



Ext Home Ec -
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NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION EXTENSION HOME ECONOMISTS

June 20, 1984

Ms. Cleo Stiles Byran,
Historian of AEHE
Box 748
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

Dear Cleo:

Enclosed is the information which you requested regarding the history of NJAEHE. We do not have any charter members.

Looking at ones history is always intriguing. It is really one way to measure our progress; and based on the notes from our historian's notebook, we have come a long way. According to them, our pioneers had a great deal of insight but could not have envisioned the magnitude of this organization in fifty years.

Sincerely,

Darsene Baggett
Darsene Baggett
President, NJAEHE

*P.S. If you have any questions
call me.*

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Enclosures

HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY HOME AGENTS' ASSOCIATION

1921 - 1934

In 1921 the eight home demonstration agents then on the Extension Service staff formed an organization known as the "Can Openers". The charter members were Marion Butters, Kathryn Francis, Cecelia Brogan, Margaret Hartnett, Francis Whitcomb, and Edith Norman. Miss Butters, then home agent in Morris County, was the first president. The home economics staff at the state office were association members, and Miss Florence Ward, Supervisor for the Northeastern Region, was made an honorary member in 1924.

Since there are no secretary's minutes of the early meetings, we have no record of the activities and accomplishments of the organization. We do know that these meetings were usually held during the time of state conferences and that they were informal get-togethers, offering the girls an opportunity to exchange ideas.

As the years went by, the young organization grew. As a result of discussions of common problems, committees were appointed to contact the proper authorities at the state office and to bring back the results of these contacts to the home agents.

1934

The secretary's minutes of March 17, 1934 describe a meeting of the home agents held in Trenton. At this time a constitution was formally adopted and officers were elected.

At the May meeting, the home agents voted to send the president of the association, Mrs. Cecelia Brogan, to the National convention of home demonstration agents with expenses paid from association funds.

A recommendation to the State office for help in home furnishings and home management subject matter was made. This request also listed the qualifications necessary for such a specialist.

1935

The retirement problems was given consideration by the association. Home agents' reaction to a retirement plan was presented to the Director. Two home agents were appointed to county agents committee to further discuss this problem. There is no record of any other action.

1944

The association voted to join the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association in January. Dues of all members were paid out of treasury funds.

The sum of \$50.00 was allocated for the expenses of the official delegate who will attend the National Home Demonstration Agents' meeting in June.

Through the efforts of the association, Mrs. Lila Williamson of Cornell conducted a training meeting for all home agents on the use of water softeners and laundering methods.

A committee to study subject matter committees brought three recommendations to the association. It was voted that this committee present their report to the home agent leader and a conference was arranged. No report of this meeting is on file.

In July, the association's official delegate for the National convention, Mrs. Mary Armstrong, presented a report of the Chicago meeting.

Our affiliation with the committee for the Cause and Cure of War was discontinued at the October meeting.

1945

The constitution was amended in regard to membership at the regular meeting in March. The amendment VI (replacing previous amendments) now reads:

"A member shall become eligible to join the Home Demonstration Agents' Association upon being officially appointed as Home Demonstration Agent, Associate Agent, or Assistant Agent, but not on a temporary or part-time basis."

Appointment of a representative of our association to serve on the State Safety Committee was made.

At the April meeting, a committee was appointed to decide what agent is eligible for National recognition.

Five agents were named to serve on as many national committees. A publicity chairman was also appointed, her duties being to send material to the National Association.

Blanche Moran as official delegate reported on her attendance at the National convention.