

Reflections from the Past: Historical Archives Available on NEAFCS Website

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Have you taken a moment to visit the new section of the NEAFCS website that contains an ever-growing amount of Association historic archival information? It's easy to find and fun to browse, especially during this 75th Anniversary year! These documents have been scanned into digital format from paper originals, and in an upcoming phase, will be searchable online. To find these materials, go to the NEAFCS website and click on [About NEAFCS](#). Among the links listed there is a link entitled [Historical Archives](#), which will take you directly to this new section.

Once there you will find sections providing an overview of the early years and the journey as the **Home Demonstration Agents' National Association** (HDANA), with its own constitution, was formed during an Annual Meeting of the American Home Economics Association (AHEA). The next iteration came as the organization later changed its name to the National Association of Extension Home Economists (NAEHE), better reflecting the changes in Extension on a national basis.

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. And in 1995, as a result of the evolution of the profession from Home Economist to Family and Consumer Science, the Association changed its name to the **National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences** (NEAFCS), as it remains today.

Continue scanning through the archives page and you will discover fascinating sections that make the various manifestations of the Association come alive, as scribed in the words of the contemporaries of their day, preserving history for members to enjoy and scholars to study including:

- **NAEHE History** — provides an overview of this period, accompanied by a downloadable PDF file of the book written by Maxine Reeves of Louisiana, entitled *History of the National Extension Association of Home Economists, 1933-1975*. If you are interested in a particular period of history, you may download individual chapters of Reeves' book on the [NAEHE Narrative Histories, 1933-1975](#) web section, and simply click on the link representing the years of your interest.
- **NAEHE Chronological Histories, 1933-1995** — this important section records information about national officers, annual conferences, and national award winners for each year listed.
- **NEAFCS Affiliate Histories - 50th Anniversary Celebration (1987)** — To celebrate the occasion of the Association's 50th Anniversary year, each Affiliate was asked to submit their state's history, and these were preserved in bound copies. This volume includes the histories of the 23 states who responded to the call in 1987. There is not a consistent standard for the information provided to the National Historian, and obviously not all states participated. However for many Affiliates this is the best known recorded information and can be quite enjoyable to browse and read. ***Please note** — this may be the very best example among the archival information illustrating why it is so very important for each Affiliate to document its own details. It may be difficult, perhaps impossible, to reconstruct 50 years of state history. And NEAFCS has journeyed 25 more years since this baseline record was established.*
- **NEAFCS 75th Anniversary (2009)** — this section features the wealth of articles, reminiscences, and presentations that have been assembled for this 75th Anniversary year, where the Association is really living up to the theme of **Celebrating our Heritage, Embracing our Future**. This section will just make you feel good about how far we've come, and how bright is the promise of our future. At the *Galaxy* Conference in Indianapolis, the 75th Anniversary Committee distributed a list of **75 Ways to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of NEAFCS** and these are also available as a downloadable PDF file on this archival page. We hope you're working through this list. The goal is that you'll have fun with these suggestions. Many are personal but others will help both your state and the National Association reflect upon the past as we look toward the future. ***How well are you doing at checking off those items on your 75 Ways to Celebrate the 75th list? If you haven't already started, enjoy this challenge from your 75th Anniversary Committee!***
- **NEAFCS Affiliate Histories — 75th Anniversary Celebration (2009)** — Returning to the **75 Ways to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary** checklist, number 34 is "Have your Affiliate Historian start or update your state history". How is your state doing with that challenge? Many states don't have an Historian. If not, perhaps you could appoint the Secretary, President-elect or a special ad-hoc committee. If someone doesn't begin to record the history, it may be lost forever, as you may have seen in our discussion of the 50th Anniversary archives — where only 23 states responded. What better time than now to begin this process? One place to start is to see if your state responded to the 50th Anniversary call for Affiliate histories, which are stored in the [50th Anniversary archival section](#). ***Thank you Kansas** for providing your revised Affiliate history for the 75th Anniversary archival section!*
- **Past President and Executive Board** — this section is filled with photo memories of Association leadership over the years, and a lovely pictorial stroll down memory lane.

Even as you explore the archives, you'll note that there are some gaps in the written and photo records, and of course your Historian continues to seek to fill them. If you see something that is missing and you know how to help fill in the record, please [contact me](#).

And now that you know about the Historical Archives section of the NEAFCS website, have fun and enjoy the exploring the materials. It's interesting to see how things began, what has changed, but also what has stayed the same for our exciting profession over the years.

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