



## Pennsylvania Affiliate

The Pennsylvania Affiliate was organized in 1946, 13 years after the national association. Before this date, the Pennsylvania home economics representatives went by the acronym CHEERS, County Home Economics Extension Representatives Association.

Pennsylvania's first home agent was Myrtle Allen, hired in 1916, in Mercer County. Florence Hall served in Allegheny County before she was hired at USDA.

Created by: Jan Scholl, PEAFCs Historian, Roana Fuller, Debby Gregory (Huntingdon County) and Vicki Lewis (Lycoming and Union Counties)

## Pioneers in Pennsylvania Extension



"The first home economists" on the Armsby Building lawn, University Park campus

## Current Officers and Membership

Jaqueline Amor-Bitzelberger  
 Brenda Bernatowicz  
 Cathy Bowen  
 Debra Boyd  
 Karen Bracey  
 Cathy Brady  
 Andrea Bressler  
 Dottie Bromley  
 Dori Campbell  
 Lynn Clint  
 Jan Cohen  
 Rayna Cooper  
 Marilyn Corbin  
 Jill Cox  
 Nancy Crago  
 Kathy DiGuseppe  
 Mary Ehret  
 Katherine French  
 Mary Alice Gettings  
 Patty Graff  
 Melinda Graver  
 Nancy Grotevant  
 Cathy Guffey  
 Elise Gurgevich  
 Patreese Ingram  
 Lynn James  
 Vicki Lewis



**2009 Officers**

Dawn Olson  
 Sandy Hall  
 Janice Stoudnour  
 Cheryl Miller  
 Frazier Zahniser, not pictured

Debra Gregory  
 Holly Hedstrom  
 Denise Continenza  
 Fran Alloway

Sharon McDonald  
 Janet McDougall  
 Claudia Mincemoyer  
 Christine Orrson  
 Cynthia Javor  
 Matt Kaplan  
 Lois Killcoyne  
 Robin Kuleck  
 Jane Landis  
 Mary Ann Oyler  
 Nina Redding  
 Robin Rex  
 Jeannine Richlin  
 Janice Ronan  
 Carol Sadowski  
 Jan Scholl  
 Mandel Smith  
 Nancy Stevens  
 Yvonne Szpara  
 Robert Thee  
 Karen Thomas  
 Beth Van Horn  
 Marcia Weber  
 Laurie Weinreb-Welch  
 Nancy Wiker  
 Carolyn Wissenbach

## National Conferences

Pennsylvania has hosted 4 National Conferences: Two in Pittsburgh in 1939 and 1988 and two in Philadelphia 1969 and 2005. In 1939, the Pennsylvania affiliate was not established yet, though home demonstration agents attended. At the other conferences, it was traditional that we wore some similar types of clothing and accessories. In 1988, members who attended wore tailored white jackets. In 2005, red, white and blue scarves were worn. For the first Grassland Field Day in 1952, that featured a speaker from the national organization, the members wore a lilac colored dress made from a similar pattern.



1952



2005

## PEAFCS Presidents

2009-Janice Stoudnour (Bedford)\* 38<sup>th</sup> president  
2008-Fran Alloway (Delaware)  
2007-Carolyn Wissenbach (Greene)  
2006-Laurie Winreb-Welch (Clinton)  
2005-Beth Van Horn (Centre)  
2004-Nina Redding (Adams)  
2003-Jan Scholl (University Park)  
2002-Cathy Bowen (University Park)  
2001-Karen Thomas (Lackawanna)  
2000-Cathy Hostetler (Cambria)  
1999-Barbara McKee (Armstrong)  
1998-Natalie Ferry (Union)  
1997-Nancy Wallace (Westmoreland)  
1996-Mary Laeger Hagemeister and Nancy Wallace  
1995-Mary Laeger-Hagemeister (Dauphin)  
1994-Patricia Powley (Dauphin)  
1993-Patricia Powley (Dauphin)  
1992-Bette Walters (Forest)  
1991-Bette Walters (Forest)  
1990-Fay Strickler (Berks)  
1989-Fay Strickler (Berks)  
1988-Ruth Prest (Crawford)  
1987-Ruth Prest (Crawford)  
1986-Phyllis Wright (Warren)  
1985-Phyllis Wright (Warren)  
1984-Nancy Wallace (Westmoreland)  
1983-Nancy Wallace (Westmoreland)  
1982-Kay Hastings (Bucks)  
1981-Kay Hastings (Bucks)  
1980-Betty Heinbach (Lehigh)  
1979-Betty Heinbach (Lehigh)  
1978-Letie Schadler (Lebanon)  
1977-Letie Schadler (Lebanon)  
1976-Doris Thomas (Lancaster)  
1975-Doris Thomas (Lancaster)  
1974-Patricia Long (Westmoreland)  
1973-Patricia Long (Westmoreland)  
1972-Rainey (Urania) Linn (Venango)  
1971-Rainey (Urania) Linn (Venango)  
1970-Betty Strutin (Lackawanna)  
1969-Betty Strutin (Lackawanna)  
1968-Jane Marhefka (Juniata)  
1967-Jane Marhefka (Juniata)  
1966-Margaret Herbster (Lycoming)  
1965-Margaret Herbster (Lycoming)  
1964 June Kohr (Clinton)

1963-June Kohr (Clinton)  
1962-Rachel Hoffmeier (Carbon)  
1961-Rachel Hoffmeier (Carbon)  
1960-Frances Vannoy (Bucks)  
1959-Frances Vannoy (Bucks)  
1958-Grace Boord (Greene)  
1957-Grace Boord (Greene)  
1956-Mayme Lovelace Mitchell (Chester)  
1955-Mayme Lovelace Mitchell (Chester)  
1954-Isabel Smith (Allegheny)  
1953-Isabel Smith (Allegheny)  
1952-Verna Criss (Berks)  
1951-Verna Criss (Berks)  
1950-Esther Hart (Washington)  
1949-Esther Hart (Washington)  
1948-Marguerite Erickson (Northampton)  
1947-Marguerite Erickson (Northampton)

### The President's Gavel



In 1969, the Pennsylvania affiliate presented the currently used president's gavel to the NEAFCS Association. This gavel was created by Emil Milan, a craftsman from Susquehanna County. It is hand carved of walnut. Examples of Milan's work reside in the Smithsonian American Art museum.

## Distinguished Service Awards

Year Recipients	Place
2009-Robin Kuleck (Elk) and Carolyn Wissenbach (Greene)	Birmingham, AL
2008-Fran Alloway (Delaware) and Robert Thee (Chester)	Indianapolis, IN
2007-Mary Ehret	Minneapolis, MN
2006-Marilyn Corbin (University Park) and Annette Kratzer (Union)	Denver, CO
2005-Mary Alice Gettings (Beaver) and Mandel Smith (DSA from Georgia)(Montgomery)	Philadelphia, PA
2004-Cathy Bowen (University Park) and Fred Davis (University Park)	Nashville, TN
2003-Sandra Parker Hall (Lebanon)	Salt Lake City, UT
2002-Carolyn Gilles (Crawford-NW Region-EFNEP) and Marg Malehorn (Cumberland)	Kansas City, MO
2001-Nancy Grotevant (Pike) and Janice Stoudnour (Bedford)	Portland, OR
2000-Nina Redding (Adams) and Chris Tomascik Orrson (Luzerne)	Baltimore, MD
1999-Rebecca Escott (Lehigh) and Jane Landis Mecum (Dauphin)	Greensboro, NC
1998-Debra Bryant (Wayne)	Rapid City, SD
1997-Shirley Bixby (Susquehanna) and Karen Thomas (Lackawanna)	Cincinnati, OH
1996-Beth Van Horn (Centre) and Jan Scholl (University Park)	Providence, RI
1995-Brenda Bernatowicz (Erie) and Holly Hedstrom (Erie)	Dallas, TX
1994-Mae Hostetter (Armstrong) and Faye Sandsbury (Northeast Region)	Wichita, KS
1993-Pat Conon (Northumberland) and Michelle Rodgers (Capital Region)	Phoenix, AZ
1992-Nancy Covert (Jefferson) and Natalie Ferry (Union)	Washington, DC
1991-Nancy Stevens (Montgomery) and Nancy Alcorn (Crago) (Allegheny)	Tulsa, OK
1990-Dawn Olson (Monroe) and Janet McDougal (Mercer)	Chicago, IL
1989-Andrea Bressler (Clearfield) and Barbara McKee (Armstrong)	Honolulu, HI
1988-A. Jane Beightol (Mifflin) and Doris Krumenacker (Centre)*	Pittsburgh, PA
1987-Bette Walters (Forest) and Kathryn Hostetler (Cambria)	Louisville, KY
1986-Phyllis Wright (Warren) and Jacqueline Wirth (Philadelphia)	Grand Rapids, SD
1985-Trudy Dougherty (Chester) and Josephine Kotch (Luzerne)	San Diego, CA
1984-Nancy E. Wallace (Westmoreland) and Diane Brown (SE Region)	New York City, NY
1983-Letie Schadler (Lebanon) and Fay Strickler (Berks)	Atlanta, GA
1982-Patricia Leach (Indiana) and A. Joan Lamberson (York)	Osage Beach, MO
1981-Nancy Hogg (Franklin) and Patricia Huff (Powley (Dauphin)	Las Vegas, NV
1980-Barbara Miller (Elk) and Jeanne Elicker (Greene)	Greenbrier, WV
1979-F. Ruth Prest (Crawford) and Velma C. Musser (Montgomery)	Richmond, WV
1978-Ruth Hand (Schuylkill) and Rebecca Drick (Lycoming)	Omaha, NE
1977-Sybil Coble (Fulton) and Marilyn Wiser (Blair)	Boston, MA
1976-E. Joyce Hustey (Mercer) and Letha Hoover (Northumberland)	Portland, OR
1975-Doris Thomas (Lancaster and Maryette Duffner (Dorricott) (Delaware)	Knoxville, TN
1974-Kay Hastings (Bucks) and Nova Mayer (Somerset)	Minneapolis, MN
1973-Dorothy Smith (Allegheny) and Betsy Firth (McKean)	Liberty, NY
1972-Barbara Kinnan (Tioga) and Patricia Long (Westmoreland)	Denver, CO
1971-Emilie Lungler (Wyoming) and Eunice Tibbott (Cambria)	Miami, FL
1970-Ruth Funk (Beaver) and Joan Whitten (Northampton)	Milwaukee, WI
1969-Sandra Eaton (Chester) and Martha Chapman (Wayne)	Philadelphia
1968-Rainey (Urania) Linn (Venango) and Lura Leitzel (Bedford)	Phoenix, AZ
1967-Betty Heinbach (Lehigh) and Margaret Herbster (Lycoming)	Jackson, MS
1966-Mary Lockhoff (Montour) and Ruth Thompson (Lawrence)	Chicago, IL
1965-Joanne Haskell (Clarion) and Helen Tunison (Adams)	Kansas City, MO
1964-Edith Reisler (Wyoming) and Lemabel Parry (Susquehanna)	Washington, DC
1963-Jane Marhefka (Juniata) and Agnes Moot (Lebanon)	Salt Lake City, UT
1962-Anna Mae Lehr (Columbia) and Frances Vannoy (Bucks)	Chicago, IL
1961-June Wilkie (Snyder) (Chester) and Eleanor G. Tompkins (Philadelphia, PA)	Boston, MA
1960-Della Short (Montgomery) and June Kohr (Hager), Clinton	Chicago, IL
1959-Rachel Hogan (Erie) and Betty Goddard (Patton) (Butler)	New Orleans, LA
1958-Grace Boord (Greene) and Betty Strutin (Lackawanna)	Chicago, IL
1957-Ada Konhaus (Cumberland) and Ruth Miller (Montgomery)	Minneapolis, MN
1956-Helen Butler (Centre) and Catherine Holland (Snyder)	Chicago, IL
1955-Mary Elizabeth Anderson (Fayette) and Irma Klein (Cameron)	Chicago, IL
1954-Rachel Hoffmeier (Carbon) and Isabel Smith (Allegheny)	Chicago, IL
1953-Margaret Haines (Allegheny) and Esther Hart (Venango)	Buffalo, NY
1952-Mayme Lovelace (Mitchell) (Chester)	Chicago, IL
1951-Verna Criss (Berks) and Elizabeth Trogdon (Dauphin)	Fort Worth, TX
1950-Blanche Coit (Bradford)	Chicago, IL
1949-Marguerite Erickson Ide (Northampton)	Chicago, IL

## Continued Excellence Awards

Year Recipients	Place
2009-(not given in 2009)	Birmingham, AL
2008-(not given in 2008)	Indianapolis, IN
2007-Mary Alice Gettings (Beaver) and Sandra Hall (Dauphin)	Minneapolis, MN
2006-Shirley Bixby (Susquehanna)	Denver, CO
2005-Dawn Olson (Monroe) and Karen Thomas (Lackawanna)	Philadelphia, PA
2004-Janet McDougall (Mercer)	Nashville, TN
2003-Janice Stoudnour (Bedford) and Beth Van Horn (Centre)	Salt Lake City, UT
2002-Andrea Bressler (Clearfield) and Debra Bryant (Wayne)	Kansas City, MO
2001-Jane Landis (Mecum), (Dauphin)	Portland, OR
2000-A. Jane Beightol (Mifflin) and Jan Scholl (University Park)	Baltimore, MD
1999-Nancy Stevens (Montgomery) and Phyllis Wright (Warren)	Greensboro, NC
1998-(not given in 1998)	Rapid City, SD
1997-Brenda Bernatowicz (Erie) and Barbara McKee (Armstrong)	Cincinnati, OH
1996-Natalie Ferry (Union) and Michelle Rogers (Capital Region)	Providence, RI
1995-Fay Strickler (Berks)	Dallas, TX
1994-Nancy Alcorn Crago (Allegheny) and Maryetta Dorricott (Delaware)	Wichita, KS
1993-Patricia Leach (Indiana) and Nancy Wallace (Westmoreland)	Phoenix, AZ
1992-Rainey Linn (Venango) and Doris Thomas (Lancaster)	Washington, DC
1991-Patricia Powley (Dauphin)	Tulsa, OK
1990-Cathy Hostetler (Cambria)	Chicago, IL
1989-Dorothy Smith (Allegheny)	Honolulu, HI
1988-F. Ruth Prest (Crawford)	Pittsburgh, PA
1987-Kay Hastings (Bucks)	Louisville, KY
1986-Letie Schadler (Lebanon)	Grand Rapids, SD

### Awardees of the Family and Consumer Sciences Scholarship in honor of Helen Bell

Helen Bell served as a professor of Home Management Extension from 1954 and at the time of her retirement in 1983 served as a program leader for Extension Home Economics. This scholarship, in honor of Helen Bell has been given and supported by members of our Pennsylvania affiliate and others for graduate study and professional improvement for nearly 25 years (2010). Jenn Fleck was the 28<sup>th</sup> recipient.

Note: 2010 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> year the scholarship has been given.

2009	Jennifer Fleck (Mifflin)	1998	Jeannine Richlin (Sullivan)
2008	Jan Scholl (University Park)	1997	Mary Keihl (Susquehanna)
2007	Dori Campbell (Westmoreland)	1996	Nancy Grotevant (Pike)
2006	Kathi French (Mercer)	1995	Janice Stoudnour (Bedford)
2005	Sue Giachero (Berks) and Sharon McDonald (Blair)	1994	Rebecca Escott (Lehigh)
2004	Rick Kralj (Jefferson) and Carolyn Wissenbach (Greene)	1993	Karen Thomas (Lackawanna)
2003	Catherine Straub (Cameron)	1992	Holly Hedstrom (Erie)
2002	Marcia Weber (York) and Frasier Zahniser (Mercer)	1991	Natalie Ferry (Union)
2001	Robin Rex (Columbia)	1990	Nina Redding (Adams)
2000	Mary Alice Gettings (Beaver) and Robin Kuleck (McKean)	1989	Brenda Bernatowicz (Erie)
1999	Beth Van Horn (Centre)	1988	(was not given this year)
		1987	Diane Brown- S.E. Region
		1986	Michelle Rogers – Capital Region
		1985	Patricia Conon (Northumberland)

## Members of Special Note



In 1974, Frank Simmons was the first of many male members of our association.



Rainy (Urania) Linn was one of the first selected for the National 4-H Hall of Fame

## The Whirlwind Wirth



Other than research journal articles, our members have published in such national magazines, as Trends, Kid Science, Shape, Family Circle, Country Women, and even the front page of the Wall Street Journal. None, however, has been so celebrated as Jackie Wirth who was featured in a 6 page article in the in Extension Review, titled "Whirlwind World of Wirth". This article featured Jackie's Philadelphia media programs in 1980. Since then, many Extension FCS educators have been involved in radio, television and other media productions.

## PEAFCS Members Participate in the Polish/American Extension Study Seminar

In the mid to late 1990s, many of our affiliate members and some from New York State participated in the Polish Exchange program, led by Nancy Crago, Allegheny County. There were seven exchanges total. PA hosted a group from Poland in the fall of 1996. In 1997, we took our first group to Poland in the spring and also hosted a group from Poland later that same year. The following are members of our Pennsylvania affiliate who participated. These PEAFCs members became involved in many other professional travel experiences and exchanges to other countries. They served on state, regional, national and international committees and developed and edited publications of an international/global nature.

### **May 15 – June 6, 1997**

Nancy Crago, Allegheny County  
Brenda Bernatowicz, Erie County  
Diane Brown, Associate Dean  
Carolyn Burns, Allegheny County  
Mary Alice Gettings, Beaver County  
Fay Strickler, Berks County  
Jane Mecum, Perry County  
Nina Redding, Adams County  
Linda Yungwirth, Tioga County  
Phyllis Wright, Warren County

### **May 14 – June 4, 1999**

Nancy Crago, Allegheny County  
Debra Gregory, Huntingdon County  
Patricia Lagerman, Northumberland County  
Patricia Powley, Dauphin County  
Jan Scholl, 4-H Specialist, University Park

### **August 23 – September 14, 2001**

Nancy Crago, Allegheny County  
Anne Luken, Montgomery County  
Sarah Siegel, Clarion County  
Yvonne Szpara, Schuylkill County  
Katherine Wenzel, Mercer County

Farming, Food and Family Features Editor, Lou Ann Good, and Marcy Tudor, representing PA Farm Vacation Association (1997) also attended in 2001.



Nancy Crago

## Nutrition Links

Other than USDA, Pennsylvania educators and specialists have published more Expanded Food and Nutrition Program research studies than any other state. Our current Nutrition Links program is coordinated by Elise Gurgevich, Julie Haines and Jill Cox. In 2002, Jan Scholl received the national EFNEP Champion Award at the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Washington, DC.

## Earliest History of PEAFCS

Most of the early history was written by Verna Criss, who completed a written and an audio history for the Pennsylvania association in 1971. Some additions were added in 1991 and the following was edited in 2009 for brevity and clarity. There is also a script written about early struggles as our state was one of the last to affiliate with the national organization. In Verna's words, "I wish I could share with all of you some of the really funny things I remember. Things like the reaction of the county agents to our meeting in Harrisburg. The fright that they had when we held a board meeting one weekend in Wellsboro and then went on to spend Monday with the New York agent and their effort to help us elect the officers that they wanted us to have. The administrative staff and the county agents really feared organized women in the 1940s. I am sure they expected us to be the first women's lib group."

In 1937, the American Home Economics Association held its annual meeting in Pittsburgh. At that time, county personnel were not encouraged to attend such meetings. Anyone who went to a state or national meeting had to count the time as annual leave. Miss Brown, who was then in charge of Home Economics, really worked to get permission for us to go to this meeting since it was in Pennsylvania and not count it as annual leave.

It was customary to hold an Extension House Party the weekend prior to AHEA. This was held at the Bedford Springs Hotel and was attended by almost all of the Extension personnel from the United States enroute to Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania delegation consisted of Miss Brown, Miss Jewitt, and Miss Binder, most of the specialists and a few county workers.

Salaries at the time were very low. Many girls felt they could not afford to go to these meetings and some did not belong to AHEA. A few went only to Bedford, some others went to Pittsburgh and I believe only ten or twelve county home economists attended both.

The officers and members of the National Home Demonstration Agents Association really worked on the Pennsylvania girls, urging us to form a state organization and affiliate with National. Most of us knew very little about NHDAA, but we did become enthused.

After a conference with Miss Brown, we held a meeting with Miss Brown's approval. The girls present voted to appoint Marguerite Erickson Ide the temporary chairman. She was to contact the home economists who were not at Bedford and set up a meeting to be held at the next conference. If at that time enough interest was shown, we would organize a Pennsylvania Association. After the meeting, Marguerite, Elizabeth Trogden and I met with Miss Brown to tell her just what we had done. Miss Brown told us for the first time we could not proceed with any plans without permission from Director McDowell.

Marguerite went to see Mickey McDowell and his immediate reaction was that Pennsylvania had no need to join the National Association. He listed the goals of this organization as working to secure for all states a pension plan, one month's annual leave, group hospitalization (group life insurance) insurance. The Director reminded Marguerite that Pennsylvania had the first three and plans were being made for hospitalization for all. Apparently Mr. McDowell considered NHDAA not as an educational organization but rather as a pressure group.

In order to quiet those of us who had gotten enthusiastic at Bedford, he sent word that expense accounts should be submitted and he would pay all expenses for both meetings. This caused a

great deal of ill feeling among the girls who had not gone to either meeting because they felt they just couldn't afford it.

Despite the fact that the county agents were organized and belonged to a national group, our first feeble attempt to form an association came to an abrupt end with one word from the director—"no."

After the fall Board of Trustees meeting in 1941, one of the agricultural trustees leaked the information that a reorganization of Extension was being planned to take place when Mr. McDowell retired. Instead of Mr. Fry being made director as had always been expected, the dean of the College of Agriculture would become Dean-Director and the Heads of Residence Department in the School of Agriculture and Home Economics would be made heads also of the same Departments in Extension.

Mickey was a very strong person and he operated Extension as he saw fit. He really was a law unto himself and he never hesitated to buck the Trustees or Washington if he considered policies as laid down not good for Pennsylvania. Apparently the president [of PSC] feared that Mart [Fry] would continue Mickey's policies since he had been working with him for such a long time and this he did not want.

Mr. McDowell made special trips to Pittsburgh and Allentown where the home economists were having nutrition conferences to discuss these proposed changes. Most of us know so very little about the inner workings of Extension that we really didn't understand much of what he told us. One of the things he did make very clear was that Extension funds could be diverted to the residence and research departments and deprive us of salary increases and operating funds.

Reorganization was a real threat to the agricultural specialists and the county agents who immediately swung into action. From the first time a few women were included in the inner circle. Some of us were invited to attend a strategy meeting held in Bellefonte. Of course, the strategy had all been planned prior to the meeting. It was decided that the first move would be to send a petition to college president Dr. Hetzel, requesting that Mr. Fry become director when Mickey retired.

My job was to come back and meet with the county agents and home economists from six or seven Eastern counties the following day and see that they all signed. We met at Al Hacker's in Allentown and while we were at Al's word came that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. Even those who were arguing against a petition at this time signed in a big hurry in order to get home and hear the news.

The reaction of the women was varied. Some felt that we needed a change. Others could have cared less what happened and the remainder were willing to back Mr. Fry. This did not enhance our position with the men one bit because they were 100% behind Mr. Fry.

After receiving the petition, Dr. Hetzel scheduled a meeting for all extension Personnel at State College on January second, 1942. At the last minute Mickey called a meeting at Tyrone for New Year's night to prepare everyone for the meeting the next day.

Now, since this was New Year's weekend, many of the women were not at home and could not be reached. All of the men attended and they were very critical of the home economists "who were at home when they were needed." They seemed to overlook the fact that never before had they felt that they needed us.

The meeting with the president was very bitter. After he read a long, involved speech, the meeting was open for discussion. Certain men had been chosen and were well prepared to answer his accusations. I have nothing in my notes to indicate that any women spoke, but I do remember that someone did. It may have been Agnes [Moot] or one of the specialists or even Marguerite [Ide].

George Weber who was then the county agent in York County was to be the final speaker. When he summed up the meeting he told the president that he had blamed Extension for everything that had gone wrong in the country except starting the war and that he suspected that Dr. Hetzel secretly blamed that on us too.

Dr. Hetzel requested that a small committee be appointed to meet with him at a later date. This was agreed upon at the time, but in a long discussion over the weekend the men decided this should not be done, but rather that Extension should work quietly through the farmers and the agricultural trustees.

The next attempt to organize the Home Economics Association was at Farm Show in January 1942. Roselind Jewitt [Assistant State Leader] urged us to organize. She felt that in these critical times women should have more say in what was going on. Finally, Roselind set up a meeting of county girls and agreed to act as temporary chairman. This was held at night after all were off duty at the Farm Show.

Agnes Moot was in charge of Home Economics then but when Miss Jewitt organized the meeting, I don't believe any one of us thought of consulting Agnes. All the girls gathered but no Roselind. Finally, she called very excited and told us all to go back to our rooms and forget that the meeting had been arranged. We were never told why she changed her mind. We did have a short meeting because we were all together and with Marguerite as chairman we decided that she should contact those who were not at Farm Show and try to form an organization the next time we were together.

The county agents and agricultural specialists in large numbers were waiting for us when we came out of the meeting. They really feared what we had been up to. Pressure followed from the men not to do anything at this time.

They had included a few women on committees to work for Mr. Fry's appointment, but they were very concerned about some who had indicated a preference for Extension to be under the Dean. There were afraid that an organization might work against Mr. Fry.

Marguerite again discussed this with Mickey. His reaction was that this was not the time to do anything that could give Dr. Hetzel the impression that Extension was not 100% united. For the second time our effort to form an association failed.

1942 was a hectic year for all of us. Every avenue that might prevent the change in administration was explored. An outstanding event was the day that over 100 carloads of farmers from all over Pennsylvania descended upon Dr. Hetzel to express their disapproval of the change that he was planning. I am sure that this must have been the very first protest march ever held. In 1942, the phrase had not yet been coined and so, it was merely called a "farmer's caravan."

After a long bitter struggle Mr. Fry was appointed director when Mr. McDowell retired in 1943. It would take days to tell you all the things that went on prior to this. But once more everything was peaceful and we all settled down to hard work.

The Pennsylvania Association of Extension Home Economists was finally organized in the spring of 1946 while we were all at State College for a conference. Agnes, who was soon to retire called the meeting and told us she would take the entire responsibility if we wished to have an Association. Many of us had lost interest by this time but after much discussion, we voted to organize and to affiliate with the National group.

Marguerite Erickson Ide was the first president and Esher Hart, vice-president. Before the conference was over, we set up committees to begin working. This time, there was no opposition from anyone that we heard about.

The County Agents Association had very little to do with us until Dr. Milton Eisenhower discussed Mr. Fry's retirement with some of the men in the fall of 1951. Mr. Fry was to retire July the first 1952 when he reached age 65. He could have remained director until age 70 by yearly vote of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Eisenhower indicated that this would not be done. His plan was to bring in a man from out of state with administrative experience in Extension. The president felt that our program did not conform to the national program in some ways and that we should be brought in line with other states.

Dr. Eisenhower suggested a committee be formed to work with him in selecting a director. The officers and directors of both associations were asked to meet with a group of specialists. I, as president, asked the regional representatives to attend this meeting because we didn't have any directors. No indication was given as to what the meeting was all about. Bill Greenawalt did fill me in as we drove together to State College. Isabel Smith and I were the only home economists who made the effort to go to that meeting. As a result most of the committee members were, as usual, men.

This committee continued to function but Dr. Eisenhower felt it was too large for his purpose so he selected a few members of the large committee to meet with him and to interview candidates that he selected for the position. The committee worked to keep Mr. Fry on for an extra year. This would give more time to work on having someone from the Pennsylvania staff named director. One state director did accept the position but three days later wired Dr. Eisenhower that he had changed his mind. Since the University did not have a candidate for director, Mr. Fry's term was extended for one year.

In the meantime, the Home economics Association decided to request the new director when he was appointed to implement three things. First, the title for the head of Home Economics Extension and for the supervisor. Other states used the title of State Leader of Home economics and Assistant State Leaders. In Pennsylvania, the head was only designated as in charge of Home Economics and the others as supervisors.

The second request was for a change of title for county workers from Home Economics Extension Representative to something short and more usable.

We also asked for a Federal appointment and the use of the franking privilege which came with that appointment. At that time only county agents had a federal appointment. The assistant county agents and the home economists sent out all circular letters over the signature of the county agent. At the bottom of the home economics letters was written: "In consultation with Miss So and So, Home Economics Extension Representative." In some counties, the county agents wouldn't even do this and so the girls couldn't use circular letters as part of their program.

The men on the committee referred to this as “our platform” and I was cautioned over and over again not to bring this up with Dr. Eisenhower. One day when the opportunity was just right, I asked for these things. The men nearly fainted. From then on I was low man on the totem pole.

Dr. Eisenhower did not know that we had no federal appointments and he wondered how we ever operated without the franking privilege. He assured me that we would be given this and that our title could be changed to anything we selected as a group. He said that some thought would be given to a title for the head of Home Economics Extension and these things could be done just as soon as a new director was appointed.

Of course, the men dashed right over to Mart’s office to report how brazen I had been. The request for a federal appointment really upset the director. He told me later that he felt it would make him look rather foolish in the eyes of Washington if a new director did this as soon as he came in.

The opening morning of conference, Mr. Fry announced that any home economist in charge of a county program could have a federal appointment if she wished by signing up in this office. Some of the girls did not sign up because their county agents objected.

The approved candidates for director were finally narrowed to three. None of the Extension staff whom the committee recommended had been acceptable to the president and dean. At this time, three men were eligible. The county agents felt that it was time for a compromise. When we met with the president and dean to vote on these candidates, the name of Herb Albrecht was very casually introduced into the conversation. The president and the dean immediately got on this bandwagon because they both considered Herb an outstanding person, though they had never thought of him as head of Home Economics and Agricultural Extension. But they did consider him and I am sure that they felt that this would be something that would keep everyone in Extension happy and that Herb could serve as director.

We were then asked to vote on four names. Of course, all the men placed Herb number one but I had him at the bottom of my list because I had never met him. In fact, I had never even heard his name until that day. Dr. Eisenhower arranged for me to have a conference with Dr. Albrecht. After that he was number one on my list, too. Mr. Fry retired July 1, 1953 and Dr. Albrecht became director. He was sympathetic to home economics and recognized our association as a working group of professional women.

At the next conference, the title of Extension Home Economist was selected and immediately approved. The title of State Leader and Assistant State Leader became official. All new county home economists were given a federal appointment when hired. It was not until Washington insisted that all county personnel be part of the federal retirement system that county workers received the appointment. I should say those who were assistants in the counties received them. The title of Assistant Director was given to Bill Smith when he became head of Home Economics.

My congratulations to all of you who have developed such an outstanding state organization. Little did we dream in the early days that Pennsylvania would ever host a national meeting. The Philadelphia meeting was so well organized and really showed how professional and cooperative you all are today.

The past is prologue; the future is now and I’m sure it couldn’t be in any better hands.