

"Women Walk the Talk for a Better Tomorrow" Country Women's Council USA

News Sheet

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CWC CHAIR - LOY WALKER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dear Members,

I did it! Yes, I made it to the Malaysia ACWW Conference. I did not know if it would happen until three days before leaving because Bob, my husband, has Shingles which has affected his right arm and hand. Thankfully, after some working through some challenges, we were able to arrange care for him while I was away.



Malaysia Side Trip to Penang

My two daughters and daughter in-law, all members of ACWW, traveled with me. I had mentioned I could not go to the conference by myself. When I asked, "Would someone want to go with me?" They all wanted to go. They took very good care of me along with wheelchairs in the airports. I think about 27 people, USA delegates and several husbands attended the 2023 Conference.

I enjoyed the experience and believe everyone should experience some distance traveling. There are so many people moving about. Airports are like ant colonies; always moving and all very well organized. Where is everyone going? We travelers kept our passports and boarding passes handy as the documents were often called for, then we followed the wheelchair attendant as they guided us through the airport. Wheelchair attendants will get you to your departure gate no problem. I found the problem was sitting in an airplane seat for 15 hours between the U.S. and Qatar and then 7 hours more between Qatar and Malaysia before reaching the destination.

Pam Hanfland, Jo Ellen Almond and Cricket Brown met up with us at our hotel on a beach in northern Penang. Pam and Jo organized several side trips with a local guide which introduced us to Malaysian culture through tours of Penang, a well-known resort area. Interestingly, two out of three people in Penang are tourists. We hired a guide to take us to see famous Buddhist Hindu and Islam Temples, walked in an Arboretum of trees of which many were poisonous, enjoyed a food court excursion to try various foods from different parts of Malaysia and viewed famous Street Art. The train ride back to the conference hotel allowed us time to see the countryside between Penang in the north and Kuala Lumpur which is near the middle of Malaysia. It was a great experience to view the flow of tea plantations, rice paddies, forests, and small towns as we passed by them.

Malaysia ACWW Conference

Kuala Lumpur, where the conference was held, is a very big township. Putrajaya is the newest governing capital of Malaysia. We traveled on highways with six, eight, and even ten lanes crowded with vehicles traveling very fast and pulling up to quick stops in short distances. Motorcycles were abundant, weaving in and out of long lines of cars in fast-moving traffic. I don't want to drive in such traffic. Give me an Iowa one-lane dirt road. (cont. page 2)

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The Hostess Society WI of Pahang, Malaysia was the facilitating planner for the Conference. The Putrajaya Hotel, site of the conference, is grand with marble floors and a wide staircase opening from the main entrance of the Hotel to the lower ground floor level where fabulous ethnic dishes were served from buffet stations. The food was very tasty and spicy as advertised. Evening meals emphasized the three heritage countries of Malaysia; Malaysia, India and China. Beautiful ethnic music and dances were performed during the evening meals. A special treat was a Malaysian mock wedding.

Each day was filled with conference business. The conference had reports from Area Presidents and each session addressed a resolution or recommendation. All recommendations, resolutions, constitutional amendments, and by-laws were passed. About 460 people attended the Conference, of which there were 268 voting delegates. Each of the seven sessions focused on a particular topic or resolution. I encourage you to read the proceedings on the ACWW website. The videos on the site share some of the highlights of the conference.

Among the highlights of the conference was attending a gala dinner at the Malaysian palace. Seven buses and a police escort were arranged for our travel. The escort zipped up and down the freeways making sure the buses had a wide-open path for easy drive to the palace. The banquet was served in all its grandeur of seven courses and the main dishes on a circular trivet in the center of the table. We were entertained with music and traditional dances during the banquet. Queen Azizah of Malaysia, escorted us on a tour, from her wheelchair, of the yellow throne room and the blue waiting room. You can see videos of the experience on the ACWW website.

The last day I went on an unplanned twelve passenger bus trip to a very small quilt shop. The shop was about the size of a semi-truck trailer. Lots of fabrics. I bought batik fabric for a pillow top. On the way to the shop, I discovered I had not told my daughters that I was going on the trip and they would not be able to find me. I also did not have my phone or lanyard identifying me. I worried about my situation the whole trip, as I have been supposedly lost before. I told the ladies in the seats behind me the situation and they called the Hotel to notify my daughters to where I had disappeared. The lost was found.

CWC Business

Now, for a little bit of CWC business. Jo Ellen Almond will serve as Country Women's Council treasurer for the next triennial 2024-2026. The affiliate societies were sent two email letters asking for nominations for treasurer. Receiving no replies, the position was opened to all CWC Societies. Indiana Extension Homemakers Association nominated Jo Almond, The CWC Policy and Guidelines allows the present Board to elect an officer. Therefore, Jo Ellen was formally elected. Jo Ellen served as CWC treasurer (2013-2016) and is well qualified to serve for the ensuing term.

You may recall the new plans for the next triennium. The Country Women's Council will be responsible for the 2024 conference which will be held in Florida. The ACWW Area Chairman will facilitate the 2025 conference and the next triennial conference will be 2025 in Ottawa, Canada. The new CWC plan is an effort to reduce members' travel costs to attend several conferences. The new officers will be working hard to implement the plan.

I am asking members to work especially hard to get new members. Please give your relatives, neighbors, and society members, memberships to Associated Country Women of the World. The membership for an individual for one year is £30.

May your friends join us as we work on projects with women from other countries to enjoy a better world.

CWC Chairman Loy Walker



"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Ralph Waldo Emerson





ACWW USA AREA PRESIDENT BONNIE TEEPLES

USA Area President 2023 Triennial Conference Report

My trip began with a change in flights in San Francisco that resulted in a 4-day delay of my bags. Thank heaven there was a mall close by with westernized stores and clothes! But I was never so glad

to see my own luggage!

The conference schedule was full beginning the morning of May 18, 2023, until late night of the May 24. Thursday morning began with a welcome session that was our introduction to conference. It was full of information needed for the next few days.

Thursday afternoon was reserved for Area Meetings. I was pleased with the turnout for the meeting and with the participation from the members. Kay Englehart, National Master Farm and Garden Association did an ACWW Trivia Quiz and some of us learned that we either knew more about ACWW than we thought or that we didn't know as much! (Thank you Kay)

I did a short Triennial report in pictures and then opened the meeting up for sharing and discussion. I am so appreciative of the many activities and workshops member societies shared with each other. These activities are a good way to spread the word about ACWW and the problems facing people all over the world.

Friday began with the opening ceremony that was fantastic. From the beginning with the introduction of the Board, the arrival of the Royal family and, the awesome sight of the Parade of Flags of ACWW member nations, and everything in between, it was a beautiful sight! I hope if you couldn't go to Malysia you participated in the online portions of conference that were available.

Sunday morning was set aside for our choice of four tours. I was able to tour an Indigenous Peoples village. We were treated to demonstrations of their native crafts and culture, an interesting museum, and a real live wedding! After that portion of the tour, we were given a wonderful lunch and treated to more native festivities.

Sunday evening was the Gala Dinner at the palace. Dinner was amazing but the youth performers from performing arts schools were mesmerizing. After dinner and entertainment, the Queen led the group on a tour of the Throne Room and a portion of her personal quarters.

The conference session days were full of meetings and wonderful meals alternating between Indian, Chinese, and Malaysian cuisine!

There were 22 resolutions to be voted on of which 19 were dealing with bylaw and constitution changes and dues raise for all categories. Two resolutions dealing with bylaw and constitution changes were withdrawn and one resolution about Termination of Membership was defeated because members had issues with the language used in the clauses within the resolution. It was felt that the language was ambiguous and didn't reflect what the intent of the change was.

The first three resolutions dealt with actionable related items. These are resolutions that we are to work on and implement action within our groups, also to urge our governments to take these resolutions into consideration when making policy. These resolutions are:

Establishment of Rural Women's employment Action Plan

That ACWW urges all government to address the particular needs of rural women by working with women's representative groups to establish, implement and regularly monitor a Women's Employment Action plan which ensures access to training and education; fair, equitable and safe employment practices; working conditions and remuneration; access to resources such as finance, materials, technology, and land/property and; including but not limited to advice on career, business and entrepreneurship. **Resolution passed.**



Addressing Food Waste

Be it resolved that ACWW facilitates both action and advocacy on the issue of food waste, recognizing that food waste occurs throughout the global food supply chain, and that coordinated action is required to mitigate food loss and wastage at every stage. **Resolution passed. (cont. on page 6)**



Ruth Buxton Sayre Scholarship

Ruth Buxton Sayre was known as the "First Lady of the Farm" and inspired millions of rural women around the world to improve themselves and their communities with her practicality, humor, decency, and common sense. As a young farm mother, she began her life work in striving for better conditions for farm women and their families by organizing her neighbors for college extension classes. She earned high posts in state, national and international organizations and served as ACWW President from 1947-1953.

Country Women's Council USA, offers a Ruth B. Sayre Memorial Scholarship

each year to a woman who is a legal resident of the USA, who shows a financial need, and who has the ability to complete her education.

Country Women's Council USA Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Donation Form		
In Honor Of:		
Amount Donated:		
In Memory Of:		
Amount Donated:		
Name Donor:		
State:	Zip Code:	
Phone:	Email:	
Send	To: Debbie Wagstaff, CWC Treasurer	
	P.O. Box 94, Morrison OK 73061	
	Phone: 580.336.8860	
	Email: motedebbie@gmail.com	



ACWW INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Category 5 Individual membership £30 annual renewal Renewal can be paid online by visiting : https://www.acww.org.uk Follow the membership link



Payable January 1st or membership will lapse if not paid by March 31st.

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ACWW Area President Cont. from page 3

Rural Gender Impact Analysis

That ACWW urge governments to apply both a Rural Impact Analysis and Gender Impact Analysis when considering plans, policies, and programs to ensure the intersectionality of being women and living rurally are taken into account in order to reduce the adverse impact of proposed plans, policies and programs on rural communities. **Resolution passed.**

I have chosen to concentrate on the 'Addressing Food Waste' resolution as a project for the next Triennium. The first year I will be concentrating on 'Food Deserts' and you will be receiving information that you can use for projects and educational pieces. I have a presentation I will be giving to members both in conferences and in a ZOOM meeting. More information will be coming your way soon.

Start planning for the USA Area Conference to be held July/August of 2025. I will be working around the World Presidents schedule as she will be attending three Area Conferences in the Western Hemisphere during that time. Dates will be finalized by the end of August 2023.

Bonnie Teeples ACWW USA Area President 2023-2026 <u>usa@acww.org.uk</u>



Members attending ACWW Triennial 2023



Jo Ellen Almond CWC Treasurer 2024 - 2027



Jo has been attending Country Women's council USA meetings for 25+ years. She has held Board positions for the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association. Her previous positions with National Organizations consist of Vice President, NVON and Treasurer, CWC. Her previous international positions held are Area President USA, Executive Board Secretary for Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), and Finance Committee ACWW.

Jo is married to Bob and has 2 sons, one lives in Greenfield, Indiana and the other in Queen Creek, Arizona. Bob and Jo live in northern Indiana and travel

to Florida in the winter. She has been a long time supporter of CWC and enjoys visiting and learning new ideas from friends while attending conferences.



80th Meeting of the Country Women's Council

Welcome to Florida! We are happy to host the 80th Meeting of the Country Women's Council coming up September 24-26, 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Miramar Beach, FL. We're looking at breaking from tradition and changing a

few things with this conference so you'll certainly want to make plans to join us and see what we're up to!

Located in the Panhandle of Florida, this area is known for its sugar white sand beaches, clear turquoise waters, a huge variety of water sports, and fantastic beach life. As we begin to plan what tours to offer conference attendees, we realize that there is a huge variety of options available to select from. There's Charter Boat / Deep Sea Fishing, Glass Bottom Boat / Dolphin tours, Kayaking and Paddle Board adventures, multiple award-winning golf courses, Sunset Boat Tours, the Destin Harbor Boardwalk (30 min away), Baytowne Wharf area, Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park (30 min away), Silver Sands Premium Outlets, and many other things to see and do.

In past conferences, there have been two choices for tour day. These tours typically took up most of the day. Then we rushed back, rested or grabbed a nap if needed, cleaned up and met for dinner and evening entertainment. It often made for a very long day. We are considering changing the tour options to be two half-day tours rather than full day tours. This would allow you to attend BOTH tours if you choose. If you only go on one tour, it will allow you some free time to explore our beautiful beaches. The day would be a bit more relaxed and dinner would be on your own that night. There are Sunset Dinner Cruises that are available for those interested. We could certainly see about group rates for that. There's even beach bonfires that we can book – what a great way to end the day!

With all the activities available, we want to know what YOU want to do. Take a look at some of the websites below to see for yourself that options that are available. Then send an email to Annette Lanham at netandtim@Hotmail.com letting us know what would be of interest for you. Find something specific that you and a couple of friends really want to do? Let us know what it is and how many people and we'll see what we can come up with. You may even choose to directly book an adventure for your small group.

www.visitflorida.com/places-to-go/northwest/miramar-beach/ www.destinboardwalk.com www.crabisland.com www.sunquestcruises.com www.gulfarium.com www.glassdeer.com www.baytownewharf.com www.destinbonfirecompany.com (we are working with the hotel to see if they can provide this for us)

Make sure you check the dates we've scheduled the conference! The CWC Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2024. First day of conference will be on TUESDAY, Sept 24. Tour day will be on WEDNESDAY, Sept 25 and our final conference day will be THURSDAY, Sept 26. More information will be in the next news sheet, but we just wanted to get some feedback from you guys as we continue planning for what we expect to be an outstanding conference!





Annette Lanham CWC Vice-Chair

Where do our scholarships go?

Have you ever wondered what happened to our Ruth B. Sayre scholarship winners? We offer scholarships, convene a selection committee, select winners, write checks and then send them off to the recipient's educational institutions. Often, we get a Thank You note or email. But then what? We never follow up – we never know how our scholarship affected the recipient.

After the 2022 scholarship selection cycle, I began to wonder about our past winners. Did they complete their education? Did they stay in their original degree program or move to something different? Are they currently working in a career field that matches their education?

I went back through all the past years of scholarship documentation that I had and reached out to as many recipients as I could find email addresses for. Prior to 2015, the scholarship application did not request an email address. I found 14 email addresses and then sent a personalized email to each one of them. Many of the emails were no longer valid, but I did receive responses from nine of them.

Over the next several news sheets, I will be sharing those responses with you. Below are the responses from two of our 2015 scholarship recipients.

Hello!

Great hearing from you! I graduated in Spring of 2019 with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western Illinois University. Since then, I have been working in step-down Intensive Care Units. I started at Saint Anthony's Medical Center in Rockford, IL and am now currently at Rush Copley Hospital in a Step-Down Unit. I have been at Copley for a year and a half now. I'm currently a preceptor for new nurses coming to the unit. I'm working to get certified as a PCCN (progressive care certified nurse) and hope to test this fall. I have plans to go back in the next 5-7 years to get my nurse practitioner license once I have a few more years of experience under my belt. I appreciate you reaching out!

Hope all is well, Victoria Gregory (2015 Winner)

Hello,

I successfully completed my studies and graduated from Kirkwood Community College in May of 2017 with a degree in Agricultural Geospatial Technology. I then started my job at HD Cline Company May of 2017. In October of 2019, HD Cline Company was bought out by JJ Nichting Company. So I now work for JJ Nichting Company (Case IH Agricultural Dealership). I have been here for 5 years now and I absolutely love my job. Your scholarship truly helped me afford my college tuition and is greatly appreciated.

Rita Urmie (2015 winner)

Annette Lanham CWC Vice-Chairman Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Chairman

2023 Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Winners



Emma Humphreys Columbus Junction, Iowa

Emma is from Columbus Junction, IA and has a passion for speaking, writing, creating and advocating for the agriculture industry. In 2022, she wrote a speech discussing the mental health crisis in agriculture, a topic near to her heart. She was not sure anyone would like the speech or even appreciate her talking about the topic. However, she was determined to raise awareness for the topic and has since given that speech to dozens of organizations throughout Iowa and competed in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest at the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention. She is seeking a degree in Agricultural Communications from Iowa State University as well as an agricultural education teaching certificate. Her long-term goals are to work in marketing for local agribusinesses or be a high school agricultural educator and FFA Advisor.

2023 Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Winners Continued



Hailey Chaffin New Hope, Alabama

Hailey is from New Hope, AL, a low-income community outside of Huntsville. She has a special love for her community and a desire to give back. As the technical advisor of New Hope High School's National Honor Society, she took part in a variety of service projects such as developing a school supply closet for the school in order to provide students with unlimited access to school supplies and personal hygiene items. While attending the American Legion Auxiliary's Alabama Girls State Conference, she had the honor of representing New Hope High School while learning about our country's legislative processes. As a volunteer at Merrimack Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization that gives special needs children and adults the opportunity to participate in the arts, she assists with Summer Camps and Holiday Shows. The kids she has met at Merrimack

hold a special place in her heart because they have inspired her to create a loving and inclusive community. She also volunteers for Special Olympics, helping children with special needs to participate and compete in their favorite sports activities. Additionally, she serves at New Salem Baptist Church as a worker during Vacation Bible School. She would like to thank the members of the Country Women's Council for providing this scholarship to assist her in achieving her degree in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Brinley J. Meier Waverly, Iowa

Brinley is from Waverly, Iowa and plans to attend Hawkeye Community College to receive an Associates of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene. She is dedicated to giving back to her community through a variety of programs and opportunities. She has also served in 4H for over 10 years. Her service projects include: clean up days, recycling pick-ups, omelet breakfasts and sports tournament fundraisers. She held multiple jobs during her high school years – detasseling, pool maintenance for the City of Waverly, working for Green Iowa AmeriCorps and a barista at a local coffee shop. Each job provided a variety of experiences that helped her develop diverse skills. Detasseling taught her how to work hard for long hours in tough situations and weather. Her pool maintenance job taught her responsibility – if she did not do her duties, the pool would not run properly. Much of her job with Green Iowa AmeriCorps was hard labor: she pulled weeds in the blazing sun for hours; built home for Habitat for Humanity; helped at local garden and farmers markets; and picked up trash after local festivals. Working at the coffee shop showed her how to work fast yet efficiently, have flexibility, multitask, and work on customer service skills.





Jada Long Evansville, Illinois

Jada is from Evansville, IL and from a young age has always wanted to be part of the medical field. During her freshman year in High School, she decided to pursue a Nursing degree and enrolled in a medical explorers club at the local hospital. While a Junior, she took a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course at the local Technical College and passed with the highest grade in the class. At age 17, she was hired at her local hospital as a licensed CNA. Working in a hospital setting enhanced her rural healthcare knowledge and gave her an insight into what was to come in her future nursing career. She plans to attend the Nursing Program at Southwestern Illinois College and would eventually like to continue her education and become a Nurse Anesthetist in a rural community hospital. Participating in numerous community events and club activities has made her realize the importance of helping others.

Her community involvement helped her recognize that she can continue contributing to and assisting others through nursing. She's thankful for her community because it allowed her to put service to others above self and realize the path that she feels she was destined for.

Seven Days in May By Angela McAlister

Suppose you had the opportunity to invest 7 days with women from all over the world who are committed to international development. Would you take it?

Flying back from seven days of the ACWW conference in Kuala Lumpur with over 450 women from around the world, I reflected on my experience, not only the experience of sharing time with my mother and my sisters, but also the experience of listening to so many articulate voices. Over seven days I met women who raised sheep, women who were lawyers, women who were professors, women who were mothers, women who care about pollinators and more. What these women had in common is that these women are multipliers using their talents to create larger change.

Yes, this is an important business meeting. And as such we invested time to review proposals and update bylaws necessary to help keep the organization in order. ACWW is an organization changing with the times so there were difficult questions to explore. Going forward there is hard work to do with the United Nations and more problems to influence than there are people to do the work.

It was also an intimate international experience. When you have the opportunity to be on a dance floor with women from over 45 countries, many in their national dress and all of you learn a new line dance together, how can you not believe in working together internationally? When have you had an opportunity to listen as a young biochemist PhD explains to you how to ensure households have safe water using microbial products and buckets, how can you not be inspired to help them find funding for their work? When there is conversation on how to use sugar cane waste to help keep girls in school, how can you not feel that the work you are doing makes a difference for women everywhere?

Where, other than at an ACWW conference would I have the opportunity to have lunch with a lawyer from Indonesia and her niece and supper with the owner of a sheep station in Australia? In addition to those lovely lunches and suppers, I learned about the Ise of Ayer, which someday I hope to visit, from an expert in finance. And I ventured into the center of Kuala Lumpur with a fellow adventurer from Australia to eat at a local curry house where the food was so spicy hot, I was able to eat only three tiny bites.

Admittedly, I was a first-time conference attendee with an inside track. My mother, Loy Walker, has been participating with ACWW for more than 30 years in various roles. And, about my mother, teacher, home economist, and community organizer, now I see her commitment to community in a new way. I made the trip in good company, my sisters Theresa and Barb. Both of these women are expert in their professional fields and gifted mothers. They fit right in.

As a first-time participant, if you asked me would I attend again, here's what I would say. Only attend if you want to be challenged to step up and contribute to women in agriculture, women's health, and women's safety. Only attend if you want to learn about and from women who help other women to be their best, to change their economic situation, and to make an imprint on the world. Only attend if you are ready to be a multiplying force.

See you in Ottawa in 2026? I'll be looking forward to learning more about the work you're doing to empower women around the world.

<u>Mark your Calendars</u>



Message the CWC ACWW Coordinator

Since becoming the CWC ACWW Coordinator I have been learning a lot about resolutions and recommendations.

Resolutions are mandates which must be worked on if passed by an adequate majority. **Recommendations** are a suggested line of action which societies might choose to follow.

These resolutions and recommendations are grouped together in categories. This makes it easier to apply to your societies area of work. In my Oklahoma society we have state goals that cover healthy living, family issues, resource management and cultural living. Our ACWW coordinator has been working with these committees to implement some of the resolutions and recommendations in to our goals. This allows us to work on these areas and to make them more aware of just what ACWW is doing for rural areas around the world.

I had a fellow member ask me once "What does ACWW actually do for us?" I showed her the website and had her read more about ACWW. She had no clue. By having coordinators in our societies, it is important that we make members aware of ACWW and what this organization does. Especially since they are members. All of this is true for letting your membership know what CWC is as well.

For the ACWW Coordinators they have provided us some resources to help us do our jobs a little easier. One of the resources is this 2-minute elevator speech.

2-minute introduction to ACWW and ACWW membership. By becoming an ACWW member, you join a network that supports rural women in connecting their voices, so that the issues they face and the solutions they raise are heard and acknowledged by national and international policy-makers and legislators. ACWW exists for women who want to actively engage with international policy and the empowerment of rural women.

ACWW exists to amplify the voices of rural women, collecting factual data on their living conditions and using that information to hold governments to account through our status with the United Nations.

ACWW exists to connect rural women, knowing that our voice is so much stronger when we speak together.

ACWW exists to mobilize rural women to be leaders in their communities, producing resources that can be used to educate at a grassroots level.

ACWW exists to empower. We empower by recognizing that rural women have a voice and that that voice has gone unheard for far too long. We empower by funding grassroots projects that improve whole communities one woman at a time. We empower by raising awareness of international treaties and agreements that protect the rights of women and by involving our member societies in treaty negotiations at an international level. We empower through friendship and collaboration at our Area and Triennial World Conferences.

Rural women are the backbone of families, communities, and nations, but they suffer the worst impacts of climate change and conflict, go unheard in legislation, and remain unprotected and unsupported. ACWW exists to change that. Shorter:

ACWW amplifies the voices of rural women, so that the problems they face and they solutions they raise are heard and acknowledged by national and international policy-makers and legislators. Rural women are the backbone of families, communities, and nations, but they suffer the worst impacts of climate change and conflict, go unheard in legislation, and remain unprotected and unsupported. ACWW exists to change that.

Enjoy.

Leslye Owen

CWC/ACWW Coordinator















