

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTES



"FOR HOME AND COUNTRY"

NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHURCH ASSEMBLY HALL, THE MOUND EDINBURGH

Wednesday and Thursday, 24th - 25th October 1945
10.30 to 4 o'clock

Chairman of Conference—Mrs GOOCH, Chairman of Central Council

A G E N D A

WEDNESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER 1945.

GOD SAVE THE KING (FIRST VERSE).

OPENING ADDRESS.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS.

LUNCH INTERVAL.

ADDRESS.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS.

4 o'clock.—CLOSE OF CONFERENCE.

CIVIC RECEPTION IN THE EVENING.

THURSDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1945.

THE OLD HUNDREDTH PSALM.

OPENING ADDRESS by Sir PATRICK LAIRD, Secretary
of Department of Agriculture for Scotland.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS.

LUNCH INTERVAL.

ADDRESS.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS.

4 o'clock.—CLOSE OF CONFERENCE.

RECEPTION IN THE EVENING.

IMPORTANT

There will be a Lunch Interval during the discussions, but it is impossible to arrange for the serving of lunch to members.

All members attending the Conference are asked to bring their own food and drink.

S.W.R.I. NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

24th and 25th October 1945.

RULES OF PROCEDURE AND STANDING ORDERS FOR CONFERENCE.

1. No business other than that shown on the Agenda may be taken at the Conference, unless Urgency be voted. An urgency motion must be clearly explained, and if the question is controversial, two-thirds of the meeting must agree to its discussion.
2. No motion or amendment may be discussed or put to the Meeting unless it is seconded.
3. Not more than one amendment or resolution may be discussed at one time.
4. A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover and the seconder, with the unanimous consent of the Meeting.
5. Speakers opening and closing discussion will be limited to three minutes, exclusive of reading the resolution or amendment. Other speakers to one minute each. All Speakers must direct their speeches strictly to the motion or amendment under discussion, or to a question of order. Where the discussion is becoming irrelevant the Chairman may call the speaker to order. No member may address the Meeting more than once on the same question (unless asked by the Chairman to explain a statement or answer a question); the mover of a Resolution may, however, speak in reply at the end of a discussion.
6. A question may be asked from the body of the hall, but all questions must be strictly confined to a request for information and must not be a statement or argument.
7. Any member may rise to a point of order, any statement made to be strictly confined to the point concerned.
8. Any member may move "That the question be now put" and if this is seconded and carried, the motion or amendment under discussion must be put to the Meeting, without further discussion beyond the right of reply granted to the mover of the resolution or amendment which is under discussion.
9. Any member may move the previous question, *i.e.*, that the meeting proceed to the next business. This must be put to the Meeting and if carried the motion under discussion will be dropped. The "previous question" cannot be moved upon an amendment.
10. The vote shall be taken by show of delegates' cards and the result declared by the Chairman. If a division be challenged, the tellers shall count the delegates.
11. Visitors to the Meeting may be invited to speak by the Chairman.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

1. In order to facilitate business during war-time the Central Council has had to make some slight alteration in method of working. These are now brought forward for ratification :—
 - (a) Appointment of Vice-Chairmen (at present these are co-opted to Committees).
 - (b) Statutory Meeting of Council changed from November to April.
 - (c) Co-option of Conveners of Committees to Executive and Finance Committee, if they are not elected members.

MOVED BY Mrs Gooch (Inverness-shire), Chairman of Central Council.

SECONDED BY Mrs Mercer (Midlothian), Hon. Treasurer of Central Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CENTRAL COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

2. FROM THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(See Paragraph 25 on revised draft, or Page 5 of Handbook.)

That the larger Federations with more than 40 Institutes be entitled to elect a greater number of representatives to the Central Council, and that the present arrangement, which is as follows :—

From 4 up to and including 10 Institutes	...	...	1 representative.
" 11 " " 20 "	...	...	2 "
" 21 " " 40 "	...	...	3 "
Over 40 Institutes	...	...	4 "

should be extended in the following proportion :—

From 41 up to and including 60 Institutes	...	...	5 representatives.
" 61 " " 80 "	...	...	6 "

and continuing with one representative for every additional 20 Institutes.

MOVED BY Mrs Hamilton-Meikle, Chairman, Fife Federation.

SECONDED BY Miss McKenzie, Chairman, Aberdeenshire Federation.

3. FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

In re-arranging the paragraphs in the Handbook, the **National Conference Committee** agreed that in a few cases a slight alteration in words would make the meaning clearer. They therefore make the following recommendations (Suggested alterations in *italics*) :—

Par. 13 on revised draft or Page 4 of Handbook.

Present wording "Federations should be organised in every County . . ." etc.

Recommend.—"A Federation should be organised in *each* County."

Par. 18 on revised draft or Page 5 of Handbook.

Present wording "The employment of organising secretaries if desired by the Institutes . . ."

Recommend.—"The employment of *organisers* or organising secretaries if desired by the *majority of the Institutes in the counties concerned*,"

Par. 24 on revised draft or Page 5 of Handbook.

Present wording "elected for three years by the County Federations in the following proportion to the number of Institutes in each Federation."

Recommend.—"elected for three years by the County Federations *in proportion to the number of Institutes in each Federation.*"

Par. 30 on revised draft or Page 6 of Handbook.

Present wording "The Statutory meeting of the Central Council shall be held in November and County Federation Committees shall send to the Secretary of the Central Council not later than 1st October a note of any business for the Agenda."

Recommend.—Omit first phrase to "*November*" and alter sentence to read: "*Notes of any business for the Statutory meeting shall be sent to the Secretary of the Central Council not later than six weeks before the date of the meeting.*"

Par. 31 on revised draft or Page 6 of Handbook.**Composition of Executive and Finance Committee.**

Recommended addition.—"The Executive and Finance Committee shall meet at least twice yearly, one of these meetings to be held at the time of the Statutory meeting of the Central Council."

Par. 34 on revised draft or Page 6 of Handbook.

Present wording "The Chairman and Hon. Treasurer shall be ex-officio members . . ."

Recommend.—"The Chairman, *Vice-Chairmen*, and Hon. Treasurer."

Par. 35 on revised draft or Page 6 of Handbook.

Present wording "Proxies on Executive and Sub-Committees . . ."

Recommend.—"Proxies on Executive and *other* Committees."

Par. 39 on revised draft or Page 6 of Handbook.

Present wording—"All changes of Constitution and Rules shall be decided by the Central Council. Any proposal for a change in the Constitution or Rules shall be made through a Federation. Notice of any such proposal shall be given to the Central Council at least six months before the meeting of the Council at which it will be considered, and the Council shall circulate it to the County Federations at least four months before such meeting, in order to enable members of the Central Council to obtain instructions. All such changes shall be brought forward for ratification by the Institutes at the next National Conference."

Recommended rewording of paragraph.—"Between National Conference meetings necessary minor changes in Constitution and Rules shall be decided by the Central Council. The recommendation for any such change shall be made to the Central Council by a Federation at least six months before the Council meeting at which it will be considered. The Central Council shall circulate it to the County Federations at least four months before the Council Meeting in order to enable Council members to obtain the views of their Federations."

"All such changes shall be brought forward for ratification by the Institutes at the next National Conference."

MOVED BY Mrs Kennedy (Ayrshire), Vice-Chairman of Central Council.

SECONDED BY Mrs Forrest (Midlothian), Convener, Handicrafts Committee.

4. Resolution from Peebles-shire Federation and Damhead W.R.I., Midlothian Federation.

"That one-third of Central Council members shall retire at each election and not be eligible for re-election until three years have elapsed. That the Hon. Office-Bearers shall hold office for not more than six consecutive years, and be not eligible for re-election until three years have elapsed."

MOVED BY Mrs Thomson, Peebles-shire Federation.

SECONDED BY Mrs Munro, Damhead W.R.I.

First Amendment from Kincardineshire Federation and Dunning W.R.I., Perth and Kinross Federation.

"That no member shall be elected to Central Council for more than two consecutive periods of three years. At the end of that time she shall retire and shall not be eligible for re-election until three years have elapsed."

MOVED BY Mrs Russell, Fettercairn W.R.I., Chairman, Kincardine Federation.

SECONDED BY Miss Fletcher, Dunning W.R.I.

Second Amendment from Minishant W.R.I., Ayrshire Federation.

"That the existing arrangement should continue."

MOVED BY Mrs Adams, Minishant W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Limond, Minishant W.R.I.

5. Resolution from Berwickshire Federation.

To replace Paragraph 29 on Revised Draft, or Page 5, Handbook.

"That the Central Council shall meet *twice annually*. Central Council meetings to follow each meeting of the Executive and Finance Committee, extraordinary meetings to be convened by the Chairman or at the request of any six County Federations."

MOVED BY Mrs Stevenson, Oxton W.R.I., Chairman, Berwickshire Federation.

SECONDED BY Mrs Dobson, Duns W.R.I.

Amendment from South-Western Area Committee.

"That at least a day and a half be given to the Annual Central Council Meeting."

MOVED BY Mrs McTurk, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright Federation.

SECONDED BY Mrs Lewis, Lanarkshire Federation.

6. Resolution from Dunning W.R.I., Perth and Kinross Federation.

After Par. 30 on revised draft, or Page 6 of Handbook.

"That the Press be admitted to all meetings of Central Council."

MOVED BY Miss Fletcher, Dunning W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Forbes, Blair Atholl W.R.I.

Amendment from Minishant W.R.I., Ayrshire Federation.

"That the Press should *not* be admitted to all meetings of the Central Council."

MOVED BY Miss Limond, Minishant W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Adams, Minishant W.R.I.

7. Resolution from Little Brechin W.R.I., Angus Federation.

After Paragraph 6 on revised draft, or Page 4 of Handbook.

"That every member of an Institute should take a turn of being on the Committee of her Institute for one year unless an acceptable excuse be furnished."

MOVED BY Miss Willocks, Little Brechin W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Guild, Little Brechin W.R.I.

8. Resolution from Caithness Federation.

After Paragraph 43 on revised draft, or Page 7 of Handbook.

"That Central Council pay Third Class Fares of all Central Councillors attending Council and Committee Meetings even at the cost of an increased levy."

MOVED BY Mrs Millikin, Caithness Federation.

SECONDED BY Miss Adamson, Bilbster W.R.I.

9. Resolution from Ayrshire Federation.

"That an Organiser for Scotland be appointed."

Reasons for:—

- (a) Wide growth of the movement and the need for closer liaison between Federations and Central Council.
- (b) Need for representation on all important Women's Organisations in Scotland by someone directly in touch with both Federations and Central Council.
- (c) Need for someone able to leave Office and visit Federations and groups of Institutes and Areas.
- (d) The impossibility of adequately combining office control and organising in one person, under post-war conditions and probable expansion.
- (e) To co-ordinate and initiate work of national aspect and importance, someone is required whose whole time can be given to this side of the movement, unhampered by routine of office work.

MOVED BY Mrs Kennedy, Chairman, Ayrshire Federation.

SECONDED BY Mrs Maclehose, President, Minishant W.R.I.

10. Resolution from Damhead W.R.I., Midlothian Federation.

"That this Conference views with concern the drift from the countryside, and desires the S.W.R.I. to urge the improvement of Education in Rural Schools to enable children to realise the importance and pleasure of country work."

MOVED BY Mrs Munro, Damhead W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Mann, Carrington W.R.I.

11. Resolution from Ardmiddle W.R.I., Aberdeenshire Federation.

"That school mid-day meals should be provided in every country school."

MOVED BY Mrs Ferguson, Ardmiddle W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Dawson, Fintry W.R.I.

12. Resolution from Ardmiddle W.R.I., Aberdeenshire Federation.

"That we urge the authorities to take steps to repair the second and third class roads as quickly as possible, so that children may get to school with dry feet; also to have more roads scheduled and put under the care of the County Council and to employ all possible means of obtaining labour."

MOVED BY Mrs Ferguson, Ardmiddle W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Taylor, Foveran W.R.I.

13. Resolution from Ayrshire Federation.

"That a Chairman's Committee be formed to take the place of the present Advisory Committee, to undertake supervision of office and advise and assist Chairman."

Formation.—"To consist of one member per Area, all willing to meet regularly once a month—not necessarily in Edinburgh (it is suggested the Committee should meet in North, South, East and West and Centre in rotation). Chairman of Standing Sub-Committees be ex-officio members with powers to vote. For special purposes other members, not necessarily Central Councillors, may be co-opted."

"No paid officials to be present at any meetings unless by request. Any notes taken at the meetings to be kept by the Convener and to be confidential."

"Meetings to be called by Convener."

"Monthly statements and accounts from Central Council Office and Publications Office to be presented for discussion."

"All Central Council and Publications appointments, other than typists, to be considered by this Committee before being presented to the Executive and Finance Committee."

"No decisions to be taken by the Committee; it should be merely an advisory body, unless specific powers are remitted to it by Central Council."

"The Chairman of Central Council should ex-officio be the Convener."

Reasons for such a Committee being brought into being :—

- (a) To have a Committee whose finger is on the pulse of the Movement, its business workings and its repercussions in the Institutes.
- (b) To have a Committee who can at any time if necessity arose help the Chairman in any re-organisation of office matters, with the necessary knowledge in their hands. At present as the Advisory Committee is constructed, the members have only a very vague knowledge of the working of the office.

- (c) To act as Liaison between the office and the Institutes—to bring into being a livelier and more informed interest into the business side of the Movement.

MOVED BY Mrs Agnew, Symington W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Watt, Fenwick W.R.I.

Amendment from Peebles-shire Federation.

“That a Chairman’s Advisory Committee be formed to take the place of the present Advisory Committee to undertake supervision of the Office and assist and advise the Chairman.”

Formation.—“To consist of:—

- “1. Central Council Office-Bearers.
- “2. Regional or Area representatives.
- “3. Chairman of Standing Sub-Committees.
- “4. Co-opted members—not necessarily Central Councillors.

“Monthly statements and accounts from Central Council Office and Publications Office to be presented for discussion.

“All Central Council and Publications Office appointments—other than typists—to be considered by this Committee before being presented to the Executive and Finance Committee. No decisions to be taken by this Committee, it should be merely an Advisory body, unless specific powers are remitted to it by Central Council.

“The Chairman of Central Council should be ex-officio the Convener.”

MOVED BY Mrs Campbell, Dolphinton W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Blair, West Linton W.R.I.

14. Resolution from Longniddry W.R.I., East Lothian Federation.

“That with a view to creating guilds with a real membership, who shall control the policy of the guilds and work for development of their respective crafts within the framework of the S.W.R.I., this Institute asks for an examination of the status of the Handicrafts Guild and the Housewives’ Guild and a complete re-organisation of their policy.”

MOVED BY Mrs Nash, President, Longniddry W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Wright, Cockenzie W.R.I.

15. Resolution from Colvend W.R.I., Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

“That as in some Institutes there is a distinct lack of interest outside their own Meetings and their own Federation, and an ignorance of their capacity to influence for good public opinion, the Central Council be invited to endeavour to promote at intervals direct co-operation between themselves and the Institutes either through personal contact with several branches meeting at some suitable centre, or if this was not possible, through some other medium, such as the B.B.C.”

MOVED BY Miss V. Young, Colvend W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss M. D. Hardie, Colvend W.R.I.

Amendment from Perth and Kinross Federation.

“ At the end of Resolution delete ‘ such as the B.B.C.’, and insert : ‘ such as the W.R.I. *Magazine*, which is the suitable instrument for keeping Institutes in touch with the Movement. That far greater efforts should be made to increase its interest and value. That each Federation should have a Publications Sub-Committee to send half-yearly reports on the features of the *Magazine*.’ ”

MOVED BY Mrs Molteno, Chairman, Perth and Kinross Federation.

SECONDED BY Mrs Hamilton-Meikle, Chairman, Fife Federation.

16. Resolution from Banniskirk W.R.I., Caithness.

Addition to Paragraph 8 on revised draft, or Page 4 of Handbook.

“ That where Federations are invited to send representatives to Housing and other similar schools arranged through the Council and its Committees, each Federation should pay the expense of at least one delegate, provided that delegate is able and willing to visit the Institutes in her own county to pass on the information received, assist in discussions, demonstrations, etc.”

MOVED BY Miss Sinclair, President, Banniskirk W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Mackenzie, President, Castletown W.R.I.

17. Resolution from Kincardineshire Federation.

Addition to Paragraphs 16 and 17 on revised draft or Page 4 of Handbook.

“ That one third of the members of Federation Executive Committee shall retire in rotation every third year, and shall not be eligible for re-election until three years have elapsed.”

MOVED BY Mrs Allan, Banchory W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Gammie, Fordoun W.R.I.

18. Resolution from East Lothian Federation.

Paragraph 37 on revised draft or Page 6 of Handbook.

“ That on Page 6 of the Handbook, Part I, under the heading National Conference, the word ‘ May ’ be deleted and the word ‘ *Shall* ’ substituted.—The sentence would then read : ‘ The Central Council *shall* hold a National Conference once every three years, or oftener if desired.’ ”

MOVED BY Mrs Wright, Tranent W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Gardner, Whitekirk W.R.I.

Amendment from Dunning W.R.I., Perth and Kinross Federation.

“ That a National Conference be held annually.”

MOVED BY Miss Fletcher, Dunning W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Forbes, Blair Atholl W.R.I.

19. Resolution from Kincardineshire Federation.

"That the grouping of the North-Eastern Area, which at present consists of Aberdeenshire, Angus, Banffshire, Kincardineshire, and Shetland, be reconsidered, and that in future it should consist of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire, and Shetland, which will bring the Southern boundary of the North-Eastern Area S.W.R.I. into line with the limit of the North-Eastern Area as generally accepted geographically and for all practical purposes."

MOVED BY Mrs Little, Portlethen W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Mackenzie, Chairman, Aberdeenshire Federation.

20. Resolution from Ayrshire Federation.

"That the Central Council Accounts should be made up in a simplified form after having been passed by auditors, so that they can be understood by the average Rural Member. These simplified accounts to be distributed to all Federations, with instructions to have them sent out to all Institutes."

MOVED BY Mrs Day, Dunlop W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss I. M. Montgomerie, Stair W.R.I.

First Amendment from South Western Area Committee.

"Delete last sentence beginning 'these simplified accounts' and replace by 'the simplified form of accounts to be published in the S.W.R.I. Magazine, ~~and the audited accounts to be published in the public Press.~~'"

MOVED BY Miss Nixon, Arran Federation.

SECONDED BY Mrs Jack, Renfrewshire Federation.

Second Amendment from Stirling and West Perth Federation.

"That the Central Council Accounts, after having been passed by the auditors, should be clearly stated on one balance sheet (no matter from what sources the funds are derived), so that the running cost can be easily assessed by the average Rural Member. A budget for proposed developments should also be appended. The balance sheet and budget to be sent out to all Institutes."

MOVED BY Mrs Innes, Killearn W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs McArthur, Chairman, Stirling and West Perth Federation.

21. Resolution from Damhead W.R.I., Midlothian Federation and Forgandenny W.R.I., Perth and Kinross Federation.

"That this Conference, feeling deeply the need of improved housing in Rural areas, pledges the S.W.R.I. to continued efforts for its early betterment in post-war Scotland."

MOVED BY Mrs Munro, Damhead W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Miss Page, Forgandenny W.R.I.

22. Resolution from Bridge of Cally W.R.I., Perth and Kinross Federation, and Tillyfourie W.R.I., Aberdeenshire Federation.

“That Central Council press for powers for the County Council to take possession of water supplies held in private ownership against the public interest.

“That this Conference urge that there be more adequate water supplies and sanitary arrangements in country districts, especially in schools.”

MOVED BY Miss Downie, Bridge of Cally W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs Collier, Bridge of Cally W.R.I.

23. Resolution from Bridge of Cally W.R.I., Perth and Kinross Federation.

“That Central Council press for provision of cheap electricity for all Rural areas.”

MOVED BY Mrs Thomson, Bridge of Cally W.R.I.

SECONDED BY Mrs McNicol, Bridge of Cally W.R.I.