

## Reflections from the Past: Remembrances of a Past President: No Room at the Hotel

*Virginia Zirkle (OH), NEAFCS Past President - 1977*

An interesting thought came to mind of what happened as we were planning for the 1977 Annual Session held in Boston. Program planning at that time was done the first week in December prior to the meeting and held at the headquarters hotel.

At that time we were told the hotel would be undergoing a complete refurbishing change in 1977 and completed by the time of the meeting. When we arrived for the meeting – no change; the refurbishing job had not begun.

We emphasized strongly with the hotel staff that when we gave them our registration numbers to plan on that number to arrive for registration. At the time for members to arrive they came in the exact numbers we had pre-registered. The hotel had no space for all of them. The hotel had said, "There will not be that number" and went ahead and planned for a second group to be headquartered at the hotel at the same time. My, but they were surprised and couldn't stop apologizing, and were wondering what to do. They kept as many of our members as their guests as possible since we had been the first to make plans to use them as our headquarters.

For the Friendship Event, the hotel placed a decanter of wine at each table for members to enjoy a glass of wine with their dinner, compliments of the hotel. In addition, the decanters were given away; we only needed to decide how that was to be done. Barbara O'Brian from MA, Arrangements Committee Chair, decided the person at the table whose last name was farthest down the alphabet would be the lucky one. I continue to have that beautiful decanter.



Virginia Zirkle, 1977 NEAFCS President