



**MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (MWI)
Board Meeting Minutes**

May 15th, 2024

PRESENT:

Debra Barrett	President
Marge Knutson	President Elect
Debra Barrett	WI/FWIC Representative
Mallory Makinson	Office Administrator
Michele Gurman	MB Government Appointed Member
Jacqueline Chartrand	Eastern Regional Rep
Liz Chongva	Southwest Regional Rep
Liz Chongva	North Regional Rep
Thelma Blahey	MB Ag Liaison
Gisela Nolting	Winnipeg-Interlake Regional Rep
Ann Mandziuk	Home Ec. Rep

Call to Order 9:05 a.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by Ann Mandziuk that the agenda be adopted as circulated.
Seconded by Michele Gurman. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes for March 20th and April 27th AGM.

Motion: Moved by Jacqueline Chartrand that the minutes from the Board Meeting held March 20th, 2024 be approved as amended. Seconded by Michele Gurman. **CARRIED**

Amendments – 7.1 Change wording to read “proposal to provide”
7.2 Jacqueline Chartrand’s name was misspelled
7.2 Capitalize word Women’s Institute

Motion: Moved by Michele Gurman that the AGM 2024 minutes of April 27th, 2024 be approved as amended. Seconded by Gisela Nolting. **CARRIED**

Amendments – to be finalized for presentation to the membership at the AGM 2025 for approval.

3. Acceptance of the Financial Reports

Motion: Moved by Ann Mandziuk that the financial reports for March 2024 and April 2024 be accepted as circulated for informational purposes only. Seconded by Michele Gurman. **CARRIED**

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 2024 MB Women's Scholarship Update –

Information received from RREx per Kyle Kyryluk:

RREx increased the scholarship amount from 2@ \$1,000 to 2@ \$1,250 last year due to the MWI fund increasing to the required threshold. Last year RREx did have some issues with the committee as unfortunately the MWI contact person passed away. That is why RREx made the decision to increase the scholarships provided.

This year MWI have some options. RREx can either continue to provide two scholarships at \$1,250 each or two \$1,000 and one \$500 scholarship. MWI does not have to decide now but will have to decide during applicant selection criteria.

Decision: Leave two separate scholarships at \$1,250.00.

Action: **Mallory** to inform RREx that all scholarship correspondence is to go through the MWI office for distribution to the Scholarship Committee.

4.2 Manitoba Crafts Museum – Has accepted our request to showcase our MWI quilt book.

Decision: Will send the MWI quilt book to the Manitoba Crafts Museum.

Action: **Mallory** to inquire if the museum would be interested in acquiring the quilt for storage in their museum quality environment.

5. OA Report

- I attended Marketing, Finance, and board meetings and prepared the board meeting agenda.
- Registrations, preparations for AGM and MWI Women's Day.
- Ballot counts were finalized, reports made.
- Month end finances were completed. Completed financial CRA review for the year 2023.
- Donations deposited and thank you cards sent to the many who have donated in memory of Gwen Parker.
- Created content for social media, advertisements. Created and printed new MWI advertisement cards.
- Updated website with current newsletter and board meeting minutes. Updated plugins/deleted spam comments.

- Ordered name tags for members and institutes.
- Created three book of remembrance templates and had them printed/added.
- Many other tasks were done this month, this is just a highlight of my month.

Report reviewed and filed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Recruitment to Vacant Board Positions

Discussion: Need to recruit new members to ensure present members don't get burnt out.

MOTION: Jacqueline Chartrand moved to appoint Liz Chongva as the Southwest and Northern Region Representative. Seconded by Ann Mandziuk. **CARRIED**

Action: **Debra** to draft a letter outlining the board position changes which will be emailed out to the MWI members

6.2 Yearend Financial Review - Engagement Services

Discussion: Develop the timeline for sending out their engagement letter.

Action: **Office Admin.** will diarize the timelines to ensure the MWI yearend reviewed statement is completed by Sensus on schedule.

6.3 Supreme Court Decision - Renaming Women to "person with a vagina."

Discussion: Jacqueline updated the board on this issue and is saving articles to build an argument for a resolution at the end of the year. Ongoing concern.

Legislation was put forward to remove the word women as a means of defining. Could we write a letter? This originated from a court case, the supreme court of Canada. Do men get renamed as well? Not so far. Would this fit the criteria for an emergency resolution for the FWIC AGM.

Action: **Jacqueline** to research into who is the Federal Government Status of Women Minister.

Tabled to September to determine if the issue can be brought to the FWIC AGM/Triennial as an emergency resolution.

6.4 **E-mail request from Huguette Labelle**, Chair, Independent Advisory Board for **Senate Appointments update:** A MWI committee has approached Rochelle Squires to put forward in a senator position. She is agreeable to let her name be put forward

Action: **Debra** to complete the nomination form required to put forward Rochelle Squires's name for a Senate position.

6.5 Quilt draw for FWIC at 2024 Convention

Discussion: 10 tickets were sold at the AGM.

Action: **Ann** will put a reminder in the newsletter.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Motion to Destroy AGM Ballots

Motion: Moved by Jacqueline Chartrand that the AGM 2024 mail-in ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Gisela Nolting. **CARRIED.**

7.2 Responses to Ballot Questions

Action: MWI will reference government announcements (news releases) which pertain to MWI resolutions on the MWI website and in the newsletter.

Action: Debra will provide responses to the questions put forth by the membership on the mail-in ballot for the June newsletter.

Action: Ann to include the membership questions and MWI responses from the AGM in the June newsletter.

7.3 Meeting Dates for 2024-2025

Decision: Meetings will remain bimonthly, 3rd Wednesday at 9 am. There are no meeting to be held through the summer of 2024. Meeting will be on the second Wednesday September 11th at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion: We talked about having a board meeting in person.

Action: Mallory will check availability and cost for renting rooms at Hermon Prior, Gillespie office. Thelma to check MASC office availability.

7.4 Committee Structures 2024-2025

Board members were invited to change committee positions should they desire.

Decision: Board members will retain their current positions.

Action: Mallory to send Marge Knutson information on the committee structure.

7.5 MWI Office Summer Schedule

MOTION: Moved by Heather Cummings that the office will be closed from July 2nd to September 3rd moved by Heather Cummings. Seconded by Liz Chongva. **CARRIED**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Executive – Debra Barrett

The Executive Committee was not required to meet in April 2024 due to discussions regarding the AGM taking place with the full board.

8.2 AGM 2024 and MWI Women's Day – Gisela Nolting

Everything went well with the meeting and Women's Day. Thirty three people attended and a profit of \$40 was made. The 50/50 draw brought in \$75.00.

MOTION: Moved by Gisela Nolting that the \$75.00 from the 50/50 draw be donated to the ACWW Women Walk the World fund. Seconded by Ann Mandziuk. **CARRIED**

8.3 Marketing & Promotion – Ann Mandziuk

- MWI will continue with the Zoom Series. We will look at Showcasing Manitoba Women and alternate with other topics, for example spring and fall related topics, cooking crafts and others as suggested
- We are going to send our new promotion card to each MLA.
- Here are the responses we got to the questions asked at the AGM/Women's Day.

Questions/Answers from Women's Day – our suggestions in italics

1. What else would you like to see in the MWI Newsletter?
 - **Progress on resolutions** *will comment in the newsletter that once the resolutions are passed they are submitted to the appropriate government department or other organization.*
2. Are you comfortable using Zoom to attend Virtual Meetings/Events?
 - Yes
 - Okay as it is
 - I am used to Zoom meetings. But in person meeting can be more interesting and effective overall. Also, internet connection can be limited and I have found 2 zoom mtg minutes over runs my connection and overuse charges incur and I have the unlimited MTS Bell package.
3. What types of presentations, speakers, topics would you like to see presented on Zoom?
 - **What is being done by the Government of Manitoba to support girls (education, careers)** *Liz wondered if there was a recent announcement about women in trades – not sure if it was government or Trades Industry groups.*
 - **Updates in resolutions, opportunities to partner with government initiatives (strength in numbers)**
 - **Scams** *Add to our list for zoom presentations*
 - **Sharing vacation experiences and pictures** *idea for Christmas zoom*
 - **Solutions for finances** *Ann will check with MAHE regarding Basic Skills for Living finances section. Do we look at programs we could offer to schools? Credit card info.*
 - What day of the month would work best for you to attend a Zoom presentation?
4. How can the MWI Marketing and Promotion Committee assist in recruiting members to our organization?
5. **Reach out to other organizations representing Women -----, Congress of Black Women, Infinity Women, etc.**
6. **Promoting small roles to WI members** *wondered if this meant different committees?*
7. What do you like about being a Women's Institute member?
8. **Opportunity to influence change**
9. **Meeting and working towards goals with other women. More hands, more accomplishments.**

10. **More fun.**

11. Any other comments you would like to share with the Marketing and Promotion Committee?

- I'd like to see more government support (\$'s, speakers) to enable free membership.
- How to get involved or share ideas on an on-going basis.
- Important to I and others that Mary Stewart Collect should never be changed or try to change "common sense rules"
- Needs to get into areas/communities where there aren't existing locals
- Need a way to invite women to any event not just rely on social media
- Locals need to actively work at membership
- Give personal invitations
- Host a meet and greet to share information on what WI is
- Make WI fun not just working i.e., like interest groups such as movie afternoons, lunch group
- The WI information card is informative and visually attractive but the wording is a bit stiff maybe to attract new members the wording should be more ordinary and use more everyday language.
- Use the cards to invite people to an event your institute is putting on (use the back for a message)

Action: MWI to include in the newsletter any provincial announcements, government actions or correspondence based on our MWI resolutions.

8.4 Bylaw & Policy – Debra Barrett

Policies continue to be updated as required. The Bylaw will not be updated at AGM 2024. The issue regarding the criteria regarding who is acceptable to perform a reviewed yearend financial statement will be corrected at AGM 2025.

8.5 Resolutions – Debra Barrett

The 2024 resolutions were approved by the membership. The new chair for Resolutions Committee is Jacqueline Chartrand. A possible resolution for 2025 is the renaming of "woman" to "human with a vagina." When issues arise should we wait or proceed with action immediately.

8.6 Scholarship – Gisela Nolting

Scholarship applications were due on May 10th. Kyle will hopefully send the applications to the office soon.

Action: **Gisela** was appointed as committee chair.

8.7 Finance – Debra Barrett

Finance met on May 13th to discuss:

- Yearend Review – cost of review was similar to the previous 2021-2022 review
- Review of April Financial Reports

- Partial funds from the chequing account will be placed in a cashable GIC
- Liz will remain as a members of the 2024-2025 Finance Committee

8.8 IPG – Heather Cummings

Heather will visit IPG soon.

8.9 FWIC – Debra Barrett

FWIC April Board highlights are Highlights from the FWIC/WI Canada Board Meeting

- FWIC hosted a climate event on April 29 Topics were Agriculture in the Classroom and Food Waste.
- Tweedsmuir Competitions, Senator Carine Wilson Competition, and the Past Presidents' Competition 2024: Details will be shared again in the May issue of WI Connections.
- National Convention 2024:Triennial Early-bird registration ended on April 30th. Forms and information are available on www.fwic.ca. Registration fee beginning May 1: \$425.00. Forms and information are on the website.
- Virtual and Day registration: Members are reminded that virtual attendance and day registration are also available.
- Provinces Annual Reports 2024 are due July 1st
- An auction will be held during the convention. Each province is requested to bring three items each with a minimum value of \$20.
- Resolutions: FWIC distributed the resolutions that will be voted on at the national convention on April 15. The Credential forms were also distributed and the completed form returned to FWIC
- Senator Carine Wilson, Tweedsmuir, and Past Presidents competitions: Entries that are being mailed to Nova Scotia are to be sent by September 1st to Lynn MacLean 1365 Heathbell Road, Scotch Hill, NS B0K 1H0. If entries are being taken to Nova Scotia, they are to be passed in by noon on September 17th (there will be someone available to receive them).

8.10 MB Agriculture – Thelma Blahey

Discussion: The provincial funding agreement ended as of March 31, 2024. The funding agreement will need to be signed with the minister prior to the funding being distributed. The funding agreement will need to be signed after the budget is passed, usually in July.

Action: MWI will need to send an invoice to MB Agriculture to receive the funds.

Discussion: Thelma is working on a webinar for partners who receive funding to interact with the department. Some partners will be invited to participate in groups to discuss department priorities. The focus is to aide groups/partners to learn about each other and to collaborate. This will happen before June 21st, 2024. A select number of partners will be getting an invite via e-mail to join the presentation soon.

8.11 Agriculture & Rural Development – Gisela Nolting

Seeding is well underway we got enough moisture now to finish seeding when it stops raining. Covered an agricultural topic at MWI Women's Day.

8.12 Nomination – Liz Chongva

Marge Knutson was elected as the President-elect at the 2024 AGM. Welcome Marge Knutson.

8.13 Strategic Plan – Debra Barrett

The Committee continues to review the plan to ensure compliance. Once September comes we will look at this again to see if there's any updates needed.

8.14 Made in Manitoba Project – Michelle Gurman

The Made in Manitoba project has been extremely successful thus far. We currently have 95 blankets that have been or are going to be donated to various Personal Care Homes. We are extremely proud of what this project has accomplished so far. Thanks to all that have contributed, and we look forward to more. The project is still ongoing and has been a good team builder

8.15 Restructuring Committee – Debra Barrett

Committee on hiatus for 2024-2025.

8.16 ACWW – Gisela Nolting

Coordinators meeting every third Saturday of the month. ACWW provides updates from the office in London England. WI members can go on the ACWW website to review their projects, podcasts and business matters.

8.17 Summer Newsletter

Action: Board members are to send Ann their newsletter news and articles on or before June 1st.

9. In-Camera Session

No discussion

Next Board Meeting Date: September 11th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Marge Knutson. Meeting adjourned by Debra Barrett at 10:37 a.m.