

## 1947 - 1949

The National Home Demonstration Agents' Association was growing—not only in membership but also in prestige. On April 26, 1947, Mr. M. L. Wilson, director of Extension, USDA, Washington, D. C., visited with Mrs. Luella Condon, president, NHDAA, in her county to discuss with her topics to be taken up at the May meeting of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Land Grant College Association. Mrs. Condon was invited to come to Washington to attend the meeting of the Organization and Policy Committee on May 6 - 7, as was the president of the National County Agriculture Agent's Association on May 7. Each president gave a report on his/her organization.



Luella Condon (Wash.)

The idea of the Advisory Committee of NHDAA, which had been functioning for one year, was well accepted in Washington and it was suggested that the NACAA have a similar committee.

Up to now, there had not been any designated number or kinds of committees. In the June board meeting, recommendations were made to include the following as standing committees:

1. Program
2. Professional Improvement (include Legislation)
3. Cooperative Buying
4. Retirement and Insurance
5. Distinguished Service
6. Public Relations (Publicity)
7. Fellowship (include help with agent's problems)
8. Budget
9. Hospitality

Other committees named special would be:

1. Youth
2. Constitution and By-Laws Revision
3. Resolutions (appointed by President)
4. Auditing

The secretary was instructed to send written invitations to the annual meeting to the Advisory Council.

### **COMMERCIAL EXHIBITOR**

Commercial companies were invited to make educational exhibits at the annual meeting in December. Eight accepted:

Hotpoint, International Harvester, Spool Cotton Company, General Foods Corporation, Foley Manufacturing Company, Mohawk Carpet Mills, Household Finances, and American Crayon.

"Broadening Horizons" was the theme of the fourteenth annual meeting of the NHDAA held at the Hotel Stevens in Chicago, November 30 to December 5, 1947.

President Luella Condon welcomed Washington and Nevada, two states which affiliated during the past year. Total registration was 213, the largest of any annual meeting. Of this number 169 were home demonstration agents. Others were representatives of the press and home economists in business. Alaska and Maryland were given complimentary registration hoping these two would be encouraged to become affiliated with the national organization. Membership now was 2108.

### **HANDBOOK**

In 1946 it was agreed that an Association handbook would further the interests of the Association and help each individual member to become better informed and have greater pride in her professional organization. Mrs. Carmen Johnson, Colorado, prepared and presented the first draft of the handbook on November 28, 1947 to the Executive Board for their consideration. A copy had been prepared for each state president and was discussed at their breakfast meeting, making suggestions for further improvement. These were to be included in the second copy which was to be presented to the Executive Board the following June.

### **THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT: ALTERNATE COUNCILORS**

This office was added to the roster of officers. Her duty was to be chairman of the Public Relations Committee.

In the Constitution change this year, specific duties and responsibilities were assigned each officer and the office of alternate councilor of each region was added. Dues were increased to \$1.50 per member and the membership year was changed to January 1 - December 31.

Program participants for the annual meeting included: Miss Celeste Carlyle, style consultant, Chicago, Illinois, who spoke on "Home Agents in Style." Miss Carlyle encouraged home agents to accept the "new look" and swish their skirts because women were going to be ladies again; Director M. L. Wilson used for the subject of his address, "The Home Demonstration Agent Broadening Horizons"; Miss Eunice Heywood, chairman of the Advisory Council, in discussing "Our Responsibilities," emphasized the few major responsibilities home demonstration agents had and recommended the protection of home demonstration positions

for home economists, and how to help new workers succeed; Mr. Smealie, Mohawk Carpet Mills discussed the construction and care of carpets and rugs; Mr. John Krnow of Corn Products Company told "The Story of Corn"; and Mrs. Charles W. Sewell, administrative director, Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau, spoke on "Our Work With Homemakers." She said, "We must have faith in ourselves and faith in each other. Bread may be a food for nourishing the body, but it also soothes the miserable and soothes the soul."

### **FRIENDSHIP PARTY**

The Corn Products Company sponsored the Southern Party which has evolved into the Friendship Party. The original was in 1945 when the Ohio agents were in charge and called it a fun fest. Eighty-seven home agents and eight guests were present. It gave the delegates an opportunity to become better acquainted and to exchange ideas. In 1946, the Central States served as hostess and presented souvenirs representing some typical product or something made in the state. Other than the enjoyment of being together, it also proved most informative. By 1947, with Corn Products hosting the event, the occasion was more elaborate. Agents from the southern states decorated and brought souvenirs and new products from manufacturers and people in industry from the south. Corn Products contributed factual information on their company. All in all, it proved to be a most interesting and informative evening.

### **RECOGNITION PROGRAMS**

The Spoon Cotton Company, with Joan Frye as hostess, sponsored the Recognition Luncheon in the Wedgewood Room at Marshall Fields. Attractive programs prepared by the hostess contained the aims, a brief sketch of the history and a short paragraph of accomplishments for each agent. Simplicity Pattern Company presented a style revue of appropriate clothing for home agents.

Thirty-nine agents were recognized for outstanding service to home and communities. Four other agents who had been recognized previously were presented certificates at this luncheon.

### **AUDITING OF BOOKS**

The treasurer's report showed a balance on June 16, 1948 of \$1876.60. The Executive Board accepted and carried a motion that these books be audited by an accredited auditor prior to the annual meeting in December.

The handbook was again presented by Mrs. Carmen John-

son, and after a few suggestions as to rewording of some parts of some sections, it was adopted. The publication was to be published and paid for by the Association and copies were to be distributed to members of the Advisory Council, the Executive Board, state presidents and chairman of each standing committee. Others interested could purchase a copy.

Representatives of the Southern Region offered a recommendation that a committee be appointed from NHDAA to investigate possibilities of rotating annual meeting place. This was approved by the Executive Board and the four councilors and Miss Elmina White, state leader of Washington were appointed as a committee to study this recommendation.

The pre-convention meeting this year was June 18-20 and was at the Roberts Pine Beach Hotel in the Pines on Gail Lake, near Brainerd, Minnesota.

The program was planned on a broad basis. There were section meetings for those interested in clothing, foods and nutrition, home management and house furnishings and in family life.

Miss Amy Wessel, district home agent, Minnesota had recently returned from Germany and reported on "Homemaking in Germany Today."

The Advisory Council offered these suggestions to the executive board:

1. Encourage home demonstration work as a career. Home Economics has been called the "art and science of richer living."
2. Use the radio and press as a means of getting ideas and information to the homemaker. Both are successful teaching tools.
3. The State Home Demonstration Agents' Association can enhance morale. Every encouragement should be given to new agents in looking forward to the future of their professions.
4. The citations given by the Association are important in upholding standards of the profession.

President Condon reported on the White House Conference on Family Life in Washington, D. C. May 5 - 8 which the Association had been invited to attend. Five home agents were delegates to this conference: President Luella M. Condon, Walla Walla, Washington; Margaret Shepard, Newark, New Jersey; Amelia D. Bielaski, Norwich, New York; Eva Minnix, Harrisonburg, Virginia; Florence Gates, North Hampton, Massachusetts.

The special Luncheon at the Minikahda Club on Tuesday, June 22, given by the Foley Food Manufacturing Company for all home demonstration agents, their state leaders, members of the Federal Extension Service and guests, was a highlight of

the pre-convention session. Mr. Walter Ringer, president of the Foley Food Company paid honor to the home demonstration agents for their work in their respective counties.

Miss Mary Mims, rural sociologist, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service was guest speaker. In her inspiring talk, she said the following challenges face us:

1. We must save the soul
2. We need a balance of manpower
3. We need, as individuals, to make the group and not let the group make us.
4. We need to assume personal responsibility as individuals
5. We need to accept the challenge of our country in time of peace as in time of war.

"Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World" was the theme of the annual meeting in Chicago November 28 to December 1, 1948. Two hundred ninety-eight registered for the meeting. Of those, 247 were home agents.

Maine, Pennsylvania, Alabama and Puerto Rico had become members of the Association within the year and were given a special welcome. Forty-three states with a membership of 2381 were now affiliated with the National Association.

## REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

The number in attendance at the annual meeting was increasing each year. The convention committee made the following recommendations which were accepted:

1. Change title from convention committee to registration committee
2. Definite listing of duties be outlined
3. Tickets to special events be omitted and use the official badge for admission
4. State presidents get information to national president as to anticipated attendance from her state to annual meeting
5. All badges be checked at special occasions
6. Commercial and press representatives have different badges
7. File card system of registration to be continued
8. Compile a list of voting delegates
9. Committee check with hotel for assistance as needed

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Several commercial companies entertaining national officers, state presidents and committees at dinners, luncheons and teas were: General Mills, Inc., Kelvinator, General Foods Corporation, Standard Brands, American Bemberg Company, Interna-

tional Harvester Company and Corn Products. At each event, a home economist representing the host company presented educational information concerning the company and the newest products on the market.

Dr. Lydia J. Roberts, chairman of the Department of Home Economics, University of Puerto Rico, used charts and other illustrative material to present the results of a recent survey on "Patterns of Family Living in Puerto Rico."

Dr. Thelma Porter of the University of Chicago reported on "New Findings in Nutrition Field."

The main speaker for the Tuesday, November 30 session was Dr. Esther McGinnis of the Merrill Palmer School of Detroit. She discussed the "Strengths and Weaknesses of Family Life in America Today." Following her remarks, the agents were divided into five groups for discussion of the subject under the leadership of Mrs. Lydia Lynde, Family Life Specialist, Federal Extension Service; Dr. McGinnis; Mrs. Cyril Houle and Mr. and Mrs. Art Ghedlin of the University of Chicago.

Ideas gleaned from these group discussions were:

"Mothers, particularly those of growing children, should take part in community affairs only to the extent that the companionship with their children is not involved."

"Churches, schools, welfare agencies, industries and every group in intimate contact with the family should provide opportunities for family members to get help through counseling in solving the many problems confronting the modern family."

"Education is necessary for improved family living. The whole family should participate in planning for the future."

Emphasis was placed upon the importance of a fuller life for older people. Continued employment, recreation, a sense of belonging must be considered in the development of a well-rounded program for these older members of our society.

#### **FORMAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY: PROGRAM BOOK**

The recognition luncheon was held at the Blackstone Hotel with Joan Frye of the Spool Cotton Company hostess to the three hundred guests.

Director M. L. Wilson was guest speaker, relating the development of home demonstration work in foreign lands.

Forty-seven agents from 35 states received recognition for outstanding service. Director Wilson presented the certificates during an impressive candlelighting service, written by Mrs. Carmen Johnson, chairman of the Distinguished Service Committee.

In 1949 the mid-year Executive Board and Advisory Council

met June 24 and 27-30 at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco.

The number of commercial exhibitors was increasing, creating greater demands on the Exhibits Committee chairman, so it was decided at this meeting to pay the expenses of the chairman to attend the board meeting rather than the annual meeting as the Exhibits Committee work needed to be done earlier and completed before the time of the annual meeting.

President Condon reported she had represented the association at the Organization and Policy Committee of Land Grant Colleges Meeting in Washington, D. C., in May and also at the County Agricultural Agents' Association meeting.

#### **RECOGNITION REPORT FORM**

Each year there had been some difficulty in getting all the information needed on the Distinguished Service candidates from the states. Mrs. Carmen Johnson, chairman of the National Recognition Committee, was asked to develop one form to be filled out by candidates, and another form for the state home demonstration leader to fill out and sign. The national committee would not act on any application unless both parts were properly executed.

#### **CREED**

Again the creed was discussed. One other person, Miss Adelaide Barts of New York, had submitted one after the time was extended. Using this creed as a basis, Mrs. Carmen Johnson presented a creed she had worked on, as requested by the board. It still did not seem to say everything in a way that pleased the board. Again, Mrs. Johnson rewrote it trying to shorten it and yet keep it inclusive of the ideas contained in it. This time she succeeded.

#### **CREED**

##### **I BELIEVE**

That the success of future generations depends upon the security of the family life of today.

That family living is a cooperative plan in which every member must share.

That every family should take time to live, to play, to work and pray together.

##### **I BELIEVE**

That homemaking is a woman's most important profession.

That the homemaker is the center around which the home revolves.

That she should realize that the possibilities for service far outweigh all obstacles.

#### I BELIEVE

That the home demonstration agent should take time to develop herself to be a better teacher and an understanding friend.

That she should not only know the needs of the people with whom she works, but also know the people.

That she should ever radiate a warmth and friendliness in her manner and yet maintain a quiet dignity.

That her enthusiasm should challenge every homemaker to grow and develop into a happier, more purposeful woman.

That she should see beauty in every homemaking task, good in all people, and adventure in each new day's work.

That she is an example for those with whom she works and should be so guided by God that her thoughts, words, and acts will be an influence for good.

And above all I believe that the home demonstration agent has the highest opportunity for service—that of working with the families of the nation to make and to keep their homes the cornerstone of Democracy.

The creed was presented at the annual meeting in 1949, and was also on the printed program for that year.

After this one full and long day of business, the Executive Board adjourned for the pre-convention meeting of Extension Home Economists on the Berkeley Campus of the University of California. One hundred eighty-five home demonstration agents, Extension specialists and members of administrative staff attended. This included representatives from California, Oregon and Idaho who were not yet affiliated with the national organization.

The group was housed in the girls new dormitory, Fernwald Hall, overlooking the Bay. Miss Claribel Nye, state home demonstration leader, and Miss Alice McKinney, home furnishings specialist, both from California, were in charge of details. Those attending thoroughly enjoyed the generous quantities of fresh fruit and nuts made available to them.

At this meeting, highlights of the Association's program of work were given, outlining what was being done by each standing committee.

Subject matter information was presented in clothing, child development, nutrition, home management and furnishings, giving the latest findings and developments.

The group seriously and conscientiously considered county

extension program planning. This was presided over and directed by a home demonstration agent, and it provided an educational inspirational exchange of ideas.

The pre-convention was not all work. On Sunday, special buses took the delegates on a tour to places of interest—through Chinatown, up Telegraph Hill, stopped at Fishermans Wharf, past the Cliff House, the Presidio, Yacht Harbor, Fort Mason and across the noted bridges, Golden Gate and Oakland. Lunch was served in Golden Gate Park then on to Mt. Tamalpias to Muir Woods, home of the redwood.

The day ended with the unique Redwoods Dinner served in the Berkeley dining hall with decorations of redwood branches and burrs, favors of redwood salt and pepper shakers, and a special illustrated lecture on "Redwood Ancestors in China" by Dr. Ralph Chaney of the Department of Paleontology.

#### INVITATION TO STATE LEADERS

Programs and invitations to attend the annual meeting were sent to each state home demonstration leader and to the four fields agents in the Washington office.

#### COPIES OF REPORTS

In the Executive Board meeting, November 26, 1949, recommendations were made that in the future 100 copies of committee and state reports be secured so that the Executive Board, Advisory Council members and state presidents could be supplied with copies.

New thoughts began to penetrate the discussion of the Executive Board, including the need for a president-elect, which should be a person who had had some board experience. Miss Eleanora Sense, editor of "Forecast" and Advisory Committee member, recommended a fellowship for recruitment; Miss Lora V. Hilgard, clothing specialist, Montana, Advisory Committee member, stated "there was no better way than visiting other states and counties to get a broad viewpoint of Extension."

The name Grace Frysinger should be used if a fellowship were established was the general consensus of the group.

Alabama joined the national Association this year which gave the Southern Region a 100% state membership.

The annual meeting of the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 28 in the South Ballroom of Hotel Stevens. The theme of the meeting was "What's Ahead in Home Economics Extension." Four hundred and fifteen persons were in attendance, of which 365 were home demonstration agents. The con-

vention chairman, Mary Bullis, Michigan, stated that the years of service represented by the agents in attendance ranged from two months to 35 years and that the majority had 3-5-6 years of service.

The first event on the program of the 1949 meeting brought the entire group together in the North Ballroom of the Stevens Hotel for dinner on Sunday evening, November 27. Miss Ina Lindeman, home economist for the United Fruit Company, was the hostess. Baskets of fruit served as centerpieces and at her plate each agent had a Chiquita Spoon Lapel Pin. A menu featuring bananas was served. Following a few words of welcome, films on the Chiquita bananas were shown.

Miss Lurline Collier, state home demonstration leader, Georgia, spoke on the theme of the convention. Her talk pointed out many opportunities for the growth and development of home demonstration agents and summarized them as: (1) A lot of hard work; (2) A continued evaluation of personal methods and achievements; (3) A broadening of programs.

#### TELEVISION

The use of television as a valuable medium was presented by a panel consisting of Mrs. Katherine N. Britt, New York; Mrs. Mary S. Switzer, New York; Maynard Speece, USDA; and Jay Faraghan, T.V. program director. Television was relatively new to many people. The home demonstration agents were told that T.V. was their medium more than any other branch of the service and that it offered great opportunities in teaching.

Mrs. Kathryn Van Aken Burns, state leader, Illinois, spoke on the subject, "Some Issues in Extension" and elaborated on three problems:

- (1) The size of our job and what it implies
- (2) The personnel shortage in the whole field of home economics
- (3) Broadening our programs. So far it has accomplished the *easy* things.

#### CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS REVISION

The Constitution underwent major changes at this meeting, November 30, 1949:

- (1) A rotation of election of officers as to even and odd years was set up
- (2) A President Elect was added to list of officers

- (3) Designation of who would serve on the nominating committee and who would chair this committee. outlined
- (4) Method of election outlined
- (5) Method of electing councilors and alternate councilors
- (6) Selection of time and place of annual business meeting outlined

Revision of the By-Laws included:

- (1) Specific duties of president, president-elect and 1st vice president
- (2) What officers constituted executive board
- (3) Length of service and time of appointment of advisory council members. Also number of meetings per year for council.
- (4) Designation of standing committees and special committees of Association. Time of appointment of each.
- (5) Making amendments

#### INVITATION OTHER THAN CHICAGO

In 1948 there had been discussion in the Executive Board meetings on the possibility of having the annual meeting at some place other than Chicago. One year later, after committee meetings and the recent constitution change, Mrs. Gayle Wilson, Texas, extended an invitation for the 1951 annual meeting to be held in Texas any time except June, July, August, January or February. It was accepted.

Forty-eight home demonstration agents from 31 states were recognized at the Distinguished Service Recognition Luncheon.

The year 1949 had been a full year. Many changes had been made. The Association had many "growing pains" and something resulted from almost every one.

The Association's business operation was gradually becoming more involved with the increase in membership and Association activities. In 1950 the amount of the bond was increased from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for the treasurer and some expense money was allowed the councilors for secretarial help.

#### ROTATION OF MEETING PLACES

After the Executive Board had approved the rotation of places for the annual meeting, Miss Helen Clark, Eastern Region councilor, Connecticut, reported on a survey made in regard to rotation:

For rotation of meeting place	25 states
Meeting always in Chicago	13 states
Doubtful	4 states
Unheard from	4 states

The plan adopted was to have the annual meeting in Chicago on even years and rotate among regions in uneven years. Texas had asked for the 1951 meeting and this had been agreed upon. Mrs. Eugenia Van Landingham, Southern Region councilor, North Carolina, was instructed to get information as to facilities, costs, transportation, etc., from cities in Texas and the Executive Board would select the 1951 Convention City at the November board meeting.

### **PRESIDENT'S PLANNED MEETING**

In the recommendations from the State Presidents group at the 1949 annual meeting, it was agreed that State Presidents should have a planned and scheduled meeting.

The only meetings this group had had since their formation in 1945 was a hosted affair and more for enjoyment, although there would be some exchange of ideas. Now this group wanted a separate time for an informational meeting.

After much discussion, the board agreed this was a step toward professionalism and felt it would strengthen the national Association. A motion was made to this effect and that councilors at the July meeting of the Executive Board appoint a chairman and secretary to serve at the President's Group meeting. The items suggested for discussion at the President's meeting were:

- (1) Double or single slates for nomination
- (2) Invitations for annual meetings
- (3) Tenure for recognition—if New Jersey brings it up.

### **CONTRIBUTION**

The board voted to contribute fifty dollars to the Mid-Century White House Conference Fund. This money was to be taken from officer's expense money budgeted for Boston meeting.

### **UNITED NATIONS FLAG**

Miss Helen L. Clark attended a meeting in Washington called by Director Wilson on August 28. The meeting was centered around the project of making United Nations Flags. Miss Clark promised the cooperation of home agents in this flag-making project.