

# Area President's Newsletter

## Afrodita Roman, Europe Area President



Dear Members,

I am proud and most honoured to have the opportunity to be your Area President for the 2019-2022 Triennium. Thank you for electing me for this position, it is a real challenge but also a great responsibility. I would like to work with you, the existing member societies, to get to know and understand you better in order to meet your desires and wishes, regarding the goals and objectives of ACWW.

One of my priorities will be to enlarge the organisation, to spread the word about ACWW, to make it better known in Europe, and all over the world. I want to bring back those who left ACWW for various reasons. I will work to establish new member societies in areas not yet represented using all resources and networks provided by Central Office and you, the members.

Looking back at my past, thanks to the support generously provided by Mrs. Susan Addams for years, I became an Individual member of ACWW, and later in 1999 I had the opportunity to attend my first Area Conference, in the Czech Republic, and it was fantastic. I met so many people, I made friends and I learnt a lot about ACWW in just a few days! After that, regularly receiving my own copy of The Countrywoman magazine, I continued to learn more about ACWW and how it works, what women in their own organizations do, how they do it and why. It was very motivating to me, and I was again lucky in 2002, when I attended my second Area Conference, in Crete, where I realised the amount of information and knowledge that was available to attendees and members.

It was the moment when I decided that it was the time for me to "give back" what I gained and to do something for women in my own country, in my town, and I set up a non-governmental organization for women, based on a UK "model". Then I continued to work within the Woman of the Third Millennium Association. I wrote, submitted, coordinated and implemented projects between 2006-2016. I organised events and workshops, attracted members and visited projects, and during these years I attended 6 ACWW Area Conferences and 4 World Conferences. I organised and hosted the last European Conference, in 2017, in my home town Tirgu Mures, Romania, with constant support from late Area President Margaret McMillan. Many of you were there and I am very thankful for that!

I was also honoured to serve as a member of the Triennial Conference Committee for 6 years, 2013-2019, and this empowered me, at the same time gave me new opportunities of development, put me in contact with members of the different Specified Committees, with the staff and Executive and Board members. Nothing would have been possible without the opportunities and connections I have found through my involvement with this organization and the experience I gained for the last 6 years.

I am grateful to my Association in Romania, and to all those fantastic women, role-models who guided me, including former European and World Presidents who involved me in this world and work and who were my permanent support.

At the Triennial World Conference in April, new policy resolutions were passed on Climate Change, Domestic Violence, Sanitation, Human Trafficking, and many other topics which reaffirm our existing commitment to empowering women in rural and non-urban communities.

I am very happy to let you know that I have already brought back to ACWW two lapsed societies, one from Albania and one from Romania, and I am very pleased to inform you that they have already submitted projects applications.

Yours,  
Afrodita

