

Ordinary Women Extraordinary Service – North Carolina’s history of Family and Consumer Sciences education

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Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Service – when I discovered this book in the Historian files and saw it was written by the colleagues hosting the 2022 Annual Session, I couldn’t resist pulling it from the files and start reading. The book highlights 100 years of the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) programs in North Carolina, which began as Home Demonstration and the work of the Extension and Community Association (ECA) which began as Home Demonstration Clubs.

The book chronicles how the focus of FCS work overtime has evolved, with credit given to Jane McKimmon, who in 1911 created the home demonstration program, a “rural women’s college with ever-broadening activities where women could learn together and create a strong camaraderie for neighbor and community”. From “Making the Most of What you Have” in the 1930’s to “A Welcome Respite” in the 1950’s, a “Decade of Social Changes” in the 1960’s and “New Ways to Learn” in the 1990’s, readers of the book can connect what was happening in our /country through stories written by FCS professionals and ECA members.

Many programs and services in North Carolina that are now taken for granted were started or supported by the Home Demonstration program – school hot lunches, libraries, book mobiles, literacy efforts, farmers markets and so much more.

With pride I’ll be visiting North Carolina in September reconnecting with “Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Service” from across the country! Thank you, North Carolina NEAFCS members, for writing and sharing this history book with NEAFCS.

