



August 2, 1984

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMISTS

P. O. BOX 1128, PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867

Cleo Bryan  
Box 749  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Dear Cleo:

A letter of May 10, from Virginia Price requested that you are updating NAEHE and needed to know when our State Association was organized and how many charter members were involved. Alabama Association Extension Home Economists was organized in December, 1947 and became affiliated with NAEHE in 1949. Four elected officers attended their first NAEHE Annual Meeting in Chicago that year. There were approximately 67 charter members. (The reason this number isn't exact is that early records were stored in Duncan Hall at Auburn University and were destroyed by accident).

I'm enclosing a brief summary of our association that I located for your information. Should I gather other information, I'll mail it to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Betty H. Wilson'.

Betty H. Wilson  
President

Enclosures 3

BHW:bro

## HISTORY

(as of 1972)

### ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMISTS

In the spring of 1947 Director P. O. Davis discussed the value of an Alabama Agents' Association at a meeting of District Extension men and women representatives. They appointed committees of agents. A few months later the Home Demonstration Agents' committee, composed of Miss Mary Thompson, Miss Elizabeth Collings, Miss Mona Whatley, and Miss Marion Cotney, discussed the possibility of organizing an Alabama Home Demonstration Agents' Association.

At the State Extension Service meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, in December 1947, the entire group of Alabama Home Demonstration Agents heard Miss Mary Thompson present the thinking of the committee along with a constitution which she had written. The group approved the organization and elected Miss Irby Barrett as first president.

Throughout the years the Association has enjoyed the goodwill and support of the State Office and the cooperation, fellowship, and enthusiastic participation of its membership. Each year since 1947, 75 to 100 members have attended the annual meetings. Many of these have been held during Extension meetings on the campus of Auburn University. Others were held in Birmingham in 1950, 1954, and 1959, 1964, and 1966; in Dothan in 1951; in Montgomery in 1952, 1955, 1960 and 1967; in Decatur in 1953; in Mobile in 1956, 1963 and 1968, 1972; in Guntersville in 1957; in Tuscaloosa in 1958, 1962, 1970; in Gadsden in 1961; in Florence in 1965; in Huntsville in 1969; and in Eufaula in 1971.

From the beginning the membership has been high with well over 90% of the County Extension personnel belonging to their professional organization. Numbers have ranged from 105 to 150. At the beginning of the 1972 membership year there are 150 members.

The program of the Association has developed through its committee activities. These have resulted in greater professional development of the membership, in pride in the profession, in closer fellowship among agents, and in recognition of outstanding agents. The Association has served as a channel of communication between County Extension Home Economists and Extension Personnel in the State Office. It has given Alabama agents the right to participate in and to serve the National Association of Extension Home Economists. From 11 to 59 agents each year have attended the National Conventions to take advantage of the opportunity of fellowship and interchange of ideas nationwide.

Alabama is proud of the agents whose abilities have been recognized by the National Association. Miss Irby Barret served as president of the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association for the ~~1955~~ 1959-61 term. She has previously served as National third vice-president. Miss Margaret Whatley served the 1962-63 term as Councilor, Southern Region. Betty Hamilton served the 1966-67 term as third vice president. Many agents have served on National committees. Sixty-one agents have been presented Distinguished Service Awards by the National Association.

Those who have served the Alabama Association as president are Miss Irby Barrett, Miss Fran Mallette, Mrs. Maude Woodfin, Miss Clodessa Norton, Mrs. Yancey Walters, Miss Margaret Brown, Miss Mona Whatley,<sup>56</sup> Mrs. Oenone <sup>1957</sup> Cook, Mrs. Margaret <sup>58</sup> Gray, Miss Betty Hamilton, Miss Margaret Whatley, Miss Geneva Marshall, Mrs. Helen Hill, Miss Alma Holladay, Mrs. Jean Kerr, Miss Elna Tanner, Miss Marian Cotney, Miss Julia Smith, Mrs. Mildred Ennis and Miss Elaine Brooks, Miss Annie Mary Hester, Mrs. Sara Hutchinson and Miss Evelyn Graham.

In 1962 the constitution was revised and a handbook prepared under the leadership of Mrs. Helen Hill, Chairman, Miss Alma Holladay and Mrs. Jean Kerr. The handbook was completed in 1963 and was designed

to give each member of the Association a better understanding of the organization and its activities to the end that Extension Home Economists will continue to grow professionally.

In 1966, the name of the Association was changed from "Alabama Home Demonstration Agents' Association" to "Alabama Association of Extension Home Economists." The Association also voted to add the office of President Elect. The constitution and by-laws and other sections of the handbook were revised to bring them in line with these and other minor revisions adopted by association members - April, 1966, Julia M. Smith, Chairman, Marion Cotney, Elna Tanner.

In 1968 the Constitution and By-laws were revised to incorporate the change in method of electing officers. An effort was made for the Alabama Handbook to follow the National Handbook as closely as possible.

In 1972 another revision of the constitution and Handbook were made to incorporate changes voted by Alabama Association of Extension Home Economists to follow the National Handbook as closely as possible.