Saroj Nalini Dutt organisation, which was one of the original members of ACWW, and included one of our Past Presidents, Mrs Aroti Dutt. We also monitored a project which was run by CWA of India, also at Mirpur. Late January again saw me at a function to celebrate Australia Day in a very small community of about 200 people- a great contrast to Kolkata which has many millions.

February saw another visit to Queensland for a QCWA International school and then a few days later a visit to Canberra for CWA of NSW International Weekend. These societies study a different country each year and have a weekend early in the year to provide resource material and information for their members. They have always made time for me to present information about ACWW and I thank them wholeheartedly for this opportunity to expand the knowledge of the members about our work. On the day I was to leave Australia for London for the next lot of meetings, I was awarded a "Regional Woman of the Year" Award and attended a function at Government House in Sydney. After the flight, I paid a visit to the Gwent Federation of WI's in Wales, with the Treasurer Alison Burnett, and then I travelled to Scarborough to attend the North Yorkshire East Autumn Council meeting.

The June visit to London saw an invitation to attend the Centenary AGM of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Royal Albert Hall. This was a grand occasion as Her Majesty the Queen was in attendance at this function. It was amazing to be in the presence of approximately 5000 members and when they sang the WI anthem 'Jerusalem' it was quite overwhelming. On the way home, I attended the Caribbean, Central and South America Area Conference in Kingston, Jamaica. I have seen at first-hand how difficult it is in this and other Areas for the members to travel to attend Area Conferences. As there were a number of societies who were not able to be there, it was suggested that they hold a Skype meeting to enable all societies to make decisions on behalf of the area.

Amazingly, I had most of July at home with the family and then travelled in September to Tulsa, Oklahoma to attend the USA Area Meeting in conjunction with the AGM of the Country Women's Council. This meeting was well attended and there were some very interesting speakers which gave us much food for thought, sometimes challenging and always interesting. Then again it was back to London from USA for the usual meetings. At this time, the Executive attended a function organised by the UK UN association to celebrate 70 years of the UN- significant, as ACWW has been associated with the UN for 68 years. Panel discussions and deliberations were held regarding the process of election of the new Secretary General of the UN.

Instead of going directly home, I attended the South East Asia and the Far East Area Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. There were approximately 200 attendees and it was a very different conference but very interesting. I also visited some of the areas of work where the Area President, HRH Princess Azizah is involved and she is an amazing and inspiring woman. I attended these celebrations accompanied by Henrietta Schoeman (Secretary) and Alison Burnett (Treasurer). Princess Azizah then accompanied me on a visit to Indonesia (to the PERAWI Association) and then on to Brunei where we visited a number of societies and met with many women and children who told us of the work they do. We had a royal invitation to visit the Queen of Brunei and she was very interested in the work of ACWW and she follows the work of the Brunei WI's with interest as well.

In November I undertook a visit to New Zealand for the Rural Women New Zealand AGM (which was held in the town where my father was born); I was then able to spend some time at home and celebrate Christmas with my family.

## 2016

February again saw a trip to Canberra for the CWA of NSW International meeting and this time, as they were studying Mongolia, I was able to tell them some information about some projects that ACWW had funded over the years and also of the current project being carried out.

On my way to London in March for the Committee/Board meetings I was invited to attend a function in a small community in the Hunter Valley in NSW. This was a community event which attracted about 90 women, who had nothing to do with CWA. This day was organised by the Paterson Branch of CWA and the day was shared with an organisation called "Day for Girls". This was a very successful day and resulted in a donation of £400 to ACWW and also a donation to the other charity. I then attended the opening of a new Office Building for CWA of NSW in Sydney and flew to London the following day. During these two weeks, I met with the Governor of NSW twice and he and his wife were very interested in the work of ACWW.

Whilst in London, ACWW held a musical concert on 8th March, to celebrate International Women's Day, which was a first and hopefully not the last. We also hosted an ACWW Information Day at Denman College, the residential college of the NFWI. This was a trial event and it was sold out, so we are looking at holding similar events in the UK and elsewhere in the future. We had an extra attraction this time as HRH Princess Azizah carried out a cooking demonstration which was an interesting addition to the day. At this time, we were also producing the cookery book "The Countrywoman's Kitchen". We published this in time for the International Women's Day event and then the remainder will be available at the 28th Triennial Conference at the University of Warwick.

On the way home from London I visited Papua New Guinea, to monitor some projects and also to open a new Pre-School where money had been supplied by the societies in the South Pacific Area for two water tanks to be attached to the school. I also opened a new Resource Centre in a new area of Papua New Guinea where there had not been any resources for women. A dinner was arranged in Port Moresby which was attended by the Prime Minister's wife and women from other organisations in PNG. This was the first time a World President had visited the country.

In April I attended a Domestic Violence Workshop which had been funded by CWA of NSW and was mainly for those working at the frontline of the problem, and these workshops were held all around NSW.

Early May again saw me attend the CWA of NSW AGM in Cowra, NSW and a couple of local speaking engagements. Then it was back to London in June for meetings and I again attended the AGM of the NFWI in Brighton.

At this time Central Office was really buzzing with work for the Triennial Conference. During the last Triennium, almost all of the Central Office staff have changed, meaning that only one member had experience of previous ACWW Triennial

Conferences. The learning curve has been steep, but the hardworking and enthusiastic staff are tackling each stage of the process with attention to detail and energy.

This has been an eventful Triennium and I have been honoured to have the privilege to be the President for this time. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Margaret, Alison and Henrietta, for their support and nurturing over this time. I would also like to thank the other members of the Board, (the Committee Chairs and the Area Presidents) for being part of a cohesive Board who are working for the good of ACWW and not for themselves.

I would also like to thank you, the members, who are the voice of ACWW and without you we would not have an organisation to work with the many women and their families around the world who rely on our help.

Don't let anyone ever tell you you're not wonderful; beauty and grace come from deep inside and light the fire in your eyes. Gentleness and curiosity have seen you become wise, don't be full of fear. Open up to your senses and surroundings, be blessed throughout your years.

You only have this one life, so use it for what you see fit, and remember: You are You!!!

## Central Office Report - Ms Tish Collins

The Triennium began with Ms Lisa Barker as Operations Manager. In May 2014, Ms Tish Collins BA Hons, MSc (Agricultural Economics) was appointed as the new Operations Manager. In recent years, there has been a relatively high turnover of staff, as long-serving people retired and some of the newer recruits moved on to other jobs. The Central Office team consists of 8, of whom three are full-time. There is currently a vacancy for the post of Finance Manager, as Mr Amit Patel retired for health reasons in May 2016.

Operations Manager	Ms Tish Collins
Finance Manager	Vacant
Media & Communications Manager	Mr Nick Newland
Projects Administrators	Mrs Juliet Childs and Mrs Sarah Kenningham
United Nations & Agriculture Administrator	Dr Sam Page
Finance & Membership Assistant	Mrs Manisha Vora
Office Administrator	Ms Helena Alty

I would like to extend my thanks to all the Central Office staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment, particularly in preparation for the Triennial Conference.

**Membership:** The number of members in each Category at the beginning of June 2016 is as follows:

Membership Type	2016	2013	2010
Category I Society	112	115	103
Category II Society	87	100	100
Category III Society	38	37	38
Category IVa Society	175	199	207
Category IVb (individual members)	1835	1503	1375
Life Members	382	429*	1073

\* (following contact exercise to re-connect with Life Members)

**Communications:** There is an increasing use of email rather than post between Central Office and members, which increases the speed of communication and can save paper and the environment. Committee meetings have begun using tablet computers for documents and some members attending via Skype, which also saves financial resources.

## Deputy President's Report - Mrs Margaret Yetman (Canada)

It has been a privilege for me to serve as ACWW Deputy President 2013-2016. The responsibilities of the Deputy President are to support the President in her work and to be Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. My term of office has been very much a learning and challenging experience. I was privileged to work with the competent, dedicated and considerate World President, Ruth Shanks. It was obvious from the onset of the triennium that Ruth would be a team player, and that the Executive would work well together as a team; this indeed was the case, resulting in a positive experience for me as Deputy.

ACWW is living in challenging times but we will meet the many challenges ahead and continue 'Working Together for a Better Future'. During the triennium, there were several changes in Central Office staff, leading to some exciting opportunities for new growth and development, alongside updates in computer and technology systems at Central Office.

I would like to share with you some highlights of my term as Deputy President that contributed to having such a positive and rewarding experience during the past three years.

**Canada Area Conference 2014:** It was my pleasure to be joined with the World President, Ruth Shanks; Past World President, Dr. Ellen McLean; USA Area President, Beverly Earnhart; and three ACWW Committee members; Christine Reaburn, Joan Brady, and Lynn MacLean at the Canada Area Conference held in Camrose, AB. This very well-planned Conference was hosted by the Alberta Women's Institutes. The theme for the Conference was 'Working Together for a Better Future'. ACWW representatives attending the conference gave an overview of ACWW's work, and a highlight of the conference were the 'Round the World Table Discussions', whereby ideas were shared with a view to promote women 'Motivating the Future'. The members decided to undertake funding for two ACWW projects in India.

**Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Convention 2015:** The Convention was held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in June 2015 with the theme 'Planting Seeds of Change'. It was a pleasure to be joined by Canada Area President, Sheila Needham, to represent ACWW. ACWW Committee members Lynn MacLean (TCC), Christine Reaburn (Agriculture), and Judith Parks (Pen Friend Scheme Co-ordinator/Canada) were in attendance. I would like to thank Marie Kenny, FWIC President, for providing time on their convention Programme agenda for a presentation on the work of ACWW. There were also numerous workshops, variety of speakers, displays, competitions, crafts, and more. A special 'thank you' to the delegates for their generous collection of Pennies for Friendship. It was an enlightening convention and I was delighted to witness first-hand the interest and financial support shown by the members in assisting ACWW to carry out its work.

**ACWW/CWC Area Conference:** The Area Conference event was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, 20th-22nd September 2015. Along with the World President, ACWW Secretary, and ACWW Canada Area President, I was pleased to attend this event and to join in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Country Women's Council. It was wonderful to see how ACWW and CWC work together to make the world a better place for women and families. The speakers at the conference stressed the impact that all of us can make in the lives of others and the importance of taking care of our own health and well-being.

**National Federation of Women's Institutes:** In March 2015, along with other Executive members, I had the pleasure to visit the NFWI Head Office located in London, United Kingdom. We were kindly welcomed by the NFWI Chair, Janice Langley, and given a tour of their office building, as well as a discussion about how the two organisations could collaborate in future.

**London West End WI, UK:** In October 2014, along with Executive members and Heather Brennan, ACWW Finance Committee member, I had the pleasure to visit the London West WI of which Tish Collins, Operations Manager, is a member. I was surprised and delighted to meet Annemarie McDonald from Silver-Wood Branch, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, who was vacationing and thought to visit the same WI branch that same evening. I had known Annemarie from attending WI conventions and Canada Area conferences. During the evening, we heard a brief talk about the 'Pig Pledge', a campaign against factory farming, as well as a very entertaining account of ghosts associated with the Bloomsbury area of London.

**NLWI (Canada):** It was a pleasure for me to carry out ACWW activities within my own Society of the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes, Canada. These activities included ACWW presentations at local District and Branch meetings, presentations on ACWW's affiliation with the United Nations, Women Walk the World events, bringing ACWW greetings at the annual Government House celebrations for WI Week, and attendance at NLWI Triennial Convention, 13-15 May 2016.

**Denman College:** I was privileged to attend the ACWW Information Day at Denman College in Oxfordshire, England on 12 March 2016. It was a very successful and enjoyable day. Information relating to the work of ACWW was shared with WI members from around the UK.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the World President, Executive and Board, members, and staff at Central Office for their co-operation and kindness during the triennium. Last but not least, I wish to thank my own society, the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes and all its members for the full support extended to me during the past three years. I am proud and honoured to have served ACWW during the triennium as Deputy President and have every confidence that ACWW will continue planting seeds with its work of 'Women Working Together for a Better Future'.

## Secretary's Report - Mrs Henrietta Schoeman (South Africa)

We all left Chennai in India with a smile after a successful event but also realising that the next Triennial Conference in the United Kingdom would be our responsibility. With only one committee member having had experience of the workings of the TCC, we knew we had a huge task ahead of us.

The committee members for the 2013-2016 period were Henrietta Schoeman (South Africa) as chair, Christine Trewick (England) as vice-chair as well as Lynn McLean (Canada) and Afrodita Roman (Romania). The hostess society, the West Midlands FWI, were represented by Jackie Gregory.

There is a specific plan according to which the upcoming conferences are planned. This includes the sending of mail outs (the Conference Circulars) to all societies with all relevant information and due dates. The cover of these Circulars were updated by our very efficient Digital and Print Media Manager, Jennifer Atigolo. A word of thanks and appreciation to her for all the time and effort she put in.

The hostess society came up with the ideas for the 2016 Conference badge. We hope you will enjoy wearing the one we chose. They also created a website which was then linked to the ACWW website and all information was made available here. The Registration Form was updated to include all possibilities of accommodation, tours and day visits. With the assistance and suggestions from the Treasurer and the Finance Committee, we were able to lower the fee for the 2016 ACWW Conference. We hope that this will encourage members to attend this very informative event.

The Excursion Day was moved to the end of the Triennial Conference so that attendees have a choice whether to join the tour or not, also saving on costs.

If a committee member could not attend a meeting in London, we had her join us via Skype (the handy online video-calling application)- that way everybody's input was guaranteed. We also visited the University of Warwick where we could put questions to the people there responsible for arranging conferences. The site visit was important as many issues could then be identified and addressed.

The Ad-Hoc committee on Resolutions and Recommendations met and all resolutions received were discussed. Some were amalgamated and some were not accepted for various reasons. Thanks to the societies that took the time and effort to submit resolutions. As the Conference is the voice of rural women, it is important that issues be discussed and followed through.

Roma Patten will again serve as Returning Officer during the 2016 ACWW Conference. She will be shadowed and assisted by a member from Australia, Dorothy Coombs, in preparation for the 2019 Conference in Melbourne.

A Pre-Conference Workshop, arranged by ACWW, will also take place and promises to be informative and interesting. The many aspects surrounding the organising of a conference of this magnitude call for inputs from many groups and volunteers. TCC members, staff members in the ACWW office, the hostess society as well as the Executive members all contribute to a successful event in the end. They all help in planning the program, getting speakers, allocating rooms, discussing voting procedures, getting the circulars out in time, processing of information received from members and societies, planning tours and entertainment, keeping websites updated, flag parades, meeting and greeting, and so much more. A simple thank you sounds so inadequate for all this work, but the TCC members want to thank all involved. No event can be successful without a great team working together.

With internet it is easier and faster to address problems and the staff in the office were so helpful in this. Tish Collins, Poonam Gill, Nick Newland and Helena Alty- thank you.

Thank you to all the ACWW members for letting me have this opportunity to serve as TCC chair. It was something I will never forget. Every person I met and every task I completed enriched my life.

## Treasurer's Report - Mrs Alison Burnett (Wales)

As Treasurer of ACWW I am a member of the Board, the Executive and Chairman of the Finance Committee. As Treasurer, I have the responsibility of being aware of the total finances – Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds and making sure we are following the Charity Commission rules and remaining solvent. As Chairman of the Finance Committee I deal more with the Unrestricted Funds on a day to day basis making sure we have enough money to pay our staff and all our expenses.

The Finance Committee in the triennium 2014-16 consisted of Mrs Ros Cooper (England), Mrs Margaret McMillan (Northern Ireland) and Mrs Heather Brennan (Australia). Throughout the triennium we have continued to keep our eyes on the overall costs and now that we have finally managed to get email addresses for 90% of member societies, we have reduced our postage costs drastically. Our monthly e-newsletter goes to 2000 people, who may or may not be ACWW members, which helps greatly to get our message out and at no cost to ACWW.

In 2015 Harlequin was installed as our database and accounting package, this will allow us to have more data at our fingertips which will allow ACWW to react much more quickly when opportunities arise to apply for outside funding.

Mr Amit Patel, our Finance Manager very recently retired due to ill health and we are in the process of finding his replacement. Miss Jen Atiligo also left recently but we have been very fortunate to be able to have the services of Mr Nick Newland who had been helping voluntarily with the computer system and had all the qualifications to step into the Editor and Communications and Media position that was held by Jen. In his first few weeks Nick produced 2 cookery books, one for our Denman Day and one which will be on sale at the conference. He has also managed to create a new website for ACWW, find much cheaper printing costs for our magazine, updated our magazine layout and organised and produced a successful fundraising concert – what it is to be young and enthusiastic! So he has managed to raise funds and reduce costs: Just what we need for ACWW!

Getting the Board to agree to reducing costs is not always easy, but a milestone for the Finance committee was reached at the last Board meeting when, for the first time, all our recommendations were accepted!

- To help the future viability of ACWW and to encourage new members and outside funding we have to look at our record keeping and data collection.
- To reduce the costs of bringing the Board and Committee Chairmen to their meetings, it was agreed that we would look at each of the expenses. Unfortunately in London accommodation and travel does not get cheaper over the years.
- Projects were also looked at. The main problem being that a project is agreed in one financial year but the 'adopters' may not raise enough funds until a later financial period. However, the auditors have to 'balance the books' in the year the projects were approved.
- To make the figures presented at the Triennial Conference more meaningful it was agreed that at the 2016 Triennial conference the Treasurer will present the annual accounts for 2013, 2014 and 2015 and the Budget for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

I would like to thank ALL the members who have donated to the work of ACWW in any way – Pennies for Friendship, Legacies, Donations, Fundraising, Project Funding, Women Walk the World, Tea for 2, Jewellery, Just Giving, Gift Aid and the Giving Machine etc. Without your financial support we would not be able to carry out the aims of ACWW – helping women throughout the world. Please encourage your fellow society members, friends to become individual members and keep ACWW going.

Huge thanks to the finance committee for working with me throughout the last 3 years and in some cases 6 years, Tish, Amit and Manisha and more recently Nick for all your help – it has been a pleasure working with you all.

# AREA PRESIDENT REPORTS

## Canada - Mrs Sheila Needham (Canada)

The country of Canada is one of the 9 Areas of ACWW in and of itself. To hold the position of Area President during this triennium has been a great honour and a big responsibility; not to be taken lightly, but certainly to be enjoyed and involved in whole-heartedly with vigour and enthusiasm! Thank you for the opportunity.

There are 13 Category I Societies, 1 each of Category II and III Societies and 2 Category IVa Societies as well as over 450 ACWW Individual members and numerous Life Members.

By the time this report is printed I will have visited 12 of the Societies who have welcomed me to their part of Canada and allowed me time to speak about ACWW and have shown their vigorous enthusiasm for ACWW by donating to the various ACWW funds and also very importantly to Pennies for Friendship.

We have societies that are involved in farming and they work to improve the ideal conditions to grow Canada's food so that there is enough healthy produce and livestock to accommodate our citizens as well as people in other parts of the world.

We have societies that are very community based and form the backbone of community volunteer organizations and we have societies that are very large and spread across all of Canada and a very large membership in one society that is only found in one or two areas of Canada.

Each society and the members face challenges that might be familiar to other Areas, and that is to increase membership and communication within that membership as well as with ACWW and the ACWW Area President.

To broaden the scope of knowledge about ACWW, a Canada Area Conference was held in 2014 in Camrose, Alberta where we were privileged to gather together along with the World President Ruth Shanks; Deputy President, Margaret Yetman; Past World President, Dr. Ellen McLean and USA Area President, Beverly Earnhart as well as Elizabeth Rushton, a Past Canada Area President.

The Theme was 'Women Motivating the Future' and as the conference progressed with speakers and workshop discussion groups, this was exactly the end result. We left inspired to continue the awesome work of ACWW and our dedication to helping other women around the world.

At this conference, Canada Area proposed to adopt two ACWW projects to support; both involved training women in India to make saleable goods and to learn to micromanage a loan; gain knowledge of good business practice and to have an income that would help support themselves and their families. I am very pleased to report that thanks to the generosity of Canadian members, our financial obligation to these projects was met 5 months before the end of this triennium!

Following an interview for a local newspaper I took part in a radio interview which is available on the website. I attended and brought greetings to the USA Area meeting held in Tulsa, Oklahoma and I also try to send greetings of friendship from Canada to other Areas holding conferences.

Regularly I send out newsletters by email and on the website to keep members informed and I also keep in touch with our 4 members who are currently serving on ACWW committees: Joan Brady, NFU; Christine Reaburn, FWIO; Lynn MacLean, WINS and Donna Jebb, FWIO. I extend congratulations to Sharon Hatten, Chair of UN Committee as she finishes her second term and to Margaret Yetman, who is serving as Deputy President.

Thank you to the members of Canada Area for your support during my term as Area President and for your generous donations of time and money to ACWW.

**'Everybody bears his age, his stone and his tools so to build his village, his city and his country!'**

I would add that the meaning could pertain to members of ACWW and that each of us brings what we have to offer in the way of our age and experience and our talents in order to build our communities, our country; if we use these tools well, the results are reflected in warm and caring communities, a strong country and being able to share this strength with the world and other peoples.

## Caribbean, Central and South America - Mrs Dotsie Gordon (Jamaica)

It is with a sense of pride and humility that I present this report. When I was nominated Area President for the Caribbean, Central and South America at the 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Chennai, India 26 September–2 October 2013, I acknowledged the challenges of this new assignment.

We welcomed Mrs. Rose Ragbansee, immediate past Area President on a visit to Jamaica to pass on responsibilities to me since I did not attend the Triennium in Chennai.

In my quest to understand my responsibilities I researched the website, magazines and whatever updates I could find to assist me in this “Project”. I then introduced Project Management Skills by first identifying the people in my area and try to open the lines of communication through emails supplied by London Office. The Administrative Staff were ever so supportive and it was always a pleasure to make contact by telephone.

My first visit to Board Meeting in London in March 2014 was motivating to meet and share in discussions on the running of this great organisation – ACWW. I felt ever so welcomed and took on the mammoth task of seeking funding from UNESCO under the 2014-2015 Participation Programme for our Area Conference 11-12, June 2015. The theme was “Working with Women Worldwide for Sustainable Development in Homes and Country”. The Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston was the venue and we were delighted to have had World President Ruth Shanks, Treasurer Allison Burnett, past Area President Margaret Browne of the Trinidad and Tobago W.I., Mrs. Gloria Copeland – President, Mesdames Jean Grant, Inez Phillip and Joan Esdelle of the Trinidad and Tobago W.I. in attendance.

The Jamaica Federation of Women also celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon on 11 June 2015 to coincide with the Area Conference. It is my wish that we will be able to participate annually in the “Women Walk the World” fundraising walk on ACWW Day, April 29 thus contributing to funding ACWW and observe “Tea Time” annually on Rural Women’s Day, October 15.

Let me express our appreciation for the coverage in the Country Woman on several occasions for the Jamaica Federation of Women as well as the Trinidad and Tobago Federated Women’s Institute, Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana Federation of Women’s Institute.

Our request for funding from UNESCO was not approved early enough for a June conference hence we agreed to stage a 3 day conference/workshop for 18-20 November 2015 at the same venue with the theme being “Sustainable Development for Homes, Communities and Country”. We were very satisfied with the hands-on approach and very grateful for the UNESCO funding. Participants came from branches of the Jamaica Federation of Women and we hosted Mrs. Prematee Ramnarine, Secretary Trinidad and Tobago F.W.I., Mrs. Sylvia Seecharan of the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago and Miss Mary Ince of the Grenada Homemakers Association.

Contact with members in my area up to now still remains elusive because most times emails and telephone numbers are listed for both organisation and individual members through third parties. I shall be investigating how best to resolve this issue and make every effort to dialogue with members for improvement.

The islands and territories covered by my area are: Brazil, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia and Chile. It is very difficult and expensive to travel to these locations since it requires travelling over land and water and will always necessitate the high cost of airfares. I am therefore asking members of my area to let us work together to devise a system that will enhance communication and further development for our area during the 2016 – 2019 Triennium.

## East, West and Central Africa - Mrs Njugabui Njeazeh Angela (Cameroon)

East, West and Central Africa area of ACWW is made up of 39 member societies. These societies are situated in semi-urban and very rural villages. They are made up of large memberships of illiterate and barely literate women. These women are very hardworking but most often lack knowledge and resources to improve on their living conditions. For many years ACWW has invested a lot of resources in terms of funding of small development/empowerment projects in this area.

**Membership:** During this triennium the number of member societies stands at 39 societies. However the number of lapsed member societies is also high. This is because most women cannot pay their membership fees. This also explains why contributions such as Pennies for Friendship are low.

**Projects:** The East, West and Central Africa region was a recipient of ACWW projects funding, with most projects in Cameroon, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mali and Gambia. These projects covered areas of concern such as:

- Water- Provision of clean water, for household use and sanitation
- Assistance to Agriculture training and revolving loans fund for rural enterprise development
- Health related issues, Small crafts and small industry

I am proud to announce that these projects went a long way to improve the lives of rural women, children and communities in these regions.

**Area Conference:** The area conference of East, West, and Central Africa took place from 12-13 February 2016. The conference took place in Buea, a south western region of Cameroon. It was attended by many dignitaries but unfortunately the World President was unavoidably absent. Very important was the presence of Mrs Mofa Judith, the government representative and regional delegate for Women's Empowerment. Mrs Mofa elaborately described the effects and impacts of ACWW funding on the lives of the rural women, children and communities in the nation of Cameroon. She asked the ACWW Area president to extend her gratitude to ACWW

This was a two day conference. The first day was reserved for ACWW matters and the second day was a workshop for women's empowerment. This Area conference had great impact on the women because it was accompanied by many enriching workshops.

ACWW was greatly advertised in this triennium due to the member societies' leadership in organization of the International Women's Day, and International Rural Women's Day.



◀ The 'Water Source of Life' project of the Fonge Women's Group in Cameroon. ACWW Project No. 0977

## Europe - Mrs Valerie Stevens (England)

In my election speech in Chennai in 2013, I said that I would talk wherever I was invited to do so, listen, write and edit the writings of others, travel and meet people; that I had great respect for the women I had met in Estonia, Belarus, Hungary and Germany; that I would like to create a forum where all could share their successes and failures, triumphs and concerns, problems and solutions; where all could be heard with respect.

The three subsequent years have enabled me to fulfil these promises, as far as I am able. Without the help of my IT consultant, driver, accountant and office staff- my husband, to whom enormous thanks are due, this would not have been possible.

I have spoken at over 80 meetings, in venues large and small, in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man; I have had the privilege to represent ACWW both at the celebrations of the centenary of the NFWI at the Buckingham Palace garden party and at the centenary dinner in Oslo in the presence of Princess Astrid, celebrating 100 years of the Norge Kvinne-og Familieforbund.

Being invited to the Garden Party of the President of the Tynwald, the ancient parliament of the Isle of Man, was an experience I could never have anticipated. There, I was able to talk about ACWW with the First Minister, the Overseas Development Minister and the Archdeacon of the Diocese.

In Yakutsk, Siberia, I had meetings with the ministers of both Agriculture and that of Family and Home Affairs, as well as with the Vice-President of the Republic.

In Georgia, I was honoured to have a personal tour of the newly re-furbished, jewel-like, Opera House. In Germany, the Meissen porcelain factory, and a tour of Wittenburg, the home of Martin Luther, were just two of the many visits I enjoyed. In Romania, for many reasons, Ceausescu's palace, now the Romanian Parliament, will remain in my memory. But it is invidious to list so few of the memorable sights and experiences that my hosts have given me in my time as European Area President, and to them all I express my sincere thanks. But the ambassadorial role is only one of an Area President's responsibilities.

Since 2011, I have been able to visit or meet with women's groups in twelve different countries; the Republic of Yakutsk, Russia, Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Georgia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, South Tyrol. Some I have visited more than once. The European Area Conference in Bergen, Norway, 2014 was a wonderful opportunity to meet and share news and views from the Netherlands and Lithuania, as well as from members from almost all of the countries listed above. It was a privilege in 2015, to welcome Georgia to the ACWW family. I renewed my acquaintance with members of the Icelandic and both Swedish and Finnish societies from Finland, at the Nordic Conference in Sweden, in June 2015.

The work done by members' groups in the European area, is truly admirable and covers a wide range of activities- refuges for women abused, trafficked or rejected by society; sustainable land development projects; passing on the traditional skills and crafts of national cultures; the development of business enterprises; education and medical training programmes; responding to the needs of the elderly and the vulnerable young; personal development and leadership skills – are just a few of the aspects of members' involvement in their communities. In all the countries I have visited I have been received with enormous generosity and kindness, for which I thank my hosts. ACWW's reputation as an international organisation, gives credibility and status to those seeking recognition from their governments. It enables them to speak to ministers about capital projects, to discuss the laws pertaining to the welfare of women and it earns respect for those who seek solutions beyond their own experience. It is particularly relevant to those who are recovering self-respect after a period of Soviet domination.

My experiences this year in Romania and Georgia will highlight some of the opportunities being European Area President has given me. I was able, in Romania, to share the particular culture and traditional achievements in a country rich in both. My proud hosts delighted in showing me their wonderful landscapes, from the painted monasteries of the north to the medieval cities further south. I was able, on this my third visit, to convince the Women of the Third Millennium that they could invite the European Area Conference to meet in Tirgu-Mures in 2017. That invitation will be given at the Warwick conference. The refuge in Sibiu, now lacking a serious sponsor, left me saddened for those who have worked so hard to realise a safe haven. It is now left facing an uncertain future. It was also an opportunity to promote ACWW in remote areas where women often have little status and where there is the possibility of incorporating a new group into ACWW. In Georgia, once again I was treated to wonderful tourist sites, together with the joys of music from old and young, professional, young prodigies and those who just love to sing. But I also shared the experience of delivering wheelchairs to those whose living conditions make the wheelchairs less than useful; of sharing time with an American Peace Corps worker, with six years experience, telling me of her efforts to raise the profile, status and life chances for children with severe physical and/or mental disabilities; of visiting a community doing its best for the elderly housebound, with no

facilities in which to do it. Last year I shared a meal in a soup kitchen run by a women's group. It was a moving experience. Since then, thanks to the generosity of NFWI members, I have been able to send £750 to support the work.

But I end on a high note. On my first visit last year to Koda, an IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp, I was asked if ACWW could provide finance to bring an efficient water system to the old Soviet barrack blocks in which 1,800 were housed. It was, of course, too big a job for ACWW. But they then asked for, and were granted, project money for two wells, one to irrigate a co-operative food production enterprise, and the other to irrigate small, individual vegetable gardens. The work began in March 2015 and is now complete.

My visit in May 2016 was a joy. They had arranged a special ceremony at which I cut the red ribbon across the first well, amid the delighted cheers from the onlookers and I drew up the first shining new bucket of water and then used the hose to water rows of tomato plants. The women had conceived the plan, seen it carried out and rejoiced in its completion. Pride in their achievement and ownership of their enterprise were all too evident. ACWW has given them self-confidence and a belief in their future, in what was a depressing environment. Conditions have improved since my visit last year. There is now optimism and hope.

My term of office is coming to an end. I must thank ACWW for giving me the opportunity to share in the work of women in so many different situations who have received me with the utmost kindness and generosity.

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It has been a time of great enrichment for me and my family. My thanks go to all those who have supported me. I have received special support from Office Staff throughout, often, for them, in times of difficulty and change.

## South-East and Far East Asia - HRH Princess Azizah (Malaysia)

My area covers 14 countries and even though only 8 of the countries have member organizations, most activities undertaken by organizations under my patronage in all the other countries will incorporate and promote the goals, objectives and programs of ACWW. The two-day visit to Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia in November 2014 was most enlightening. The World President is a truly accomplished quilter and the embroidery and needlework skills of the members are so exquisite.

Fund raising activities were undertaken throughout the months. Charity walks, charity dinners, food bazaars, charity shop are yearly programs. However the funds are needed for the member organizations to undertake programs for the needy in their respective areas. Apart from my personal contributions to ACWW these years, I am encouraging all member organizations to step up the Pennies for Friendship fund.

Member organizations have very little problem incorporating the Resolutions adopted at the 27th Triennial Conference in Chennai, India, into their organizational programs and activities due to the favourable situation in our countries. Maternal health, safety of consumer products, registration of births, programs on anti-violence are inherent development programs of the national governments and the respective ministries on women, family and committee development. There is no issue of female genital mutilation and the UN Security Council resolution 1325 is more a matter of focus of the higher administration. NGOs including member organizations are fully aware of the significance of the resolution. As a member of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Constitution, I am most aware of the work undertaken. Recycling and e-waste disposal and care of the environment is always a fundamental prerequisite to our activities.

Working visits were made to Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Sarawak, Philippines, by me personally and to Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, various parts of Malaysia by other member organizations and affiliated NGOs. Emphasis has been on preservation of heritage and reviving skill, notably hardwoven textiles, culinary expertise, handicraft for tourism, health and pre school education and small scale cottage industries.



▲ Area President HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia with ACWW World President Ruth Shanks and Treasurer Alison Burnett, along with dignitaries in Semarang, Indonesia

## Southern Africa - Mrs Maybel Moyo (Zimbabwe)

A native Zimbabwean that's all I was and all I thought I would ever be. Born in rural Zimbabwe, the amplification of the voice of the rural women has always been my passion. When I became the deputy director of a women's organization, I thought my time had come and I had reached my destiny. Little did I know that God had greater plans for me.

In 2013, when I thought I had seen it all and done my share in women's empowerment, I was elected Area President of ACWW's Southern Africa Area. At first I thought it would be too huge a burden for me, but the experience practically changed my life. From the women's clubs in Lesotho to the orphanages in Zambia and Botswana, to Royal Swaziland and the great Setswana Bafokeng Tribe, I knew I had a greater mission and purpose in life than what I had settled for, indeed the past 3 years have made me see the world in a whole new light. I have become not just a spokesperson of the country women of Zimbabwe, but of all of Southern Africa.

The experience has made me realize that there is hope for every woman out there despite the underprivileged background, as I always imagine myself walking unbearable kilometres in the deep rural Zimbabwe I never thought I would be a tremendous Woman of virtue I am today.

ACWW has made it possible for me to experience inter-cultural dynamics of Various Women Worldwide. In most countries of the Southern region Women are faced with many trials and tribulations due to Drought, Climate change, Poverty and Discriminatory Gender Cultural Norms and myths. I have met very diligent Women who still put on a smile despite the hardships faced in everyday life. Meeting these Women taught me that ACWW is a unique mind opener encouraging Women to stay focused and have faith and act as it leads to success.

**Area Conference:** It was so very re-assuring to see so many of our members here today. I was truly humbled by the support and the loyalty that I have experienced since my election. Many of whom travelled from very far and even from neighboring countries. The World President Ruth Shanks graced us with her presence in the company of the Treasurer Allison Burnett, Secretary Henrietta Schoeman and Communication and Marketing Chairman Magdie De Kock. Past Area Presidents were also present. Speakers were invited to speak on different informed topics: MDGs, Food Security, Women Rights.

**Botswana Visit:** I was very honored to be Guest of Honor at the Botswana Council of Women Annual General Meeting whereby I learned of the struggles women go through everyday and how they strive toward a better future for their families. I proceeded to Francistown where I met the Francistown Women's Institute which partners with several aides so as to assist medically and financially.

I also visited various projects and societies in **Zimbabwe** (5 Societies in Zimbabwe); **Zambia** (4 Societies); **Lesotho** (3 Societies); **Swaziland** (1 society); **South Africa** (18 Societies ) **SAWAU Congress** (7 Society Presidents).

A very exciting, memorable, motivational and educational experience for me as it was very impressive to see Southern region women coming together as one despite Race, Culture and Class. This proves that ACWW is a unity accord designed to bring women together.

**Monitoring:** I was privileged to do some extensive monitoring work in: **Zambia** (3 Projects: DMI Sisters, the Programme for Vulnerable Children and Women MPIKA, Chatulinga HIV Project Mansa). **South Africa** (1 Project: Yenzanathi Water Project) Fortunately past Area Presidents assisted me in carrying out some of the monitoring work in and around Southern Region.

**Achievements:** It has been a very interesting journey filled with many hardships and smooth flows as I experienced in Zambia, most of the places are unreachable and very far to reach due to poor transportation means but all went accordingly and well. The main achievement I can say is the opportunity to visit different nations and learn new ideas and experiences.

**Networking:** During my term of office I have managed to liaise with different Ministries that deal with Gender affairs and Women in different countries I have visited, bringing a main focus on ACWW and its goals, objectives and projects.

**United Nations Treaties:** Most societies in my region have observed the United Nations Conversional. Speakers from different walks of life have given relevant topics regarding the Treaties, i.e. Rural Women's Day, World Aids Day, Gender and Violence Activism, Breast Cancer Month to name a few.

**Conclusion:** Through out my term in office I have learnt valuable lessons for life I have created time in every visit to share about the Pennies for Friendship and narrate more about ACWW world wide. I would like to appreciate all the societies for their remarkable support. Past Area Presidents of my Region, my society Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo and all ACWW partners,. Above all I give a big thank you to ACWW for the financial and moral assistance making my work very manageable, I thank you ACWW for this lifetime opportunity.

All I can say for now: **P** – Pray **U** – Until **S** – Something **H** – Happens

## The South Pacific - Mrs Margaret Mary Sullivan (Australia)

The past twelve months in the South Pacific have been challenging- fire, flood, cyclones and drought have hit all corners of the area hard. Luckily, the united and dedicated efforts of local domestic groups, societies and ACWW members have helped those most in need, and the devastation has been managed to the best of each community's abilities. Team work and local communication has meant that societies within the Area have helped aid and support- whether it be physical, or expressed financially or in terms of transport provision- have reached those who have suffered the worst impacts. As a more positive development, we have had 65 new members from the Area join ACWW in the past twelve months, along with one new society- a good sign, and with more to come!

**Christmas Island** celebrated their Silver Anniversary of 25 years on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015, with a weekend of activities. Mrs Jenny Mitchell the Area President at the time of their formation in 1990 and her husband Ran were able to attend and share the festivities, unfortunately I was unable to be with them. Despite having political problems domestically, mainly due to refugee and asylum seeker issues, they are a strong independent group of members who tend to look after themselves and those they can help. In similar vein of celebration, **Tasmania** also celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016.

**Fiji** offers both good and less positive news. Girls in Lami created opportunities for the local youth by starting a piggery- purchasing 10 piglets, who would provide financial and work opportunities long term. The project has been generously supported by South Australia. Some piglets were sold for profit in November 2015, and others escaped during the recent cyclone- luckily, most were recaptured! Stronger fencing is being constructed. Sadly, this cyclone 'Winston' knocked out many communications systems, and left communities without power or fresh water. Money was collected and forwarded to the area to support new power generators, fresh food and essential services.

**New Zealand** are busy putting their energies towards assembling the South Pacific Area Conference, to be held in New Plymouth between 27<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017. **Tuvalu** are regularly receiving support with bundles of clothing and linen for their Hospital from almost every state in Australia, for which they are most grateful. The women of **Timor-Leste** are now making use of sewing machines donated from Victoria, and making bags and other saleable items, giving them financial stability and the opportunity to support their children's education, health and social standing. In **Western Samoa**, communities are working hard to provide health kits, including birthing and nutritional kits and packs for young women approaching puberty. **Papua New Guinea**, having suffered shocking droughts in the Highlands, has been positively impacted by the success of young women opening a florists and plant nursery in Port Moresby. Bringing new energy and economic opportunity to their area, they have even won a contract from a Japanese company to supply floral arrangements for conferences and business dinners.

"Clean Water for All" is well supported by most areas, especially New South Wales, who are regular donors to this project. Used stamps have been bringing in a steady flow of monies- it takes a while to convince people that they can be valuable, but along with used jewellery are a good source of income- allowing ACWW's work to make even greater impact. New South Wales and Victoria are most generous in support of emergencies and ACWW projects for the Island Societies, along with the other States.

World President Mrs Ruth Shanks and her husband, accompanied by former Area President Mrs Jenny Mitchell and Queensland member Mrs Christine King visited the East Sepik area, and launched the East Sepik CWA, as well as opening the new Resource Centre. They monitored the Water Project that has received ACWW funding at Jiwaka, and inspected the new dormitory roof that was funded by Queensland CWA.

Women Walk the World has taken on a new format this year with one CWA, when they felt that age and limited mobility were a great challenge- instead, they created an imaginary trek around the inside of their Town Hall and charged participants to enter, after their 'journey' they were given a Devonshire afternoon tea.

I have found the information provided on the ACWW USB 'thumb drive' very useful in spreading the word of ACWW- I've even managed to recruit helpers to engage with groups as I've travelled, getting them to pass on more details of our organisation. This also provided an opportunity to raise Pennies for Friendship and teach and learn more about the cultures and customs of our Area.

The passing of Dame Raigh Roe, a Past World President, National Australian President and West Australian President saddened many this past year. She will be remembered fondly.

The National Country Women's Association of Australia theme 'Mother Earth Water Conservation' was very apt for the South Pacific, and offered me many opportunities to speak on ACWW's efforts, particularly Water for All.

I would like to thank all members and Societies in the South Pacific Area for their efforts and support this Triennium.

## The United States of America - Mrs Beverly Earnhart (USA)

Two area meetings were held in United States during this Triennium. 2014 was in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. ACWW information was shared about resolutions and recommendations. Attendees also learned how a project is applied for, chosen and funded, ending with the group selecting a project "Greenhouses for Mongolia", to support.

2015's meeting was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The program included World President Mrs. Ruth Shanks sharing about ACWW and how it is funded and where the money goes, helping us better understand ACWW, how it works and who is helped. Deputy World President, Mrs. Margaret Yetman, from Canada, was also in attendance along with the Canadian Area President, Sheila Needham. The ACWW Secretary, Mrs Henrietta Schoeman, from South Africa told us about the 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference being held in 2016. She and Chris Trewick, from England, shared about lodging, programmes and what we needed to attend the conference.

I attended annual ACWW board meetings, shared information at society conferences and kept in touch with postal mailings, email and phone calls. I am also editor for the Country Women's Council USA newsletter and have ACWW news included.

In the United States of America area we have worked on supporting ACWW's Resolutions and Recommendations in the following ways: Adopting Clean water projects for US and Internationally. Members donated money to buy filters and support projects for other clean water sources. The 'Eat Healthy, Eat Local' campaign has also been a focus of many societies. We have been keen to promote the use of food grown within 100 miles of their homes and supporting local farmers and markets. By working with local agencies to educate the public and by supporting the abuse shelters with needed supplies, we have been furthering our aims of stopping violence against women and girls.

USA societies support ACWW Pennies for Friendship, by participating in Walk the World, and Tea time. They have also held silent auctions, and taken up collections to raise further funds for ACWW.

National understanding has been enhanced in various ways, including work by the Country Women's Council USA. The CWC adopted a project to fund "Greenhouses" for Mongolia. A power point about the Greenhouses was made as progress reports were received. The power point was then posted on the CWC website for all societies to download and show members. Looking further afield, I attended the Canada Area Conference in 2014 and shared what USA ACWW activities are undertaken.

National Master Farm Homemakers Guild members support exchange students and families either visiting in their country or by them coming to the US.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as USA Area President. It has been a life changing experience to get to know so many all around the world.

## ACWW Agriculture Committee - Mrs Margaret Yetman (Canada)

The Agriculture Committee was set up by ACWW in 2001 to stress the importance of Agriculture among members and societies. The Committee is dedicated to promoting links with international UN agencies, civil society organisations and government institutions working on food and women's empowerment as it relates to agriculture. I have been privileged to have had the support of five enthusiastic members: Christine Reaburn, Vice Chairman (Canada), Bethan Williams (Wales), Margery Thompson (Northern Ireland), Rose Rajbansee (Trinidad & Tobago), and Joan Brady (Canada).

**Policy Document:** The Committee reviewed the Agriculture Policy Document on a regular basis to ensure that the objectives of ACWW are being supported and implemented.

**Links with International UN Agencies:** Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee member Joan Brady attended the four day session of the Committee on Food Security, CFS42, at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, 10-16 October 2015. Unfortunately, ACWW's UN Representative, Bettina Corke, was ill and unable to attend the event. As a result, Joan worked with the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) on the issue of nutrition and made an intervention on behalf of her working group on this topic. She also participated in the Side Event hosted by the CSM that highlighted connecting smallholders to markets and was a plenary speaker, sharing her Canadian experience of trade. This positive experience led Joan to suggest that the CSM could provide better access to FAO than the AHGINGO, as Agriculture Committee members, who are mostly from the farming community, could work with them directly, without the need for a UN Representative.

**Links with Civil Society Organisations:** In March 2015, the Agriculture Administrator (Dr Sam Page) was tasked with making links with the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) and the International Alliance of Women (IAW) by the Agriculture Committee. Both of these organisations have 'General Consultative Status' with UN agencies and such links could allow ACWW to 'punch above her weight' in discussions. The approach to IFHE was made via the ACWW UN Rep in Vienna, Dr Gertraud Pichler. As a result IFHE has suggested that ACWW write joint statements with them. The first of these was prepared with the help of Joan Brady, in time for World Food Day, 16 October 2015 and was posted on the IFHE website. Joint statements between IFHE and ACWW, on each of the Sustainable Development Goals are planned. The link with the IAW was made through the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs based in Rome (AHGINGO) via our shared FAO Rep, Bettina Corke, and resulted in IAW's Vice President, Jessica Kehl-Lauff, meeting up with Joan Brady at the meeting of the Committee on Food Security, CFS42 in Rome. Both the IFHE and the IWA have signed up to the Zero Hunger Challenge and are keen to work with ACWW on this project.

**Links with National Government Institutions:** As a follow-up to the ACWW Resolutions & Recommendations from the ACWW Triennial Conference 2013, letters were sent to the appropriate Honourable Ministers of both Federal and Provincial Governments within Canada. A response was received from several Ministers stating the steps that government had taken on the various issues.

**European Area Conference:** Agriculture Committee members Bethan Williams and Margery Thompson made presentations on behalf of the Committee at the European Area Conference in Bergen, Norway, May 2014. It was interesting to note that both Bethan and Margery started their presentations by asking "Where did your breakfast come from this morning" and "Did you all enjoy your breakfast this morning and can you tell me who produced this tasty breakfast?". They emphasized the fact that throughout the world, rural women grow, process, market and cook food and that world needs to feed all of the world's people fairly and equally.

**Agriculture Committee Campaigns: Grow Locally, Benefit Globally Campaign:** The ACWW Campaign on the establishment of food gardens "Grow locally, Benefit globally" was established 2010-2013. The Agriculture Committee decided to continue with the campaign in this triennium but with a re-focus on providing information resources on small-scale growing, and producing information sheets on edible beans, family farming, and other topics. Committee Member Rose Rajbansee provided information on cultivating black eyed peas as well as recipes. An information sheet was developed which was communicated to the Area Presidents as well as printed in the The Countrywoman and on the website. The project was a way of extending the campaign in that women and their families were encouraged to create their own simple food gardens so to help having access to fresh vegetables to lead to improved nutrition and health.

**UN International Year of Family Farming 2014:** The Committee celebrations for International Year of the Family included success stories and photos on family farming. These were printed in The Countrywoman and on the website. It was interesting to learn about a family farm still in existence after 150 years. Committee member Joan Brady shared her family

farm story of 30 years saying “after 30 years I understand the problems that farmers of the world face and I have with time and effort produced many solutions”. Bethan Williams spoke of The Royal Agricultural Show of Wales saying that the Young Farmers Clubs, ages 10-26, drew a large audience with their competitions and entertainment at the Vegetable and Fruit Exhibitions. She said that growing your own vegetables, with its many advantages, is becoming an increasingly popular activity in the Wales area.

**UN International Year of Soils 2015:** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was nominated to implement the IYS 2015 within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, and in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to combat desertification. FAO emphasized that soil is one of nature’s most complex ecosystems; however 33% of the world’s soil is moderately to highly degraded due to erosion, nutrient depletion, acidification, salinization, compaction and chemical pollution. Farmers must play their part in reducing soil degradation by adopting conservation tillage practises rather than continuous ploughing.

Vice Chairman Christine Reaburn wrote an article recognizing the importance of soil to human life and making it evident that soil is an important key resource central to the creation of a host of products and essential ecosystem services. She shared some facts to members in The Countrywoman to help those who wish to do further research. For a more depth study of soil, she suggested checking FAO fact sheets which are available from [www.fao.org/soils-2015](http://www.fao.org/soils-2015).

The Agriculture Administrator provided members with a simple exercise of 6 steps that they could do to carry out their own soil test to measure the amount of organic matter in the soil. Soils with less than 5% organic matter are considered to be unhealthy and liable to erosion. Office staff and committee members have completed this exercise! Members were also asked to carry out their own soil test and forward their results by email, using photos, or even a video to the ACWW Agriculture Committee. Committee member Margery Thompson submitted an article to The Countrywoman on the acres of rich soil in Northern Ireland, whereby many crops such as potatoes are produced. She shared a Northern Irish recipe for ‘Potato Bread, Farls or Fadge’ used by many generations.

**Zero Hunger Challenge:** The Agriculture Committee was pleased that ACWW signed up to the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) on 8 June 2015. This Challenge was laid down by Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General, in order to rid the world of hunger. Through Women-to-Women projects and with the support of its membership, ACWW will work toward eliminating hunger in our lifetime. The ZHC provides a great opportunity for the Agriculture and Projects Committees to work together in identifying projects that meet the criteria for addressing food and nutrition security and then reporting on the outcome to Ban Ki-moon’s office, in terms of the impact on women’s health and livelihoods.

Meanwhile, two Agriculture Committee members have started working on reducing food waste in their respective communities. This part of the ZHC obliges us to raise awareness among consumers and suppliers of the damaging impacts of food waste on farmers and the environment. Statistics tell us that 1.3 billion tonnes of good food is wasted worldwide each year. Members are being asked to contact their local supermarkets, and through the means of the ACWW website they were provided with a model letter together with an information chart which they could take to their local supermarkets to find out what they are doing to reduce food waste. Vice Chairman Christine Reaburn submitted an article on Food Waste for the April-June 2016 edition of The Countrywoman. In her article, she challenged Society members to organize Community Forums to discuss and develop actions to overcome food waste.

**UN International Year of Pulses 2016:** The Agriculture Committee discussed possible activities to highlight the importance of growing and eating pulses at their March meeting. The Agriculture Committee is hoping that during 2016 members will send in recipes and pictures of their nutritious meals made with pulses.

**Conclusion:** It has been a very busy and challenging triennium for the Agriculture Committee as we worked long and hard in our efforts to carry out the objectives of ACWW. It has been a privilege to chair the Agriculture Committee during the triennium. I am extremely grateful for the support and loyalty of the five dedicated and efficient committee members. Their ongoing support and loyalty has made my job as agriculture chairman a pleasant and rewarding experience. Special thanks to UN and Agriculture Administrators, Christine Ro and Dr. Sam Page, and Central Office staff for their co-operation and an ongoing assistance. As ACWW moves into a new triennium may the Agriculture Committee continue to do their part “Working Together for a Better Future” for woman and their families worldwide.

## Communications & Marketing Committee - Mrs Magdie de Kock (South Africa)

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Triennial Report and to introduce the work and contribution of the Communications and Marketing Committee as part of the structure of ACWW. The C&M Committee is responsible for covering all the various aspects of communication and marketing – externally as well as internally- to promote ACWW as one of the largest women’s organizations in the world, successfully connecting women and communities worldwide.

Steering this Committee after elected as Chair at the 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in 2013, is Magdie de Kock, supported by Maggie Simons as Deputy Chair as well as Marie O’Toole and June Ward. The Committee works well with the Office staff and in particular with the supportive and competent Media and Communications Manager, Nick Newland, who was appointed in April 2016, after the resignation of his predecessor, Jennifer Atigolo.

As a result of a new strategic plan being accepted at the first meeting in March 2014, a change of name was inevitable. Being more descriptive when referring to the work being done and the areas being covered, the Communications and Marketing Committee continues to comply with the stipulations of the Constitution and the Terms of Reference and the Bye Laws. In March 2015 the C&M Committee updated the C&M Policy document which was approved by the Board. Striving to update and to improve the ACWW website, social media, e-News bulletins, promotional material – which includes updated PowerPoint presentations, brochures as well as our quarterly magazine, the Committee succeeded in reaching members as well as other organizations during the past triennial. Recent analysis indicated that the ACWW social media is active, well managed and followers are increasing. By sustaining the Pen Friend link (now relaunched as ‘Friendship Links’), provision is made for members who still prefer pen and paper to keep friendships alive. With a fresh approach to contributions for *The Countrywoman* our readers’ views are expanded and with certain pages being allocated to the Specified Committees, their work is highlighted and promoted.

The successful branding and taglines initiated by the previous P&P Committee proved to be still applicable to continue the strategic focus. Branding secured uniformity of the ACWW message in printed and online resources provided strong pillars for the next Committee to build on.

**Promoting ACWW - External and Internal:** Various promotional events, initiated by the C&M Committee, were implemented with great success and proved to be very popular. To mention a few examples: Women walk the World is already in its 5<sup>th</sup> year and still going strong. Just as successful was the Tea time Campaign when ACWW partnered in 2015 with Salt of the Earth as well as endorsing the Zero Hunger campaign. Initiating the ACWW concert to celebrate International Women’s Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2016 was another breakthrough for this Committee, as was the awareness event at Denman College earlier this year on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March when ACWW was revealed as “the world’s best kept secret” with an interesting programme which included the launching of the brand new ACWW cook book, *The Countrywoman’s Cookbook*. The Chair accepted invitations to attend two Area Conferences in 2014- to promote ACWW at the European Area Conference in Norway as well as the Southern African Conference in South Africa. Other members of the Committee represented ACWW at events in the UK during the recent triennial.

**Women Walk the World:** Very good response from members worldwide about Women Walk the World – perhaps our most diverse yet. Particularly worthy of note has been the response from groups in Malaysia, where members walked to the Thai border! Another effort worth mentioning was the group of the Namibian Women’s Society who were accompanied by two real live leopards during their walk in a Nature Reserve in the South of Namibia.

**Publications - The Countrywoman:** The much appreciated quarterly publication of ACWW was very well received particularly by those who have viewed the new-style magazine online in its PDF form on the Website’s Members’ Area. In the past three years guidelines were provided to members and Area Presidents to encourage contributions and the new layout and informative articles are testimony of the new approach. The printing costs are constantly under review and quotes are periodically obtained from various printers to ensure good value for money. To keep in line with the adaptation of the new strategic plan in 2014 to promote the co-operation among the Specified Committees, the C&M Committee supported the Committees by offering allocated printing space in *The Countrywoman*. Since then the ACWW UN Committee was supported by publishing an article on the celebration of 70 years of UN with 68 years of ACWW advocacy. The Agricultural Committee was accommodated in their campaign to inform members about the cultivation of legumes and the International Year of Soil. Publishing feedback on the progress of projects is supportive to the Projects Committee. An online registration form for this Triennial Conference, translated in various languages, was created to support the Triennial Conference Committee (TCC), and provision was also made for secure online voting. All documents and forms were redesigned and upgraded according to the latest ACWW branding. In supporting the Finance Committee, members are encouraged to take up Individual Membership, recruit new members as well as seeking advertisements for the magazine. Campaigns and events to collect Pennies for Friendship, contributed to the ACWW coffers over the past three years. Marketing drives such as the ACWW Concert and the Information Day at Denman College, as well as not overspending the budget, supported the Finance Committee.

The C&M Committee appreciates the role played by the previous Editor, Jennifer Atigolo, as well as the huge impact of the current Editor, Nick Newland, for his visionary approach and editing skills.

**Brochures, pamphlets, posters and PowerPoint presentations:** Great care was taken to redesign and reprint promotional publication material to accommodate the demand of members. Three versions of PowerPoint presentations were developed and regularly updated to be used by members as well as a newly-designed USB stick with lanyard to match our updated branding.

**ACWW Annual report:** A new format for the 2014 Annual report was developed and compiled by the Operations Manager and published in the October-December 2015 issue of The Countrywoman.

**ACWW Membership Survey:** Participation in the ACWW Membership survey conducted at the 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference was not as comprehensive as we had hoped, and therefore too little information was collected to be useful to the C&M Committee. We have therefore adjusted and updated the Survey, and with the approval of the Board, request that all delegates complete this questionnaire whilst at Conference. This new form includes a C&M Committee Questionnaire, and a Conference Evaluation and Feedback form.

**E-Newsletter:** The monthly e-Newsletter was introduced in 2015 and is compiled by the Office Administrator, Helena Alty.

**ACWW Website:** A redesigned and secured website was implemented in May 2016, and includes the following features broken down by general functionality, compliance and specific features:

The General information section includes links to four pages – **Home, About ACWW, Support Us** and **Triennial Conference**, leading to each page as well as a specific link to Governance. Additionally, there is a link to the 'Terms, Conditions & Legal Policy Statements' page which includes Terms and Conditions for the use of the ACWW website, a Privacy Statement and a Cookies Policy. These are necessary legal documents, according to the legal requirement in the UK and drafted in line with legal guidance from professional colleagues and several other major charities' websites.

Each page includes full access links to our complete range of social media outputs, which should draw more traffic to them. Pages have been designed to be clearer, cleaner and more easily viewed on a range of devices. The '**Central Office Staff**' and '**Meet the Board**' pages allow stakeholders to recognise those who support and represent them, which I hope will give a more engaged feeling for all users as well as clearer understanding of how the Board, Executive, Area Presidents and Specified Committees interact and cooperate.

The **Agriculture, Projects** and the **UN Committee** pages have been developed in collaboration with the Central Office staff responsible for each Committee and is a springboard for further development with the new elected officers after the next Triennial Conference.

**Member's Only Area:** A long-requested feature from both the C&M Committee and members, this new area will allow us to disseminate information to Members, as well as offering them resources and matters for their benefit and, crucially, give them a feeling of investment and participation in the website and day-to-day running of ACWW. This password-protected area has also allowed us to implement online postal voting for six Areas to be used in their Area President elections. This postal voting has had additional security applied, and allows anonymous, secured voting. Each voting society must insert their Membership Number which, whilst it does not show up at our end and so cannot break the sanctity of a secret ballot, does allow the website to limit each society to one vote.

**Agriculture and Zero Hunger Challenge:** With the help of Dr Sam Page, Agricultural Committee administrator, these pages have been developed and with links to the Civil Society Mechanism and Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs, it includes downloadable PDF resources and an initial introduction to the Zero Hunger Challenge, featuring a video of World President Ruth Shanks singing ACWW's Zero Hunger Challenge pledge. The page for the Zero Hunger Challenge has information on our pledge and a series of downloadable resources, as well as a report of work and monitoring on our first Zero Hunger project. This page also includes a 'dynamic' table reporting on this first project. Users are able to click on any of the title fields (Vegetable Crops / Input Costs / Yield etc), and it will re-order the table to give the information in that order.

**Projects:** This page has had a facelift, with further development to come with Sarah Kenningham and Juliet Childs' input in July, once the current round of funding applications has been processed. The page has, however, been updated with new details of Funding Applications and Guidelines, current projects and case studies.

**Features:** The new site uses secure forms for various uses, including allowing people to signing up to ACWW's mailing list, the Triennial Conference registration form and Membership forms. Members can also view a weekly blog, video clips and digital storytelling. A PayPal link was also launched on the Website providing the opportunity for new or renewing Individual.

Members or societies to do online payments. Enhanced security means users can now have a safer, more reassuring experience on the website.

In April 2016 ACWW was awarded the Google Grant, after a successful application. This awards \$10,000 funding-in-kind per month on a rolling basis, to be spent on promotion and online publicity via the Google Ad Words process – placing ACWW’s adverts online in targeted media markets globally. This is predicted by Google to create a potential of 7,647-12,747 click-through visits to ACWW’s website per month, with exposure to an additional 125,189 people per month. The process is closely monitored by the Media and Communications Manager to optimize the ongoing progress.

A Wire Agency has also been appointed for a trial period to assist ACWW with online press releases and other media regarded matters.

Policy updates and publication now mean we are legally compliant in the UK and EU. Better and more developed mobile accessibility should open ACWW’s website to new audiences, particularly in developing countries where ‘smart’ phones are more prevalent than computers.

**Social Media:** A very important aspect of communication which was developed and expanded over the past three years includes Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. **Facebook (page and group):** The Facebook page acts as a news and updates stream as well as a forum, allowing messages and content to be send out to our audience covering events, pictures and news in general. In June 2016 there were 700 members. The number of posts on this page has increased hugely, with very good feedback in light of Women Walk the World. **Twitter (Central Office, Projects, UN, and Conference:** Software is in place to extend and fully integrate the use of social media and with Hootsuite significant improvements and impact will soon be observed. The number of followers has increased significantly in the past six months, and we hope introductory sessions at Conference will help members and delegates get more involved. **Instagram (www.instagram.com/acww\_media):** This newest channel of social media output has been successful and followers are increasing every month. With the approval of the Board, a new camera was bought to enable the Media and Communications Manager to post good quality and exciting images from both Central Office and other relevant events.

In conclusion, appreciation and gratitude to my fellow C&M Committee members, the Staff members of Central Office and in particular the Media and Communications Manager as well as the Operations Manager for their dedication and hard work to enable us to reach the goals set out for this triennial.

The C&M Committee believes that efficiency is doing things right, and effectiveness is doing the right things. Therefore we will strive to be efficient as well as effective at all times.



## MAKING YOUR MAGAZINE SUSTAINABLE

In April 2016 the new-look format of The Countrywoman was launched alongside ACWW’s new website and a range of publicity materials.

You will have already noticed that this issue of The Countrywoman was delivered in an envelope rather than a plastic wrapper. This is because we have switched to using 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.



## Projects Committee - Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad (Norway)

The Projects Committee, by referring to the 27th Triennial Conference theme “*Working Together for a Better Future*”, considered that women worldwide should be given the means to have their voices heard through funding projects. At the 2013 Triennial Conference in Chennai, India, resolutions were approved calling on ACWW members to focus on the situation of girls and women who are victims of different forms of violence; further access to quality maternal health education and services; and campaign together to end the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The Projects Committee has also endeavoured to be mindful of these issues during its decision-making process. The Projects Committee have considered and approved 60 projects in the current Triennium, of which 31 are from Member Societies, and 29 are from Non-Member Societies.

**Committee Members:** The Committee members elected in 2013 are as follows: Mrs Roma Patten (England), Mrs Hazel Armstrong (England), Mrs Patricia Blake (Ireland), Sr. Viji (India) and Mrs Mignon Smit (South Africa). Roma Patten was appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee. Mignon Smit resigned as Committee member in March 2015 due to family matters. The Committee members were all very diligent and committed in their preparations for the Committee meetings. We have had good communication throughout the period. In addition to identifying ACWW priorities, the members have continued to acknowledge the Millenium Development Goals when considering applications for funding.

**Policy Document Review:** At the Committee’s first meeting in March 2014, Mrs. Patten and Mrs. Blake were asked to work on a new and amended Policy Paper, which was presented to the Committee in October 2014. Changes were made in accordance with the objectives of ACWW, and approved by the Board in March 2015.

**Projects Strategic Planning Workshop:** A workshop was carried out during the first Committee meeting in 2014, focussing on what the priorities and actions should be for the next 3 years. Four main goals were identified in order to give more value to ACWW money and through cross committee work to improve internal projects administrative systems. Projects Committee understands that cross-committee work is vital for ACWW that all committees work together for a common goal.

**Projects Funding:** The amount of project funding available for Member Societies has been reduced to £10,000 as a maximum, and for Non Member organisations to a maximum of £5,000.

The Projects Committee have, during their five meetings from the Chennai Conference in September/October 2013, considered 134 applications for funding from 23 countries within 7 ACWW areas. 61 projects were approved, 32 from Member Societies and 29 from Non-members organisation. However, one project approved could not receive the grants due to bank account issues. Total amount allocated was £285,309 for 60 projects.

All projects funded by ACWW benefit women and communities in need of safe water and sanitation, healthcare, education, civic awareness, skill training or income-generating opportunities. Improved maternal health in particular is an outcome of any project that permits access to safe drinking water, promotes sexual and reproductive health and gives women the means to supplement their incomes and improve their diets by growing nutritious vegetables or milking cows and goats.

**ACWW Current Triennium Projects (60) by type:** Education & Skills (12), Health Education (7), Nutrition (1), Income Generation (17), Water & Sanitation (16), Agricultural Training & Development (7).

**Progress and Final Reports:** Progress and Final Reports provide information about the projects. During the triennial period, 68 Progress Reports and 62 Final Reports have been received. Adopters and supporters of projects are kept informed of the progress of ongoing projects.

**Resource Register and Monitoring:** The Resource Persons Register continues to be reviewed and amended regularly. The Register is essential in providing a network of experienced people to provide valuable information on the progress of the projects. Much of the monitoring of the projects is generously carried out at no costs to ACWW. The Projects Committee extend grateful thanks for the valuable contribution made by all on the Register. 57 projects have been monitored in this Triennium.

**External Funding:** In cooperation with UN Committee Chairman two applications were prepared and sent for project funding from UNESCO – one application for Cameroon and one for the Caribbean. The application for Caribbean was approved and implemented.

**Scholarships:** No applications for scholarships received in this period, neither for Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund, nor for Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund. Details of these funds are featured on the ACWW Website, and have been promoted via an e-Newsletter.

**Conclusion:** It has been a pleasure and a privilege to chair the Projects Committee for the last three years and to work with hard working and dedicated members. My sincere thanks to the current Projects staff, Juliet Childs and Sarah Kenningham, for friendship, expertise and assistance, and also thanks to former Projects staff, Mariana Meirelles and Samuel Godolphin.

## ACWW United Nations Committee - Sharon Hatten (Canada)

The work of the ACWW UN Committee has many facets. We support the ACWW resolutions and recommendations by advocating and networking. We support our ACWW-UN representatives in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Bangkok. Members have attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, the DPI-NGO (Department for Public Information-Non-Governmental Organizations) annual forum, the Child Rights Connect annual meeting in Geneva, and met with directors at the WHO (World Health Organization) and UNESCO in Paris. Our reps attend meetings on the Status of Women, Ageing, Education, Family, Girls and Health Promotion. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the Asia Pacific is attended by our Bangkok reps.

Written and Oral statements supported by ACWW are submitted to the CSW which is dedicated to promoting gender equity and the empowerment of women. UN Women works to ensure implementation of the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that focuses on empowerment, equality and equity for women and girls and the Security Council Resolution 1325 which promotes women, peace and security.

Our relationship with the WHO has been enhanced via the Alliance for Health Promotion. ACWW projects data was recently included in a concept paper to the WHO Scientific Committee preparing for the WHO World Conference in 2016 focusing on how NGOs contribute to the 2030 Agenda Goals.

UNESCO funding was secured for a Caribbean Area workshop in support of its priorities of Gender Equity and Small Island Nations.

During the triennial, ACWW UN representatives and ACWW UN Committee members have documented more than 300 contacts with UN entities, government ministries and other societies (many more are undocumented). The work of the ACWW UN Committee is enhanced by the ACWW designated representatives who share their years of expertise and volunteer hours- together our collective voices are louder.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## CANADA

### CANADA

#### Alberta Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091015**

**Members: 400**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Many members are involved with the Pen Friend Scheme, as well as Hands Across the Border (Canada and USA). Speakers featuring work they have done in various foreign countries. Branches report learning about immigration stories and Canada's new Immigration and Temporary Worker legislation and the story of Kim Phuc Ti from Vietnam.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Contribute to Pennies for Friendship as well as supporting Canada Area projects. Many branches participated in Women Walk the World, raising funds and awareness of ACWW.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Alberta has 'drop off' locations for recycling of e-waste. Study and support resolutions focusing on violence against women and human trafficking. Very aware of Bisphenol (BPA) and letters have been sent to various levels of government.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Alberta Women's Institutes hosted the Canada Area Conference in 2014, World President Ruth Shanks (Australia), as well as Deputy President Margaret Yetman (Canada) and USA Area President Beverly Earnhart also attended.

### CANADA

#### British Columbia WI

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091016**

**Members: 590**

The British Columbia Women's Institute consists of approximately 590 members throughout our province. Our Annual General Meeting is once a year to meet face to face with our membership along with the Provincial Board meeting once a month via Skype to deal with current and ongoing business.

A project we have been working on over the last few years was to get a plaque dedicated to Mrs. Margaret "Madge" Watt. This historic event finally happened on August 14, 2015, at the historic Colwood Community Hall on Vancouver Island. Parks Canada joined with the Women's Institutes across our province, coming together and honoring Mrs. Margaret "Madge" Watt as a Person of National Historic Significance. BCWI at present is unsure of when the plaque will reach its final public site.

Projects BCWI Members have been involved in over the last few years are:

- Pennies for friendship
- Project 0960 – Economical Empowerment of disadvantaged Dalit Women
- Project 0961 – Livelihood Revitalization for Head load fish Vending
- Women Walk the World
- Water For All
- Area Canada Project – 2013-2014
- New Hope Project – 2012-2013
- ACWW Tea – 2014

We are very lucky to have the ACWW UN Committee Chair, Sharon Hatten, as one of our members. Sharon is a wealth of information and keeps us up to date through our Network News with articles relating to the happenings at ACWW. Members can then take the information back to their branches to educate and keep them informed.

## CANADA

### Eastern Ontario Women's Institute

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092429**

**Members: 300**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Members learn about life in other countries by inviting those in their community who have travelled to share their experience. Members who attended the Triennial Conference in Chennai made a Powerpoint presentation on the 27 World Conference at E.A.W.I. and District levels. Members attended the Canada Area Conference in 2014. ACWW Officers and Committee members from Canada shared a Powerpoint presentation on the work of ACWW at the Triennial National Women's Institute Convention in 2015. A presentation was given by an ACWW Committee member to the Ontario Women's Institute Annual Meeting 2015.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship are collected at each meeting at all levels. Donations are received through Women Walk the World events.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Resolutions and Recommendations were sent to:

- Federal Government Ministers and Opposition Critics, plus local Members of Parliament
- Provincial Government Ministers and Opposition Critics, plus local Member of Provincial Parliament

## CANADA

### Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC)

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091018**

**Members: 8,173**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Full voting delegates attended ACWW World Conference in Chennai, India in 2013. ACWW Canada Area President was invited to speak about ACWW at the FWIC National Convention held in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June 2015. ACWW articles by Canada Area President included the Canada Area Project and ACWW World Conference were included in the national newsletter 'Federated News', which is distributed to Women's Institute members across Canada. FWIC Board members attended the ACWW Canada Area Conference held in Camrose, Alberta in June 2014, having the opportunity to hear and meet the ACWW World President.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Canadian Women's Institute members donate voluntarily to Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The Resolutions Committee sends all ACWW Resolutions to the appropriate government departments.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** British Columbia Women's Institutes unveiled a plaque honouring ACWW Founder Madge Watt in Victoria, British Columbia in 2015. Former ACWW World President Dr. Ellen MacLean was the premier recipient of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award 2014-2015. Manitoba was the first province in Canada to win the right to vote for most women. Nellie McClung championed for the privilege. On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2016, the 'Nellie Award' was established. Manitoba Women's Institute was the only group recipient of the Nellie Award.

## CANADA

### Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091019**

**Members: Undeclared**

Cynthia Rabstein finished her third year in 2013, during which time she continued to promote contributions of items to Canada Comforts, an organization working out of British Columbia and collected funds from across the Province for the Canada Area project in the Caribbean to educate women about the effect of climate change on agriculture. Several F.W.I.O. members attended the ACWW Triennial Conference held in Chennai, India. Cynthia kept members up to date on the Pen Pals program and Pennies for Friendship. She also did up an International Manual which was posted on the F.W.I.O. website when completed for members to use to find answers to frequently asked questions.

In January 2014 I was elected International Officer for the F.W.I.O. I have promoted ACWW Day, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Women Walk the World. I also attended the ACWW Canada Area meeting in Camrose, Alberta in June where we selected two Projects from Tamil Nadu, India and agreed to support them in the amount of \$7500.00. We have since met our goals. In 2015 I did some articles for the Home & Country magazine promoting international activities and initiatives of the F.W.I.O., did some speaking and presentations. I attended a conference of sister members of the ACWW in Michigan, and the F.W.I.C. conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June. I was re elected in November and will continue to promote the International aspect of the W.I. as I prepare for an Exchange in May/June in Indiana, U.S.A.

## CANADA

### Manitoba Women's Institute

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091020**

**Members: 350**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Seven members of MWI attended the ACWW Canada Area Conference in Camrose, Alberta in June 2014. In May 2015, Sheila Needham, our ACWW Canada Area President, attended our Provincial Convention and spoke about what was happening around the world with ACWW. We have also welcomed speakers on world travel, and the Food Grains Bank.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** MWI have traditionally funded their own projects, and also send money directly to the ACWW Central Office in support of this project. In this triennium, we completed support of project 0882, providing safe water and toilets in Cameroon, and began funding project 0948- supporting the cultivation and preservation of vegetables and medicinal plants for better sustainability in Cameroon. A number of local women were involved in Women Walk the World for ACWW.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** All the Resolutions within this Triennium sent to us by ACWW have been forward to the Prime Minister of Canada and his government.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Supported Board Governance training for rural women. The Planned Programmes for our members have been on food security, food literacy and managing family conflict. We now have a website, are on Facebook and are working towards becoming more visible. We have also just won a 'Nellie Award', presented by the Winnipeg Free Press. These awards are presented to women or an organisation that enhances our quality of life and improves society as a whole. Only 9 women and 1 organisation received them for all of Manitoba.

## CANADA

### Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institute

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091023**

**Members: Undeclared**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institute (NLWI) benefits both rural and urban women, as they work together to improve the quality of life for their families and communities. They represent many nationalities, races and creeds. When you donate to this worthy cause, you are helping with hundreds of projects around the world, including 'Water for All' and 'Women Feed the World'. Many NLWI branches have supported the project 'Women Walk the World' for ACWW. Again, this year branches in Newfoundland and Labrador have donated and supported Pennies for Friendship. Amounts are then sent by the end of June each year. Amounts are consistent over the years, with \$2,300CAN being given last year. Further information on ACWW work can be found on our local office website at [www.nlwi.ca](http://www.nlwi.ca)

## CANADA

### Quebec Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091025**

**Members: 365**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Collected money for medical supplies for third world countries.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Walked the World in April, and Pennies for Friendship.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

#### Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad & Tobago

ACWW Society Membership Number: 095254

Members: Undeclared

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Participation in ACWW workshop held at UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59), and additional attendance at CSW58, CSW57, CSW56 and CSW54. Two members attended the Regional Conference held in Jamaica last year (2015). One member attended the Commonwealth Government Women Ministers meeting held in Dakar, Bangladesh, and in 2015, the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** We hosted two events which were not successful activities to raise funds for ACWW due to the onset of recession which began to have an effect on events held in the country, and our own annual event also suffered serious losses.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** At a general meeting members examined the ACWW Resolutions and agreed to them without any changes.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Our skills development training and capacity building continued with the support of our local partners, however there were less workshops due to the cut in spending all around. In 2016 already, the government has called on all ministries to cut their budget by 7%, with very little support for civil society.

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

#### Trinidad & Tobago Federation of Women's Institutes Inc.

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091205

Members: 400

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We correspond with ACWW members in other countries, especially via Facebook.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Women Walk the World and Breakfast Mornings.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Some matters were discussed at two area meetings held in Jamaica. Trinidad & Tobago was represented by 5 persons at the first meeting, and two persons at the second.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** The TTFWI runs an early childhood centre with government assistance. We also carry on two activity centres for senior citizens. Groups meet weekly or bi-weekly for different activities such as home crafts, cookery, gardening etc. The eight District Federations hold monthly meetings throughout the year.

# JAMAICA

## Jamaica Federation of Women

ACWW Society Membership Number: 019129

Members: Undeclared

The period September 2013 through June 2016 marked one of the most productive periods in the recent history of the Jamaica Federation of Women (JFW), which celebrated its seventieth year in 2014. During the review period, the executive committee and branches worked assiduously to achieve the following short-term goals:

1. Increase the membership of the executive committee by a minimum of three professionals to infuse new ideas and approaches into the existing organization structure;
2. Continue to advocate for safe homes, schools and communities to raise our children;
3. Establish or re-establish at least two new branches;
4. Seek funding for the ACWW Area Conference to be held in Jamaica during the tenure of the Area President for Caribbean, Central and South America;
5. Renew the lease Agreement for Headquarters House and continue to refurbish the building
6. Register as a Charitable Organization
7. Involve our patron as we participate locally in ACWW's global annual Women Walk the World
8. Using established criteria, select and recognize a rural woman as the Rural Woman of the Year on Rural Women's Day each year;
9. Continue to recognize executive committee members who provide the organization selfless and exceptional service on International Volunteers' Day each year;
10. Maintain links with Council of Voluntary Social Service and Heritage Clubs of Jamaica to promote voluntarism and Jamaican Heritage in Schools and participate in, gender and community-based activities.
11. Conduct at least ten regular monthly meetings and one Island Council Meeting, annually.
12. Ensure that the JFW remains financially viable through active fundraising and contributions from reputable corporate sources

**New Members:** During the review period, the executive committee welcomed six new members and one former Executive Committee member:

Mrs Vinella Hurge JP	Banker	Treasurer
Dr Paulette McGregor JP	Marketer, Facilitator and Educator	Second VP
Mrs Angela Allen	Banker	Director
Mrs M. Wellesley	Banker	Director
Mrs. Lorna Jones –Lee	Civil Servant and OD Specialist	Director
Miss Donna Miller	Human Resource Practitioner, Administrator	Director
Ms Joyce Campbell, OD, JP	Consumer Affairs	re-joined the JFW Executive

All these ladies continue to add depth and meaning to our deliberations and to give of their time, talent and treasure to our projects and in the case of Dr McGregor and Mrs Campbell, to promote the JFW on their respective radio talk show slots.

**Advocacy for Safety for Children:** We drew the public's attention to the need of our children to be raised in safe homes, schools and communities during our annual walk at Emancipation Park on Women Walk the World Day, April 29 for the past four years, through radio programmes and poetry readings of "Where is the Village to raise the Child?" a poem written and read by Chairwoman Cecile Jarrett at several public gatherings and on radio. In November last year, we initiated a drive to collect/make receiving blankets for new-borns and sheets for maternity beds at the Victoria Jubilee Maternity Hospital in Kingston on International Women's Day and during Child Month.

**New Branches:** The Quaker Hill Branch in St Mary was re-established on Rural Women's Day 2013. Attempts have been made, with some degree of success, to re-establish the Mavis Bank Branch in St Andrew. Geneva in St. Elizabeth is most recently established branch. The establishment of branches in Bath, St. Thomas and Old Harbour and Portmore in St Catherine are to be accomplished by the end of this calendar year.

**Governance / Headquarters House:** All legal, financial and housekeeping matters were astutely managed and monitored during the past three years to leave the organization with a healthy bottom-line. In governing the organization to ensure this outcome, the Executive Committee has had thirty regular monthly meetings, six special meetings and three Island Council Meetings during the review period. It was during this time too that leadership of the Caribbean, Central and South America was transferred from Trinidad to Jamaica: from Rose Rajbansee to Dotsie Gordon who has been recommended to continue in the post for the next three years. We are now in the process of planning to celebrate our seventy-fifth year 2019. Finally, Headquarters House is now the new home of Heritage Clubs of Jamaica (HCJ).

**Linkages for Development:** We continue to maintain our linkages with ACWW, CVSS and other Women's Organizations such as Women's Media Watch. In collaboration with the JFW, Chairwoman Cecile Jarrett facilitated a Stress and Time Management workshop for CVSS members. JFW executives continue to give leadership direction to HCJ.

**ACWW – Women Walk the World:** JFW was winner of the Picture Competition last year and was featured on the cover of the July-September 2015 issue of The CountryWoman Magazine

The **ACWW UNESCO funded Area Conference** was the second ACWW Conference held in Jamaica in 2015. Under the title of "Sustainable Development for Our Homes, Communities and Country", the Conference discussed Gender Equality and Empowerment for Entrepreneurial Development within families in Small Island Developing States (UNESCO) at the Kingston Conference Centre, fifty-nine members, including other Caribbean nationals, attended the three-day event which was facilitated by fifteen presenters listed below:

Mrs. Cecile Jarrett	Rev. J.M. Parkes	Mrs. Dotsie Gordon	Lady Allen
Mrs. Gloria Millwood	Mrs. Lorna Jones-Lee	Dr. Leith Dunn	Mrs. Grace McKoy
Dr. Paulette McGregor	Ms. Sandra Falconer	Ms. Valerie Viera	Mrs. Elaine Dreyer
Mrs. Sophia Francis-Richardson	Dr. Henley Morgan	Mrs Patricia Reid-Waugh	

From attendees' feedback, it can be concluded that the Conference/Workshop was well received and should result in the establishment of some small projects within families- a situation to be followed up and monitored. Ideas such as bee keeping, rearing ornamental fish and making beauty products from natural resources, were suggested as viable options.

The major activity for HCJ, are symposiums for high and primary schools. The first brought about eight high schools from across the island to the Institute of Jamaica in May 2014 to make presentations on Community Heritage and vie for winning prizes. The second symposium is scheduled for June 28 and will have ten primary schools presenting videos on selected aspects of Community Heritage in competing for the top prizes.

**ACWW Awards:** JFW/ACWW Lucille Miller Rural Woman of the Year Award was instituted in 1998 in honour of a past Chairwoman; Mrs Lucille Miller (now deceased). During the past three years the trophy has been awarded to:

2013	Mrs Mabel Campbell of the Quaker Hill Branch in St Mary
2014	Mrs Shirley Webber of the Manchioneal Branch in East Portland
2015	Miss Roxanne Wynter from Bath in St. Thomas

**Other Awards:** Volunteer of the Year – Awarded in honour late President, Carole Diaz on December 05 each year:

2013	Mrs Cecile Jarrett
2014	Mrs Gloria Millwood
2015	Mrs Vinella Hurge

**Visits:** In November 2013 Miss Rose Ragbansee visited the island to hand over to Mrs Dotsie Gordon. In June 2015 we had a visit from the World President accompanied by her husband and the Treasurer/Chair Finance Committee. Also visiting for the June conference were five ladies from the Caribbean.

**Obituaries:** On a sad note, during the period we joined four families in mourning mutual loss of some JFW stalwarts including a former administrator, a centenarian and two executive committee members.

**Conclusion:** The above information shows that the organization had had a very busy three-year period with growth in its membership and finances and a strong impact on the development of its members both in the branches and at Headquarters House. It is hoped that during the ensuing triennial that the JFW will work closely with the ACWW Projects Committee to plan and implement at least two sustainable and economically viable projects.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

### BANGLADESH

#### Bangladesh Mohila Samity

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091011**

**Members: Undeclared**

Bangladesh Mohila Samity (BMS) became a member of ACWW in the early seventies. In 1974 with financial support from ACWW, BMS conducted a project titled "Ideal Farming". Founder President of BMS, Dr. Neelima Ibrahim held the post of Area President for ACWW Central & South Asia for two consecutive terms (1983-89).

From 2001 an ACWW project titled "Women Empowerment through Increased Literacy, Reproductive Health and Income Generating Program" was conducted through BMS. Ivy Rahman President, BMS served as the Area President of ACWW Central & South Asia from 2001-2003. A project was conducted on "Breast Screening and Hypertension Checkup" with funding from The Country Women's Association in Tasmania (Inc.) in 2006-7. With financial support from ACWW, BMS ran "Breast Screening and Hypertension Center with support of Income Generating Training" from 2007-2009.

From 2013 Prof. Momtaz Begum, founder member of BMS has been serving as the Area President of ACWW Central and South Asia. With the initiative of BMS the 28<sup>th</sup> Area Conference for Central and South Asia was successfully held from 28-30 January 2016 at the head office of BMS in Dhaka. The participating organizations of Bangladesh were Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Dipshikha Polli Unnayan Karmoshuchi, Shapla Samajunnayan Kendro. The other participants were The Society of Daughter of Mary Immaculate India, Srojnalini Dutta Memorial Association India, Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD) India, Country Womens Association of India (CWAI), Rural Women's Network Nepal (Ruwon), Lanka Mohila Samity (Sir Lanka). Members of APWA could not join us but we received full cooperation from APWA (Pakistan) and APWA (UK). The greatest achievement of 28<sup>th</sup> Area Conference was inclusion of the new member county of Nepal.

BMS is regularly running its own projects on women, children and other social development issues along with other activities of ACWW.

### BANGLADESH

#### Srimangal Foundation (SF)

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 095323**

**Members: 21**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Improving child protection and rehabilitation of children from sexual abuse and exploitation in Bangladesh. Tribal women support program. Skill training and entrepreneur program. Women's rights. Wealth project. For the Women by the Women. Mother and child health care project.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Women's Rights fundraising for ACWW.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** As a new member of ACWW, we look forward to supporting ACWW Resolutions and Recommendations, and contributing new ones as time progresses.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Poribikkhon (to follow up the service provider support to victim women). Dry fish processing (support the fishermen's women for maintaining dry fish processing) Let children speak (consultation with children & administration).

## BANGLADESH

### Shapla Samaj Unnayan Kendro (SSUK)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 095288

Members: Undeclared

Other major activities carried out / supported:

**1. Conceptual and human skill development training** - Working Area : Kumarkhali Upazilla under Kushtia district.

Donors: GOB, and WICC Canada

- Sewing/tailoring: Women and girls are contributing to family income. Their dignity has been increased in society.
- Handicrafts: Women and girls are taking this training, they are able to make the things such as design on sari, bed sheet, dress, soil made, tools, etc. and they have become self sufficient.
- Poultry and livestock: Many women and girls are now rearing Poultry and livestock and selling them in the local market through modern training method done by SSUK. They are now skilled human resources.
- Women's rights and gender discrimination: To make women and girls aware of their rights and gender discrimination, and getting these rights by training. Thus they are living in the society with respect.
- Agriculture and kitchen Training: Women and girls have proved themselves as a skilled human resource by cultivating and rearing kitchen at home.
- Women and children's violation legal protection: To ensure legal protection for women and girls and children. They have been trained about legal protection of the government by the advocate, arranged in various places of the area by SSUK. They are more conscious than before.

**2. Non-Formal education programs:** It's main purpose is to promote the standard of education and remove the darkness of ignorance and illiteracy. Working Area : Kumarkhali Upazilla under Kushtia district. Donors: BRAC, GOB, WICC Canada

**3. Reproductive Health & Development program:** Health education, primary health care, prevention of diarrhea and diseases, motivation of nutritional development. Reproductive Health and Development program includes a variety of components such as institution building, Capital raising, Income generation, primary Health Care, Functional education Training etc. Working Area: Kumarkhali Upazilla under Kushtia district. Donor: GOB, Ministry of Health

**4. Village and Farm Forestry Program (VFFP):** SSUK has been implementing Village and Farm Forestry Program (VFFP). Major components of this program area: Plantation (Homestead & Cropland), Village nursery establishment, Central Nursery development, Tree renovation Core Farmers (C.F.) envelopment training etc. Working Area : Kumarkhali, Kushtia Sadar & Baramara Upazilla under Kushtia district. Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, Embassy of Switzerland (SDC) and GOB.

**5. Small Micro Credit program:** SSUK has been implementing small micro credit program for landless and assetless people. Working Area: Kumarkhali & Khoksa Upazilla under kushtia district. Donor: Bangladesh Bank, Owned Fund, Canada Embassy.

**6. Water & Rural Sanitation Program:** Water & Rural Sanitation Program started in 1992. Motivational and consciousness raising program on safe water and environmental sanitation is a regular routine work. So far total tube-well installment totals 2480, healthy latrines installment totals 3025. Working Area : Kumarkhali Upazilla under Kushtia District and Pabna Sadar. Donor: NGO Forum for PHF, UNICEF.

**7. Fish Culture Program:** Eliminating malnutrition and increase the income of performing construction and fish pond unused arable performing programs. Institution Building; Capital Raising; Training; Concretization / Mass Mobilization; Pond Re. Excavation No.216. Working Area: Kumarkhali Upazilla under Kushtia district and pabna Sadar. Donor: IFADEP-SP-2 & GOB

## INDIA

### Arbor Charitable Foundation

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 095234**

**Members: 7,500**

Arbor Charitable Foundation continues its on going activities for the benefit of rural scheduled caste and scheduled tribals who live below poverty. Focusing on their health, Social, Economic and Educational aspects, the following activities are carried out during 2013-2016. The number of women in savings groups in collaboration with Banks has increased from 5,000-7,800. 7,500 women participated in the interest free loan for agriculture and small business with the support of Arbor Charitable Foundation. 150 women received subsidy for construction of family toilets and Arbor Charitable Foundation financed the balance amount (50%) for the completion of these toilets. 240 are provided with Bore-well water Project and are under the "mineral water scheme". Village communities received machineries at a subsidized rates. 20 families were able to purchase 3 motor pump sets for agriculture and 50 families under group activity purchased 50 cooking gas connections with the collaboration of Arbor Charitable Foundation. Under self employment scheme, 140 unwedded women learnt tailoring and 20 women took course on fashion technology. For this purpose ACWW was pleased to sanction Rs.7,90,000/- for training cost, cost of machines, food and accommodation for our poor women. They were able to purchase a sewing machine with the incentive they received from Arbor Charitable Foundation. National feasts, Religious feasts, Inter-religious dialog, International Women's Day etc., is well planned and celebrated by our women every year.

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Public gathering of 3,000 Arbor women to facilitate the World President of ACWW in February 2015 was a symbol of our close association with ACWW. Her visits to our poorest villages in a most humble manner has an impact on ACWW and Arbor Charitable Foundation. Embroidery machines, sewing machines etc., sponsored by ACWW in the year 2014 has created a lasting relationship with ACWW.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Though Arbor has membership with ACWW, the very poor situation of our women and challenges our organization faces and in our day to day activities prevents us from raising funds for ACWW.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Arbor Charitable Foundation follows the norms and rules to the best of its abilities.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Sanction of funds for purchasing machine for providing necessary assistance for projects and regular e-mail messages regarding the release of funds etc., is really a lasting experience for me and the members of Arbor Charitable Foundation. My experience during Triennium Conference in 2013 in Chennai has ever deepened our knowledge and the Internationality of ACWW, which really touched the very core of my being. The development of our women in the social field is very much encouraging as they go about during picnics and excursions.

## INDIA

### Grace Trust

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 095321**

**Members: 1,250**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Economical empowerment of women and girls. Providing computer education for disadvantaged students and address the issues related to women and girls.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Grace Trust is a new member of ACWW and the membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to December 2016. We will try to strengthen the activities related to fund raising in future.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The project supported by ACWW made a big difference among project target women communities. The project brought about sustainable livelihoods among the disadvantaged women communities, this what we learnt from the project in the last one year.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Grace Trust provided skill training in order to improve the lives of disadvantaged women members, and the following major activities were carried out: Small business training (50 women received training and improved their skills); Distribution of Revolving fund (INR.250000 distributed to 50 women for their IGP activities); 50 women started small business in their own areas with support of ACWW; Training on small savings and micro credit (50 women participated in the training).

## INDIA

### Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091075

Members: Undeclared

Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD) has emerged out of the need to strengthen grassroots development initiatives for promoting sustainable livelihoods. IIRD works with the approach of People's Education and Action for Community Empowerment (PEACE), greatly influenced by the founder of the organization, Dr. Alexander Daniel. The PEACE approach ensures appropriate knowledge, inclusiveness, and development interventions with the leadership and full participation of the stakeholders themselves- particularly the most marginalized people in conventional development processes. The approach begins with formal and informal learning using a participatory learning approach- i.e. Peoples Education. The knowledge is incomplete unless it instills actions that reflect the knowledge acquired- i.e. Actions for Community Empowerment. Hence, the actions that accompany this knowledge are steps to analyze the situation in a participatory manner, harness the resources available within the communities, facilitate systems that are inclusive of the marginalized persons, build skills appropriate for the village, preserve biodiversity and natural resources, and promote livelihoods among the marginalized. These actions are taken by the communities themselves- empowered by the knowledge, skills, motivation, attitudinal change, and resources. The PEACE philosophy of IIRD has been implemented in the below areas:

**Micro-Enterprises-** IIRD facilitates organizing women in groups to form Mahila Mandal and Women's farmers clubs. These groups encourage saving schemes for the women and maintain revolving fund for starting new micro-enterprises. At present 5,000 rural women are actively involved as members of Mahila Mandal and Farmers Club. To name a few micro-enterprises; Dal Mills, Flour mills, Chilli powder and masala processing units, Papad making, Biodynamic Cow Pat Pit units and Vermicompost units are farm based micro-enterprises and Tailoring, Candlemaking, agarbatti-making, pain balm and phenyl are non-farm based micro-enterprises.

**Care for the Elderly -** Jeevan Aadhar is a program by IIRD for the underprivileged destitute old women where grocery and food grains are provided. The grocery is bought using the voluntary donations that come to the organization from different parts of the world and food grains are donated by local farmers after harvest. More than 200 elderly destitute women get benefitted from Jeevan Aadhar. Elderly able women form Elderly Self Help Groups with IIRD's association where different aids are provided for income generation using which they can purchase goats, setup vermicompost units, kitchen garden etc. Four women community animators have been selected by IIRD who would co-ordinate with the community to help the elderly in their daily activities like cooking, fetching drinking water, collecting firewood etc.

**Alexander Mahagreen Producer Company -** Alexander Mahagreen Producer Company (AMPCL) is a farmer owned company based in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra and is facilitated by IIRD. AMPCL is among the few companies that is owned and managed by a group of women farmers and probably among such rare companies in India that are focused on organic farm production and marketing. The company presently has about 1,000 women organic farmers among its direct stakeholders who benefit from the services of the Producer company and the board of directors consist of 9 women organic farmers.

**Organic Bazaar -** The Organic Bazaars serve as a channel for direct marketing of the farmer produce by the farmer directly to the consumer, and also promotes linkages between the consumer and farmers. Every week, two organic bazaars are held in Aurangabad (104 Organic bazaars in a year). More than 30 farmers, out of which majority are women farmers, regularly participate in the bazaar.

**Vocational Training for women-** In order to promote vocational and technical education for the rural community, IIRD has established a technical training institute- Parrie Center for Technology (PCT) in Aurangabad. Besides on-campus vocational trainings, regular technical camps are also organized by PCT in the villages to generate social mobilization towards technological transformation. Women are trained in Masonry, house wiring and appliances, tailoring and dress making, organic agriculture and nursery management, dairy management and folk arts.

**Health-** A doctor from IIRD visits the six community health centers in Paithan Taluka of Aurangabad district to educate the communities on proper health care, prevention, and primary treatment of common illnesses. The doctor takes special care of the elderly women who are provided with free check-up and medicines as required. A portable combo Physiotherapy unit is used to relieve the pains in muscles and joints among the elderly women. A young eye surgeon from Aurangabad volunteers cataract surgeries for the elderly women. Every year, approximately 35 surgeries are performed and 100 surgeries are targeted during the Year 2013.

**Housing Projects-** For the Rural housing projects facilitated by IIRD, preference is given to those who have the land titles registered in the woman's name. 48 houses will be constructed in the year 2013 as part of the Housing project coordinated by IIRD and funded by Habitat for Humanity.

It is worth mentioning that the entry point to all the IIRD activities was the Nutrition Education and Training (NET) Program supported by ACWW in the year 1989.

## INDIA

### Organisation for Community Development (OCD)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 095306

Members: 24

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Providing marketing and financial management skills through the entrepreneurship development programmes (EDPS) to 60 women beneficiaries, and improve basic literacy and numerical skills, books and accounts keeping, business financial management, bank account transaction maintenance and microfinance management. Providing leadership development training to 60 women beneficiaries to enhance their self-esteem, safe and secure life and livelihood mobility, participation in local body, parish council, basic christian community and decision making. Providing fish processing training to 60 women beneficiaries and livelihood revitalizing of head load fish vending. Providing business equipment to the 60 women beneficiaries of ice box and fish transport vessels for better business assets holding. Providing microcredit loans to 60 women head load fish vendors and breaking the clutches of third party exorbitant interest moneylenders' loans and debt slavery. Providing capacity building to the 7 federation women members for efficient microfinance management and tracking of repayments and bank account maintenance.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Administering face-to-face fundraising tool for local fundraising for financially affluent and generous local communities. Administering outside fundraising through success stories and fundraising flyers in fundraising events and direct mail tool.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Presenting satisfactory progress reports with verifiable documents of proof. Presenting satisfactory transparent, accountable final report in smart with impact assessments and success stories.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Providing social, legal, economic, and political rights trainings of women head load vendors. Vocational skill trainings of school dropout adolescent women. Organizing fisherwomen under federations towards economic liberation and right perspective movements.

## INDIA

### Snekithi Charitable Trust

ACWW Society Membership Number: 095279

Members: 4,151

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Efforts to be taken to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). So as to reach the under privileged communities, especially tribals, vulnerable women, adolescent girls, and children. We propose to focus on sexual harassment, mentally ill, mentally retarded, disabled, women farmers, agricultural women. ACWW strengthens the network activities of NGOs territorial conferences to be conducted in India. Preference should be given for the projects of ACWW members.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Snekithi Charitable Trust (SCT) has been implementing programmes for vulnerable sections of women like Dalit women, tribal women, socially excluded widows, children women farmers and other weaker sections based on the Resolutions and Recommendations of ACWW.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Snekithi Charitable Trust (SCT) assign top priority to women's empowerment. Following this, we have motivated women to form women farmer's clubs and federations, organizing a farmer's federation for women- this is the first of this kind in Karur District. The women Farmers Federation is named after "Nature Women Farmer's Federation (NWFF) Karur District". Snekithi Charitable Trust (SCT) has provided legal support for girls of Dalit origin, mentally retarded and physically handicapped girls who have been sexually harassed by anti-social elements. Isolated Tribal community in Imboothumalai Tribal Region, Kalvarayan Hills of Valapady Union, Salem District, Tamilnadu, India have been neglected by Government departments. There is no electricity, vehicular facilities, roads, hospitals, schools, etc.. Snekithi Charitable Trust (SCT) along with people of Tribal community have been advocating in the Government to fulfill basic needs of in the Tribal regions.

## SRI LANKA

### Lanka Mahila Samiti

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091075

Members: 350

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** LMS participated in several International programs such as area conference, India 2011 and participated in the workshop on 'Result Base Management'. Interact with other country women associations to enhance knowledge how the other groups are working towards the development of the ground level communities. International Women's Day celebrated every year by the associate members and rural members at district level. Tree planting campaign, workshops rural singing, folk dancing and sports were held in significance of the date. Participated the 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Chennai, India in 2013 and a few of us participated the workshop on 'Leadership: An Art of Management'. The high rate of the registration fees and travel costs curtail most of our members to participate in these forums.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Organize bring and buy sales and maintain a Till in the LMS head office whenever we have membership meetings to collect money for Pennies for Friendship. Have cookery demonstrations and collect funds by selling food items and nearly new cloths.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Work carried out by District level workshops and awareness programs were conducted on Pre-Natal and Post-Natal, Balance diet, exercises, medical care, minerals and other supplements etc., and maintaining proper weight were discussed. Encourage every pregnant mother to visit the monthly clinics at the MOH Office in their area to monitor proper growth of the foetus. We also enhance knowledge on non-communicable diseases, especially diabetes. We also donate dry rations and milk powder for the needy. Encouraging the communities not to use plastic containers, bags and paper to pack consumable items to protect your environment and health- for example, we are encouraging the use of a banana leaf to pack their daily lunch as in the olden days. Discussions were held against violence on women and child abuse. We held workshops and awareness programs for the elimination of discrimination against girls and women, and give them knowledge about how to act in a situation of this nature, how to get legal advice and aid, and also to give them the contact numbers of the National Child Protection Authority and National Women's Bureau.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** 2013 funds were receiving put up 10 Rainwater Harvesting Tanks in the dry zone. 2015 up to date on-going sanitation project to build 20 latrines for rural Samati members and 10 latrines for Pre-schools run by LMS in 10 District.



▲ An example of a completed latrine, built as part of the Sanitation Project.  
ACWW Project No. 0989



► Beneficiaries of the same project run by Lanka Mahila Samiti with ACWW support.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## EAST, WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

### CAMEROON

#### Fonge Women's Group

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092528**

**Members: 130**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** During 2013-2016 Triennium, members have attended training programmes on income generating activities and acquired skills on food transformation. Members have also participated in seminar and workshop and greatly improved their skill and output on new farming techniques and how to keep a healthy environment. Selected members who were trained on new agricultural techniques such as local irrigation culling and seed nursery are now putting their training into practice as more women are being train by them. Production of vegetables and other food crops like peppers and okro has increased. Most members have now involved micro-savings and loan activities to boast their living conditions, and their family and the community at large as they now enjoy the availability of these crops. Final welding has been done on storage tanks, ready to receive water for village use. Inlet and outlet valves have been welded and tested on the storage tanks. Final payment of seedlings of crops such as peppers, okro and vegetables, have been done. Now preparation of farms for new planting is currently going on and waiting for the planting season .

Expansion of farms has been affected to meet the demand of the growing population. Head taps have been brought and fitted on the already built taps, ready for community consumption. A test of water flow has been done, and it was successful; water actually flowed, some finished taps and work is currently going for final steady flow of water as some leakage has been identified and are being repaired.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Fonge Women Group has increased its production after the training of over 200 women in agricultural techniques. Ten more permanent women have been registered, bringing the number to 120 women. We have negotiated with village council and have acquired more farming land. We have increase our nursery for seedlings to cover the newly acquired land which is under preparation now for immediate planting during this planting season. Negotiation has been made for more cassava cuttings to cover the increase portion reserve for cassava planting only.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Transportation of material and fuel on a hired truck has been paid completely. Balance also owed to Audited account has been paid, the remaining water now flows in some of the taps. Control has been carried out by technicians to evacuate air in the water pipe which hinders the flow of water after repairs were carried out in some areas on the water line is successful. All head taps have been bought and fitted.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** More community dwellers are digging their own trenches and buying their own supply pipes to bring water into their premises. Working with the water community, all is going successfully. While some communities members are now using their previous shallow wells to water their vegetable crops for house use and commercial purpose to meet up with their small loan scheme and their weekly meetings contribution.

## CAMEROON

### Nkong Hill Top Association for Development (NADEV)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092463

Members: 32

Major activities carried out / supported: In the current Triennium, NADEV achieved the following:

- Sensitised 30 communities, 5,000 persons and 90 Traditional Rulers on Gender and Widows' inheritance rights
- Trained 1,230 women on Small Business Management
- Provided 1,200 of these women with soft interest loans to increase their business capital
- Trained 132 on backyard livestock farming
- Constructed 132 pig styes, provided 2 piglets and feed for 4 months to 132 widows each
- Organised 7 sensitisation workshops on Gender and Enterprise Development for 113 local council authorities and staff in the South West region.
- Organised capacity building workshops for Women's group leaders and community health management committees aiming at enhancing women's participation and access to hygiene and sanitation facilities and health services in two municipalities.
- Sensitised couples on the importance of legalising their marriage and assisted 13 women to acquire marriage certificates
- Supported 2 elderly women with beds and bedding, and 2 needy female students from the NADEV support fund for the needy in our society through the Josephine Tita Memorial Fund (JTMF).
- Trained Council authorities to enhance grassroots participation in the decentralisation process in Cameroon
- Construction of public and private latrines in 12 local councils within the region
- Formed and trained 15 Water Management Committees on proper catchment management.

## CAMEROON

### Youth Development Centre

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092509

Members: 102

Activities to enhance international understanding: Youth Development Centre has carried out activities of advocacy particularly educating women on their inheritance rights, considering the situation of several widows who are deprived of their inheritances by their in-laws, and struggle for survival with their family.

Activities / Fundraising for ACWW: Youth Development Centre has paid all her membership dues since 2014-2015.

Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations: In 2013 and 2014 YDC carried out feasibility studies for the Boka Community Water Project and upon completion, a project proposal was written and sent to ACWW for support. The project was completed in 2014 and monitored by the Area President. During the project, a water storage tank was constructed, water catchment rehabilitated, 5 tap stands constructed and a Water Committee formed and trained. We also carried out hygiene and sanitation education. The village now has adequate and clean water. Body itches, Cholera and other water-borne diseases have now disappeared.

Other major activities carried out / supported: From 2013-2016, YDC had a number of activities carried out, such as to establish a tree nursery and organise tree planting exercises in village communities in June and July 2014 respectively. YDC was also able to organise training workshops on organic vegetable gardening with two women's groups. One piggery training workshop and one demo farm were also established.

Youth Development Centre in 2015 and 2016 has carried out a water, sanitation and hygiene project in one primary school in the Limbe Municipality. We constructed a modern toilet for the school, a tap stand, donated hygiene and sanitation kits and formed a school Water and Sanitation Management Committee.

## **GHANA**

### **Marginalized Women And Youth Development Initiative**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 095264**

**Members: 155**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** For the period 2013-2016 the Marginalized Women and Youth Development Initiative with project funds from ACWW, the local community and the municipal assembly has been working in Ashaiman community, Newtown and its environ to assist the poor and most needy to have access to portable water and sanitation, education of food sellers on food preservation, provision of Kvip toilets for two schools and individual households.

We have also undertaken a viability study for the preparation of a rural water supply and sanitation project in the Santrokofibenua and Batsona Community in the Hohoe district of the Volta region of Ghana. Tasks include assessment of water supply in the rural area. Preliminary design of alternative water supply systems for the rural area, including cost estimates for provision, operation and maintenance of the system.

In the area of capacity building, a Water and Sanitation Committee (WATSAN) has been formed and train the communities of Ashaiman, where the project has been completed. Water and sanitation related diseases have been a priority.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Fund raising activities for the period were mainly made for educational promotion for the girl child, and vocational training for people with a disability. Although not much was received, we have made an impact.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Maywodi for the period was able to assist 15 girls to go back to school by the provision of uniform and school fees. HIV/AIDS education programme was carried out quarterly within the Ashaiman Community through the community health unit of the Ministry of Health.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We have been engaged in a community-based survey programme for Antrokofi Benua Batsorna Water and Sanitation Programme. Details of activities carried out within the Ashaiman community are given below:

- **Objective A:**
  - Give project information to all communities involved
  - Collate application from communities on demand driven approach
  - Prioritise communities for facilities under the project, based on service level, e.g. Hand Due, wells, rain harvesting tank, borehole, KVIP
  - Form WATSAN Committees in these communities
  - Identify partner organisations to train WATSAN Committees as per Partner Organisation (PO) Standardisation activities
  - Monitor the implementation of the activities
- **Objective B:**
  - Animation of communities to contribute towards the capital cost of the facilities
  - Identify contractors for building toilets and water sources
  - Award contracts for facilities to be constructed
  - Monitor the implementation of the activities
- **Objective C:**
  - Identify and register small parts dealers
  - Train two area mechanics on repair of borehole pumps
- **Objective D:**
  - Invite all Environmental Health Officers in the District to an orientation workshop
  - Plan health and hygiene education with them
  - Resource them to go to the communities for sustained education
  - Draw monitoring and evaluation plan

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## EUROPE

### ENGLAND

#### Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092438

Members: 4,500

Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes (BFWI) has had a change of personnel with Tracey Girdler-Rogers and Hilary Forbes taking over from Ruth Potts. Ruth is a hard act to follow, her most recent project being raising £2,000 for the Shilo Women Development Project in Cameroon. There was a brilliant response from members who sewed applique squares for cot quilts. One Institute raised funds by Belly Dancing! Thank you for your hard work, Ruth.

Hilary and Tracey have concentrated on raising the profile of ACWW via Social Media, the BFWI website and BFWI Newsletter as well as running display stands at events. They committed to raising £2,600 for Country Women's Participated HIV/AIDs Prevention and Education in India by the end of 2016 and achieved this goal in November 2015! WIs were encouraged to raise £1 per member over the summer of 2015 and Hilary and Tracey dared to bare virtually all so members could guess the weight of the bakers at the BFWI Autumn Meeting. Women Walk the World 2015 coincided with the County hosting the WI Centenary baton, so we climbed our local "peak" (233m!) with the baton and Walked the World at the same time. The 2016 Women Walk the World included a Treasure Hunt event in villages so that less mobile women could enjoy the event. A craft competition is now underway from which we hope to provide items for sale at the Triennial Conference and sell surplus items for our sponsored Project.

### ENGLAND

#### Derbyshire Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091260

Members: 5,500+

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We send attendees to Area and World Conferences. Feedback to members via presentations and email newsletter. Invite speakers to our twice yearly Supporters Day who talk about international topics, eg Anne Marit Hovstad; Hazel Armstrong reporting on projects. Representatives from other Federations are invited to share their news. These days are modelled on a day at an ACWW conference. Write articles regularly for our Federation Newsletter providing updates on ACWW and its role. Two members give talks to our Federation members and other groups about how ACWW works and our adopted projects.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Encourage groups to host their own October Tea Party and to take part in Women Walk the World. Encourage individuals to make and donate craft items for this year's World Conference. Encourage members to promote ACWW in their local communities through events and collect donations. Members have responded with enthusiasm and success. Collect Pennies for Friendship from our 180 groups of associate members. We are sponsoring our 5<sup>th</sup> project in 3 years, in addition to funds raised at supporters days members hold a range of events to raise money.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** We have promoted tree planting. At our stands at Shows we promote the aims of resolutions. We gave detailed information to our members after the last World Conference on recommendations and resolutions.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We held very well attended large scale Tea Parties at the homes of members. We are planning a major Walk the World event in the Spring.

## ENGLAND

### Hertfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092412**

**Members: 3,897**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We have completed our project in India's Chittoor Region. It was to educate women in health and hygiene. This was accomplished at the end of 2014. 2015's project is in Uganda, to teach women how to make briquettes for heating and cooking. It is going well!

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Members have held coffee mornings and raffles as well as compositions. We also put out jars or tins for Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** None. FGM was proposed as a WI resolution but didn't make it onto the short list, but it did cause members to discuss the subject.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** As WI ACWW Rep I go out and talk to WIs about the history and work of ACWW.

## ENGLAND

### Norfolk Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092433**

**Members: 5,100**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** In the years covered by this report our Federation has been the prime mover in convening an annual day-long event to mark International Women's Day. As part of this, we have always involved local organisations who work with refugees and asylum seekers here in Norfolk and in Norwich as well as outreach groups focussed abroad.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Our 163 WIs continue to collect 'Pennies for Friendship' in various ways. In 2015 Norfolk Federation organised a very successful walk for 'Women Walk the World' and plans for the walk in April 2016 are well advanced. Our ACWW representative continues to be invited to WIs to talk about the organisation.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Our work is mainly awareness raising, for example Stop Violence against Women and Girls. Norfolk Federation has cooperated with Norfolk Says No to Violence and Hate Free Norfolk. The topic of FGM was raised at two annual meetings. On environmental issues (resolution on Bisphenol A and recommendation on e-waste) Norfolk Federation actively promotes environmental awareness. This year it is 'Clean for the Queen'.

## ENGLAND

### Northamptonshire Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092387**

**Members: 3,570**

Northamptonshire Federation of Women's Institutes has approximately 3570 members, in 124 individual branches, known as WI's. Members are most supportive and interested in ACWW, with most WI's donating annually to Pennies for Friendship. These funds may be raised by a special event for ACWW, or by regular donations. Since the last report, the Federation has completed a project to supply rain water harvesting equipment in Sri Lanka, and is presently raising funds for a farming project in Cameroon.

Members have attended County ACWW information and fundraising events. Firstly a Ceylon Tea tasting with afternoon tea, secondly an afternoon tea with a speaker, giving information about monitoring projects and the 2016 Triennial Conference. Both events were well supported. WI's invite the ACWW County Officer to speak at their meetings, where members have an opportunity to learn more about ACWW and how it works, and members have recently been very supportive of the fund raising by recycling broken or unwanted jewellery, a sack of jewellery having been sent to the recyclers.

The ACWW Officer and some other members have regularly attended the Midland Supporters Group meetings, held twice a year at WI House Derby. This gives the opportunity to meet other ACWW Officers and staff from ACWW Central Office, hear about fundraising and get ideas and information. With more invitations to speak at WI meetings and good support for ACWW events and projects, I think our members are showing an increased knowledge of ACWW.

## ENGLAND

### North Yorkshire East Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092396**

**Members: 2,900**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Federation International Day on India held in November 2014 for members. Ruth Shanks as guest speaker at Spring Council meeting 2015.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Projects supported by the Federation and its members via Pennies for Friendship scheme (105 WIs in the Federation). 2013- Project 0919 (Vocational skills development tailoring- Uganda); 2014- Project 0962 (Nyaka Grannies project, Phase 3- Uganda). 2015 / 2016- project 0967 (HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescent Girls and Women- India).

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Tea time event held in October 2014 by several WIs around the Federation and at the Federation Office to fundraise for ACWW.

## ENGLAND

### North Yorkshire West Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092395**

**Members: c.800**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** I became the new ACWW Representative in October 2013 and have given talks to WI groups. We held a tea party on International Rural Womens Day, October 15 2016 to increase awareness of ACWW's work. Hazel Armstrong showed slides about projects in India.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Many WI's in our federation support Pennies for Friendship. For the last three years approximately £600 has been sent each year. In 2015 we supported project 0972 and raised £2047 towards it. We raised it by walking 50 miles over 5 days with 150 ladies taking part. Many of our WI's have held their own fundraising.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** When I have given talks I have drawn members attention to the Resolutions and Recommendations of the 2013 Conference.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** I put on a display at the 2013 spring council of our Federation. I write a short piece in our Federation News approximately 3 times a year. I have tried to raise the profile of ACWW within the federation.

## ENGLAND

### Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093376**

**Members: 4,700**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Our foreign affairs committee undertake to promote a comprehensive understanding of peoples, their lives and cultures, from around the world through a series of 'themed' daytime and evening events.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Talks/presentations are given throughout our Federation by an appointed ACWW representative to promote the work of the society with a view to making our members more aware of their aims and objectives. Emphasis is given to ACWW's vision and mission statement, its values and the vast network it covers. Fund raising is promoted through our presentations and regular articles within the Federation monthly magazine. Suggestions are given as to how monies can be raised including the collection of unused/unwanted foreign coins/notes, which are exchanged into useable currency. Monies raised are divided, as per members wishes, into two main areas: Pennies for friendship – all Federation members are encouraged to donate their unwanted change via 'collecting jars'. The adoption of specific 'projects'. Monetary targets are set, members encouraged to raise extra funds with these projects in mind. Regular updates are provided through the monthly federation magazine showing how targets are being met.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Our Federation continuously promotes awareness of environmental issues, many of which touch all our lives and constitute many of the ACWW Resolutions and Recommendations, through our monthly Federation magazine, talks and presentations. We are planning a major Walk the World event in the Spring.

## ENGLAND

### South Yorkshire Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 093483

Members: 2,468

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** 4 events and special interest days a year on international affairs and subjects of particular interest to women- for example food waste and domestic violence.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Donations to Pennies for Friendship scheme, and ACWW displays at our Spring and Autumn Council Meetings.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Special event on raising awareness of domestic violence. Active campaigning for more midwives to ensure best outcomes for mother and baby during pregnancy, delivery and post-natal period.

## ENGLAND

### Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092502

Members: Undeclared

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** On an international level we maintain communications via Facebook and Twitter- a popular means of communications and easy to keep in touch with each other. Regular updates on activities and fund-raising ideas. Also, building friendships from countries we would maybe never be able to visit.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Surrey Federations holds two meeting a year for its members to attend. These are familiar with all who attend and information about ACWW and projects are made available. We have regular collections of recycling and foreign coins. A permanent box has been sited at HQ which is now in full use. I regularly talk to individual WI groups throughout the year and through recognition keep the 'home fires burning'.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Our project of 0920 to raise awareness of FGM has started, although as a WI resolution was not forwarded the NFWI Annual Meeting. This subject still continues to be talked about amongst our groups and fund-raising continues. As myself working for the emergency services I am fully aware that training in this area has become part of the curriculum for all staff and safe guarding is done as regular practice.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** As editor of our monthly magazine, updates and bulletins are regularly shown. This reaches all members which is of most importance as a large proportion of our members are of an age that are not internet friendly. That is not to say we don't have a few 'silver surfers' who are more up to date than any of us!

## ENGLAND

### Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 093477

Members: 3,700

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** In 2014 the Wis in Warwickshire completed their fundraising of £4,507 for a project in Andhra Pradesh, India to supply twenty Scheduled Tribe women with milking cows which will enable them to earn money by selling the milk, thus supporting their families. We are now raising money for a project in Cameroon to bring a clean water supply to an orphanage. We have pledged £6,535 and have so far raised £4,034.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Hazel Armstrong, a very inspirational speaker, attended our Annual Federation Meeting and considerably raised the profile of ACWW amongst our members. Warwickshire's ACWW Representative continues to provide illustrated talks for WIs to raise awareness and understanding of the work of ACWW.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Warwickshire members crafted nearly 350 beaded amulet necklaces for the gifts for the delegates at the World Conference in 2016.

## ENGLAND

### West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091259

Members: c.1,000

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We support projects (3 in 3 years). Our latest is Project 0990- supporting AIDS/HIV victims to rear goats for milk goats and grow vegetables.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Coffee mornings, information sessions, ACWW Day with guest speaker Valerie Stevens. Zippy Nomad, Raffles, Bring and Buy.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Resolution on FGM. Grow Locally, Save Globally.

## ENGLAND

### Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092505

Members: 4,023

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** May 2014: Members attended the European Area Conference and presented the resolution 'Secure Sustainable Energy' which was carried. October 2014: Valerie Stevens was Guest speaker at Wiltshire Federation's Annual Council Meeting. July 2015: Held a successful International Day on Japan.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Continued funding of an ACWW Representative to make visits to WIs raising awareness and encouraging donations through WI Pennies for Friendship. Many groups participated in Women Walk the World for ACWW. Very successful fund raising for Wiltshire's first chosen project, Beekeeping Skills Training in Ghana. Selection of a new project for Wiltshire members to support.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Stop Violence Against Women & Girls and Stop FGM- issues discussed at meetings throughout Wiltshire. 'Secure Sustainable Energy' - raising awareness of what members can do in their local communities to promote energy efficiency and access to clean energy. Preparation of the resolution 'Secure Sustainable Energy' in response to the UN initiative SE4All and the Sustainable Development Goal- SDG7- 'Affordable, Clean Energy' - to present at the Triennial World Conference in August. We are 'Working Together for a Better Future'!

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Support for Action on Climate Change- members lobbied Parliament, talked to their MPs and took part in marches. Several members are attending the ACWW Day at Denman College and the ACWW International Women's Day Concert in London in March 2016.

## ENGLAND

### Worcestershire Federation of Women's Institutes

ACWW Society Membership Number: 093507

Members: c.4,000

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** In 2015 a Federation international event featured the work of ACWW with a presentation given by the ACWW European President – Valerie Stevens. It also featured a charity which teaches Africans (men and women) bee-keeping, thereby giving them the means to earn a living. Another charity featured was building a school for vulnerable and homeless children, in South Africa. Two exchange visits were enjoyed with the German Landfrauen of Uetze (near Hanover). These exchanges began 25 years ago when a friendship was forged at an ACWW meeting. We have also continued to raise awareness of ACWW by writing a regular ACWW article in the Federation's monthly newsletter.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Our ACWW Representative has given several presentations to WIs about how ACWW works, its aims and objectives. We have promoted WI Pennies for Friendship, and encouraged the WIs to fundraise for the projects that this Federation has recently supported. This enabled us to fulfill our pledge to raise £2,660.00 for a water and sanitation project in Bangladesh and computer skills training in India. Some members 'Walked the World'. Hundreds of members donated to the ACWW jewellery envelope initiative, and we are now promoting ways in which to support the West Midlands Federation in their hosting of the Triennial Conference in 2016.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** A proposed WI resolution in 2014/15 to 'Stop the Practise of Female Genital Mutilation', raised greater awareness of the issue.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** The Worcestershire Federation ACWW Representative has attended the North Midlands ACWW Supporters' Group meetings throughout the Triennium.

## HUNGARY

### Kiskunság Association of Women

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092511**

**Members: 137**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Lectures delivered at the Free University of Farmers in Subotica, Serbia, 2013. Attendance at Slow Food “Salone del Gusto” event in Torino, Italy, 2014. Representing the Association (and Hungarian women farmers in general) at a Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, held in Bra, Italy, at the Slow Food University, 2014. Attendance at an international event organized by the “Union of Hungarian Women” on the occasion of the International Day of Country Women, 15 October 2015, Kecskemét, Hungary. Participation in the preparation of an international project proposal (title: SlowFoodCULTURE, EU Interreg Programme), submitted in December, 2015.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Raising awareness, enhancing environmental consciousness: events, competitions organized for children in the schools of the region (yearly, in May). Providing organic local products for the canteens and catering facilities of the local schools (on a regular basis). Summer camps at the organic farm for children: teaching traditional cooking, food preservation, gardening, collecting medicinal herbs, handicrafts (weaving, sewing, doll-making) etc. (2-3 camps / summer). Organizing local producers’ markets: selling products, swap organic seeds, presenting handicrafts (2-3 times in a year). Participation as lecturers in adult training courses for farmers, young farmers (e.g. medicinal herbs, drought resistant plants) (1-2 courses / year).

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Farmhouse Museum: village tourism/tourist groups from Hungary and abroad (1-2 occasions / summer month). Collecting and distributing second-hand clothes, providing in-home assistance (for those in need).

## NETHERLANDS

### Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091058**

**Members: Undeclared**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Regarding ACWW, Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK works closely together with other national women organizations in The Netherlands. Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK is member of “NVR” Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (Dutch Women’s Council) with its active national and international focus. Every year NVR appoints a woman representative to the United Nations General Assembly. As part of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, in 2014 Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK financially supported the Nakibale Hospital in South-western Uganda, the Wajir Foundation in Kenia and the Hunger Project in India.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK donates each year €0,045 per member to ‘Pennies for Friendship’. On its website and in its members magazine ACWW news has been brought regularly under the attention of the members. Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK is member of a special ACWW committee, together with two fellow Dutch national women’s organizations: “Passage” and “Vrouwen van Nu”, that coordinates and carries out all ACWW activities and publicity in The Netherlands.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The resolutions and recommendations of the 2013 Triennial were brought to the attention of the Dutch government, to ministries concerning, to Dutch members of the EU parliament and to organizations, closely working on one or more of the adopted themes.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK is active in Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (NVR), the Dutch Women’s Council; Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECEF); European Women’s Lobby (EWL) and Women for Water (WfW).

## NETHERLANDS

### Passage - Christian Social Women's Organisation

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091186

Members: Undeclared

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Passage holds a board function at "Agriterra", in this way supporting farmer's organizations in their fight against poverty, with advice from the Dutch agricultural sector and co-finance from the Dutch government. From 2012-2016 Passage collaborated with the Specific Union in Jordan, a volunteer union whose members are women farmers. The main focus was capacity strengthening, training on economic activities like marketing, writing business plans and how a volunteer organization should function. In 2014 the Jordan Specific Union visited Passage in The Netherlands. Passage is member of the NVR, the Dutch Women's Council with its active international focus. Yearly, the NVR appoints a woman representative to the United Nations General Assembly.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Members of Passage donate each year approximately € 1 per member to Agriterra projects. Passage is member of a special ACWW committee (together with two fellow Dutch national women's organizations, Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK and Vrouwen van Nu) that coordinates and carries out all ACWW activities and publicity in The Netherlands.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The resolutions and recommendations of the 2013 Triennial were brought to the attention of the Dutch government, to ministries concerned, to Dutch members of the EU parliament and to organizations, closely working on one or more of the adopted themes.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Passage is active in Agriterra (board function); Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (NVR), the Dutch Women's Council and Women for Water (WfW).

## NETHERLANDS

### Vrouwen Van Nu

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091057

Members: 50,000

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We started with Rabobank Foundation a project with 'Mide', a women's organisation in the highlands of southern Peru. The program aims are economic and organizational development. A tool-kit for local and regional branches supported the raising of donations. The program Food Battle stimulated members about the issues on food waste. The Food Battle was developed with partners such as Wageningen University and the Dutch Voedingscentrum. This program included also a thematic website and a poll for members. As one of the founders of Agriterra, we participate in the board with two members. Agriterra supports farmers' organizations worldwide. Through Agripool, a service of Agriterra, members with expertise on the field of agricultural, economic or organizational development share knowledge and experience worldwide. Our delegate in the Women for Water Platform WFWP reported about her work. We started a yearly campaign week and website to celebrate International Women's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The Dutch ACWW delegates worked together on issues related to ACWW and its conferences.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** The resolutions and recommendations of the 2013 Triennial were brought to the attention of the government and to ministries concerning. Specially about resolutions related to violence against women awareness was addressed through thematic websites, email newsletters for local branches and polls for members.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We give on regular basis input on issues related to the position of women addressed by the Dutch Women's Council.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

### **Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091080**

**Members: 5,500**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** An International Day for Rural Women is held annually – speakers in 2014 and 2015 have been Ruth Shanks, World President, and Valerie Stevens, European Area President of ACWW. Most of our 160 Institutes have an International Officer and the Federation has an International Sub-committee with representatives from our Area Groups. ACWW information is published in our monthly magazine.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Our members are constantly raising funds for Pennies for Friendship and ACWW Projects. They have continued to support the Women Walk the World event. We also supported the Bring and Buy Sale at the European Conference and used the competition for the mobile phone sleeve as our Federation competition. The entries will be brought to the Triennial Conference for sale. Through a variety of activities our members have donated over £81,000 to ACWW over the past three years.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Our delegates report back to the Executive Committee of our Federation, who take every opportunity to advance the ACWW aims to create a better future for all. We have had a representative on the Ad-hoc Committee looking into the ACWW constitution.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We have had representatives on the ACWW Agriculture and Finance Committees and hope to sponsor delegates from Eastern Europe to attend the 28th Triennial Conference.

## **NORWAY**

### **Norges Kvinne og Familieforbund (The Norwegian Women and Family Association)**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091064**

**Members: 3,453**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Yearly international seminar for members with lectures on international women's issues. Participating in governmental meetings and seminars with international themes. In these meetings, we give our point of view on the subject. Articles in our magazine in every edition. Invite our members to all ACWW conferences. Distribute ACWW newsletters to our international contacts all over the country.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** We translated the resolutions into Norwegian. Submitted them to different Department, published them in the NWF magazine, and merged the resolutions into NWF's input to the suggestions for the national budget. The resolution regarding "Women and Children in Conflict" has of course been followed up through lectures and workshops all over the country.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Hosted the European Area Conference in May 2014, and celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year in 2015 with several activities and seminars.

## **ROMANIA**

### **The Women of the Third Millennium Association (WThM)**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092555**

**Members: 100**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** The members participated to different activities, meetings or projects that gave us the opportunity to spread info about ACWW and its values, principles, projects etc. WThM association organised the WWW each year and celebrated the IRWD and gave press release about the affiliation to this organisation.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** The association participated at the yearly NGO market/fair, to promote its values and principles and to display the crafts. Small amounts of money are raised in this way. Also during the WWW we raise some money each year. The amounts are quite small.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Three projects carried between 2013/2014/2015, with local funds supporting "Assisting and counselling centre for disadvantaged women and children". Summer camp for children in 2013. Training sessions for members in 2015/2014 through activities organised with a motivational trainer, to help members to enhance personal development.

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

### **Women's Union of Russia**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092523**

**Members: c.2,000,000**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** 2014, June- Visit of the ACWW European President Mrs. Stevens to Moscow and Yakutsk; November 2014- International meeting in Moscow "Women for Peace, Concord and Security"; 2014-2015 together with Polish Women's League and Belorussian Women's Council- International singing competition and the Festival "We are echoing each other..." devoted to the recognized Polish and Russian singer Anna German (in Moscow and in Warsaw); 2014, November- Visit of Russian countrywomen to Belorussia; 2014, 2015- Participation in OSCE Sessions in Warsaw and Vienna, 2015, June- Interregional Seminar (with participation of our partners from Poland and Lithuania) in Vladimir, 2015- September Participation at the First Euro-Asian Women's Forum in Sankt-Petersburg (80 countries of the World participated).

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Unfortunately we are not very skilled in raising funds, because about 24% of the population are living under 2 dollars per day, but we are trying to organize fairs of vegetables and fruits in autumn, 2015 organized for the first time – Walking for ACWW (in five regions).

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** All Resolutions and Recommendations of ACWW adopted at the Triennial Conferences are translated into Russian and published in the Information letters of the Women's Union of Russia and on the web-page of the WUR. All regional affiliations include (if it is possible) the statements in their information materials and use them in the framework of their meetings.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** 2013, December – International Roundtable "Human Being. Society. Nature. Nuclear Technologies"; 2014, June, Conference "For clean houses, clean country and clean planet" adopted a campaign under this slogan; 2014-2016 we launched a new campaign "School of civic activity" (in two years we held 10 school sessions for 350 representatives from all regions of Russia); 2015, April Conference "Beijing +20. Achievements, progress and obstacles"; 2015, May Jubilee Conference devoted to 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WUR, held review contest "Best women's council" (59 out of 82 regional affiliations participated), 2016, February Conference – "Women's Councils for Security in the country"; 2016, May international Conference "Gender Equality – Still possible?"; 2016, June – "Women's and Father's councils for solid families, responsible parenthood and protected childhood".

## **SCOTLAND**

### **Scottish Women's Institutes**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091084**

**Members: 16,691**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Study Tours are organised by SWI groups to various destinations. Visitors from Canada, Australia and Norway have been welcomed. Contacts from around the world are greatly appreciated. 147 adult hats were donated to a local charity who distributed them overseas on SWI's behalf.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Members of SWI continue to give generously to Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The Education and International Committee considered the Resolutions & Recommendations and took the necessary action.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** SWI continues its normal programme of educational events, schools, classes, sports, etc. at local, county and national level. In 2011/2013 members collected 2746 backpacks filled with basic educational materials with a number of extra items to send to children receiving Mary's Meals. Our current appeal is the ACWW 'Water for All' Fund which will run until November 2016. After the closing date for donations ACWW will be contacted to find out which suitable water projects are available for the funds to be allocated to.

## WALES

### Ceredigion Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093498**

**Members: 800**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Reports and photos of all activities relating to ACWW are submitted and printed in the local newspaper and where possible included in our website. We have been united in striving for world peace by 'Hands Across the Bridge' in Aberystwyth.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** We hold annual walks to celebrate ACWW Women Walk the World day. These have included the Coastal path and a walk around the town of Aberaeron. Walk around Cardigan and a visit to Cardigan Castle with an experienced tour guide. We are having a guided tour of Tregaron Bog and the Red Kite centre. All these raise valuable funds for our current project. We have just completed raising £1500 for Traditional Birth Attendants in Ghana and are now embarking on a new project for 2016. During 2013-14 Ceredigion collected £835.30 and 2014-15 £718.30 for Pennies for Friendship.

An annual lunch is held where we invite speakers such as Suzanne Garrett and Valerie Stevens. Craft stalls and flower auctions also raise funds for ACWW. We entertained Joan Brady from Ontario, member of the Agriculture committee who told us of her work in promoting market gardening and farmers markets, and of her work on agricultural business development, locally and globally.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Maternal Health and Stopping violence towards women are two of the 2013 subjects covered. We have discussed these issues widely and lobbying was done to government level. Locally members collected much needed items of clothing and bedding for women in need of help after domestic violence.

## WALES

### Gwent Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091248**

**Members: 1,650**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We have had ACWW Committee members from the USA, Australia and Norway speaking at our events.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Two Women Walk the World events. Two lunches with ACWW speakers. Coffee morning to have feedback from delegate after the ACWW conference.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Discussions prior to any ACWW conference and decision made on Resolution voting.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## SOUTH EAST ASIA AND FAR EAST

### INDONESIA

#### Persatuan Wanita Republik Indonesia (PERWARI)

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091046**

**Members: 1,000**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** PERWARI attended the 11th Area Conference of South East Asia and the Far East in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; sending seven ladies to the conference. Two from the National Board and two from West Sumatra province, and three from Middle Borneo / Kalimantan. The conference was attended by the Board of ACWW, the Philippines, South Korea, Brunei and also invited guests from Australia and Africa. PERWARI via Kowani (a national umbrella organisation of about 80 members at the national level) is also a member of ICW- the International Council of Women.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Selling food and handicrafts to pay annual membership fee for ACWW, and to attend the ACWW World Conference and Area Conference. PERWARI also donated Pennies for Friendship during the Area Conference.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** In almost all of PERWARI's Chapters and Provinces, we work with the government at the national and provincial level to organise seminars about narcotics (drugs), child abuse and violence against women and children, health etc.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** HIV/AIDS awareness, including handouts of school articles like books and pencil. Additional support for poor parents who work and live by gathering garbage. We also support PERWARI schools for disabled children in Kuningan West Java province. PERWARI organised a National meeting for 18 provinces / chapters and branches in November 2015, at our Headquarters in Jakarta. This national meeting was about organisation, leadership and social work.

As a post conference visit to Indonesia, PERWARI accompanied ACWW World President Ruth Shanks, and Area President of South East Asia and the Far East HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia, joined by ACWW Treasurer Alison Burnett and past secretary Jo Ellen Almond. This visit was to see the activities of PERWARI specially in the field of education and organisation.

### MALAYSIA

#### Sarawak Federation of Women's Institutes

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091054**

**Members: 13,000**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** 10<sup>th</sup> Area Conference of South East Asia and Far East, January 13-18, 2013 in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia, attended by Member Societies and Observers from Indonesia, South Korea, England and ACWW Officers. 11<sup>th</sup> Area Conference of South East Asia and Far East, 18-22 January 2015, in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** ACWW Women Walk the World (Every year). Donations to Pennies for Friendship (Every year.)

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Courses on entrepreneurship for SFWI members. Launch of SFWI 50th Anniversary Book. SFWI fundraising dinner to raise money for new SFWI building.

## MALAYSIA

### Women's Institute Pahang Malaysia

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091224

Members: 7,443

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** As an NGO affiliated to the Ministry of Women and Development, Women's Institute Pahang (WI Pahang) is always involved in official programmes and activities at the State and National levels. This promotes an awareness and understanding among members of the various facets of the women and family development agenda around the world.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Fundraising activities were constantly undertaken primarily through our charity shop and activities undertaken by every branch and district of WI Pahang. However, the funds collected were channelled to local needs and disaster relief work in the State of Pahang.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The Malaysian government has specific programmes on maternal health, registration, fighting against all forms of violence, and recycling. WI Pahang adheres to, and participates actively in all these programmes undertaken by the government, private sector and NGOs. Recycling remains our dominant thrust in activities undertaken by members, especially sewing and crafting household items from used and recycled materials.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Members in all branches continued undertaking the activities in accordance with the yearly calendar of programmes. At the end of 2014 under the direction of our President, HRH Azizah Iskandar, we embarked on a collaborative initiative in handling disaster relief work. We adopted specific villages that have been badly affected by floods and 'rebuild' the communities in an integrated plan in collaboration with the respective district offices, private sectors and NGOs under HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### LESOTHO

#### Boiteko Women's Association

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092341

Members: 2,300

Boiteko have lost more than 1,000 members during this Triennium- mainly due to a lack of funds available to pay membership dues.

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Boiteko, as the Training of Trainers Association, among other activities, took the initiative to train women on issues that legally affect the legal status of children and egalitarian marriage. Now the Reform Commission has been invited to enlighten the women. Basotho women cannot borrow money from the bank. The Marriage Laws have been reformed and soon it will be ratified by Parliament.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** The aim of the association is to reduce poverty and to contribute to ACWW through income generating projects, i.e. Pennies for Friendship. Unfortunately due to severe drought and virtually no crops, no Pennies for Friendship were collected.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Resolution on HIV/AIDS: Training of Trainers, growing special crops used to reduce HIV/AIDS and work hand in hand with specialists in HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS in Lesotho is one of the highest levels in the world. Treatment of HIV/AIDS and Training in farming and the food industry.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Improved capacity of vulnerable households to cope with shocks and stresses that increase the impact of HIV/AIDS. Education and Training of Trainers. Livelihood recovery through agricultural programmes. Care of women and children. Farming to alleviate poverty. Education. Economic empowerment of women and youth.

### LESOTHO

#### Lesotho Homemaker's Association

ACWW Society Membership Number: 92469

Members: 1,700

LHA have sadly lost more than 4,000 members during this Triennium- it experienced severe financial problems due to the Husband of former late President withholding all documentation and funding due to the society. It is working hard to rebuild the society.

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Implementation of Beijing plan. Areas of concern: Empowerment of women and girl child starting in the home. Gender issues. Women should feed themselves – household sustainable food security, home gardens, food processing, save food losses, fight persistent war against HIV/AIDS as a threat to families War against poverty: Observed in October – World Food Day and World Rural Women's Day.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Self-employment, sale of handicrafts and garden produce, cakes and jumble to pay for membership dues and Pennies for Friendship, but funding remains the biggest problem. Finance our local programme of bee-keeping. Should our centre be electrified and furnished, this will be a sustainable source of income. Training for our own members, but also other NGO's will then be able to use the centre. We are unfortunately encountering endless problems and we might lose the plot of land and the half-finished centre due to in-fighting between LHA and the family of our late former President.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Empowerment of women to get to decision making positions and fight for their rights. The establishment of the Law Reform Commission is the remit of women's struggle in Lesotho for their emancipation, conducted jointly with Lesotho National Council of Women and ended up with 15 women parliamentarians for the first time in the history of Lesotho and five cabinet ministers Fight for improvement of factory workers, the majority of whom are women. We also worked towards conserving soil and water.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Local fundraising, poverty eradication through self-help and self-employment. Fight against HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, diabetics, coronary diseases. Established a skills training centre as seat of empowerment, information and education and children's rights being implemented.

## LESOTHO

### Lesotho Women's Institute

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092343**

**Members: 2,000**

LWI have experienced severe loss of members during the present Triennium. This stems mainly from members being unable to pay membership dues, also resulting in the Society being unable to pay ACWW membership dues.

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Correspondence with international NGO's such as ACWW and International Council of Social Welfare.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Raffle of a woven shawl – woven by young girls in the society's practical learning centre where young girls are given the opportunity to learn how to weave, do pottery, cooking lessons, etc. The proceeds will be sent to ACWW – Pennies for Friendship

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Income generation; Training of Trainers; Training women, girls and boys in skills; Workshops on HIV/AIDS; Running of pre-schools and vocational centres.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Carpentry; Skills share international; Spinning and weaving; Poultry keeping; Vocational centre.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Bafokeng Women's Club

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092475**

**Members: 650**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** BWC had a joint project with the Girl Guides South and Boys Scouts where we jointly hosted visiting Girl Guides and Boys Scouts from different countries. We were given a slot to introduce ACWW where stimulating discussions and ideas followed.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Hosted a fundraising dinner at a local Hotel. Sold tickets for a fun walk

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Few workshops were conducted on Agriculture, which achieved formation of agricultural co-operatives by members some of which produce: Vegetables; Rear chickens for eggs; Rear chicken for meat; Rear goats etc.

On education, two schools were adopted and the needy are provided with school uniform and assisted with school fees.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Arranged a workshop for local teachers on developmental training and information sharing, which was received very well that a repeat was requested.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Die Dameskring (The Ladies Circle)

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091246**

**Members: 1,200**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We make use of the magazine of ACWW and this is helpful in the understanding different cultures and projects. One of Dameskring's main focuses are activities to improve and strengthen our own culture, but in the same way, to try to understand the way of doing and living of other cultures in South Africa as well.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Part of our annual member's subscription are used for our ACWW Member Society dues.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Some of the activities that were done by ACWW, published in The Countrywoman motivated our members to get involved in such activities that can change their communities and other people's lives.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Dameskring's major planned activity for the year 2016 is to design a manual to invest values in preschool children. This is a huge project and we need some more sponsors to design a product of good quality. We plan to hand out this manual to every pre-school teacher to use in the classroom. The product will be launched during our biennial Congress in October 2016.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Eastern Cape Women's Zenzele Association**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091181**

**Members: 1,250**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Beadwork; Sewing traditional wear; Baking and cooking; Early childhood development; Communal gardens and Candle making.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship; International Rural Women's Day; ACWW Awareness Day.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Training programme to teach methods of sustainable agriculture in order to increase food security. Community health workers support the communities by providing medical support to families when visiting. Department of Social Development funded Old Age Centres and develop their skills, i.e. athletics, beading, sewing etc.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Preschool / Creches / Day Care Centres. Autistic children are included, assessed by education and social development departments. Gardening produce for centres.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Free State Women's Agricultural Union**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091070**

**Members: 1,102**

The Free State Women's Agricultural Union aims to uplift, enrich and empower women by means of projects that members can be involved in, workshops and demonstrations where they learn and monthly meetings where they get together for discussions.

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** FSWAU members are involved in fund raising projects for Pennies for Friendship. Members travel internationally and have "pen friends" abroad where they exchange ideas.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Branches of the FSWAU are involved in Women walk the world. The President addresses ladies organizations around the Free State, and promotes ACWW and the role they play in empowering women worldwide. The "Tea – time" project was also well supported.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The following FSWAU Resolutions & Recommendations were proposed and discussed at the annual congresses of: 2013, 2014 and 2015.

- 2013: Department of Communication to categorize the important telephone numbers in the telephone directory.
- 2014: Department of Health to provide the necessary immunization for babies.
- 2015: Department of Human Settlements to provide all RDP houses with a water tank, an appropriate gutter and down pipe. Department of Water and Sanitation to install waterless and chemical toilets in all RDP houses.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** At the Provincial level- FSWAU reached out to the Agapé After Care Centre for mentally handicapped adults in Winburg. FSWAU were proud when "Kwela" filmed an inset on the activities of our organization and our involvement at the centre on 12 May 2015 for a national TV Broadcast!

Toys were given to cancer patients, the awareness of organ donors was discussed, members are involved in various projects in the community by donations to informal settlements and unprivileged schools all over the Free State.

A quote by the well known Evangelist, Billy Graham, motivated members to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others:

"God gave us two hands,  
one to help ourselves and  
one to help others"

## NAMIBIA

### Namibian Women's Society

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092459

Members: 262

#### Membership:

2013: 4 regions, 19 branches, members: 250;

2014: 4 regions, 17 branches; 240 members;

2015: 4 regions, 18 branches 262 members.

Pennies for Friendship and affiliation fees were paid to ACWW for these past years.

**Branch meetings per year:** 7-11 with 70% attendance. Four conferences were held per year: one in each region. An **annual congress:** 2013 in Windhoek; 2014 in Swakopmund and 2015 in Windhoek. **Themes** for congresses were: 2013: ACWW Empowerment of Women Worldwide; 2014: NWS Joy for Life; 2015: SAWAU and NWS Women with Joy for Life.

**NWS National Projects:** 2013: Ilaros (To give with Joy); 2014: Visually Impaired Audio-Library; 2015: Be Technologically Wise.

**Charity work: First National Bank project:** scarves and hats were knitted and crocheted for a tented school outside Windhoek. 12 Branches took part and Walvis Bay branch knitted 84 sets and the handover took place in August 2014.

**Fundraising efforts:** 2013 A First for Namibia: A Tasting and Crafting Bee: Food could be tasted and bought; Craft demonstrations could be attended. 2014: Another First for Namibia: Fundraising (at branch and congress level) for the Audio-library for the Visually Impaired to be established in Namibia. Old Mutual will be donating furniture for the library; 2015: Another Crafting Bee with six demonstrations and 102 participants was held.

**Fundraising at branch level using the following methods:** Payment of extra membership fees, spring teas, winter dances, cancer-days and-teas, a pottery day, an angling club dinner, a get-together evening, a 4x4 fun day, yearend functions, Christmas markets, pancake-sales, desserts prepared for Spar retail shop, a gift basket at meetings, blankets with crochet blocks sold, church lunches offered, food for farmers' union meetings and market tables at meetings raised funds for either the society itself or for various charities.

**Funds/Goods were donated to:** Old Age Homes and pensioners: namely spectacles and frames, gift bags, groceries, meals, soup and bread, kitchen equipment and other small gifts. Schools: toilet ware, backpacks, wood, fund for a specific pupil, stationaries, prizes for excellent academic performances, meals and the preparation of sports fields for a weekend national athletics meeting. Patients: Blankets and contributions for Alzheimer- and Cancer Associations. Impaired and needy people: blankets, clothes, groceries and funds for our own project: Audio library. Members: paying for membership fees, baked goodies for spouses, gifts for congress attendants and table decorations at congresses.

**Courses presented:** In 2015 at all four conferences leadership training took place for all chairpersons, secretaries and interested members. A participants-course in machine work, knitting, crocheting was held at the beginning of October 2015.

**Competitions:** Members took part on branch, regional and congress levels in various competitions: Namib Mills annually sponsored "Bakpro" baking competition, Clover baking competition (2015) and the SAWAU prescribed competitions for congress 2015.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Kwa Zulu Natal Federation of Women's Institutes**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091069**

**Members: Undeclared**

The Federation of Women's Institutes celebrates its 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year. At our Congresses, Institutes can submit Resolutions of National Interest. The resolution passed last year was 'No Bail for Rapists'. This is a major step forward for victims of rape.

Many of the Resolutions submitted have happened eventually, perhaps not under FWI's name but we can see many of them that have changed our road safety regulations e.g. the wearing of crash helmets is now compulsory and the chevron at the back of trucks.

We have ten Groups located throughout Kwa Zulu Natal, each with an Executive Member, elected by her Group Members, and who is responsible for the Interests and well-being of the Group. Executive and Manco Meetings are held three times a year, to discuss business as well as plan for the year ahead. At these meetings, the Executive have the opportunity of sharing and discussing points of interest with one another.

Being an Adult Education Organization, we cover a variety of interests for our Members. Workshops are held at Group and Local Branch Level where we offer our Members courses at very competitive prices. Speakers and demonstrations continue to provide many interesting subjects.

Our Project for 2015 was- 'Knitted Knockers'. These hand knitted breast prosthesis, are for women who have undergone mastectomies. Well over 300 pairs of these prosthesis have been knitted by our members, and given to the National Cancer Association for further distribution amongst their patients. This has proved a great success and will be an ongoing project.

An additional project for 2015 was 'Fidget Cushions'. These are for Alzheimer / Dementia patients. These cushions have been distributed throughout Kwa Zulu Natal, one even found its way to the United Kingdom and a few to other provinces. Over eight hundred cushions have been made, some of which were on display at our Congress. Smaller cushions are being made for children in hospital undergoing various treatments.

Apart from the above projects, Members continue to knit and sew toys/clothes etc for those in need. Each Christmas one WI makes a thousand Christmas crackers, which are distributed to Senior Citizen Homes in their Area. Comfort bags are filled with necessary toiletries for rape/abuse victims. Knitted toys are supplied to children who have been victims of abuse. Government Hospitals in Kwa Zulu Natal are handed parcels of beanies and vests for premature babies in incubators. The list is endless of what is being done to help the vulnerable and needy.

Members are visiting Senior Citizen Homes, bringing cheer and goodwill and teaching various easy crafts as a form of occupational therapy. Their local WI Choir entertained one of these homes during Christmas. Our members continue to contribute to the well being of so many, with true Women's Institute generosity and help with the up-liftment of many less fortunate than themselves.

The Royal Agricultural Show takes place in Pietermaritzburg annually in May/June. Many of our Institutes enter high quality work, which is displayed either in their WI stands or in the Open Sections. Stiff competition within the various participating Institutes, make the various trophies awarded for outstanding work in Craft, Handicraft and Knitting much sought after.

Our retirement home Evelyn House in Richmond, continues to flourish. We are extremely proud of Evelyn House, which is owned by FWI and run by an all Women management team. Some of the Residents enjoy working in the Hobbies Club, refurbishing cards, knitting and making items for sale. We pride ourselves on being a very special happy retirement home. Residents enjoy the activities and outings planned for them throughout the year.

Federation is currently involved with an ACWW funded Project in the Valley of a Thousand Hills in the Botha Hills area. The Yenzanathi Community Outreach project is a garden project, which provided vegetables for a soup kitchen, crèche in the area and members who work in the garden. An application for funding to provide a borehole for this project was made to ACWW in 2015, and approved. These funds are administered by Federation and overseen by a small committee. Drilling commenced in June whilst South Africa was and still is experiencing one of the worst droughts in a hundred years, and the water situation throughout the country is dire. Water is LIFE, very precious and we cannot do without it.

The Triennial ACWW Conference held at Modimolle, was attended by a number of our Members. In spite of the long distances needed to travel to reach the Conference, it was a Conference well worth attending.

We have lots of ideas and plans to keep moving forward, and encouraging new members to come and enjoy the wonder world of Women's Institute to learn and enjoy new crafts, fun and fellowship.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **North West Women's Agricultural Union**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091210**

**Members: 571**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Some branches have international days/evenings. Traditional clothes are worn. Informative speeches done and traditional dishes made. Koster branch visited Lebone II College of the Bafokeng tribe. At the ACWW Triennial conference in 2013 the ten North West Ladies exchanged ideas with members of other countries.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** All 35 branches in the province contribute annually towards Pennies for Friendship. Some branches put coins on the printed letters ACWW. We still have 2-litre corebottles to collect coins. Most regions have banners of ACWW which are used when they walk for awareness-raising. One member received money from ACWW through SA to train less privileged ladies embroidery.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Members still committed to the millennium development goals. Education enjoys priority. Vaccination of babies and the high cost thereof was discussed at Sawali congress. Good reports on assistance to start vegetable gardens were received. All communities stand together in the severe drought to collect water and food to distribute in areas worst stricken.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Branches organise holiday activities where children are taught to knit, bake, crochet, sew, flower arranging, arts and crafts, line dance etc. Borno branch donated stationery. Volmoed had a special programme for '67 minutes for Madiba'. Branches wore orange to show support of 16 days against the abuse of women and children. Special day of prayer was initiated by Norway. Pink cloth wrapped round trees for the awareness of breast cancer. NWW gave a bursary to a promising student. Food and clothing donated to less privileged. Books and 75 prizes for schools were awarded.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **South African Homemakers Organisation**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091235**

**Members: 3,050**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Being an organisation solely for Domestic Workers, members are regularly informed of the situation at the International Labour Court (ILO). Salaries at international level are compared and members are reminded of annual increases in minimum wages. Domestic workers are the largest workers group in the country ±1.5 million. Members of SAHO are empowered to be employed not only as domestic works (by means of 3 different courses, namely Cleaning, Laundry and Cooking) but also with the view to starting their own businesses.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Training is essential, but unfortunately Domestic Workers are the lowest paid of all in the labour market and therefore cannot attend all the necessary training courses, either due to employers that would not allow them the time to attend the courses or a lack of funding. Due to this problem, SAHO has, during the past triennium, offered courses at no charge. Once courses will be offered at a fee again, a portion will be sent to ACWW for Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** During Domestic Worker training, talks on Diabetes, Menopause, Developing Leadership Skills, How to address your employer, and other educational subjects are dealt with. Empowerment of members by getting to know the local labour laws are most important and officials from the Department of Labour are invited to address the members.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** HIV/AIDS awareness and encouragement of independent ventures to raise money are ongoing agenda items in the annual programme for SAHO members. Special time is set aside to assist members in planning their annual budgets for their households and families.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **SAVF-NEB**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093509**

**Members: 32**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Attended Southern Africa Area Conference in 2014. Posted 2 articles in The Countrywoman, the International Magazine. Three applications for funding through ACWW. SAVF President and Vice President attended the 2013 Triennial Conference in Chennai, India.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Promotion of ECD in communities. Promotion of children's rights through schools and community programmes.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **South African Union of Homemakers Clubs**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091071**

**Members: 1,539**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Correspondence and interaction with international NGO's such as ACWW and the International Council of Social Welfare.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** All clubs are encouraged to make a savings bottle marked 'Pennies for Friendship', and we then collect the proceeds, sending them to ACWW each year.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Training of carers for children and the aged. Running of pre-school and senior citizen groups. Creating jobs and income generation workshops. Workshops on HIV/AIDS. Gardening, economic cooking, healthy eating to fight poverty and ill health.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We have our own premises- hall, office, kitchenette and toilet in Cape Town, and the use of school classrooms and other venues for our other groups. We offer Skills training in sewing, cooking, baking, decor crafts, knitting, beading, candle-making and many other popular fields that members who intend to become entrepreneurs can qualify themselves in. During our exceptionally dry year, our 'Save Water' campaign promoted the ACWW 'Water for All' policy very successfully.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **South African Women's Agricultural Union**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093072**

**Members: 10,000**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** SAWAU is an umbrella organisation for 7 other organisations in South Africa and Namibia. All the affiliate organisations also belong to ACWW in their own capacity. These two countries have very diverse and multicultural populations. All the societies in SAWAU are involved with training other women from different cultural backgrounds. These sessions differ from International days where food, dress and habits are being looked at. Other countries not in Africa are also discussed. Articles are published in the newsletters of all the organisations.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** The societies contribute on an annual basis to Pennies for Friendship and they all have different and sometimes fun ways to collect it. SAWAU has also contributed £300 to Pennies for Friendship in this period. The special days like ACWW Day, World Food Day and others are celebrated in the branches and regions. UN matters are also supported.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The Resolutions and Recommendations passed at the previous Triennial Conference were carried out in the societies. It was also published in the newsletters of the societies. In SAWAU itself the following were handled in depth: Maternal Health, stopping the use of Bisphenol A, Energy for All and stopping the violence against women and children, all part of the Makhosikhazi Project.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** The Makhosikhazi Project run by SAWAU with funds from ACWW was a three year project. More than 10,000 women and children were trained in finance, nutrition, entrepreneurship and health. The SAWAU members were the volunteers, doing the training in rural areas. Nursery schools were adopted and updated.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **South African Women's Empowerment Foundation**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 095272**

**Members: 480**

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Creating hope and a better future for disadvantaged communities.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** During the current Triennium, SAWEF / SACEF has continued to act an executing agency in providing extra tuition in the three gateway subjects of mathematics, English, and physical sciences for selected high school learners participating in a schools' programme in the peri-urban / rural area of Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria. Learners from 17 schools in the area are currently participating with the support of the local district office of the Gauteng Department of Education.

Highly experienced tutors contracted by SACF on an annual basis offer tuition on Saturdays and during school holidays at a local school. The programme has each year produced a good number of distinctions in these three subjects during the final matric examinations.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Women's Agricultural Union Mpumalanga**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091208**

**Members: 966**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Branches held international events in which members enjoyed the cultures of different countries. Two members are on the ACWW board and keep our members well informed. April is ACWW awareness month in branches. Some members took part in 'Women Walk the World' campaign. 7 members attended the Southern Africa Area Conference and 6 attended the world conference. The use of technology (e-mails, e-magazine, facebook, website) keep members informed.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Members took part in the campaigns for 'Women Walk the World', the 'World Rural Women's Day Teatime', were aware of 'The World Soil Day' and the food waste campaign. During the international events, Pennies for Friendship were collected, a fashion hat parade was held and altogether R16911.00 was raised for pennies during the period 2013-15!

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Resolutions and recommendations are published in our magazine and sent to members via e-mail. Members supported the '16 days of prevention of violence against women and children' by wearing orange lipstick and scarves and showed their support to women as victims of violence and conflict. Awareness of the huge problem of e-wasting and BPA chemicals in plastic were addressed and some members attended a meeting at Sancu about the matter. Previous resolutions were still supported – arbour treeplanting day/plastic bags.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Different life skills were taught through the 'Makosikhazi' project. The focus was on finances, health, education, gardening, sewing, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and baking. Branches supported communities by grants and donations. Beneficiaries were: Cancer Association, Old Age Homes (bedsocks, blankets) schools/ pre-schools (toys, magazines, beanies, scarfs, healthy food parcels), Alzheimer's, child welfare, epilepsy centre, homes for disabled (classes in crafts and skills) and children in hospitals (toys).

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Women's Agricultural Union North**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091207**

**Members: 519**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** WAU north members attend the Area Conference of Southern Africa Area in Modimolle (SA), during June 2015.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** The society pays Pennies for Friendship direct to the London Central Office. During 2015 two branches- Skemer and Ellisras- held an ACWW day to raise Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** WAU North received the Resolutions and Recommendations from the South African Women's Agricultural Union and this information was then sent to all the branches. The branches then tried to implement the Resolutions and Recommendations in their local community as far as possible.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** The main activity of our society is educating our members, and incorporate this into all levels of our society, from branch level up to the executive level. Some of our branches do training for young girls during the school holidays and the Ellisras branches started training for domestic workers in 2015. Workshops are held and demonstrations are given at the monthly meetings. To evaluate our members' skills, our society has regional and provincial competitions. Almost all of the branches are involved in community work and projects.

## ZIMBABWE

### Jekesa Pflingwa Vilingondo (JPV)

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091251**

**Members: 5000**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** JPV works with women to redress gender imbalances through empowering women and children to assert their rights and making informed choices about their life.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Though the economic situation in Zimbabwe is difficult, JPV is working very hard to fundraise through the Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** JPV has been working on a number of programmes and activities in the 2013-16 period:

- JPV has worked with 17,239 entrepreneurs (14,796 females and 2,443 males) in the enterprise and business development programme
- Palliative care for orphans and vulnerable children – 340
- Sexual and reproductive health for 110 young women
- Constitutional Literacy – 1,500 women

**Other major activities carried out / supported:**

- Women's economic, social and legal rights
- Sexual and reproductive rights for young women
- Social mobilisation for women and youths to participate and influence local governance and national development process in Zimbabwe
- Psychosocial support for OVC

## ZIMBABWE

### National Federation of Women's Institutes of Zimbabwe

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093513**

**Members: 100**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** The 'jersey' project and correspondence with F101 Hampshire. Correspondence and friendship with FW1 Cumbria-Westmorland and ACWW donation there from various individual members' international links

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** It is not possible to send any funds overseas from Zimbabwe

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Circulation of The Countrywoman and exchange of opinions and ideas on ACWW work. It is not possible to approach Zimbabwe government.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Distribution of jumpers, hats and knitted toys (from Hampshire as above) to orphans and vulnerable children. Institutes' support of the elderly and orphans in their own areas. Members set up a WI session/display in history museum

## ZIMBABWE

### Zimbabwe Organic Producers and Promoters Association (ZOPPA Trust)

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 095322**

**Members: 4,500**

ZOPPA is a new Member Society within ACWW, joining in early 2016. ZOPPA serves small-scale, women organic producers and processors in Zimbabwe's rural areas by providing training and facilitating access to local and international markets, in an effort to improve livelihoods. We rely entirely on donor funding to support our project work. Zimbabwe currently has unemployment of more than 60%, while 1.5 million people are facing hunger due to the worst drought in 25 years.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## THE SOUTH PACIFIC

### CHRISTMAS ISLAND

#### The Christmas Island Women's Association (CIWA)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092401

Members: Undeclared

**Aims:** To identify social needs, to respond to a range of community issues and to promote the welfare and wellbeing of Christmas Island women and their families.

**Objectives:** To assist C.I. residents in times of crisis, family conflict and those, who are experiencing financial needs, or who are in any way needy, disadvantaged and vulnerable. To provide information and education for women on a range of social and health needs and issues. To enhance C.I. women's participation in community decision making. To support opportunities for children on Christmas Island to participate in cultural and social activities.

In 1989, Nora Koh, a local nurse, started the CIWA from a group of local women from various cultural backgrounds, by organising and promoting classes for cooking healthy food. Since then, the CIWA has been successful with establishing a great number of community projects, which continue to support the population of Christmas Island families.

**These include:**

- Women's Refuge Centre since 1989
- Child Care Centre 1990
- Early Childhood program 1991
- Music Centre for children 1992
- Healthy diet and lifestyle- 2 year project 2001
- Senior's week
- School holiday program
- Multi-Cultural Celebrations
- Organising fund-raising events
- Sponsorship for Musicians to provide music workshops for children
- Advocate for the installation of mammogram machines installed on Christmas Island & Coco Keeling Islands 2006.
- Received funding to produce 'Mix & Match' multicultural cookbook 2014

**Lobbying government for desperately needed:** Residential age-care facilities; Assistance with asbestos removal; Increase number of footpaths; Disability access and respite for Disabled carers; Increase in numbers of street lights; Anti-smoking awareness/strategies; Raising the level of services to a level equal to those provided on the mainland.

**The CIWA also plays a representative role in areas such as:**

- The Community Consultative Committee (CCC)
- School Council
- C.I. Economic Development Forum
- Community Legal Aid
- Department of Consumer and Employee protection
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Cultural Planning Committee
- Health Advisory Committee
- Acting as a Charity Board
- The CIWA is also affiliated with the World Women's Association in London.

## AUSTRALIA

### The Country Woman's Association of New South Wales (CWA of NSW)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091003

Members: 9,119

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Studied Botswana, Italy, and currently Mongolia. We have held a one day seminar in Australia's National Capitol, Canberra, each year to study these countries involving the Ambassador of each country and their staff. Approximately \$1,500 from these seminars is sent to a women's and/or children's charity in the country of study. Branches hold International days with competitions for project books, dressed dolls and needlework of the country of study each year, also dressing in National Costume when available. Branches invite school children to participate with posters, books and song. Food of the Country of Study is served at these meetings. An International meeting is held at State Conference each year involving the Ambassador of the Country being studied. State and Group International Officers promote ACWW at all functions.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Collect Pennies for Friendship at all International meetings and/or functions. Participate enthusiastically and financially in Women Walk the World. Fundraise for Clean Water for All, General Fund, Doctors Without Borders, \$50,000 for the Ebola Crisis, The Saroj Nalini Dutt Clinic, \$5,000 in 2015 in honour of their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** We continue to support, and lobby for better education for women and children, discrimination against women, Government funding for isolated women for transport to medical help; AIDS, domestic violence and medical education.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Supported South Pacific Area President. Financed some travel, food and all accommodation for the South Pacific Island women to attend the South Pacific Area Conference held in Dubbo- which CWA of NSW hosted in 2014. Financed pre-conference workshop for Island women prior to Dubbo conference. Paid ACWW subscription for Island Rural Women's Association. Forwarded material aid, school children's stationery packages and birthing kits regularly to the South Pacific Islands.

## AUSTRALIA

### The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091006

Members: Undeclared

The Triennial World Conference (2012) held in Chennai, India was attended by 20 members plus some partners. We were thrilled that members voted to accept our invitation to hold the 2019 Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

The 2014 South Pacific Area Conference was held in Dubbo, New South Wales, with some 47 members attending- a wonderful opportunity to catch up with women from across our Area. A number of projects were identified that members could support, such as provision of water tanks. We raise funds for the Area through Coins of Kindness.

Countries of Study have included New Zealand, Mongolia and Cameroon – members hold International Days at which they enjoy the opportunity to explore the culture and food of these Countries.

Strong support continues for Pennies for Friendship with AUD\$51,865 raised over the three years to support the operations of ACWW plus the Women Walk the World events run by our members raised \$10,332 over this time.

We belong to the UNAA-Victoria with regular attendance of the UN Status of Women roundtable monthly meetings by our International Chairman. Within our Association's monthly magazine is a report from the International Chairman about many activities and issues. We support and lobby on issues raised over time at the various ACWW Conferences – a recent major focus has been on Family Violence particularly as it affects women and girls.

A significant number of members continue to support ACWW through Individual Membership – they value highly the work of ACWW worldwide.

## AUSTRALIA

### The Country Woman's Association of Western Australia Inc.

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091007**

**Members: 2,014**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Countries of Study: Argentina, Tibet and Croatia. Branches held International Days to improve understanding with guest speakers and delicious meals. International Days: Recognition and support of all ACWW Days with displays at branch and State level. ACWW Conferences: Attendance at the 27<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Chennai, India at which a CWA of WA member, Mrs Margaret Sullivan JP, was announced as South Pacific Area President. 16<sup>th</sup> South Pacific Area Conference Dubbo, 2014: A delegation attended this conference and funds were given to assist delegates from South Pacific Societies to also attend.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship (April 2012 to December 2015): \$23,478 (all figures AUS\$) Women Walk the World: (2014 & 2015): \$2,254.60; International Shipment of Goods to South Pacific Area: (April 2012 to December 2015): \$16,059; South Pacific Fund: (April 2014 to December 2015): \$7,616

Support for nine South Pacific Island communities with school, clothing and craft items. In 2015, eighteen boxes of goods were sent weighing a total of 894 kilos. Distributed 280 pairs of reading glasses, plus hearing aids and 35.5 kilos of used postage stamps. A water filtration system was installed in a monastery in Himachal Pradesh, India.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Maternal Health: Negotiations underway to assist with accommodation for migrant pregnant women in the south of Western Australia. Speaker on gynaecological cancers at the 90<sup>th</sup> State Conference. A successful motion at the 91<sup>st</sup> State Conference for early diagnosis of gynaecological cancers. South Pacific Area Conference 2014: A successful motion for the elimination of modern day slavery. Other Association Work: Continued support of health, education and welfare for families; transport and environmental issues; agricultural and rural sustainability.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** In 2014, the Association celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary attended by the ACWW World President. Assistance from CWA of WA branches has been provided during and after droughts, floods, cyclones and bushfires. \$200,000 has been dispersed for emergencies, health needs, education assistance, and bursaries; breast prostheses for women who have undergone breast surgery; items for hospitals, women's refuges and outback communities. Rural Medical and Dental Scholarships offered which encourage students to return to rural areas to practice. \$75,000 raised for the Royal Flying Doctor Service; currently raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA.

## AUSTRALIA

### The Country Woman's Association in Tasmania Inc.

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091005**

**Members: 540**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Members have attended the following Conferences and bring back a good understanding of ACWW: The 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference in Chennai, India; South Pacific Area Conference in Dubbo, New South Wales. We also supported subsidies for Island ladies to attend the Area Conference in Dubbo. We undertook Country Studies on Denmark, Iceland and Nepal. Each year on 29 April we hold a Statewide gathering of members to support Women Walk the World. Members and branches are encouraged to join ACWW as Individual Members and to share information- collectively, we support and celebrate International Women's Day.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Promotion of CWA and ACWW at Agriculture Shows, and at AgFest- Tasmania's largest rural gathering. Women Walk the World events are held at branch and state level. Members supply the State International office with sewing and knitting aids, wool, cotton, material, children's books and educational aids which are sent to the South Pacific Islands. Branches and Members contribute by raising funds for ACWW Pennies for Friendship, Feed the World, Nutrition and Education Fund, Postage and Water and Sanitation in the South Pacific. Many singlets have been sent to Papua New Guinea and Alice Springs for the Indigenous children. We also support Water for All in the South Pacific Area. Used stamps are collected and sent on, and boxes of spectacles are sent away to be re-used.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** 2010: Stopping the use of plastic bags- we lobbied the Tasmanian Government, and our State is now free of Plastic bags. 2013: Stopping Violence against Women & Girls- we are part of the Tasmanian Government Working Party on this issue. Genital Mutilation- this issue has also been raised with the Tasmanian Government Working Party.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Community Service Officers in every region work to support and encourage disadvantaged women and children. Our state now supports an Australian child as a foster child. Members have displays at agricultural shows around the State which highlight the work of ACWW.

## AUSTRALIA

### Queensland Country Women's Association

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091008

Members: 170

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** QCWA begins each year with an International Study Weekend. We have sampled 'Turkish Delights', 'Ventured into Vietnam', and 'Meandered through the English Midlands' in readiness for the ACWW 2016 World Conference. Members learn to understand the country and culture of these countries; all about UN and ACWW. 2016 UN year of Pulses will be our focus on nutrition around the world.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** In 2015 QCWA was awarded a United Nations Association of Australia Community Award. This was in recognition of the work done to improve the conditions of women and children, making life better for families, especially in rural and remote Australia and overseas, and support given to Pacific Islands. The UNAAQld/QCWA yearly award is a project is available for members, as QCWA is a Member Society of UNAA/QLD. International Women's Day and UN International Rural Women's day, Pennies for Friendship, kits for kids, birthing kits, stamps, foreign coin collections and Women Walk the World events are major activities supported by members. Branches hold fundraising international days to raise funds for ACWW.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Resolutions and Recommendations from the past Triennial Conference were passed to members and new ones sought. At the 2015 QCWA State Conference a resolution was passed concerning violence against women.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** A contingent of 22 members attended the South Pacific Area meeting 2014 in Dubbo, Australia. QCWA funded ACWW membership for the National Council of Women's Society in Tuvalu and in 2015, \$8,000 was donated to ACWW for a water installation project in Sepik, Papua New Guinea. Support is also given to the UN Peacekeepers Day Activities, ACWW donations and ACWW South Pacific Area Projects.

## AUSTRALIA

### The South Australian Country Women's Association Inc.

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091009

Members: 2,500

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** ACWW information kits supplied to group International Officers. Branches report to international committee on international days. Countries studied each year have been Brazil, Russia, Canada and Nepal. Excellent coverage about ACWW is printed in our 'SAC' magazine and reports given at State Council on matters relating to ACWW. Delegation of three members attended the 27<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in India. International Rural Women's day with a garden party was held in 2015.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** ACWW Awareness Days are held each year. Members support 'Women Walk the World'. \$3,613 has been raised from the sale of stamps in three years. Items were taken to Triennial Conference in India for 'bring and buy'. Members contributed to the recycled bag to raise money. Pennies for Friendship has been well supported each year with \$4,270 donated in 2015.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** These are published in the 'SAC' magazine to inform members.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Bags of material were taken to Dubbo Conference for Island ladies, bags of beanies taken to Ernabella Mission, articles of clothing, beanies and habdashery were sent to Papua New Guinea. Miriam Goma wrote "*thanks to the golden hands that knitted the beanies.*" Six large bags of clothing, beanies and rugs were sent to Nepal. Support for Kurna Plains Indigenous School is ongoing. Support was given to Islanders to attend the South Pacific area conference in Dubbo. Assistance given to East Timor 'Women's Weaving Group', to Fiji toward the purchase of a community boat and piggy farming in Lami, Fiji is our current project.

## AUSTRALIA

### Women in Agriculture and Business of South Australia Incorporated

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091008

Members: 170

Women in Agriculture and Business of S.A. Incorporated, is now 99 years old and we are looking forward with great excitement to Celebrating our Centenary in 2017 with great Style! During the last three years we have renewed and updated our Constitution and our Business and Management, setting out new opportunities for our Branches and members, bring us well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Whilst we retain our six original regions for regional meetings, we have divided the State into two regions for State Administration purposes. We have a State President supported by two Co-ordinators of those regions, plus other portfolio holders for merchandise, Archives and History, Associated Countrywomen of the World, and membership. These are supported by a Consultative committee. Our over 350 members form 22 branches statewide, with 1 online branch, which meets monthly online.

During the past 3 years we have held State Conferences at Kadina, Murray Bridge and Sandy Creek. All were very friendly informative days, at which ACWW was well promoted to all members. Until the changes of constitution we have always supported the one Charity organisation statewide, but now our Branches each choose their own Charity to support, plus all Branches support Pennies or Coins for Friendship. Greenhill Lodge, an accommodation support for Cancer patients from Country areas received \$12,000, Bedford Industries, supporting disabled workers, received \$7000. Autism South Australia received \$8,000.

News of the Country of Study each year is eagerly awaited, and last year we studied Antarctica, although not a "Country" was found to be most interesting; since then we have studied Russia, Mexico and Italy. Inspiring Rural Women was a theme which brought much interest and information to Branches, as was the theme "The impact of Change on our lives". With the changes to our Organisation members realise we have certainly seen change and adapted to it, too.

We have currently over 30 members who are individual members of ACWW, and Six Branches are also Category IVa members, Some of our Branches enthusiastically celebrate International Women's Day, the celebrations ranging from Coffee and Cake, to Cocktail Parties or afternoons with A Speaker and fund raising trading tables of home made products. During 2012/13 an amount of \$2,200 was raised for Coins for Friendship; 2013/14 we raised \$1,900 whilst in 2014/15 we have raised and donated \$1,750.

Matilda the Doll was warmly welcomed to our Kadina Conference and we sent her on her journey forward a much richer "woman" than when she arrived. W.A.B. was represented at Chennai by two members and an observer, one being Mrs Barbara Schaefer, AM, a former South Pacific Area President. We hope to have representatives at the Warwick Triennial Conference, too.

W.A.B. encourages Rural Women to educate themselves, to learn new skills to improve their lives and the livelihoods of them and their families. We are all different, but the same. We hope, we try, and we never give up; 'Can't' is seen as a discouraging word! Whether it's Health, Water, Roads, Drought assistance or Food, or degradation of Rural Lands, we promote and support what Rural people are entitled to and deserve!

Truth in Labelling is one of the big issues. Often 'Australian made' means just the label upon the product is Aussie! Recently we supported opposition to Mining in some of the richest Farming lands in Australia, at Ardrossan, and in the South Eastern areas of our State.

Ten of our members attended, enjoyed, and learned much from the ACWW South Pacific Area Conference held in Dubbo, New South Wales. It was a warm and friendly Gathering of Women who all appreciated the hospitality of the Dubbo Country Women's Association.

We have all appreciated the wonderful work of our Current World President, Mrs Ruth Shanks, herself from Dubbo, N.S.W., and Congratulate her on the task she is carrying out so well.

Women in Agriculture and Business of South Australia wishes all at the Warwick, U.K. Triennial Conference a time of great learning and fellowship together.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **Mid East Southland Provincial Rural Women of New Zealand**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 094908**

**Members: 70**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** In our area a Friendship Day focussed on Afghanistan, and we were also informed about migrants involved in dairying in our area.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** International day focussed on Education with a Beads and Beautiful Scarves stall. Two walks took place for fundraising as well. A quilt raffle was also held. Walks raised \$410.80, Quilts raised \$81.60 and our Stall raised \$270.50.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **Rural Women New Zealand**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091006**

**Members: 2,500**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Participate in international Women's Caucus and CEDAW NGO forum. Information is included in newsletters and national conference. Members encouraged to celebrate International Day of Rural Women. Annual Country of Study.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** 2013-2014, Women Walk the World raised \$2,000. Pennies for Friendship and Subscriptions raised \$6,000. In 2014-2015, \$11,500 was raised for Solomon Islands. Amuri Dinner Group donated \$550 to support Tongan delegates to the ACWW South Pacific Area Conference in Dubbo.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** We have a member on a Maternity Forum, and preparation is underway for the 2017 ACWW South Pacific Area Conference.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Supplied food for Vanuata. Funds have been collected for Nepal- money raised in 2015-2016 totalled \$761. Members also raised funds for Chennai, totalling \$1,000.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **Rural Women New Zealand Central Taranaki**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092403**

**Members: 140**

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** \$247.50 for Pennies for Friendship, \$135 for Women Walk the World.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **South Taranaki Rural Women New Zealand**

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092468**

**Members: Undeclared**

South Taranaki Rural Women New Zealand has been involved in the organising and the leading up to the South Pacific Area Conference 2017 which is being held in New Plymouth Taranaki from Sunday 30 April – Wednesday 3 May 2017.

Our members have been knitting scarves along with our North and Central members for the conference delegate bags and have a total of 250 knitted to date, also for the conference bags South Taranaki members have had a sewing bee and made and filled 150 tissue holders with another sewing bee planned in the coming months.

On April 29, South Taranaki Rural Women members joined with Central and North Taranaki as our event for "Women Walk the World" and money raised has been donated to ACWW Pennies for Friendship.

# SOCIETY REPORTS 2013-2016

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091096**

**Members: 5,412 (353 Clubs)**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Arkansas is starting Water Around the World and Eat Healthy, Eat Local.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** \$1665.79 for Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** All resolutions were adopted by the Board of Directors and handed down to the Membership.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We support the Arkansas Children's Hospital each year with soft blankets, premie caps for small children to keep them warm for surgery, breast cancer pillows, and caps for cancer victims. We also make Quilts for Valor and Quilts for Veterans.

### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Country Women's Council

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093495**

**Members: 28 Societies**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Correspondence through the "Letter Friends" project promotes international understanding throughout the membership. Individual societies study the cultures of foreign countries, hosting foreign guests, and fund raising projects for aid to those countries.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** All societies participate in fund raising for ACWW projects. CWC funded ACWW Project 0973, Mongolian Greenhouses. CWC societies contributed \$39,699.83 to Pennies for Friendship; a silent auction is held at each annual Country Women's Council Area Meeting, participating in Women Walk the World, and hosting Tea Parties to help raise funds for Pennies for Friendship. Societies also raised \$29,497.19 for Feed the World, Nutrition-Sight, Special Projects and Water for All projects.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Speakers were hosted at the annual CWC Area Meetings on the topics Ending Violence Against Women, Women of Independent Minds, Family Farming, From the Mission Fields of Africa, Women's Health in Ghana and Greenhouses for Mongolia. Member societies conducted projects on maternal health, healthy infants and women's shelters, as well as raising young readers.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** CWC awarded four Ruth Buxton Sayre Scholarships annually (\$500 each) for a total of twelve this Triennial. Water filters were sent to Nepal and Katmandu to communities that fell victim to recent earthquakes.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Illinois Association for Home and Community Education

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091110

Members: 7,638

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Each year a “country of study” is selected by the State International Director. Each of the seventy plus counties throughout the state have activities, open to public and some in conjunction with the 4-H program in their county, sharing information pertaining to the selected “country of study”. Most secure speakers for these events that have traveled to or resides in the current “country of study” and prepares foods native to the region. The Homemakers Exchange Program is being resurrected in the state by inviting guests from Estonia to visit and travel throughout our state. The IAHC membership will have the opportunity to visit with these ladies at different functions held throughout the state. The guidelines for the program are for an Illinois IAHC member or members to visit Estonia in return and then they are to share what they learned with the IAHC membership throughout the state.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Over the last three years Illinois has collected and sent to the ACWW \$27,457 that were designated to go to various projects such as; Save the Sight, Sri Lanka Project #0981, Water for All, Women Walk the World, etc. The funds were raised in numerous ways from bake sales to donation containers set out at meetings.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Being new I am not or was not made aware of what the ACWW resolutions and recommendations were. I have looked at the proposed Resolutions and Recommendations to be voted on in August and strongly support them. I, in turn, will encourage the IAHC membership to do the same!

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** NVON Water Filter Project was strongly supported in our state. Approximately \$11,093 was donated to this cause by our membership. The Mongolia Greenhouse Project was also supported with a \$635 donation from the IAHC membership.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091111

Members: 9,982

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** IEHA individual societies host International events yearly. We donated funds to water projects, and the Mongolian Greenhouse Project. ACWW brochures have been handed out and discussed with members.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Participated in Women Walk the World. Collected funds for Pennies for Friendship. Donated to the Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Fund and donated to the General Project Fund.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Copies of the Resolutions and Recommendations were distributed and discussed with members. County Presidents were encouraged to discuss Resolutions and Recommendations with their club members.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** IEHA continues to support Exchange Homemakers. We will be hosting a Homemaker from Canada in the Spring of 2016. She will tour the state and present programs about her province in Canada. IEHA members have contributed over \$125,000 for Cancer research at Purdue University.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Kansas Master Farm Homemakers Guild

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092117

Members: 110

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** International visits, international guests, and international correspondences is reported yearly and summarized in international report to National Farm Homemakers Guild

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Yearly collect Pennies for Friendship and contribute to Women Walk the World. Yearly contribute to ACWW project. In 2015 our contribution was to the Mongolia Greenhouse Development. Previous years contributions were to water projects.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092114

Members: 120

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** The Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild has always encouraged members to visit other countries, host foreign visitors, and correspond with persons from abroad. Records are kept of countries visited and guests that have been hosted. During 2013-2016, foreign countries visited by members were France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, England, Israel, Switzerland, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, St. Lucia, Jamaica, India, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Palestine. Foreign visitors came from Korea, France, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Ireland, Mexico, Belgium, Japan, China, Czech Republic, Armenia, Romania, Netherlands, England, and Egypt.

The IMFHG has conducted a Women Walk the World activity at each spring meeting to raise funds for Pennies for Friendship. Collections are taken at the spring and fall meetings for ACWW Projects Water for All, Save the Sight, and Pennies for Friendship. Funds were sent to "Feed the World". \$1,000 was contributed to the ACWW Mongolian Greenhouse Project which the Country Women's Council of the USA has adopted, and Beverly Earnhart, USA Area President, was invited to bring a power point report of that project to the National Master Farm Homemakers Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, in July of 2016. With money received from the National Master Farm Homemakers Guild, we have contributed \$350 to the Iowa Future Farmers of America Foundation, and \$350 to the Iowa 4-H Foundation.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091118

Members: 14,665

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Activities to enhance international understanding: Associations participate in international days at universities, have international dinners featuring dishes from a particular country.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship is our main fundraiser, \$1 for each member.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Maryland Association for Family and Community Education

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092548

Members: 162

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** At the Maryland Association for Family and Community Education's 2015 Annual Conference, we enlightened members with a presentation on human trafficking. Another presentation was on computer security with a focus on e-waste and recycling electronic devices that stressed proper disposal and not putting them in a landfill.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Maryland FCE raised \$261.11 for ACWW Special Needs, and \$200 for Women Walk the World.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** The programme content and photos from the Triennial Conference in Chennai, India and discussions from the CWC meeting were presented to our membership. Through insight into life in India, farming in Pakistan and FCE family members aid in orphanages in Uganda and Romania, we have gained international respect for individuals and their cultures. Using recycled materials, we have made dresses for small children in Zimbabwe and Nicaragua, blankets for cancer patients and caps for soldiers.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Maintaining emphasis on education to promote strong families and communities, Maryland FCE distributed over 1,500 books to newborns, school-aged youngsters and adults. We have introduced the Character Counts® Essay and Artwork Contest into Fourth Grade classrooms and in 2015, a Maryland entry on responsibility won first place in the national contest. Many needs of youth are being met by providing school supplies, meals, clothing and blankets. Support is continuous for our armed troops with monthly shipments of homemade cookies, letters and knitted helmet liners.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Missouri Association for Family and Community Education

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091134

Members: 429

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We have made and distributed weighted blankets to autistic children. These have been placed in state schools and individual homes for these children. This is a project we think would be great to have in all countries for autistic children. Our newest project is working with the National FCE to make people aware of the problem of human trafficking. We also feel this is a project that could be used in all countries.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** We do collect Pennies for Friendship and this year the president challenged everyone to fill a water bottle with dimes (\$100) to be distributed for the projects the ACWW works with. We also participated in the Women Walk the World project.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** I am new and this is my first report so I am not exactly sure about all the Resolutions, and how much work was carried out on the Resolutions. I did attend the national conference this year and will be attending the ACWW Conference in August this year.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** One of our largest projects is the essay contest for 4th graders and awards are given out to the winners. We attend child advocacy day in our State Capitol and give out home made dolls to all the senators and representatives to remind them to vote for children's issues.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### National Association for Family and Community Education

ACWW Society Membership Number: 093090

Members: 4,500

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Members supported projects in India and Romania. A lesson on India was developed for members to use in their communities.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** A collection is taken for ACWW at each annual conference. Individual states make donations through National FCE when their dues are paid.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** A lesson on E-Waste was developed and members presented the lesson in their communities as well as collecting the e-waste so it did not end up in landfills and was disposed of correctly. A victim of human trafficking spoke at a conference and members were given many ways to become involved in preventing human trafficking. This will be an ongoing program. A lesson on maternal health was developed for members to use in educating the public on that issue.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We continue to offer leadership training and materials for our members and non-members through our FCL (Family Community Leadership) program that can be used in their communities. We sponsor an Essay and Artwork contest for 4<sup>th</sup> graders on Character Counts! each year. Literacy is promoted by donating books for newborns. Caring for others is demonstrated by the food drives for the homeless/hungry, volunteering at long term care facilities, providing clothing for those in need, providing hats and mittens to school children. Many local clubs had projects for military families.

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON)**  
**ACWW Society Membership Number: 093476**

**Members: 48,144**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We had Wade Robinson speak to us about the problem of unsafe water in many places around the world. Telling us about the many children who die from parasites in their water. We see the pictures of people using the clean water after receiving filters paid for by NVON. Our NVON past president has done a presentation on her attendance in India for the 2013 ACWW Triennial. Beverly Earnhart, our ACWW USA Area President, has given us reports two of our annual conferences.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** NVON has donated a total of \$6,455 for Pennies for Friendship in the past three years. This money comes from an annual conference collection and silent auction. In addition, each of our member states donate as well.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Our new three year project beginning in 2016 is Eat Healthy, Eat Local. This project is encouraging all of our members to grow food at their homes and local community gardens, as well as supporting local farmers markets. We are promoting the use of food grown within 100 miles of our home, to reduce the use of energy for shipping long distances. Our states had programs and projects supporting their local domestic violence centers.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Our most successful project has been the 'Water around the World' project and with this project we have sent water filters to Haiti, Northern Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Nepal, and Nicaragua. We have raised over \$75,000 and have spent \$59,072 to purchase water filters that are providing clean water for over 20,000 people in remote areas of these countries. This project is so successful, that even though it was scheduled to end in 2015, the members chose to continue this as an ongoing project.

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**New Hampshire Circle of Home & Family**  
**ACWW Society Membership Number: 092417**

**Members: 168**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Activities are mostly discussions and conversations about projects.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** We contribute to Pennies for Friendship. We also supported the Mongolian Greenhouse Project by contributing \$1 per person, or \$168. This was done through the USA Area / CWC.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Our societies individually contribute funds to the N.H. Food Bank- \$700 in 2015; N.H. Women's Prison- \$230; plus children's books to allow mothers to read stories to their children, who then take them home after a visit. We also fund scholarships.

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**North Carolina Extension & Community Association**  
**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091150**

**Members: 2,139**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** NVON Project- Water Around the World; Pennies for Friendship; Military Coupon Project; Dress A Girl Around the World; Support for Haiti; Samaritan's Purse- Operation Christmas Child.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Financial Management- training and workshops offered and taken in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension. Land retention and Women in Agriculture- Local Foods and Community Gardens.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Master FCS Volunteer Program; Women's Leadership Initiative.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Oklahoma Home and Community Education

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091154

Members: 3,785

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Programs highlighting the cultures of specific countries given with the attendees dressing in the national costume of the chosen country. Program by missionary who has served in Africa. Program by a missionary who has helped to dig water wells in Central America.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship to help with water wells in underdeveloped countries. We also collected Dimes for Water for All.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** OHCE officers have presented programs to help educate our membership on specific projects such as Water for All and the Mongolian Greenhouse project.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** OHCE has had "Raising Young Readers" as a State project for the past 3 years. Efforts have been to help young school children to develop a love for reading. In the process, books about food and how it is grown and healthy bodies with how exercise helps the individual have been chosen. Many books with accompanying book bags have been given to children attending head start programs and kindergarden/first grade children. OHCE groups have contributed a great amount of scholarship money to high school and post high school individuals and monies to support 4-H members across the state. (In 2014 alone, ohce groups awarded approximately \$85,000 in scholarships and another \$6,100 in aid for 4-H members besides many hours of volunteer work.) Other efforts include making cancer caps for cancer patients, lap robes for veterans, toiletries for veterans in the hospital, toiletries for nursing home residents, refreshments for firefighters and county commissioners, monetary contributions for regional and local food banks, mentoring troubled young girls with crochet instructions, other mentoring for children and young adults, reading programs for incarcerated women so that they could read to their children and a program called "Drive by Fruiting" where members are encouraged to purchase an extra apple, banana, potato, tomato and orange and present them to an individual who might not have the funds to purchase enough of those healthy foods.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Oregon Association for Family and Community Education

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091158

Members: 408

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Present two or three workshops each triennium dealing with a different country. Since 2013 workshops have been presented on India, Canada and England.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Pennies for Friendship collected each year. It is usually sent to National FCE to be included in their contribution. The money collected in 2015 was sent directly to ACWW in a cheque for the amount of \$643.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Working has begun on a Human Trafficking project. We understand that this is a global issue and we hope to be able to make a difference through education of our community members and working with legislators to pass stiffer laws for the perpetrators and have more help available for the Victims. One of our groups taught a program on the proper disposal of Electronic Waste. A program was presented on 'Precious Water'; this dealt with the conservation of water.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Several groups hold Women Walk the World events. Many pounds of embroidery floss and yarn are collected each year. Floss is sent to The Dhutt Memorial in Calcutta India; and more recently to Henrietta Schoeman for the members in South Africa.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Shelby County Extension Homemakers

ACWW Society Membership Number: 092517

Members: 346

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Held a tea, and demonstration on pumpkins around the world. Held a walk for the County.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Had a tea party, and held a County-wide walk.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Small group planted trees at homes and in the park.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** Held a workshop to mark scarves for children in need in the County. Collected hats and gloves also. Donated food to food banks.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### South Carolina Family and Community Leaders

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091164**

**Members: 1,000**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** Our educational lessons are developed to empower our members through education in various topics concerning family life, community development and youth encouragement and mentoring. These lessons promote the concept of the value of human life and the value of the family worldwide.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Each month clubs in each participating county in South Carolina collect money for the Pennies for Friendship program. This money is sent to our State Treasurer at the end of the year and she then sends it on to the appropriate treasurer.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Members are involved in projects that support organizations for abused women and girls throughout our state, both monetarily and with donations of goods for shelters.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** South Carolina clubs collected over \$10,000 for our project, Water Around the World, through NVON our national organization.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### West Virginia Community Educational Outreach

**ACWW Society Membership Number: 091174**

**Members: 3,525**

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** We support and sponsor a foreign exchange student each year, and that student speaks to our group during the year.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Had some members who did the Women Walk the World, and collected Pennies for friendship.

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** Our new three year project beginning in 2016 is Eat Healthy, Eat Local. This project is encouraging all of our members to grow food at their homes and local community gardens, as well as supporting local farmers markets. We are promoting the use of food grown within 100 miles of our home, to reduce the use of energy for shipping long distances. Our states had programs and projects supporting their local domestic violence centers.

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** We raise money to support the water filter project which supplies clean water for remote areas in the world.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (WAHCE)

ACWW Society Membership Number: 091175

Members: 3,700

**Activities to enhance international understanding:** On the International level WAHCE participate with Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners helping women and families in Nicaragua. We have donated numerous boxes of eyeglass cases, sewing machines, sewing, baking, and hairdressing supplies to be shipped to Nicaragua. These items are used in learning centers around that country where Nicaraguans teach the women skills to help them earn a living. We currently are monetarily helping build cinder block stoves with chimneys. Wood stove smoke is a health problem for the ladies and the rest of the family. The women of Nicaragua survive by making/selling tortillas out of their humble kitchens. When a chimney is included the stove meets cooking needs and improves the smoke situation and health of the families. WAHCE is proud of its connection and partnership with Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners.

**Activities / Fundraising for ACWW:** Some of our counties held Women Walk the World activities and teas in support of Pennies for Friendship. After seeing the plight of the families in Mongolia our members collected money for this worthy CWC adopted ACWW project building Greenhouses in Mongolia for the sustainability of the area. We continue to be informed of all that ACWW offers to peoples around the world. WAHCE has donated: Pennies for Friendship: \$6304, Women Walk the World: \$619, Mongolian Project: \$806, Water for All: \$473. (All figures US\$).

**Work carried out on Resolutions & Recommendations:** WAHCE past presidents presented a programme on the triennial in India to all attendees at our state conference. They introduced the ACWW Resolutions and Recommendations that were passed at the 2013 triennial. Some of our counties have taken up the call to Grow Local, Eat Local, starting community gardens, sustainable clubs and participating in local food fairs. Some counties are partnering with Domestic Violence Centers by providing volunteer hours and preparing personal care bags to help with the emergency needs as the women and children come into the shelter. They also donate children's books, stuffed animals and soft blankets to help the children during this domestic conflict

**Other major activities carried out / supported:** During the past three years supporting the NVON Project in Common, Water Around the World, WAHCE has donated over \$17,000 to help fund water filters to provide clean, safe water to families around the world.

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ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

**28<sup>th</sup> TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE**  
17-23 AUGUST 2016      UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, UK

