



FLASH



May 12th, 2022

Good Morning everyone. Hope you all have a bright and sunny day inside and outside. This flash will continue a few items that have been released from ACWW, reminder about the membership brochure contest, nominations, and the upcoming national conference informational zoom session coming up on Wednesday May 18th, 2022.

Membership Brochure - National's income is based on membership dues and just like many organizations' membership dwindles for one reason or another. Your national board has been working on designing a new membership brochure. The one that we have is very dated and several of the items are outdated. So, your board is asking your help in making this happen by announcing a new contest. We would like you (FCE members) to design a new membership brochure to be used as a marketing tool for our organization so that we can grow, grow like weeds. The information and guidelines can be found on the website. You will have until June 15, 2022, to send in your entries to headquarters. The entries can be done individually, club, etc. **Please read the rules carefully** or the entry could be disqualified.

Message from ACWW/USA President Bonnie Teeples is included with information regarding the changes that have taken place with ACWW, invitation to national fce conference and the CWC meeting in September.

Officers Needed – there are 3 board positions up for election at national conference this year. They are the 2 vice presidents' positions and the treasurer. There are specific qualifications for each of these officers and they can be found in our bylaws or by contacting Kristin Walker the nominating chair at 304-863-8253 or kristinfce@yahoo.com.

The **2022 National FCE conference registration is open.** The conference will be held in Portland, Oregon July 14th thru July 17th, 2022. The **theme** for the conference is **“Be the Spark that Ignites FCE.”** The conference is being held at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas/Portland, Oregon. Information about room rates and how to make your reservations are on the website under the heading of 2022 National Conference. The conference registration form is also located there. Our group rate at the hotel is good for 3 days before and after conference, so what a great time to plan a family vacation or with a group of FCE friends. There are several places to visit and things to do which have been highlighted on our website also. **Check it out www.nafce.org.**

Zoom informational session regarding the national conference – the national board will host a zoom session on May 18th, 2022. This is open to all members and there is no preregistration required. Just pick the right time for you to join us. The time slots are 1:00PMCDT and 7:00PMCDT. This link will be included in the email with this flash. Also, a tentative conference outline is included so that you can see what is being planning for those attending national conference in July. We are excited to be able to hold our conference in person this year and hoping that COVID will just stay stable so those that want to come can do so.

2022 Conference Outline

(tentative)

5-4-2022

Thursday July 14th

8:00AM – Breakfast for Presidents/President-Elect/Delegate

10:00AM – Tour, etc. – being worked on

Service project in the evening.

Friday July 15th

8:00AM Opening – Present State Presidents and Board

Business Meeting

12:00 Oregon State Lunch – funds will be collected for Rural Women in Action Fund for ACWW – there will be a program

1:15 FCL lessons

Birth Order – Emily Gordon and Faye Spencer

Know when to say no – Kristin Walker and Linda Hanberry

Rabies (ACWW) – Margaret Mai Polen and Martha Crawford

5:30 Practice for Skit

6:30 FCL evening

Skits and awards

Saturday July 16th

7:30AM Alumni Breakfast

9:00 Speakers

Food Waste – Connie Larrington

FCE History and upcoming changes – Judy Fullmer

ACWW changes and 2023 World Conference – Bonnie Teeples

12:30 Lunch – Essay awards and Heart of FCE – dollars for Leadership

2:00 Hearth Fire Lessons (2) and officer's workshop

Family History – Linda and Emily

HAAH – Health and Humor – Faye and Kristin

Officer's workshop

FCL Benefit dinner being worked on

Sunday July 17th

9:00AM

Memorial Service – Judy Fullmer

Inspirational – Emily Gordon, Jean Purich and Anne Engen

Sharing Time – Scott Teeples

Installation – Bonnie Teeples

Lunch and goodbye – coupon drawing during lunch

Sales Room and Silent auction – we are going to try something new this year – each state and any of the attendees that want to contribute will be asked to bring an item worth \$20.00 for the general silent auction and then instead of bid sheets we will use coupons. Double tickets will be sold for \$1.00/each or 20 tickets for \$10.00. There will be plastic cups at each item to deposit your ticket in. Tickets will be sold by a couple of individuals.

The alumni will hold a quilted item silent auction during conference. Anyone attending can bring an item. The winner list will be posted Sunday morning.

2022 list of FCL and Hearth Fire lessons

Hearth Fire - Someone is Saying HAH! Health and Humor

Recognize the physical, emotional, and holistic benefits of humor and laughter. Learn laughter yoga as a form of exercise and relaxation. Learn various aspects of Health and Humor to increase physical and emotional wellness.

Hearth Fire - Someone in the Family is....Passing Family History to the Next Generation

“Collecting family memories of your life today and of the past as well, can be a challenge. You know that as time passes, recalling details will become more difficult. Starting this process and being the keeper of family memories really can’t happen too soon!”

FCL Lesson -Positive Leadership Traits by Birth Order or A Better Leader in Spite of Your Birth Order!

Birth order, refers to the order a child is born in their family: first-born, second-born, youngest, and only child are examples. Birth order makes sense most of the time for a vast majority of people. As an educator, wondering how a “black sheep” could come from the same family, was a catalyst for this study. The study has netted many conversation starters and lots of ‘aha’ moments.

FCL Lesson - Know When to Say “No.”

The purpose of this program is to educate families and communities in regards to the prevalence of money and time wasting losing scams. An educated society is equipped to inform law making bodies, recognize safe communication procedures, and protect themselves against harmful practices involving their money.

Message from ACWW/USA President – Bonnie Teeples

Hello FCE Members!!

AHHH Spring! And now in my part of the country we are finally getting WINTER!! At least we are getting some much-needed rain and snow in the mountains! It is heavenly and we are so grateful for it.

I am so excited that the ACWW World President, Magdie De Kock will be attending the Country Women's Council Conference and will speak during CWC Day and ACWW Day. I know she is looking forward to meeting with you. Please plan to attend the CWC conference and meet Magdie! You have all been invited to attend by the CWC Chair and the AXCWW USA Area President. More information will be sent soon.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the National FCE Conference in Portland OR, July 14-17, 2022. There are some wonderful things planned JUST FOR YOU!

In February, I had the opportunity to attend the first in-person ACWW board meeting since 2019. It was wonderful. Some board members could not attend in person due to restrictions in their home countries, but they were able to attend via ZOOM.

This was not an ordinary board meeting, as we had some tough decisions to make. We spent a week discussing the future of ACWW, looking at the lessons we could learn from the past, and how best to secure the next 90 years for our organization. I do not have the room in the article to address all the issues and changes, but I will give you a short version. You can see a complete version of the issues and challenges as well as the changes on the newly updated website. Please take time to look at the Strategic Plan, it will help make things clearer to you than I can in this article.

During this board meeting we examined data from the last 30 years. This includes income, expenditure, membership numbers, and the reports of all member societies on their own member numbers and activities. It was clear that income was not growing enough to sustain the organization. In real terms, and with inflation considered, declining income was evident. Membership numbers were also declining, and membership of member societies was also shrinking. Reports to the Triennial World Conferences illustrated this, as well as the lack of engagement of members with ACWW issues. The complete separation of advocacy work and projects was artificial and did not reflect the policy objectives of ACWW or the realities of international project aid. The current situation was a result of many years of gradual decline brought to a head by the Covid pandemic and it needed to be addressed. While our financial reserves remain healthy, annual income was insufficient for sustainability. The Board agreed that to do nothing was not an option.

One of the biggest concerns over the last 30 years, and especially in the last two years because of Covid, has been funding. The separation of fundraising streams into restricted "projects" donations, and unrestricted "Pennies for Friendship" donations does not line up with ACWW's experience that advocacy and projects are completely and importantly linked. The Board has therefore agreed to phase out Pennies for Friendship and the Women Empowered Fund and replace them with the '**Rural Women in Action Fund**'. This single fundraising stream will support all the work ACWW does and allow clearer communication of how we spend money.

Another notable change is the Associated Country Women of the World logo. I love the bold new look and I am especially excited that it has our whole name on it! No more explaining to people what the ACWW around the compass means. The layout of the logo is a blend of our former compass logo and our forward-looking tag line Rural Women in Action. I cannot wait to get the new pin to wear!

Another major change will be the work of ACWW's Committees. We want to better reflect the diversity of ACWW's membership and ensure that voices from all over the world are heard. The Board has therefore decided to establish a global network of ACWW Coordinators; with each and every member society invited to nominate a Coordinator. They will help raise awareness of ACWW's work, fundraise, and provide the feedback we need from every member society and region. These Coordinators will have a job description and code of conduct to give clear understanding of what is expected and will also participate in a detailed program of training and receive support from ACWW. Coordinators will meet regularly online with the World President, their Area Presidents, and members of Staff. This means that ACWW will hear a lot more from each member society, and that each member society hears a lot from ACWW, this will also provide fantastic training and background for those members who would be interested in standing for election to ACWW's Board in the future.

Please remember these are just a very few of the changes but I hope it will get you excited to go on the website and look at the Strategic Plan and the rest of the changes noted on the website. The link is below.

Website----acww.org.uk

If you have question or comments, please email me

See you in July at the NAFCE Conference and hopefully in September at the CWC Conference.

Bonnie Teeples

ACWW USA Area President

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If you have questions about any of the information in this flash please let us know.

Have a great day and hope to see you on the May 18th, 2022, zoom session open to everyone.

Hugs and Prayers for Everyone to Stay Safe and Healthy!

Ardyce Snyder

NAFCE President

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