

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Home demonstration agents who had been members of the NHDAA were interested in attending the annual meeting, but how would they register? Guest? Non-member? A Committee was appointed by President Van Landingham and made the following recommendations which were accepted and approved by the board:

Any retired HDA who is or has been a member of NHDAA at the time of retirement and who is interested in attending the annual meeting be permitted to do so.

Honorary membership in NHDAA be granted former members who have retired and those who will retire in the future and were members of NHDAA at that time.

State Presidents to send names of eligible agents to the National Secretary. These will be submitted to the Executive Board of NHDAA for their approval at the summer board meeting.

Honorary members will not pay dues.

An appropriate form be printed to be used for Honorary Members.

Pre-registration had been tried and found to be successful. On October 8, at the Board meeting preceding the annual meeting, it was voted that pre-registration become a permanent policy. Dates were established for pre-registration. Councilors were to receive the \$1.00 per member by August 1 and they in turn would send it to the treasurer by August 15. Then the treasurer could send the number pre-registered to the convention chairman. This would help those who had to plan for numbers to know how many to expect and to make necessary arrangements.

At this time there was \$1,450 in a savings' account of the Association. The Board voted that this be earmarked for the Florence Hall Award.



Mrs. Eugenia Vanlandingham  
(N.C.)

The International Relations Committee had collected some money earlier for the Phillipines. It was decided to purchase slides and send them to the Phillipines to help in the area of home living. This same committee placed a box for contributions and voluntary funds at the back of the meeting room of the annual meeting. All money collected would be sent to Mary Border of Pakistan, formerly a home demonstration agent in Kansas, for educational materials. A total of \$103 was collected.

The Association was being invited to so many organizations that policies had to be established because of both time and expenses.

The board recommended that representatives be sent only to organizations which:

- (1) Have a definite affiliation with the Agricultural Extension Service USDA.
- (2) Are definitely given to promoting rural welfare.
- (3) Contribute to our professional improvement.
- (4) Would definitely strengthen us as an organization in the field of public relations.

The Committee further recommended:

1. We do not recommend paying expenses of a delegate to any organizational meeting, contest, exhibit or other group sponsored by a commercial organization or money raising group.
2. Or for such meetings as are of a regional nature. We recommend that a budget item be set apart for representatives to these other organizations and that in no case the expenses for this item be allowed to exceed the budget for any one year.

We urge that every invitation be recognized by the president and kindly regrets be expressed for those which we cannot accept. We also believe that those which are most important are deserving of the attendance of the President if at all possible, such as Organization & Policy Committee, New York Herald Tribune Forum, and White House Conferences.

We believe that in most cases one person should not be given the privilege of attending the same conference more than one time.

The theme, "Think Broadly: Interpret Clearly in Meeting Today's Challenge," was introduced in the program of the an-

nual meeting by Miss Maude E. Wallace, assistant director, Virginia Extension Service, in her address, "Today's Challenge to Home Demonstration Agents."

Mrs. Louise Leonard Wright, director of the Institute of International Education spoke next on "Unofficial Ambassadors."

Other speakers contributing to the excellent program included: "Highlights for the Home Demonstration Agent's Notebook," by Miss Beth Peterson, home economist for E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Company; "Have You Painted a Self-Portrait Lately," by Miss Mary Louise Collings, USDA; and "Pattern Alterations to Achieve Perfect Fit in Clothing," by Madame Elsé of Cincinnati.

### HOME DEMONSTRATION GIFT

Mrs. James Potter, president of the Indiana Home Demonstration Association, was introduced. She presented a \$50 check from her Association to the Florence Hall Award Fund. In making the presentation she said:

In Indiana we're very proud of the splendid relationship and fine cooperation between the Extension personnel and our volunteer workers. The Indiana Home Demonstration Association directs much of its effort toward supporting the Extension staff. We endeavor to develop leadership and particularly key our activities and program toward helping affiliated clubs become better clubs—and more effective agencies for educating and inspiring homemakers to meet *today's* 1954 problems and responsibilities. We believe that effective and outstanding clubs often go hand in hand with outstanding home agents—home agents with vision, broad capabilities and real affection for the women with whom they work.

Because your Florence Hall Award fund gives recognition to these outstanding home agents, we are delighted to take the lead in helping to perpetuate this fund with the hope that other states will be inspired to follow. I am happy to represent our 65,000 Home Demonstration women in Indiana in presenting this check from the association for \$50 in honor of all our hard working home demonstration agents, but as a special tribute to one of our most outstanding and distinguished agents, Mrs. Marie Bowen. We are ever so proud of you, Marie.

President Van Landingham expressed the thanks of the NHDA Association for this fine gift—a first from any home demonstration group.

## FLORENCE HALL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Miss Florence Hall, whose gift of \$1,000 began the awards, was introduced by Mrs. Van Landingham. After speaking briefly on "Imagination," Miss Hall officially presented the first four home demonstration agents to receive the Florence Hall Awards: Miss Sara Woodruff, New Jersey; Mrs. Mary B. Nelson, New Mexico; Miss Mary Ellen Murray, Kentucky; Miss Alfretta Dickinson, Illinois. In closing, Miss Hall said, "The power of imagination is doing something about it. More power to all of you."

The Florence Hall Award fund continued to grow. The Central Region who provided the program for the Friendship Party presented the Association with a \$750 contribution to the Florence Hall Award. This was retained in lieu of souvenirs for the party.

## ADVANCE MEETINGS

Invitations for the annual meeting were being received as far as three years in advance. Although the specific location would not be decided until the following June at Board meeting, making it two years in advance, it provided the Board an opportunity to check facilities, thus making a better selection.

At the luncheon, Tuesday, October 12, members were guests of General Foods Corporation with Martha Kelly as hostess. A demonstration on their new instant pudding was presented at this meeting.

Another interesting feature was the presence of Don McNeill at the banquet sponsored by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company. Mr. McNeill entertained the group for approximately one-half hour.

The closing event of the annual meeting was the Recognition Luncheon in the Crystal Ballroom of the Blackstone Hotel as guest of Coats & Clark, Inc., and Simplicity Pattern Company.

A grace was sung for the invocation. Following the luncheon, Miss Olive Berry of Simplicity Pattern Company presented a style revue, "Do it Yourself Fashions."

The address of the day was given by Administrator C. M. Ferguson. He spoke on "Team Work." He congratulated NHDAA on their 21st birthday—truly, coming of age.

Following the Recognition Ceremony, certificates of Distinguished Service were presented to 61 home demonstration agents representing 40 states.

By 1955 the treasury had increased considerably. There was a balance of \$17,215.17—\$2,750 in savings, \$1,450 in the

Grace Frysinger Fellowship, and \$800 in the Florence Hall Award fund. Membership had grown to 3001.

At the board meeting June 24, the eligibility of agents on sabbatical leave and agents employed part-time to receive the Distinguished Service Award was discussed. The revision in the handbook stated: "An agent must be in county service at the time the award is made." Another change in the handbook was giving committee chairman status to the chairman of the State Presidents' Group. Previously she had been invited to give a report to the Executive Board but not in the status of a working chairman.

The attendance at annual meetings was increasing each year and now with pre-registration it was decided to speed up registration by putting name tags in the packets instead of waiting and typing them.

Now that the annual meetings were being held in different states, those attending were interested in seeing as much of that particular area as possible, so special tours to scenic areas were planned for those who arrived a few days prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

As a smorgasbord luncheon of the Executive Board and the Advisory Council, Miss Mena Hogan spoke, making the following statement:

Changing times and constantly changing situations are bringing about an adjustment in the job of the county home demonstration agent. Because of such adjustments there is considerable pressure of activities on the agent. This pressure points up a need for developing skills in making decisions, in establishing priorities and in developing an attitude of mind that the job can be managed.

Miss Grace Frysinger was interested in presenting a second scholarship in 1955, but because the suggestion came after the committee had met, it was suggested it be carried over until 1956. She continued to contribute \$500 annually for the original scholarship.

Apparently some states held the assumption that submitting an application for the Florence Hall Award meant the nominee would automatically be a winner. The application was revised to include the statement: "If a state were not notified in writing, they would not be receiving an award winner." The Florence Hall Award was increased to \$100 per person, to become effective in 1956.

The 1955 annual meeting officially opened at 9:00 a.m. on

Monday, October 10, with Mrs. Eugenia P. Van Landingham, president, presiding. The theme of the meeting was "The Home Agent's Changing Role," and 453 persons were in attendance.

Miss Mena Hogan, field agent of the Southern Region, Federal Extension Service, spoke on "The Human Side of Our New Role." Miss Frances Scudder, director of the Division of Home Economics programs of FES, spoke on "Today's Trends." Dr. Gladys Gallup, assistant director, Division of Extension Research and Training, USDA, spoke on "Changing Styles in Home Demonstration Work."

Miss Margaret Rexroad, Fairmont, West Virginia, was awarded the 1955 Grace Frysinger Fellowship. Miss Beatrice Fehr, Maryland, 1954 recipient, reported on the study she made of farm and home development in Kentucky and North Carolina.

The Florence Hall Awards were presented to Mrs. Margaret Shepard, New Jersey; Miss Ezell Johnson, Texas; Mrs. Mabel Ito, Hawaii and Miss Barbara Kimball, Wisconsin.

## **PFIZER AWARDS**

Mr. Guy S. Safford, project director of Charles Pfizer and Company, spoke on "Relations Between Industry and Extension." He announced that in recognition of the importance of the home to the farm enterprise and of the help brought to the home by county home demonstration agents, the Pfizer Company was setting up annual awards of \$1,500 each to four agents for study or travel.

The first honorary members were approved in 1955. These were Extension Agents who had retired and were active members of NHDAA upon their retirement. There were 46 home demonstration agents from 16 states to be conferred this special membership this first year, 1956.

As some of the other regions had done with money left after co-hosting the Friendship Party, the Western Region had \$268 which was given to be used at the discretion of the Executive Board.

There were 24 educational exhibits on display when the program was not in session. During the last hour on the last day, attendance prizes donated by the exhibitors were drawn for and distributed.

The recognition luncheon was held in the Memorial Union Building on the University of Washington campus. Mrs. Marie Bowen conducted the recognition ceremony which opened with a prayer by Mrs. Carmen Johnson. Miss Frances Scudder, FES, awarded recognition certificates to 56 agents from 33 states.