

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

Oct./Nov.
Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 6
Special Calgary Edition





1987/88 Board Members

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Deborah Hollins - Calgary
Margaret Johnson - Edmonton
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The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial support it receives from the Secretary of State Women's Program

All members are welcome to attend the board meetings in their area. Come to the community report session on the Saturday afternoon, or take the plunge and attend the entire meeting as an honorary board member. If you would like to see a board meeting held in your community, contact your nearest regional rep or board member.

Remember these dates:

Meetings up to the AGM are set for:
Nov. 5/6 - Lethbridge
Nov. 25/27 - AGM - Edmonton

ASWAC's mailing address is Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N7. The Edmonton office has moved to its new home at 9930 - 106 St., lower floor, with the rest of the Edmonton Women's Building. Phone 421-0306. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 10 - 4.

ASWAC Lethbridge lives at the Women's Resource centre on top of Woolworths in downtown Lethbridge - #202, 325 - 6 St. S. Phone 329-8338 and leave a message if no one answers.

The Calgary ASWAC office is located in the Old Y Centre for Community Organizations, Room 303, 223 - 12 Ave. S.W., T2R 0G9. Phone 233-0731 and leave a message if no one answers.



This newsletter has been produced in Calgary. Many thanks to the Newsletter Collective: Michele Butot, Brian Dyson, Jane Haslett, Jude Major, Anne McGrath, Valda Roberts, Annette Ruitenbeek, Lois Soderstrom. Special thanks to Syntax Arts Society for the typesetting and layout.



ASWAC Board Minutes - July 16/17, 1988

Present: Marg, Valda, Anne, Deborah, Lyn, Nancy, Michele, Marilyn, Jane, Gerry - also for portions of the meeting Frances Adams, Jane Templeman and Fiona Mitchell.

Regional Rep Report: from Gerry Bailey

Elin Harley-Barlem's report on the Alberta Women's Institute conference was in the last newsletter. Gerry recommends ASWAC's participation every year. Also, Gerry attended the CUSO conference. She is working on a workshop for the Canada World Youth Conference. Lori Crocker attended the Women's Health Conference in Red Deer. Gerry represented ASWAC at The Air Force Women's reunion. She also attended the Planned Parenthood annual meeting. Gerry will represent ASWAC at a peace conference in Manila for Gabriela (a women's organization in the Philippines). On August 27 there will be a regional rep's meeting at Gerry's Farm (to be confirmed). Lois, Gerry, Elin and Lori met with Trudy Black in Red Deer. Gerry said that there is a need for small articles in rural newspapers about feminism and ASWAC.

Hiring Committee Report:

A report was made by Anne

Thirty-six Hours at a Glance

McGrath, Jane Haslett, Jane Templeman and Marg Johnson. The committee members described their process and presented their recommendations.

Administrative Co-ordinator: The board agreed to offer the job to the recommended candidate. The offer will be confidential until she accepts or refuses the position.

Project Co-ordinator - Edmonton: The board accepted the hiring committee's recommendation and offered the job to Helen Greaves. She accepted.

A special thanks to Jane Templeman and Anna Pellatt for participation on the hiring committee.

Personnel/Hiring Policy:

Probation: The board agreed to extend the probation period for new staff from 3 months to 6 months because of length of time between board meetings and the nature of the jobs.

Probation Evaluation Committee: Marg and Valda and two community members from a list prepared by Jane and Marg will sit on this committee.

Hiring Policy: The board agreed to accumulate hiring practices and recommendations to be incorporated into the personnel policy. Anne and Michele agreed to prepare these additions to the personnel policy.

Policy and Procedures Manual: Jane will try and track down previous work done in this area and talk to the new administrative co-ordinator about compiling one.

Edmonton Office Schedule:

The Edmonton office will continue to be closed through August. Volunteers will pick up mail and messages.

Secretary of State:

Frances Adams from Sec State was

in attendance. We discussed ASWAC's letter to Sec State following our earlier meeting with Helen, Carmen and Frances and agreed to a follow-up meeting September 21, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Edmonton. Frances is available for meeting before that time. A discussion of the relationship between Secretary of State - Women's Program and ASWAC took place. There is a possibility of working for automatic cheque release on April first. We will work for this date next year. Also there is a possibility of moving to multi-year funding. There is a desire to see a coalition formed on pay equity with affected groups. Anne will send a copy of a brief presented last November to Sec State in Calgary, to the Edmonton, Calgary and Ottawa offices of Sec State requesting information on the status of AFWUF conference funding, following the evaluation of last year's AFWUF conference.

Media:

Nancy, Deborah and Anne will work on a proposal for media strategies for ASWAC.

Dalkon Shield: Michele will contact Lynn Pollitt, and write a letter in consultation with other Calgary board and community members regarding this issue.

Free Trade:

ASWAC is to send a letter about making a presentation to the parliamentary committee on Bill C-130. Anne McGrath will be attending the parliamentary committee hearing on behalf of NAC and will raise the concerns from Albertan organizations including ASWAC about ability to participate in free trade debate. We agreed to lobby Senate (specifically Allan MacEachen) for public hearings. Marg and Jane will work on this.

Public Relations:

We discussed a proposal for ASWAC consultation across the province. Board members will consult with members and others about our processes and organization. Deborah will make a proposal to the Assembly. There are suggestions to reduce the number of board meetings and make available more resources (human and financial) for committees, outreach etc. From a discussion of organizational strategies, Marg and Deborah will prepare a proposal of possible strategies. Regional reps will give some input from their next meeting.

Photocopier and Postage Meter:

Valda will check with Tools for Peace about a desk-top copier for immediate office use. We will continue with Scholastic for bulk copying and will rent a postage meter and purchase a scale.

Hiring (revisited):

The administrative co-ordinator candidate will contact Marg by Thursday (July 21). In the event that this candidate refuses the position, the board decided to re-advertise the position.

Finances:

Fiona Mitchell, our new book-keeper, started June 26, and was present for this portion of the meeting.

There was a discussion to clarify the length of time of computer payments. Fiona will contact Diana Chown regarding this. Questions about benefits and vacation time were referred to the personnel policy and Fiona was given a copy of this. Fiona presented the financial statements for the period April 1/88 to June 30/88. Various line items were discussed including remaining funds available for the WAP campaign.

WAP Campaign:

Edmonton: Sherry Robbins is working on the maintenance enforcement issue. The board reviewed the Edmonton WAP proposal for povertas. Copies were provided to Lethbridge (Nancy) and Calgary (Deborah). Bonnie Thompson, NFB Women's Program, was recommended as a contact for Women Against Poverty Film Night.

Other: Jasper - Women's Centre - Valda will arrange for setting up materials for a meeting in October. Lac LaBiche - New Era - Anne and Valda will contact this new group.

Calgary: There was a meeting of six women at Deborah's on July 13 to discuss povertas, hearings and other issues. Deborah will look into the workshop called "The Poverty Game" to see if it is useful to the campaign. The Federation of Calgary Communities (having a day-long workshop re: inner city issues) will be approached to become involved in the WAP campaign. A hearing planned for October 27 is in the organizing phase. Several povertas are planned for August. It was acknowledged that summer is a slower period and that more activities would resume in September.

General: there is a need to follow-up participants regarding further involvement and support and to summarize each poverta in a log. An article for the newsletter was discussed about an analysis of our campaign and solidarity including men and children.

Lethbridge: Two women are having a poverta in August. The coalition model for organizing the campaign has changed to a co-ordinating group. A hearing will be held in October. Lethbridge requests copies of any proposals developed.

Central Alberta: Elaine Spencer of Ponoka is moving to Canmore. More information will follow from August regional rep meeting.

Postcards: It is necessary to get a

volume of signed postcards for lobbying. For the childcare campaign, 5,000 were sent out, 3,000 were returned which was a high rate. This will be done in the fall.

Film Night: A film night is being planned for the fall at Riverdale Hall. Valda is looking into the details.

Pamphlets: Michele will contact Paulette Stroe to typeset the word "Alberta" to insert in place of "Calgary" and Valda will order more pamphlets printed.

Media: It was felt that more media coverage of the campaign is necessary and this will be a focus in the coming months.

Finances (revisited):

The board acknowledged receipt of the letter of resignation of the former book-keeper, Gwen Barker, dated May 30/88. A letter will be sent to Gwen thanking her for her work, but also requesting the return of her salary for June, since she did not do any work for ASWAC during June.

The auditors' report has been completed and given to Sec State along with the ASWAC final report.

Newsletter:

The newsletter is discussed in Anne's board report and was further discussed at this meeting. Calgary will do the September issue of the newsletter. There was discussion of the newsletter being produced in Calgary on an ongoing basis for the following reasons:

1. Calgary has the base for a newsletter collective already in place.
2. The production of the newsletter fits into the job description of the provincial Project Co-ordinator (Anne).
3. By moving out of Edmonton, the newsletter would be more provincial.

A proposal for the future of the newsletter will be submitted from

Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge for the next board meeting. This issue should be discussed with ASWAC community members.

Annual General Meeting/Assembly:

Location: The board discussed having the AGM at the U of A and decided instead to look into having it at the Westridge Lodge in Devon. Valda will investigate this possibility.

Grant Application and Budget: Valda will prepare a budget and make application for funding from Sec State and the Alberta government.

Primary Audience: The primary audience will be the ASWAC membership.

Theme: Women Against Poverty

Agenda: Lyn and Anne presented a proposed agenda of events and workshops and names of possible keynote speakers and workshop leaders. These were discussed at length. Lyn, and Anne, assisted by Helen when she begins work, will keep working on this and present a more final draft of the agenda at the next board meeting.

Lobbying: Anne presented a draft proposal for lobbying in connection with the Assembly, which the board decided to implement. Each area of the province will implement a local program. A lobby committee was struck consisting of Marilyn, Deb and Marg.

T-shirts, buttons etc: Valda, Nancy and Lyn will work on these.

More Than A Label Campaign: will be worked on in the fall.

**NEXT BOARD
MEETING:
GERRY BAILEY'S
FARM -
SEPTEMBER 10 & 11,
1988.**

Minutes of ASWAC Board Meeting - September 10/11, 1988 - Gerry Bailey's home, Westrose, Alberta.

Hiring: The Hiring Committee recommended that Shelley Scott be offered the full time position of Administrative Coordinator. The Board agreed to the recommendation. Anne phoned Shelley regarding the appointment and Shelley accepted with a starting date of Oct. 3/88.

Orientation: There will be no orientation of staff from previous staff members, Jane and/or Luanne. Both new staff members feel they are sufficiently familiar with ASWAC that this will not be necessary. Valda will write to both Jane and Luanne to inform them of this situation.

Job Descriptions: Some concerns were raised about job descriptions, especially for the Project Coordinator and Administrator. Anne stressed that she was not hired to do administrative work. Some discussion ensued and it was decided that this needs to be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Members will think about:

- a) Do we need a Calgary office?
- b) If so is it a staff responsibility to do administrative work.
- c) How else can we do administrative work in Calgary.
- d) What administrative work is necessary in Calgary.

Membership Feedback: A letter was read from J.A. re: her concerns about the amended minutes of March 4-6. Helen will respond with a copy of July minutes which are relevant to this issue and a letter of thanks for the feedback from J.A.

Membership Development: Jane wants to work on putting the membership list on computer, gathering new memberships, and developing

a telephone tree.

- Membership brochure will go out with the Assembly mail-out
- a membership reminder regarding renewal will be included, as will WAP pamphlets

Assembly: Update: \$6,000 request has gone to Elaine McCoy, at the Women's Secretariat. Valda has requested a call be put out in the Newsletter for volunteers from the membership to help out at the Assembly.

Helen, Valda, Annette, Jane, Anne and Shelley will form the Assembly Committee in Edmonton. Further enquiries will be made by Valda and Helen regarding accommodation (location).

Board Selection/Recommendations: Prospective new Board members will be strongly encouraged to attend a Saturday a.m. Workshop. All Board members should decide at that Workshop or at the conclusion of the Saturday Business Meeting whether they will run for the Board, and inform workshop leaders of their decision. A list will be posted by lunch time on Saturday with the names of all potential Board Members for the 1988/89 year. Introductions, questions and selection process will be held at the Sunday business meeting.

If there are more than 12 nominees, an election will be held. It was felt that the by-laws should be reviewed regarding the numbers of "the Board" considering that there are now 3 staff members who are Board members. The total number of Board members allowed is 15.

Regional Reps: prospective Regional Reps are encouraged to attend a Saturday, a.m. Workshop.

Job-sharing on the Board: It was suggested that a proposal for discussion be addressed at the Business Meeting at the Assembly.

Registration: Fee: The proposed Subsidized Rate will be announced when the figures are available. The Unsubsidized rate will be the Actual Costs. All subsidy requests should be directed to Helen Greaves at the Edmonton office. The deposit Fee for Early Registration is \$50 by November 10th. The deposit Fee for Registration after that date is \$60.

Publicity: Concerns were raised about needing to reach rural women. A commitment was made by the Board to take extra steps to do this.

Business Meeting: Facilitator: It was decided that Board members will not facilitate the meeting. Names were suggested for the position of facilitator and were prioritized. These women will be approached by Helen.

Agenda: The deadline for agenda items, proposals and by-law changes is November 10th. These should be submitted to Helen Greaves at the Edmonton Office. The Assembly Committee will have a proposed agenda for the next meeting.

Workshops: The Assembly Committee will attempt to run all Workshops as planned but will prioritize in the event of unavailable speakers, space, etc.

Volunteers: The Assembly Committee will come up with tasks and schedule for volunteers. Board members will take on the responsibility of a particular area, e.g. registration table, and co-ordinate the volunteers.

Proposed Film: Kathy Dodd presented a proposal for a 30 minute documentary film about Women and poverty. She is interested in covering poverties and lobbying, etc. It will be a political rather than

personal film. Costs will be covered by SAIT as it is a school project. Her deadline for completion is January '89. Many questions were raised and discussed and it was agreed and that the following guidelines should be applied:

Kathy will choose, once the agenda is out, what workshops and times she wants to film and clear this with the advisors from the board (Deb. H., Nancy, Valda). She will announce Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning to the membership at the Assembly when and what she plans to film. Kathy will also attempt to gather an all-female filming crew. She will report to the Board again at the Nov. 5/6 meeting.

Take Back the Night: Updates were given from Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. Concerns were raised from Lethbridge regarding permits, etc. Helen will call Sun Alliance to see if Lethbridge is insured, and a copy of the policy will be sent by FAX. The Lethbridge women will march on the sidewalk without a permit if need be.

Announcements:

Edmonton Working Women: "Know Your Right" handbook is being reprinted. The phone number of ASWAC Calgary and Lethbridge will be included.

Cabinet Shuffle: Jim Dinning has family issues and child care. Anne will write him to inform him of our position and will issue a public statement.

Advisory Council: Women and Family - Provincial Symposium. Edmonton board members will approach ASWAC members to attend the symposium and report to the Board. A committee (Deborah, Jane and Anne) was formed to do a brief on "the family". Jane will go through the newspaper clippings for recent articles that have been published on the family.

Equity Project: ASWAC should respond to this. Anne will send the Women & Poverty brief accompanied by a letter stating our interest in participating.

Secretary of State meeting: Sept. 21, 5-9 p.m. Edmonton (a follow-up from the Spring meeting). Proposed agenda to be discussed by both groups. Attending the meeting will be Anne, Marg, Jane and Helen.

Newsletter: Deadline for next Newsletter Wed. Sept. 21. A Mini newsletter will come out before the Assembly with relevant information, i.e. board selection process, board recommendations, etc.

Pro Canada Network: Anti-free trade rallies being held in Calgary and Edmonton. ASWAC is reserving seats at rally and will send a \$30 support donation.

Lobbying: The present committee has been unable to meet. A new committee was struck, adding Helen and Anne to the present one (Marg, Deb and Marilyn). The committee will meet before the Assembly to develop a lobby strategy, propose recommendations to the Board, and prepare a 4-5 page brief.

Membership Development: Two facets of this campaign were talked about; the commercial and "More Than A Label" package, and as well as the needs of rural feminists. Ideas for work included showing the commercial, psa's, developing an information package for use throughout Alberta, film nights, etc. Nancy will get a copy of the draft package that she and Terri-Ann worked on last year, and Deborah and Nancy will do some more work on it before the next Board meeting.

"More Than A Label" will be recommended as a priority campaign for next year.

Regional Reps: The Regional reps (Lori Crocker) are organizing an

"Isolation Tea" for rural women around Christmas time. They have also made a commitment to try to find more regional reps. They will focus especially on Crowsnest Pass, Grand Prairie, Medicine Hat, Olds, Fort McMurray and Calgary. Finally, Deborah is continuing work on a proposal for Provincial Consultations. She will contact Marg, who expressed interest in this area, as well as Lois (regional rep. from Westrose).

Media Strategy: The Board read a proposal prepared by Anne and Nancy. Copies are available from the Edmonton office. The recommendations in the proposal deal with who talks to the media, news releases and conferences, developing media contacts and monitoring our coverage, which media ASWAC should not talk to (it was unanimously agreed by the Board that ASWAC will not comment to the *Alberta Report*), community papers and weeklies, mail-outs and updates, and newsletters.

The ASWAC Board thanks Anne and Nancy for this excellent piece of work.

Women Against Poverty: This discussion began with updates. Calgary: public hearings are set for October 27, the povertas and post-card campaign are continuing.

Edmonton: the committee is planning for a film night on the feminization of poverty in conjunction with the NFB. As well, public information meetings are being planned for relevant community groups. Sherry Robbins is continuing her work on maintenance enforcement and Loro Carmen has produced a lobbying proposal for WAP - Edmonton.

Lethbridge: two povertas have been held in the recent past. One was very successful. More povertas and a public forum are tentatively scheduled for Oct. or Nov. A showing of "No Way, Not

Me" (on young women and poverty) is also planned.

Rural: Elin has been hosting povertas in Innisfail with two or three women in attendance each time.

Strategy: The Board will recommend that the WAP Campaign be continued as a provincial priority next year, and that it focus primarily on the issues of Free Trade, Childcare and Reproductive Choice. Staff time will not be spent on reproductive choice due to Secretary of State funding guidelines.

Women's Research Centre: Helen will represent ASWAC at a panel on "Research Resources in the Community", October 22 in Edmonton (11043-90 Ave.)

Finances: Financial statements to Aug. 31/88 were examined. Valda agreed to be the Board liaison with Fiona (the book-keeper) until Shelley takes on that role when she begins work as the Administrative Co-ordinator. The Board also discussed a letter received from the past book-keeper. A response will be sent.

Vacation pay: The personnel policy was amended to include 6% vacation pay.

Overtime: Anne has 9 days of overtime (4 days over ASWAC's 5-day ceiling). She will use up the 4 days in the next two weeks.

Policy statement manual: Anne, Deborah and Valda will begin compiling a manual of ASWAC's statements of policy. If this manual is not completed by the AGM, the Board will recommend that this work be continued next year.

Minutes and Correspondence: The Board resolve that a review of the minutes of the previous board meeting and an examination of current correspondence will be in-

cluded in each Board meeting from now on.

For this meeting correspondence included: a letter from the Kitimat, B.C. Women's Centre, who are interested in holding povertas; an invitation to the orientation meeting of the Edmonton Business and Professional Women's Club (Helen and Valda will attend); a notice about a new women's newspaper "The Womanist"; and a letter from NAC about their election campaign.

Alberta Advisory Council on the Status of Women: The Board recommends that the membership develop a position on the Advisory Council at the AGM. Helen will develop a proposal using the brief prepared by the Social Issues Committee of the Calgary YWCA.

CMHA Conference: A number of ASWAC members will attend the May 11-14/89 Conference "Women and Mental Health: Social, Economic and Political Perspectives". Watch for further info in upcoming newsletters.

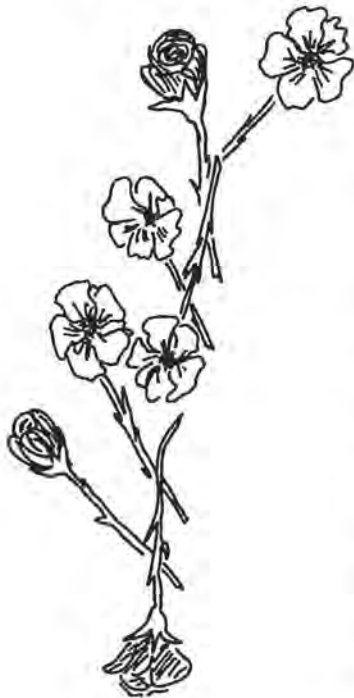
ASWAC-Calgary meeting: A report from a meeting that occurred last month in Calgary with Anne, Deborah, Michele and Marilyn, to strategize about how to increase ASWAC Board and member involvement in Calgary.

Personnel Committee: The Board recommends that a personnel committee be struck for the next year. Marg, Shelley and an Edmonton community member will work on a proposal.

Maternity Leave: Anne will take her maternity leave from Dec. 23/88 to April 1/89. This includes the overtime she will have accumulated up to that point, so that she will return to work with no overtime remaining from 1988.

Lethbridge ASWAC: The Board resolved that Shelley will be allowed 2 days of work to train the new Lethbridge staff woman when she's hired.

Next Board Meeting:
November 5/6 in Lethbridge



This poem was submitted by Gerry Bailey from the Filipino Women's Organization - Gabriela.

To My Guard, The Lady Soldier Who Sits By The Door

If walls alone made prisons
Not the absence of birdsong,
The distance of a morning
Nor the darkness of a night
Then, you wouldn't be there.
But no one could build a wall
To stop the stars from twinkling
in my thoughts
And the song from singing in my
soul,
So you sit, stare and try
To become another wall.

But there are prisons, too, in eyes
That see no stars in the sky,
Ears that hear only orders,

Lips that dare not ask why,
Thoughts that fear the obvious
answers,
Hands that refuse to rise and try;
And greater prisons there,
that hearts and minds do form;
Walls rising between sisters,
Walls around a nation's home.

If walls alone made prisons,
You wouldn't sit there
Staring at your passing hours and
years.
You could be somewhere drying
an infant's tears.
Or, like others, reaching out a
hand
Weaving a rainbow for this
ravaged land,
Perhaps, even singing a song with
me.
If walls alone made prisons,
You and I would both be free.

ADORA FAYE DE VERA
June 15, 1987

50/50: Making Women's Votes Count

A conference about informed voting and participation in politics.
Saturday, October 22
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
University of Calgary, Earth Sciences 162

Sponsored by Women Looking Forward and Calgary Association of Women and the Law

Women's votes can make a difference. Be informed. Know what you want from your government and how to get it. Learn from the experts about issues critical to women in the next federal election, and how to affect the decisions made after your parliamentarians have been elected. Make your vote count toward equality for women.

Speakers have been invited to speak on the issues of women and politics, national day care, free trade, pay equity, and Meech Lake. Information on other issues will

also be available at the conference.

Registration fees include lunch and childcare. Conference participants who require childcare are requested to contact the Women Looking Forward office at 269-1144 right away.

We look forward to seeing you there.

AGENDA items include: registration, Introductions (Pat Cooper, Moderator), "The Juggling Act" (Norma Farquharson), National Day Care (Barb Sykes), Free Trade (Isa Bakker), Pat Equity (Debra Lewis), Meech Lake (Kathleen Mahoney), discussion and evaluation. Breaks for lunch and coffee.

PRAIRIE WOMEN

The untold story of farm women and social action in the 1920s and '30s.

Directed by Barbara Evans

Access TV
Tuesday
October 11
9 PM

National Film Board of Canada Office national du film du Canada

FAR OUT FEMINISTS

"Health Care Reform" conference at Red Deer

by Lois Soderstrom

On June 3,4 at Red Deer, an excellent conference, hosted by the Alberta NDP Official Opposition, was entitled, "Health Care Reform". More than 100 delegates representing many groups and interests, and resource persons from Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario, met to discuss what the Health Care system does now, and what it should be doing.

I attended both as a representative of ASWAC and as President of the Canadian Association for Narcolepsy.

The conference was superbly organized by Rev. William Roberts, MLA, who is the NDP health critic. The sessions covered the entire spectrum of issues and needs: service design, funding and delivery; health care personnel, chronic care continuum; and women's health issues.

This last was conducted in small groups on one of the following topics, which were then reported to the group: mental health; reproductive care and technology; medicalization of women's health; older women; and women in trauma. I was impressed to see that the men stayed and participated in these groups too!

Being a "vintage feminist", I chose the group on Older Women, but it was a difficult decision. Resource persons were well-qualified, and for the most part interesting, and an attempt was made to have panelists representing a wide variety of health care workers; there was an excellent balance of women and men.

In my opinion, the most memorable speakers were Dr. Francis Wren of Calgary, for her forthright and dynamic feminist stance on

women's reproductive issues; and Dr. David Skelton, whose knowledgeable and rational approach to chronic and palliative care is remarkable. However, I was favourably impressed with the panelists, the delegates and the opposition caucus, for providing an open and supportive atmosphere in which to examine such vital concerns. Although we were encouraged to express our concerns, and make recommendations, the agenda was so full that my only negative criticism is that there wasn't enough time to do this comfortably.

But I feel that the major aim of the conference was fulfilled; it did present a balanced picture of the entire spectrum of issues, and a start at finding solutions to problems. Some discontent was expressed at the end by Union members, with the fact that not enough consideration had been given to the dislocation of workers if the trend towards more community and home care is continued. How I wished that Marvin Moore, Connie Osterman, etc., had been there!

A report on the proceedings and recommendations will be sent to all delegates at a later date.



**SPEAK
OUT!**



????? ASWAC Questionnaires ?????

First, and most important, THANK YOU to all of you who have taken the time and effort to fill in and return your questionnaires. No, they have not disappeared into a bottomless pit! In between planning for The Assembly, The Women Against Poverty campaign, board meetings, staff changeovers, and even summer holidays, we have been trying to complete the project of putting all of your choices and opinions into the computer in the ASWAC office. Later this fall we hope to have all the facts and figures in the newsletter.

Meanwhile, once again THANK YOU for making this project so successful. We still welcome any questionnaires you wish to send.

Membership Committee
Annette Aarbo, Jane Haslett,
Marg Johnson, Valda Roberts

WOMEN AND POVERTY CAMPAIGN IN EDMONTON

Women Against Poverty Update

The Edmonton W.A.P. Co-ordinating Committee has met numerous times over the summer. Much planning and fine tuning for the Edmonton campaign took place. The next scheduled meeting is for September 28th at which point, fall meetings will be scheduled. Any members wishing to sit on this committee can get meeting info from the office.

CAMPAIGN EVENTS

PoverTeas: These small information gatherings will continue through the fall and winter. To date, these have been the main way that news of the campaign has spread. Anyone can have one, and they are easier than you think... just put on the tea, and we will be there! The need for continued support for these is great... so come on sisters, find a spare hour or two, call up a few friends and have a "PoverTea". It really is that simple. Just let someone at the office, or Valda or Marg know when and where.

Film Night: Get out your date books and write in NOVEMBER 17th as a "Must Do". This is the evening that ASWAC and the National Film Board are combining efforts to PREMIERE the newest in the Feminization of Poverty Series entitled "For Richer or Poorer". This exciting event will take place at the Edmonton Public Library Theatre 7:30 p.m. See you there!

Rally: NOON, on NOV. 25th is the ASWAC WOMEN AGAINST POVERTY RALLY. This event will kick off the start of the AGM. Come

out to the rally and show Alberta women that there is concern and we will stand together to fight this. Further updates in upcoming newsletters and conference materials.

Hearings: Edmonton hearing is held off until after the AGM. We need lots of women to work on this to make it a success. More info at AGM.

Telephone Tree: Annette Aarbo and Jane Haslett are beginning to organize a telephone tree so that important information can be quickly given to all our Edmonton-area sisters. If you are interested in being part of this wonderful network please call the Edmonton office.

Public Information Evenings: As an attempt to increase interest in the WAP Campaign we will be sending an information package to a variety of Edmonton area organizations inviting them to host an information evening for their membership on women and poverty issues.

As you can see, there is much work to be done at many levels and much need for your participation. If you have some time please get in touch with the Edmonton office. WE NEED YOU!!!



Take Back the Night



It was by total chance that Take Back the Night was observed in Edmonton this year. Having just arrived back in town from a summer in the country, and with no commitments thus far, it was easy to convince me to become involved. It suddenly occurred to a few womyn that if some of us didn't just go ahead and do it, that nothing would happen. I feel this is a sad statement about the condition(s) of our community sometimes. But it has a positive side, in that lacking a rigid structure, any of us are free to go ahead and organize whatever.

It's just a bit sad that so many of

us feel over-committed/over-worked, and that something as basic and crucial as freedom to go about the streets, etc., may not be attended to.

Anyway... in the space of a week and a half 3 or 4 of us worked up posters, media contact, hot drinks for afterward, and enthusiasm. The March was held immediately after the Heather Bishop concert, and proceeded from the university, along Whyte Avenue, to the gazebo-in-the-park at 104 Street and Whyte.

I felt that the turn-out was good, considering the short lead-time, and the lateness - the concert ended at 11:15 p.m., and by the time we got organized and walked and shouted our way to the park it was close to 1 a.m. There was a lot of high energy with shouting and singing; and we attracted lots of attention from bar patrons as we went. Several women spoke eloquently at the end of the March while we all warmed up with hot chocolate and cookies. We sang the evening closed and slowly dispersed.

At this point I might add that all materials and labour were donated, as there is absolutely no budget anywhere for this event. The other point I feel a need to make is that Take Back the Night is a so-called "illegal" march. This means that it is always done without a parade permit and without police escort. Inherent in the politics of Taking Back the Night is the idea that we shouldn't need permits and escorts to be on the street (or wherever), at any time of day or night; that we/womyn have the right to free and unobstructed passage, without fear of attack, harassment or danger.

I hope that this annual, national event will be able to continue in coming years - and that a group/committee/collective/bunch can commit themselves to organising each fall, preferably getting started

sometime in August. It's a very powerful and strengthening feeling to walk together, unafraid, being as noisy as we like. This is one way that we build community and strength among us. Let us keep it coming!

Jude Major



Marches to Take Back the Night were held in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge this year.



Edmonton Office Staff

Now you see them, now you don't! The ASWAC-Edmonton staff disappeared with the advent of summer. But now, with the cold weather arriving, first one, and then two staff women have been hired to keep the phone calls, mail, paperwork, Assembly and Women Against Poverty Campaign on track.

Edmonton Board members, along with much appreciated assistance from Anne McGrath, ASWAC provincial project co-ordinator based in Calgary, have been working throughout the summer to maintain some semblance of order until new staff were hired.

Helen Greaves, ASWAC half-time project co-ordinator in Edmonton, began work on September 6th, and is focussing at present on the upcoming Assembly and The Women and Poverty campaign in Edmonton. Shelley Scott, presently working for ASWAC in Lethbridge, will be the administrative co-ordinator in the ASWAC Edmonton office. Lethbridge's loss will be our gain when Shelley begins work on October 3rd.



WELCOME to Helen and Shelley, and hugs to Anne, who has been working hard for ASWAC for one year now, doing campaign and outreach work across the province.

Farm Tour With a Difference

Farm women, join us on a trip to Central America! This year the OXFAM Farmers' Brigade is organizing a special two-week "Women in Agriculture" study tour to Nicaragua. The tour will focus on women's involvement in agricultural development and will go to Nicaragua in March 1989.

During the past nine years, Nicaraguan women have been integrating themselves in all aspects of agricultural production. Many have referred to the changing role of women as the "feminization of agriculture" or a "revolution within a revolution". We invite you to go see first hand what the rural women of Nicaragua are doing in order to better their lives.

"This tour offers us an exciting opportunity to meet Nicaraguan farm women, to compare our common experiences as women who grow food and care for families and to share our hopes and concerns. We look forward to participating in what promises to be a unique enriching experience," Nettie Wiebe, Women's Vice President of the National Farmers Union.

Dorothy Middleton, president of the Ontario Women for the Survival of Agriculture, spent two weeks last January as a participant on our first Agricultural Study Tour. Upon her return she said, "establishing contact with the rural women's organizations in Nicaragua is important and necessary. It will allow us an opportunity to widen our global understanding, to acknowledge mutual problems and to support each other within our own societies."

The "Women in Agriculture" study tour is a first step towards building links between rural women's organizations in Canada and Nicaragua. Our host in Nicaragua will be the women's section of National Union of Farmers and Cattle Ranchers, a non-governmental organization that represents the interests of the private agricultural sector which includes small, medium and large individual producers and co-operatives.

The objectives of the tour are threefold. First, to increase our understanding of the political, economic and social situation in Nicaragua. Second, to take an in-depth look at how Nicaraguan women are organizing themselves within the agricultural sector. And third, to offer Nicaraguan and themselves within the agricultural sector. And third, to offer Nicaraguan and Canadian farm women the opportunity to discuss mutual concerns as it relates to women's vital role in agricultural production.

Our program will include a study of how government agricultural policies have affected the lives of rural women. We will examine policies such as Agrarian Reform, mechanization of agriculture, the co-operative movement in farming, and the development of appropriate rural social services in education and health.

The two-week study tour will involve meetings with individual women and women's organizations involved in agricultural development. We will take an in-depth look at issues of primary concern to farm women such as: role of women in agricultural production, family issues, economic security, social support systems like rural daycare, and the need for agricultural skills training. We will examine how Nicaraguan farm women are involved in the economic, social and political development of their country.

OXFAM is encouraging all farm women's organizations to send representatives on our tour. Sixteen participants will be selected from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario. Individual women who are involved in agriculture are also invited to apply. Deadline for applications is October 21. Contact Annette Desmarais, OXFAM Farmers' Brigade, 136 Ave. F. South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7M 1S8 or call (306)242-4097. In Alberta contact OXFAM, 320-223-12th Avenue S.W., Calgary, T2R 0G9 tel. (403)3755.

ASWAC Assembly November 25/27 Nisku, Alberta

The annual assembly will be held on the weekend of November 25-27 at the Nisku Inn (on the east side of Highway 2 at Edmonton's International Airport). The theme of the assembly is Women and Poverty.

The assembly will commence with a panel discussion on "The Feminization of Poverty" at 7:30 p.m. on November 25. During the weekend, three workshop sessions with a number of workshops in each session will discuss topics of Women and Poverty. In addition, the business meeting will be held on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

ASWAC members are asked to consider prospective board members. There are sessions scheduled on Saturday morning for prospective board members and a workshop on the orientation of new ASWAC members. Members are asked to submit agenda items, proposals and by-law changes to the provincial office by November 10.

The ASWAC assembly is open to members and non-members of ASWAC to attend (excluding the business meeting which is open to

members only). Those in attendance will have opportunities to listen, communicate and plan work concerning the theme of Women and Poverty as the issue affects all women.

The conference will be subsidized. Members are asked to pay the non-subsidized rate if they have the financial resources. The Nisku Inn will essentially be our facility for the weekend. The accommodation is comfortable and with good food and excellent company, the assembly will be great as always.

A detailed brochure of the conference will be available by October 15. Please ensure you come as your attendance is important.



Peaceful Protest at Defence Research Establishment, Suffield



Over 120 peace activists, environmentalists, and concerned citizens from all over Western Canada assembled at the Defence Research Establishment Suffield (D.R.E.S.) on Saturday, August 20/88 to protest Canada's active participation in the international chemical warfare race.

Sylvia Waller welcomed the participants and introduced the two speakers: Diana Chown, Voice of Women and Rev. Allan Hunt of Medicine Hat. A street-theatre presentation was given by the Sisters of Sistren, Calgary and excerpts from letters of support were read from groups and individuals from all over Canada.

"The testing of dangerous chemical agents of war at Suffield has been surrounded by secrecy, has involved significant risk to Albertans, and is making a substantial contribution in the escalating arms race for chemical and biological weapons," said Diana Chown, media spokeswoman for the action.

"The work at Suffield is not purely defensive, as federal officials would have us believe," Chown continued. "In fact, when considering chemical and biological agents, there is no clear line between defence and offense. Even military analysts acknowledge that they are just flip sides of the same coin."

Chown pointed out that Canada shares the facility and results of research conducted at D.R.E.S. with the U.S. and the U.K. — countries having active biological and chemical warfare research programs.

"Two years ago, the Canadian

government strongly backed the U.S. when it began producing a major new generation of chemical weapons which many countries believe threaten to derail negotiations for a comprehensive ban on this type of weapon," said Chown. "This support, together with the sharing of Suffield research, means that we are active participants in a very disturbing escalation in chemical warfare research."

The organizing committee for this event will continue educating Canadians on the chemical and biological warfare race; will monitor the review of D.R.E.S. to be conducted by the National Defence Department, by ensuring that the review addresses the concerns of the peace and environmental movements through direct consultations and public hearings; and will continue to put pressure on MPs and candidates in the next federal election to end Canada's support of the chemical and biological arms race in order to make Canada a world leader for peace.

For more information, contact the organizing committee:

Yvonne Stanford, Calgary,
Voice of Women 289-6079

Kerren Shalanski, Calgary,
Voice of Women 269-8221(w) or
280-9123(h)

Diana Chown, Edmonton, Making
Connections, Voice of Women
433-1525

Marie Laing, Edmonton, Voice
of Women, New Democrat MLA
427-2236

Sylvia Waller, Medicine Hat,
Ploughshares, 529-2656(w) or 526-
9594(h)

Jo Dufay, Regina, Coalition of
Peace and Disarmament 565-0529



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Are you a woman experiencing unfair treatment at work? Are you unsure of your legal rights in the workplace? For free and confidential assistance, support and advice, call the WORKING WOMEN'S HOTLINE at 429-3370 in Edmonton... ask for our free handbook explaining legal rights in the workplace.

Don't forget to mark the ASWAC Annual Assembly on your calendar for November 25-27 at the Nisku Inn, just south of Edmonton.

It's time to start thinking about International Women's Day again. Let's start organizing!

The Alberta/NWT Network of Immigrant Women has closed their Calgary office and is opening an Edmonton location. The Network is an umbrella organization for immigrant and visible minority women. For information, call Christine Lasse in Edmonton, 453-2207.

October 28-30 in Edmonton - In-Sight: Edmonton Women's Film and Video Festival. A three day festival showcasing films and videos made by Canadian and international women directors. For more information and registration, contact In-Sight Film Festival, Women's Program, 11019 - 90 Avenue, Edmonton T6G 2E1.

October 27: Menstrual Problems and How to Deal With Them, an information session, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., room 121, Calgary YWCA 320 - 5 Avenue S.E. Hosted by the YWCA Women's Resource Centre, Call 263-1550.

October 28/29: Women Talking About Health. A two day training

session to prepare you to organize women's health workshops and support groups, sponsored by the Vancouver Women's Health Collective and the Women's Resource Centre, info: 263-1550.

DAWN Canada is the Disabled Women's Network, a national organization controlled by and comprised of women with disabilities. Efforts are underway to organize a DAWN chapter in Alberta. Contact DAWN Canada, 40 - 776 East Georgia Street, Vancouver V6A 2A3, phone (604)254-3585 (voice/TDD).

A Women and Mental Health Conference is being planned for May 11-14, 1989 at the Banff Springs Hotel. Watch for future details as the date approaches.

Three Deals: One Game. But who gets to play? The latest publication by the Women's Economic Agenda, subtitled B.C. Women Look at Free Trade, Meech Lake and Privatization, examines the three big items on today's Canadian economic agenda, and draws some interesting conclusions. Individual mailing costs of \$3 per copy, non-profit organizations: mailing costs plus \$2 donation - \$5. Send cheque or purchase order to: Women's Economic Agenda, c/o B.C. PIRG, TC 304, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6 phone (604)291-4360 or 253-3395.

Bouquets to the Edmonton Board members and volunteers who have staffed the office, picked up mail and messages and kept things rolling during the summer and September while we were without any Edmonton staff.



**The Alberta Status of Women
Action Committee
Box 1573
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2N7**



ASWAC memberships run from September to September with a grace period until the Assembly in November. That means that 1988 memberships are now due.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ **home)** _____ **(work)**

Membership: \$ _____
New renewal

Donation: \$ _____

**Legal Defence
Fund:** \$ _____

**suggested membership fee is \$10, but we will accept whatever you can afford.*

Please make cheques out to: ASWAC, Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N7