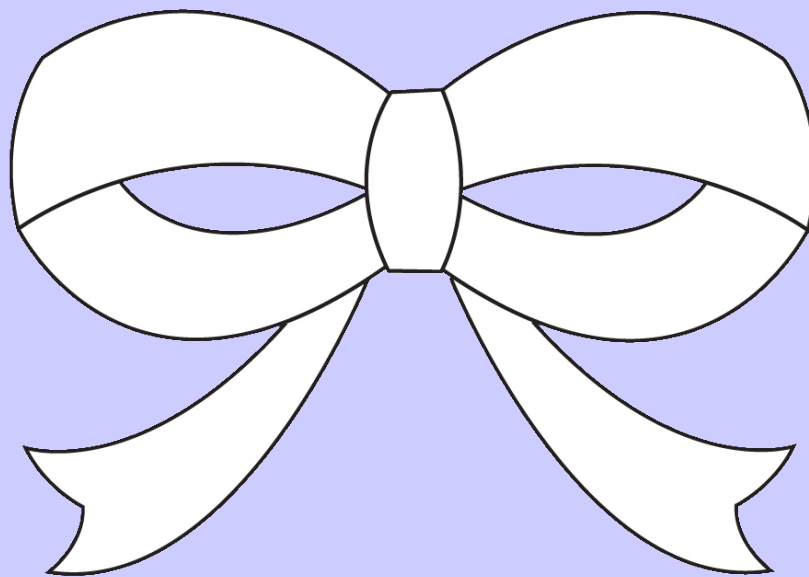


WCTU HANDBOOK
for the
LOCAL UNION



Revised Pacific Edition – November 2008

Definition

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is an organisation for all Christian women. It is inter-denominational. It does not take political positions. (Woman's in the organisation name means each individual woman makes a commitment to total abstinence.) It is believed to be the oldest continuing non-sectarian woman's organisation in the world.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the WCTU is to promote a drug-free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and the community.

Motto

For God, Home and Humanity

Objectives

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union uses positive approaches to achieve its objectives. Some of these objectives are:

- To educate children and young people regarding the nature and the properties of alcohol and the results of its use.
- To inform society regarding the value of total abstinence through providing scientific facts concerning the nature and effects of alcohol as a beverage.
- To encourage families and hostesses to use attractive and healthful non-alcoholic drinks, and to share a knowledge of these drinks.
- To spread the knowledge of chemicals contained in cigarettes and other tobacco products and the harmful effects of smoking.
- To spread a knowledge of the composition of various illicit drugs and the effects of drug abuse.
- To inform society as to the effects of gambling.
- To recognise the equal status of women and men.
- To encourage moral values in the home and thus strengthen family life.
- To assist those who are underprivileged or disadvantaged due to racial, economic or social discrimination.
- To contact those involved in legislation and advertising to encourage responsibility in social and moral issues.
- To promote good citizenship.
- To uphold Christian living standards.
- To become a significant adult in the life of children and youth.

Emblem

The WCTU emblem is a bow of white ribbon which symbolises purity and peace. Members are often known as “white ribboners.” (The membership pin is worn over the heart.)

History

The WCTU was founded in the United States in 1874. As a result of Frances Willard’s vision, the World organisation, was begun in 1883 with the first World Convention convened in 1891 in Boston, Massachusetts (USA). It has spread to over 40 countries in the world.

In the South Pacific, WCTU work started in Australia in 1882 and in New Zealand in 1885. WCTU work entered Fiji many years ago through the work of the Mill sisters from the Methodist Church. Nola Adams introduced it in Samoa in 1978 and it was reorganised again in 2003 during a visit by Dawn Giddings. Some Australian officers visited Rabaul, Papua New Guinea in 1991 and 1993 visiting a number of churches and schools. In 2004, the work of WCTU was again promoted in PNG and it was registered as a Non Government Organisation (NGO) in May 2007. Dawn Giddings also introduced WCTU to Vanuatu in 2003 and to the Solomon Islands in 2004. The work spread to Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribati following promotion by Dawn Giddings at a Women’s Ministries conference convened by Joy Butler in Fiji.

Membership

Little White Ribboners—Birth to 6 years old (parents pledge to teach them the values of total abstinence.)

Children’s Department—6 to 12 years old.

Youth Department—Teens and Young Adults.

Women—WCTU.

Men—Honorary or Associates (They do not hold office or vote).

Membership Requirements

Children, youth, women, and men sign a pledge of total abstinence. Yearly dues are paid to the treasurer. Little White Ribboners and children do not pay yearly dues. A small portion of the dues of the adult women members is sent to the World Treasurer.

Pledge

“I promise, with God’s help, to abstain from alcohol, tobacco and all other harmful drugs.”

(Each country may have their own pledge but it must include the items mentioned here.)

Australian Pledge:

“With God’s help, I will advocate and follow a drug-free lifestyle by abstaining from all alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.”

Special Memberships Available

Any total abstainer may pay or receive these memberships as gifts. Yearly membership dues are still paid. Each country may determine their own memberships and the amounts to be paid.

The following World Special Memberships are given in **US dollars**.

Life Member - \$100 USD

Memorial Member - \$100 USD

Continuing Member - \$100 USD

Patron - \$500 or more USD

Frances Willard Scholarship Fund—Everyone is asked to contribute. Women between the ages of 26 and 50 may apply to receive money from this fund to offer sponsorship to World Convention.

Australian Life membership costs \$20.00 **AUD**

In Australia, an organisation or person may be an **affiliate** member. An affiliate may not wish to sign the pledge, but receives the publications and may assist the organisation in some way. The annual fee is \$10.00 **AUD**.

World Officers

President

Recording Secretary

Organisation Secretary

Four Vice Presidents

Treasurer

Departments

Christian Outreach - The purpose of the Christian Outreach Department is to encourage the Christian walk of members, emphasising “*Do to others as you would have them do to you*” (*Matt. 7:12 & Luke 6:31*), and to reach out to the faith community with the WCTU total abstinence message.

Education - The purpose of the Education Department is to make the facts about alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs known to everyone and to offer contests to further this effort.

Home Protection - The purpose of the Home Protection Department is to strengthen Christian family values, encourage family members to help toddlers and preschoolers to develop a lifetime commitment to total abstinence through the WCTU program, and to promote non-alcoholic drinks for entertainment.

Social Service - The purpose of the Social Service Department is to reach out to the community and individuals who are neglected, suffering, or in need, without any prejudice of race, religion, age, or gender by sharing the love of Christ Jesus through giving our love and support.

Children - The purpose of the Children's Department is to promote Christian values and encourage children to make choices that will lead to a drug-free life. Website: www.drug-freekids.com

Youth - The purpose of the Youth Department is to encourage Christian living and promote a healthy lifestyle free of harmful drugs. Website: www.drug-freeyouth.org or www.drug-freeyouth.com (being developed).

Calendar of Events

World No Tobacco Day—May 31.

International FAS and FASD Awareness Day—September 9 (9:09).

WCTU World Day of Prayer—Last weekend in September.

World No Alcohol Day—October 2 (proposed).

WCTU Noontide Prayer—Every Day At noon each member is expected to pray to God for His blessing on the work of WCTU – a circle of prayer goes around the world.

Conventions

Each country must decide how often to hold conventions and elect officers. If possible (including being affordable) it is good to have a yearly convention in provinces or states. A place to meet and a program must be arranged. The Officers and Department Directors should be involved in the planning. It should be a time of learning and reporting on past activities. Consult with your field worker about planning a convention and get her suggestions for the program. World conventions are held every three years.

Websites

World WCTU website—www.wwctu.org (being developed)

Australian WCTU website—www.wctu.com.au

Children's website—www.drug-freekids.com

Australian Children's website—www.dfk.com.au

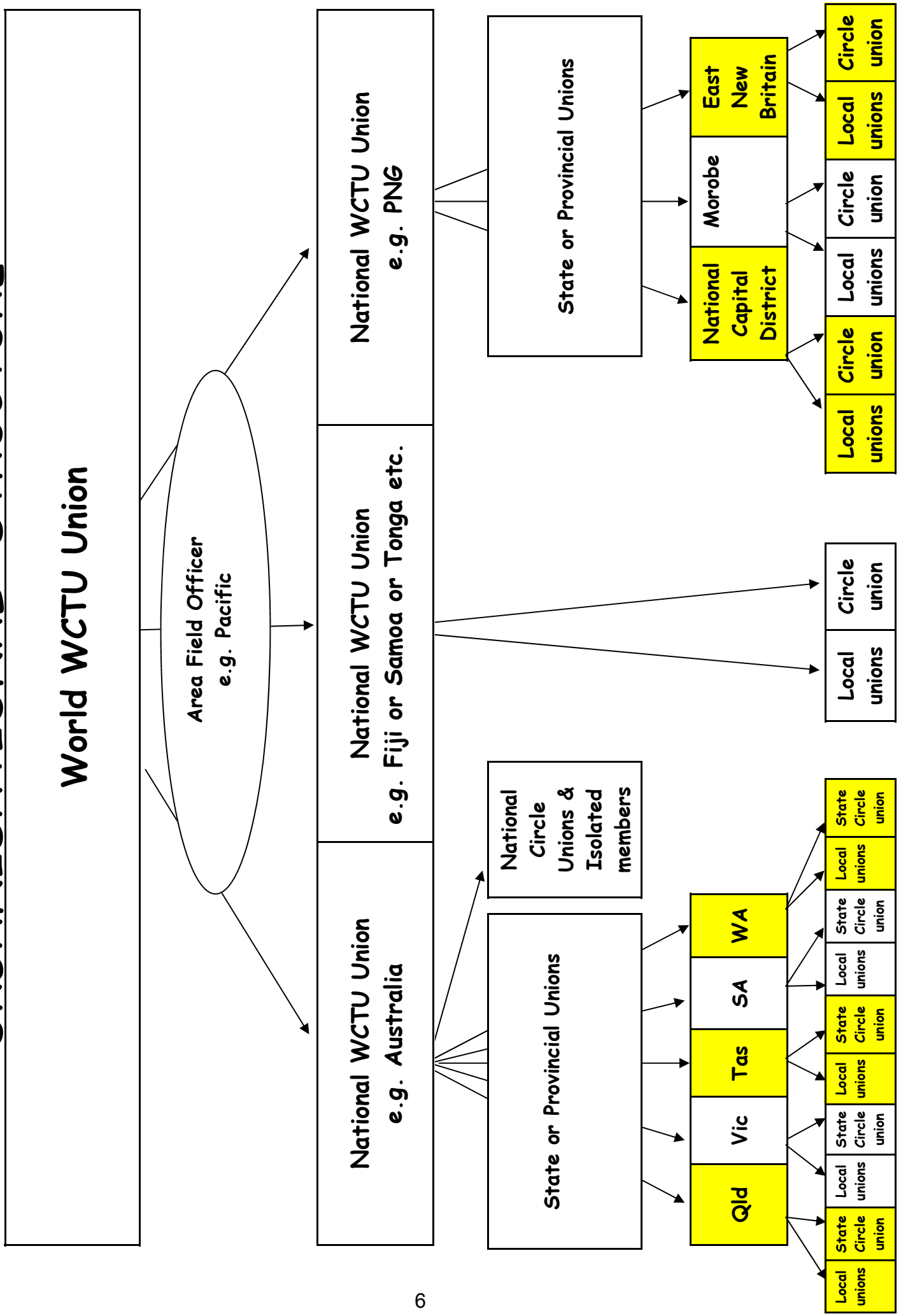
Youth website—www.drug-freeyouth.org or www.drug-freeyouth.com (being developed)

Publications

White Ribbon Bulletin - quarterly - \$7 **USD** per year

White Ribbon Signals—Australian newsletter—quarterly. (\$10 **AUD** per year) For members, the cost is included in the annual membership fee. Drug Free Kids Fun Pages are included with the White Ribbon Signals.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Organising a Local Union

Any WCTU leader in good standing who has been delegated by the field worker or National President may organise a WCTU, Children's Group or Youth Group. The success of the venture depends on the enthusiasm of the person responsible, the thoroughness of preparation and the responsiveness of the women contacted.

Here are some things to consider.

- Be alert to opportunities to present the organisation. Obtain permission to speak at one, or a series of church fellowships, mothers and babies groups, etc. and challenge the women to join the WCTU. From this, a nucleus may be formed.
- Follow-up on potential contacts immediately.
- Set a date and time for the organisational meeting. Try to avoid conflicts with already established meetings.
- Choose an adequate meeting place.
- Publicise the meeting. Advertise in the press. Distribute invitations in letter boxes, churches, magazines, notice boards, or women's gatherings and in shop windows. Obtain the widest publicity possible.
- Encourage interested individuals to give personal invitations.

Guidelines to use at the organisation meeting:

- ◆ The meeting may be formal with a good lively speaker who has a thorough knowledge of the purpose and working of the WCTU or it may be an informal gathering to discuss and inform people about WCTU.
- ◆ Adopt a positive approach, make the room attractive and have a plentiful supply of information, cards, badges and other literature.
- ◆ Briefly explain the work of the WCTU and what it stands for. Indicate the scope of the work by describing the departments of work. Emphasise that we stand for total abstinence as the only safe choice and seek to educate everyone about the dangers of using drugs, including alcohol and tobacco. Point out that it is a total family organisation.
- ◆ Identify the key person—one who exhibits leadership qualities and shows a willingness to be involved. She may be the one who is willing to be nominated as president. She may be in charge of distributing the pledge cards and setting up the next organisational meeting. If those present are ready to sign and begin, procedures to elect officers may be made immediately.
- ◆ It is good to have at least five members with which to start. Care should be taken to select the best women for officers, for they will represent the

union and the cause before the public and by them and their acts, it will be judged. They should be of good Christian character, consecration and discretion. Elections should always be by ballot without campaigning pressures. If possible, elect a president, secretary, and treasurer.

- ◆ Dues need to be paid by the next meeting. A time and place should be established for the second meeting. Be sure to report to the National President and field worker about the new group. It is important that contact is maintained with the new group in order to supply them with materials to get started and perhaps determine a project in which they are interested so they can be involved.
- ◆ After the group's officers are elected and plans for future meetings are made, it is important to appoint Department Directors and get started with projects. Ideas are given in the Program Kits. It is important for the Local Department Directors to report to the National Department Directors each year about their activities.

A WCTU organised and conducted on right lines must be a power for good in any locality. Let each member take as her guiding thought:

"I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do and what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do."

Suggested Agenda for WCTU Meetings

Most groups plan to meet each month.

A regular time and place should be decided.

Preparation is important so the meeting will be interesting.

Make every effort to begin and end the meeting on time.

Officers and speakers should be prepared in every detail.

The Officers may meet in-between the regular meetings if there is a lot of business to discuss or if the group is large. Otherwise a short business meeting can be included in the regular meeting but the officers should be prepared to present the projects and ideas.

- Opening—songs and membership pledge
- Devotions—(5 - 10 minutes) Someone should be asked ahead of time. Include prayer.
- Program - Someone who is able to present material well should give a lesson on one of the drug topics about which we are concerned. Sometimes you may have a qualified speaker come. Also DVDs and other material can be used. It is

important that the members learn reasons for their stand of total abstinence and that they have factual information to share with others. There may be interest in including from time to time the WCTU history both of your country and of the original founding in the US.

- Business -
 - ⇒ Minutes of the last meeting (read and have them approved).
 - ⇒ Treasurer's report - may include an idea for a fund-raiser or a project you want to sponsor.
 - ⇒ Unfinished Business (something talked about at the last meeting but action not taken.)
 - ⇒ New Business (new idea to be discussed.) Take note of what current issues in the media members can respond to. Be creative in ways to address these issues.
 - ⇒ Department Directors may report under either Unfinished or New Business with ideas to promote their department.
 - ⇒ Announcement of time and place of next meeting.
- Refreshments (optional).
- Benediction.

Duties of Officers and Directors

President

- Presides at the meeting—starting and ending promptly.
- Is courteous and enthusiastic.
- Encourages members to invite visitors and greets them.
- Accepts motions and calls for votes.
- Asks if there are corrections, after the Secretary reads the minutes.
- Follows the agenda in requesting participation.
- Calls for executive meetings to plan projects and events.

Vice President

- Assists the President as needed and acts in her absence.
- She may be responsible for getting the program.

Secretary

- A Recording Secretary writes a summary of what occurred at the meeting and includes all decisions made and who is responsible to carry out assignments.
- Prepares the minutes to read at the next meeting and willingly corrects any errors. All records of minutes should be kept and placed in the National Archives as a record of the history of WCTU.

- An Administrative Secretary attends to correspondence, writes to politicians, prepares reports, and makes arrangements for guest speakers etc

Treasurer

- Is responsible to collect the dues and keep an accurate list of members and money collected.
- If possible, opens an account in a bank where the money can be kept. (It is recommended that there are at least three signatories, with at least two to sign.)
- Pays bills as voted on at the meetings.

Department Directors

- Try to have a director for each department and ask the director to offer suggestions for projects the membership can do to promote the department. They will follow the purpose of each department.

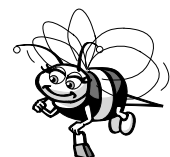
What Can Individual Members Do?

- * Read about the work and know the facts and history of WCTU.
- * Talk about it to your neighbors and friends.
- * Put a temperance leaflet, card or sticker in every letter you write.
- * Invite people to meetings or events.
- * Make some self-denial to help the cause financially.
- * Talk temperance to your children and grandchildren.
- * Wear your badge and explain its significance if asked about it.
- * Distribute literature in letter boxes and other places.
- * Write to your government and media when necessary to object to advertising and promotion of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
- * Send emails about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
- * Pray for the work of WCTU and observe the daily noontide hour of prayer.

"Whatever your hand finds to do - do it with all your might..." Ecclesiastes 9:10

Bees for a Buzzing Union

- ⊗ BE at the meeting - rain or shine.
- ⊗ BE on time.
- ⊗ BE in prayer.
- ⊗ BE willing to accept office with a prayerful "I'll do the best I can."
- ⊗ BE a participator in the program.
- ⊗ BE actively interested in business sessions and discussions.
- ⊗ BE a worker and a team member, working harmoniously with others.
- ⊗ BE diligent in seeking new members and inviting guests.
- ⊗ BE prompt in paying dues and contributing to objectives.
- ⊗ BE sure your union achieves its goals.



Your National Officers, Directors and Other Regional Contacts

<u>Position and Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
President:	
1st Vice-President:	
2nd Vice-President:	
Administrative Secretary:	
Treasurer:	
Recording Secretary:	
Director for Youth:	
Director for Children's Work:	
Director for Education & Research:	
Director for Home Protection	
Director for Social Services	
Director for Christian Outreach	
Past (Retiring) President:	
World Field Worker (Pacific Region)	
Australian National WCTU Office <i>Phone:</i> (+61 3) 9654 6491 <i>Email:</i> drugfree@net2000.com.au	1st Floor, 15 Collins Street, MELBOURNE Victoria 3000 Australia



Prayer is one weapon the Christian has
that the enemy cannot duplicate.