

WVS/WRVS ASSOCIATION

Members' Newsletter No. 2

The Officers and Committee send greetings and all good wishes to members of the WVS/WRVS Association throughout the country.

It is hoped that this Newsletter will bring you up to date with news both of the Association and of WRVS as we are able to enclose a copy of the Chairman, Lady Pike's Letter to members of WRVS which was distributed to the country last month, together with a leaflet giving the Structure and Organisation of WRVS Headquarters as it is to-day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion of the Association was held at Brompton Holy Trinity Church House, London S.W.7, on Wednesday, April 16th, 1975, and was attended by some 150 members, many of whom travelled long distances. The Chairman of the Association, Miss Halpin, was in the chair and gave a special welcome to three distinguished guests, Dame Frances Clode, Chairman of WRVS from Lady Reading's death until July 1974, and two former Vice-Chairman of WVS, Lady Norman and Lady Alexander of Tunis.

Miss Halpin said there were 425 members, including 53 Life Members. Interest in the country was increasing and it was hoped to see a large expansion of members in the coming year. She stressed how important it was at first to keep the Constitution flexible.

The following Officers of the Association were elected:-

- President The Baroness Pike, Chairman of WRVS
- Chairman Miss Kathleen Halpin, C.B.E. (Headquarters)

It was agreed that the Committee should be composed of the Chairman of the Association and nine members, from whom the Honorary Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer would be appointed and, in addition, a representative from each Region. The Committee to have power to co-opt additional members.

The following members of the Committee were then elected:-

- Mrs. J. Haines, B.E.M.
- Mrs. D. Harris, O.B.E.
- Miss M. Hamilton, M.B.E.
- Mrs. M. Houghton, O.B.E.
- Miss A. Johnston, C.B.E.
- Mrs. J. Sich
- Mrs. J.F. Tate, M.B.E.

Regional Representatives

The following Regional Representatives have been appointed by their respective Regions. They will receive copies of the Minutes whether or not they are able to attend Committee meetings:-

- London Region Mrs. M. Downing,
- Region 1 Mrs. A. O'Neill,
- Region 2 Mrs. F. Phillip,
- Region 3

- Region 4
- Region 5 Miss J. Barnard, O.B.E.,
- Region 6 Lady Lucas Tooth,
- Region 7 Mrs. K.M. Barker,
- Wales Mrs. K. Mowat,
- Region 9 Miss R. Lamb,
- Region 10 Mrs. E.M. Georgeson,

It is hoped that the Regional Representatives will keep in touch with members in their region, arrange local gatherings and, when possible, talk about the Association at Regional and County meetings so as to stimulate interest and recruit new members for the Association.

Local Reunions

It was agreed at the A.G.M. that, in view of the healthy state of the account, an allowance of 25p per head could be made from the Association's funds for Members' functions held at Regional or County level.

It is hoped that Regional Representatives will forward to the Secretary information about the dates of these meetings and will send a report on the function for inclusion in the following Newsletter.

Annual General Meeting - 1976

It was voted at the Meeting in April that the Annual General Meeting and Reunion next year, 1976, should again be held in London. No charge was made for lunch at the gathering on April 16th but this might not always be possible.

Address by Lady Pike

Lady Pike spoke to the members and explained what WRVS was doing at a time of national stress when economies were necessary, but the service which WRVS can give was never more needed. No expenditure could now be carried which we could manage without, and the WRVS Magazine had had to go but would be replaced by quarterly Newsletters. Some of the day-to-day work at Headquarters and in Regional Offices was to be combined, but it was more important than ever that we should regenerate and re-ignite our work for the community. Her speech was greatly appreciated.

The Benevolent Trust

The Benevolent Trust was mentioned and the Chairman of the Association said help was available for members who had fallen on bad times and needed help for such things as a holiday, convalescence, moving expenses etc.

Applications should be sent through Regional Administrators to the Secretary of the Benevolent Trust, Miss A. Johnston, Headquarters.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership figures as at May 31st, 1975, indicate 480 members (including 58 Life Members) after deducting 32 resigned or deceased.

The breakdown of these figures into Counties is attached to this Newsletter.

Members will be sorry to hear of the recent deaths of the following members of WRVS:-

Mrs. Eudora Campbell, C.B.E., of Dolphinton, Chairman for Scotland 1946 - 1952

Miss Dorothy Pomeroy, the designer of the famous LAPRON, so often pictured in the WRVS Magazine, who until recently worked at Headquarters in the Publishing Department

In addition we report with much regret the death of the following members of the Association:-

Mrs. Cowap of Lynton, Hants.

Lady Tasker of Swanage, Dorset

Mrs. S.M. Little of Maldon, Essex

Mrs. H. Jordan of Solihull, Warwickshire

Miss Pauline Fenno who died in Maine on 31st May, 1975

In the Daily Telegraph of 7th June Peterborough wrote as follows:-

"I am sorry to hear from America of the death in Maine last week of a particularly good friend of this country, Pauline Fenno.

"She was here when war broke out and refused to leave. She became driver to Lady Reading, Chairman of the WVS, and drove her throughout the war, through blackout and bombs all over the country. She was made M.B.E. for her services.

"After the war Miss Fenno divided her time between this country and the United States. Her many benefactions here included a share of the historic Swanborough Manor, which she and Lady Reading gave to Sussex University.

"But she also took back to Maine many ideas on welfare stemming from her experiences here, such as a play-group she financed for children, a youth club, tennis courts and a village store."

Mrs. Thesiger who writes under the name of Virginia Graham, has sent us the following appreciation:-

Pauline Fenno, who has just died at her home in Maine, U.S.A. gave a great part of her love and attention to England. Visiting Lady Reading for a weekend at the start of the last war, she stayed throughout it as an energetic and galvanizing member of that organisation, and remained on afterwards to make London her home from home. Rich, generous, funny, with a streak of cynicism which in no way soured her innate kindness, she was, to those of us who served with her, in the nature of a large Boston cocktail. Her faith in England's prowess, her buoyancy, good looks, and optimism, her infinite variety of imported stirrup pumps, candy, and petrol saving devices, lifted up our hearts whenever we saw her, and even if this were all, which it was not, these gifts to her adopted country in general, and to her personal friends in particular, were inestimable.

Latterly her anglophilia assumed such proportions, her admiration for and belief in our virtues became so obstinate it was difficult not

to be a little angry with her; yet God knows we need such loyal and loving friends, and it is wonderful, if humbling, to remember we were so much loved by, so lovable a person for so many unlovely years.

WRVS AND PARLIAMENT

9th June was an historic day in Parliament, as the proceedings were broadcast live from the House of Commons. In the course of the proceedings the Rt. Hon. F.W. Mulley, Minister of Transport, paid a tribute to the work of WRVS in connection with the Nuneaton train disaster. On this occasion WRVS Emergency Services were on the spot within 15 minutes.

PUBLICITY

The following 16mm Colour Films are available from Regional Offices, Wales Office and Scottish Headquarters or through local WRVS Offices:-

HOSPITAL VOLUNTARY - made by Town and Country Productions Ltd., with commentary by Robert Dougall

PAIRS OF HANDS - made by Cygnet Films Ltd., with commentary by Kenneth Wolstenholme

BOOKS ON WHEELS - made by Cygnet Films Ltd.

RECIPE BOOK

"RESCUE A RECIPE", available at 40p per copy from Departmental Services, WRVS Headquarters, 17 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 4AJ.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

Miss Barnard, the Regional Representative, would like to hear from any member of the Association living in Kent, Surrey and Sussex if they would be interested in attending a "Get Together" on Tuesday, August 12th, at the WRVS Regional Office, 6 Calverley Park Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Please let her know as soon as possible at:-

Glebe House, GOUDHURST, Kent (Tel: 402)

Further details will be sent to those who reply to this notice.

NORTH EASTERN REGION

Mrs. G.L. Phillip, the Regional Representative, would like to hear from any member of the Association living in W. Yorks., S. Yorks. and Humberside if they would be interested in attending a "Get Together" on Friday, September 5th, at the WRVS Regional Office, 20 Park Place, Leeds, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Please let her know as soon as possible at:-

38 Ullswater Drive, WETHERBY, Yorks. (Tel: Wetherby 2321)

New members welcome and further details of the Association will be sent on request.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS, 1975-

Congratulations to the following WRVS members whose names appear in the list published on June 14th, 1975:

M.B.E.

Mrs. Edyth Winifred BURRELL
Local Office Staff (General Duties), Camborne Region 7

Mrs. Norma Constance LUCAS
Lately District Organiser, Worthing Region 5

Mrs. Dorothy THOMAS
Lately Metropolitan District Organiser, Sheffield Region 2

B.E.M.

Mrs. Marjorie Mary BRITNELL
Local Staff (General Duties) Minehead Region 7

Mrs. Eileen PRUDEN
Local Old People's Welfare Organiser, Redditch Region 9

Mrs. Maud Sanar O'BEIRNE RYAN
Lately Centre Organiser Wellington U.D. and R.D. Region 7

Mrs. Mary Kathleen Frances RYLATT
District Organiser, Bermondsey LONDON Region

Mrs. Frances SMITH
Local Staff (All Duties) Drayton Region 6

Mrs. B. B. RAMSAY
Transport Organiser, Glasgow District Scotland

Mrs. Elizabeth STANTON
Family Welfare Club Leader, Stockport Region 10

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