

Reflections from the Past: Celebrating 75 Years!

Cheryle Jones Syracuse (NC) and Jan Scholl (PA), 75th Anniversary Committee

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME: THE MANY NAMES OF OUR ASSOCIATION

The association now known as the **National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences** has had several names over its 75 years of existence. While the name and methods have changed over the many years, the original goal of the association has remained constant: support the efforts of home economists serving families through the federal extension system.

The **National Home Demonstration Agents' Association** started on June 29, 1933, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during the annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association (AHEA). At that organizational meeting, many values of a national association were discussed. The most legitimate reason was planning the pre-convention conference and program in conjunction with the AHEA meeting each year (agents had been attending the conventions but did not have a meeting of their own). Of equal importance was the possibility of giving home demonstration agents a voice in forming policies through a national organization and local affiliates.

A constitution was adopted in 1934 and the name of the organization was The **Home Demonstration Agents' National Association** (HDANA).

The original goals of the organization were to:

- Provide a permanent national organization for Home Demonstration Agents of the United States of America and Territories
- Raise professional standards
- Promote fellowship among its members
- Provide a centralized means for exchanging ideas and methods
- Encourage the organization of new state associations of home demonstration agents

NATIONAL NEGRO HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS ASSOCIATION (NNHDAA)

In 1958, the **National Negro Home Demonstration Agents Association** (NNHDAA) was founded. NNHDAA members enriched the home economics movement by providing educational experiences for the family, developing programs and resources and providing support leadership and community development initiatives. In November 1965, NNHDAA dissolved and its members joined NAEHE.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMISTS (NAEHE)

To better reflect the changes in extension on a national basis and put an emphasis on the home economics profession, the name was changed to the **National Association of Extension Home Economists** (NAEHE) at the annual meeting on November 16, 1964.

NATIONAL EXTENSION ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES (NEAFCS)

As a result of the evolution of the profession from Home Economics to Family and Consumer Science, the association once again changed its name. During the business meeting of the 1995 annual session in Dallas, Texas the voting delegates approved a change to the By-Laws to change the name. The **National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science** (NEAFCS) name was adopted.

OUR FIRST FOUR PRESIDENTS



(from left to right)

Ann Searl while serving as President of the Illinois Home Demonstration Agents Association was selected temporary chairman of the first committee to look at an association and was elected first president.

Nellie Watts was a member from Ohio and attended the first association meeting. She later became the second association president.

Florence Carvin was from Missouri. She also attended the first meeting and became president in 1937.

Clara Brian, a member from Illinois, called one of the first meetings of home demonstration agents together in 1931. They called it a "house party." She became president in 1939.