



The age old saying that if March comes like a lion it will go out as a lamb. Remember back to March 1<sup>st</sup> and think how your March came in. Where I live it in the Mid-West March was blown in with very strong winds from 40 to 60 miles an hour so I am hoping it will go out like a lamb with mild weather.

In Issue 4 – 2019 of The Countrywoman from ACWW there was a calendar for the first 4 months of 2020 and for the month of March there was 2 very important dates to remember. March 8<sup>th</sup> is “International Women’s Day” which according to the UN is a worldwide event with a human rights theme, highlighting the social, economic, and cultural achievements and contributions made by women. It is held annually on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Not only is this a tribute to the International Women, but also to our FCE members for everyone of you make a difference in your home and communities every day.

The other date in March is World Water Day celebrated on March 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. World Water Day is about water and climate change and how the two are inextricably linked. Adapting to the water effects of climate change will protect health and save lives. Everyone has a role to play. One of the programs in ACWW that our Pennies for Friendship helps fund thru the WE Funds is Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy. We live in a country where sometimes we may take this for granted, but for other countries of the World this is a very serious issue. When I was attending a conference last June there was a young lady 10 years of age that had written a book called Water Works. She had written and illustrated it herself plus it was published in North Dakota. She was a presenter at the conference and what a wonderful story she had to tell about an American girl’s journey to bring clean water to Africa. The notes about the author say she has the tenacity and volunteer spirit of an accomplished international business leader not a Midwest grade-schooler. She had a friend in Zambia, Africa that lost his sister and his arm due to the lack of clean, safe water. Her group of volunteer teammates sold bags of cookies for \$50.00 and raised more than \$26,000 to develop 10 wells and save 3000 lives in this south-central African village. Her motto: “Buy a bag, save a life,” is truly living up to its purpose. As I was listening to her presentation, I thought of our international organization ACWW and all the work that is done thru this organization.

Every FCE person is a member of ACWW either with an individual membership, associated with your state membership or under the umbrella of National. So, remember the next time you are asked to donate to the Pennies for Friendship fund how far even the smallest amount can help in the World. From time to time every FCE member will receive an email from national headquarters with information that Bonnie Teeples the ACWW USA Area President has asked us to forward. This is coming to you because of the national umbrella extended to all FCE members.

April 15<sup>th</sup> is coming, and several programs will be due: The Superior Unit Award and Outstanding Unit Award are for individual clubs, study groups and councils to send in, The Community Service Award is for each state to partake in. One of the most important reports that each state needs to send in is the National FCE Program and project report. This deals with your volunteer hours and volunteer funds spent. These hours are very important to national.

This is the way that we can prove that we are a non-profit organization for our 501 (c) (3) status. All of the forms for these programs are on the website [www.nafce.org](http://www.nafce.org) along with the information that is required and where they need to be sent.

Also, on our website is the monthly special. We are again featuring 20% off your entire order that is placed by the end of March. What a great way for you, your club or state to save some funds especially with several areas having spring meetings coming up. Just a thought for the amount that you will be saving by taking advantage of this special, put it towards coming to national conference in July, or add it to your fund for ACWW Pennies for Friendship.

Just a gentle reminder that our national conference will be held at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas/Portland, Oregon July 23 thru 26, 2020. Information about room rates and how to make your reservations are on the website under the heading of 2020 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](http://www.nafce.org).**

**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 are attached to this FCE flash. You will have until June 15, 2020 to send in your entries to headquarters. The entries can be done individually, club, etc. Please read the rules carefully.**

**Happy St Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Green hats off to all of you FCE Members.**



*Ardyce Snyder, NAFCE President*

*March 2020*