



SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Affiliated with National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A., Associated Country Women of the World and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service
SCFCL website: <http://www.scfcl.com>

Leader Training Guide

"All About ACWW, CWC and NVON"

Objective:

This lesson is prepared to help all members of the South Carolina Family & Community Leaders become more knowledgeable of their connections to the world.

Lesson Overview:

Information and connections:

- The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)
- The Country Women's Council USA (CWC)
- The National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON)
- The South Carolina Family and Community Leaders (SCFCL)

Introduction:

I live in a small house, but my windows look out on the whole world because of involvement in my South Carolina Family & Community Leaders' club. In order to see the expanse of the world touched by our membership, we must consider the reason for the formation of all levels of our involvement.

Lesson:

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

In Finland, over two hundred years ago women began meeting together, and from those first group meetings smaller local groups were formed.....much like our SCFCL clubs of today.

In Canada, a young woman decided that there was a need for small groups of women to meet together in order to be informed and up to date on the latest practices. Something in her own life made her realize how necessary training was to women. She had a baby and the baby died because she gave it uncooked milk. Had she only known the risk, this could have been prevented. She decided that women should get together to keep in step with new developments.

In England, a lady sensed the restlessness of women in her area and organized a group of women. In other areas small groups of women were coming together to help during the First World War.

Several groups of women came together at the meeting of the International Council of Women in London in 1929. There were representatives from 23 countries and they learned they had many of the same hopes and ideas. Several women with leadership abilities got together and worked out details to hold a conference in Stockholm, Sweden in 1933. At this meeting, they decided on the name of The Associated Country Women of the World. Each member organization would work in its' own right and have its' own responsibilities, and the English language would be used at all meetings.

AIMS WERE:

To further international friendships and understanding to create helpful relationships

To raise the standard of living everywhere

Membership is voluntary and this truly is the strength of the organization. It was agreed from the beginning there would be no discussion of other's religion and politics. At this meeting in Stockholm where ACWW received its' name, it was written on the blackboard in four languages. Never had an international organization started on such a thin shoestring. A room in London was lent to them for an office and there was one paid secretary and a borrowed typewriter.

The idea for Pennies for Friendship was born in 1939. Each member was to donate the least coin of her country's currency. Today, our Pennies for Friendship continue to be the life blood of ACWW and are used very frugally and wisely.

ACWW meets every three years in different parts of the world....These meetings are called ACWW Triennial Conferences. In 1936 the conference was held in Washington, DC. Two hundred were registered to attend and seven thousand showed up as enthusiastic visitors. Three additional conferences have been in the United States of America: 1968 Lansing, Michigan; 1989 Kansas City, Missouri; 2010 Hot springs, Arkansas.

ACWW has consultative status in the United Nations. This means that around the world, ACWW representatives have world passes to go into the United Nations and attend certain meetings. These representatives are consulted on matters within the realm of the activities of the ACWW. Thru the un-tiring efforts of ACWW, 1994 was designated as "THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY".

As one of the writers of this lesson, I would say to you.....World organizations are different. ACWW must be different as it strives to meet the needs of approximately nine million members in seventy countries of the world. The type of unity ACWW has created, which is truly international, rises up above the prejudices of our world.

The Country Women's Council USA (CWC)

CWC is a coordinating council between the Associated Country Women of the World and the members in the United States of America. This means that CWC's mandate is to coordinate the activities of ACWW here in the USA with those groups with ACWW membership. Any organization/group wishing to be a member of CWC must first be a member of ACWW.

CWC was organized following the 1939 ACWW Triennial Conference in London. Then, as now, the purpose was to provide a means of meeting together between ACWW Triennial Conferences. These CWC meetings, to which the majority of the ACWW USA member societies send a representative, provide a vehicle through which the work of ACWW may be carried on here in the United States of America. Coming together to receive information, discuss issues, and hear reports of accomplishments pertaining to the work of ACWW creates interest and keeps enthusiasm sustained.

As different people serve in leadership roles, the focus is different. Diversity is good! This we truly feel across the world as we come together at ACWW Triennial Conferences and at CWC meetings here in the USA.

And so I would say to you.....The Country Women's Council, USA is an efficient, cooperative, and understanding body. This council meets needs of each of us as members of the Associated Country Women of the World.....Not always in the same mannerRemember our differences.

National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON)

In September 1994 at the Annual Meeting of the Country Women's Council, USA, it was determined that there was a needed connection between CWC, USA and ACWW member societies in the United States.

A group met at the 1995 CWC Annual meeting and voted to establish a national organization. October 1, 1995, the National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) was formed. Officers were elected, by-laws were prepared and an application for Articles of Incorporation status was filed in Indiana. Incorporation was granted January 25, 1996.

Charter member societies were Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council; Illinois Association for Home and Community Education; Indiana Extension Homemakers Association; Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association; South Carolina Family & Community Leaders; West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service; and Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education. The Articles of Incorporation were amended to comply with the Internal Revenue Service May 31, 2005

In May 1996, NVON was accepted as an ACWW member organization that allowed for membership in the Country Women's Council USA (CWC).

The National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc. brings together organizations who are members of or are willing to:

- Work with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)
- Promote friendship and understanding in the world
- Promote sharing between member states
- Promote well-being of individuals and families
- Bring about a better understanding of the relationship of home, community, state, nation and the world
- Speak for and further interests of member organizations engaged in service to families and communities
- Coordinate activities and disseminate information relevant to the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and Country Women's Council USA (CWC)
- Distribute Land Grant College and University research based educational information

In October 2000, a program library was set up as a means for member states to exchange lessons/programs. This library may be accessed through the NVON web site: <http://www.nvon.org>. Each member state contributes current education lessons/programs. This web site is updated periodically.

Also in 2000, a two-year Project in Common was established to have a common focus throughout the membership. Now the Project in Common is a three-year project where the themes rotated from International, United States and Membership Projects.

Lesson Summary:

This lesson/program has been prepared and is presented in an attempt to help you, as SCFCL members, be more knowledgeable of your connection with NVON, CWC, and ACWW. Truly, as we look out the windows of our small clubs we reach millions of women worldwide who share many of our same issues and dreams.

Suggested Activities:

Purchase and read a copy of *The Quiet Revolution* (sold at SCFCL meetings)

Visit the Archives at Winthrop University, Rock Hill (new location at 700 Cherry Road, Rock Hill, S.C. (corner of Cherry Rd. and Charlotte Ave.) Call: 803.323.2334

Web site: <http://www2.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives>

Attend any of the meetings of the ACWW, CWC, NVON or SCFCL

Visit the web sites of:

ACWW: <http://www.acww.org.uk>

CWC: <http://www.cwcusa.org>

NVON: <http://www.nvon.org>

SCFCL: <http://www.scfcl.com>

Suggested Materials: *The Quiet Revolution*, Dr. Tom Mounter. NVON web site:

<http://www.nvon.org>, CWC web site: <http://www.cwcusa.org>, and ACWW web site:

<http://www.acww.org.uk>.

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Sources/References: Web sites: [scfcl.com](http://www.scfcl.com), [nvon.org](http://www.nvon.org), [cwcusa.org](http://www.cwcusa.org), and [acww.org](http://www.acww.org)