A HISTORY

The Ohio Federation
of
Business and Professional Women's Clubs

OHIO FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN'S CLUBS
COLUMBUS, OHIO
1960
A DEDICATION

to

FLORENCE GIVEN

in recognition of her interest and effort in collecting and assembling the records of the Ohio Federation we respectfully dedicate this HISTORY
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Mary Rudd Cochran, of the Cincinnati Club, who has served as friend and adviser to the committee during the preparation of this history.

To the history We Celebrate Our 20th Convention, prepared in 1939 by Gertrude Fortune, of the Columbus Club, with the cooperation of two past state presidents, Marion Brogan, of the Cincinnati Club, and Dr. Anne Marting (Alstott), of the Portsmouth Club.

To the authors of the early histories and records of the Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Springfield, Toledo, Warren, Youngstown and Zanesville Clubs.

To past and present state officers, committee chairmen and members of the Ohio Federation for material used in this history.

To Marguerite Rawalt, National Historian, for her promptness in answering our many requests and for giving us valuable guidance.

To the National Federation office staff for the checking of records.

To the Ohio Federation executive secretaries, Bertha Vickers and Hazel Zwayer, and to the many others whose services have been most helpful.

Our sincere appreciation,

THE OHIO HISTORY COMMITTEE
Mabel Kissinger, Dayton
Freda Smithberger, Lorain
Christine Van Gorden, Oxford, Chairman

May, 1960

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FOREWORD

There were local business and professional women's clubs in Ohio before there was a state federation or a national federation. While the custom of people to meet, to discuss, to organize has come down through the years since the days of Benjamin Franklin, it has been only since 1912 that records have been found of organized groups of women in business and professions. There are records of two business women's clubs having been organized as early as 1912, one in Omaha, Nebraska and one in Detroit. In Ohio a business women's club was organized in Toledo in 1914 while clubs were organized in Ashland, Cincinnati and Dayton in 1916. Some of the charter members of these clubs still speak of the influence on their organization of those "girls from Omaha."

During the years of the First World War, it was possible to contact men through business and professional clubs, but there was no central organization by which women similarly employed could be reached.

As the National Young Women's Christian Association through its War Work Secretary, Lena Madison Phillips, had done much work among women, the U. S. Government allocated to it an appropriation to take the lead in starting a nationwide organization of business and professional women.

Early in April, 1918, a call went out from the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. asking that representatives from the states come to New York City to discuss the matter of organization.

At least five people from Ohio attended this meeting of 100 women in New York City on May 11, 1918: Regina Wolf and Gertrude Fortune of Cleveland, Mabel Gridley of Dayton, and Dr. Eliza Edwards and Edna Walton from Cincinnati.

Gertrude Fortune wrote in the Ohio History, We Celebrate Our 20th Convention,

Those who attended the first meeting will never forget the camouflaged troop ships coming and going in New York Harbor. Nor the soldiers we visited at Camp Merritt across the river from Tenafly, N. J., on Sunday, May 12, 1918—Mother's Day.

At the meeting were women from the east, the south, the west, the north. Perhaps it was one of the first gatherings of its kind. They discussed informally the possibilities of an organization, and what if any should be its connection with the Y.W.C.A. The women felt they needed an organization of their own. They liked the idea of local, state, national and international groups of women meeting together for the cause of business and professional women. A working committee of twenty was appointed from this group of 100 to study the question thoroughly and report at a later date.
In July, 1919, 212 women representing clubs of business and professional women from all over the country met in St. Louis and completed the organization of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Lena Madison Phillips, who had played such an important part in effecting the organization, was made executive secretary.

While Ohio had five members from three clubs at the meeting in New York, there were many more present at St. Louis. These women from Ohio who assisted in the organization of the national federation were doctors, teachers, owners of businesses, and others. All had a vision of what might come of such an organization. Many of them had already defined similar principles in their own local clubs. The following purpose was found in the history of the Cincinnati club organized in 1916:

The Club was formed for the purpose of widening the acquaintance, promoting fellowship and advancing the interests of business women, thereby affording an opportunity to increase their efficiency, encourage greater cooperation, elevate standards and put them in touch with the best that can be procured in educational, technical and cultural knowledge.

The early history of the Springfield club states its purpose was “the promotion of friendship, development and service among business and professional women of the city.”

It was, therefore, easy for these women to assist in the outlining of the objectives as defined in the original national constitution

To elevate the standards for women in business and the professions; to promote the interests of business and professional women; to foster local and state organization; to bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the United States; to extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along lines of industrial, scientific, and vocational activities.

These women who represented Ohio at the organization of the National Federation could hardly wait to get back home in order to lay plans for a state organization. With much enthusiasm and great foresight the first convention of the Ohio Federation was held at Columbus on February 23, 1920.
The treasurer's report indicated $425.10 had been received for dues from the following clubs:
Business and Professional Women's Club, Zanesville
Business Women's Club of Cincinnati
Women's Business Club, Cincinnati
Business Women's Club, Columbus
Business and Professional Women's Club, Youngstown
Business Women's Club Y. W. C. A., Cincinnati
Business and Professional Women's Club, Warren
Women's Commercial Club, Springfield
General Commercial Club, Cincinnati
Business Women's Club, Toledo
Business Women's Club, Dayton

The adoption of a budget not only laid the foundation for a well-ordered household for the federation, but it paved the way for the fall and spring board meetings by providing for anticipated expenditures. This pattern of two board meetings has been followed through the years.

Voices were first raised in behalf of districts. It was suggested that the state be divided into five groups.

Other national organizations are fast picking up the business and professional women of the state and throwing them in with their respective groups.

However, the federation was making progress. There were 175 women attending the banquet to hear the challenge of the president, "federation is the nucleus from which radiates inspiration, co-operation and good fellowship."

A fall meeting of the board was scheduled to be held in Dayton; a spring meeting in Cleveland and the 1924 annual convention in Cincinnati. With 13 clubs, the membership stood at 2,869.

1921-22

At the spring board meeting, a recommendation was introduced "that we charge a registration fee of $1.00 for each delegate and member at the annual meeting in Cincinnati."

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The need for membership was apparent. The 47 delegates present wanted to engage the services of an organizer for one month to organize new clubs and inspire those already organized.

While the State Federation was holding its second annual convention in Cleveland, the National Federation was getting ready to open its third annual convention in the same city. Little is mentioned in the early records about Ohio's part as hostess to the National Federation. What a wonderful opportunity this must have been to a federation in its second year of existence! The minutes of the state convention that year tell us:

"The annual banquet was held at 6:30 P.M. in the Ball Room of the Statler. Besides the delegates, the visitors from the State, there were many guests from other states who had arrived to attend the National Convention."

Two years later Ohio was again to serve as hostess to a convention of the National Federation in that same city.

1922-23

Although the state organization was now in a position to pay bills during its second year, there was discouragement. It needed membership. The national federation had sent word that "Ohio was already strong enough to develop itself."

With the hope of an organizer the State officers had gone ahead with preliminary work of development in the various cities. A list had been compiled of 335 business women scattered throughout the state in about twenty different cities who were not affiliated with any business women's clubs. While the national federation did not send an organizer, it did send literature to each one of the 335 individuals to acquaint them with its purpose. The state federation also sent a letter to each one of these women.

The third annual convention met in Toledo on May 29, 1922. The first budget was adopted at this convention. While simple, it was a beginning. It allowed:

4 Committees at $25 $100.00
R. R. Fare: Three officers two meetings a year 45.00
Bulletin for year 175.00
National organizer 250.00
Convention expenses 75.00
$660.00

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The fourth annual convention opened in Columbus on Wednesday, May 30, 1923 with a recommendation of the Rules Committee, "Ladies please remove hats during session." The report of the state membership chairman was depressing.

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1923-24

At the executive committee meeting in the fall, the members recommended the following standing and special committees:

Standing:
Membership
Legislative
Publicity
Finance
Personal Research
Education

Special:
Independent Woman, Club Emblem
Cheer Leader
Program
Sneakers Bureau

At the spring board meeting, a recommendation was introduced "that we charge a registration fee of $1.00 for each delegate and member at the annual meeting in Cincinnati."

On Its Way

The federation was on its way. It opened its fifth annual convention on May 30th, 1924 at the Assembly Room in the Cincinnati Club House with reports of credentials, rules, resolutions and nominating committees.

Mary Stewart, author of the Collect and chairman of the National Legislative Committee, issued a real challenge in her address when she said in part:

The big lesson the world must learn today is to give value received. We have a clear duty, an important one — the bringing of the trained business women on the ground and our ears on the stars and once in a while we can afford to rub our toe a little for the sake of looking at the stars, but after all, we cannot walk very far if we do not keep our feet on the ground.
It was at this meeting that the strongest project of the Ohio Federation originated, the Florence Allen Scholarship Fund. It was here, too, that Blue and Gold were adopted as state colors.

This had been no ordinary convention. While officers and committee chairmen reported on what had been done, the membership was looking ahead. State chairmen were at work, the executive board was functioning, but there was still need for membership. At this time a demand was made to the National Federation for a full-time organizer in the field.

The report of the membership committee indicated that many seeds which have been sown this year will bear fruit in the future. But the year's experience has proved that obstacles must be met and overcome if the Ohio Federation is to improve up to the requirements which she has set for herself.

What membership there was had an awareness of its importance as noted by the report of the corresponding secretary:

Ohio Federation is becoming quite well known...there is a body wanted to join us...Railroads, Telegraph Companies, Hotels, Speaker Bureau, Printers, Reporters...You see the names have changed. They are now following the activities of women as aggressively as they did those of men.

Two paragraphs from the president's report sum up the thinking of the times:

The year has been one of progress and we are steadily moving forward, setting our house in order, establishing ourselves on a firm basis through our members' unreserved cooperation, a spirit of good fellowship and understanding, and growing bigger, better, with a greater understanding of our own and others' problems every day.

We look forward with hope for greater and greater accomplishments. We know we shall succeed for our work is one of service—service to ourselves—service to the invisible woman of the future, service to our City, State, and Nation. And service means growth, for the more one gives of self, the more one grows, and we are learning the true meaning of real service, which is bound to make us broader and bigger both mentally and spiritually.

For the first time the minutes carried written reports of officers and committee chairmen. The program chairman wrote "Our national committee on Program is now beginning to function and with the state's cooperation it is hoped much constructive work can be accomplished by the local clubs."

1924-25

In 1924-25 "the fiscal year of all clubs" was brought to a uniform period and the period was made to coincide as closely as possible with the year of the national federation. It was at the fall board meeting in Columbus that the following recommendation was adopted: that in the near future some club conventions must be worked out in the National Federation as well as in the Ohio Federation.

This was the beginning of the recognition of membership cards which the national organization initiated.
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The president in her annual address stated
One great achievement in the organization of the Ohio Federation
for the past year has been the establishment of District Meetings. We
have been able to have three of these meetings at Springfield, Toledo
and Zanesville.
She also commented on the work of the local clubs
We as a Federation are very proud indeed of clubs that can put
on successful Baby Shows; Clubs that can effect a Saturday evening
clowning of stores; Clubs that can put through Women's Exhibitions;
Clubs that can control elections . . . .

1927-28

In the year 1927-28 the first club in the United States to be formed on
county basis was organized in Perry County. Ohio was recognized by the
National Federation for having the most newspaper publicity during the
previous year.
In April 1928, local clubs joined the state and national federations in
observing for the first time National Business Women's Week.
In previous years the local clubs had been responsible for the enter-
tainment of the state federation at annual conventions. Several unpleasant
issues had arisen. The executive committee requested that an agreement be
drawn up between the hostess club and the Ohio Federation. The first
agreement to be so drawn was with the Marietta Club.
The idea of the district meetings received a further boost when the
state president announced in her annual report at the convention in
Marietta, that she was enabled through regional (district) meetings to meet
representatives from every club in the state. Four such meetings had been
held. In part she reported
The last few years all organized endeavors have experienced a bit
down in group activities, a very natural aftermath of the 'rubber'
habit formed during the hectic war and post war days. Our Feder-
ation was no exception. Being a 'war baby' it grew lustily on the
effervescence of war enthusiasm and attracted great numbers, many of
whom lacked the starting qualities and clear vision necessary for sustained interest . . .

1929-30

I believe I can now say that the Ohio Federation has successfully
passed thru this crisis. True, some of her larger clubs have not re-
gained the large memberships they once had, but numbers are always
of questionable and relative value. A group of active workers, who
realize what our Federation stands for and individually cooperate
and are loyal to its ideals, is worth twice that number if the majority
are members in name only.

And I am glad to report that those clubs who were lagging a little
in doubt as to the salubrity of motion in the Federation have had
a rebirth 'with Federation consciousness and have come to appreciate
give the inestimable value of a local club belonging to the State and
National Federation.

This growth so vividly pictured helped to carry the Ohio Federation
through the trying days ahead.

It was in the president's report that the question of the need for a paid
state worker was first raised. "For instance, we cannot expect a corre-
sponding secretary to labor hours upon hours taking care of necessary
 correspondence without some remuneration."

1928-29

At the fall board meeting in Newark in 1929, the board of directors
adopted the following resolution regarding the endorsement of political
candidates:

Whereas the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional
Women's Clubs has always been a non-political organization
Be it resolved that the attention of all club members be called
to Article 1 of the State Constitution which reads: The police of the
Federation shall be self-sustaining, self-supporting, non-partisan and
non-political; that this be understood to mean that members as indivi-
dually are free to exercise in political activities; but that, as a
member of the Ohio Federation, no club shall endorse any political
candidates or measures.

The executive board endorsed a State Rural Policy, later known as the
Highway Patrol. Radio talks were being used for the first time in con-
nection with the National Business Women's Week.

The convention was held at Toledo, May 18, 1929. While Ohio members
were trying to sing their way out of the depression, a report from national
indicated that there would be no national convention in 1929-30, but
instead regional meetings would be held.

The federation committee stated, "the one big job right now [in the
local clubs] will be working up of attendance at the National Convention
at Mackinac Island, July 1929]." Ohio was to be represented by a pageant,
Grenadier Square, Ohio's First Business Woman. Over 100 women from
Ohio were planning to attend.

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It was announced at the state convention in Mansfield in May 1930,
that "your new president will be a member of the National board when
the National Board of Directors will meet in July." Before this time the
state federations were represented on the National board by what was
known as a state vice president of National. This vice president was elected
each year at the National convention. She was not necessarily the presi-
dent of the state federation.

The Ohio Federation had been in existence 10 years. There was a
demand during this period for an Ohio Handbook, which request has
appeared again and again. Although a special committee on an Ohio Hand-
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Federation was called upon for contributions, but this time it was for over 100 times the original pledge made at Mackinac in 1929.

During 1929-30 Governor Myers Y. Cooper declined to issue a proclamation for Business Women's week for the reason given in a chairman's report:

"... the fact that so many requests of a like nature were received that he had adopted a policy of issuing only those in connection with local holidays and governmental activities. He further stated that if all the proclamations were granted that were sought, that they would lose their effect entirely."

The year 1931-32 saw a decided change in the local clubs and in the state federation. The federation had always been interested in occupations and vocations. But the depression was upon Ohio. Women were the first to be laid off. The carefree, singing Ohio Federation of the past had a real challenge on its home front. In its third year it had had a membership of over 3,000. It was now in its twelfth year and its membership had dropped to 2,209, a 7 per cent loss for the year. For financial reason the state bulletin was to be discontinued.

At the convention in Cincinnati in May 1932, it was announced that "the memberships' heaviest losses are in the large cities." It was suggested that any club having dues over $10.00 consider a reduction.

The annual banquet that year was dedicated to the past state presidents, a plan which has continued on and off through the years. Judge Florence Allen delivered the address, "America at the Crossroads."

The Ohio Federation was at the cross roads. The year 1932-33 could well be termed its depression year.

Much time was consumed at the fall executive board meeting discussing whether or not there was a legal way of reducing dues without changing the constitution. The request to the national federation to waive the 25 cent penalty for late payment of dues went unanswered. The national constitution forbade it.

The trend of the times was shown in the report of the Florence Allen Scholarship Loan Fund. One applicant, employed as a Y.W.C.A. secretary had had her salary cut 50 per cent. The report of the chairman stated that one girl had been able to get a position in her chosen field, "the others have been forced to take whatever position offered itself at this time.... one was not able to secure a school on account of attachment of school boards everywhere."

The president's report carried the statement that Governor George White was the first governor to endorse Business Women's Week. Pictures of the governor signing the Proclamation along with the state federation president appeared in many newspapers throughout the state as well as in the national magazine, The Independent Woman.

By 1931 some of the members of the federation wanted all the conventions held in Columbus.

The 1931 convention was the first one in which the program had been planned by the state executive board. Herefore, all work had "centered in the particular club in whose town the convention was held." The preference for a banquet speaker included three nationally known women: Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, a leading engineer of the country; Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, a political figure; and Mary Pickford, a nationally known entertainer.

Preliminary plans for the convention included a four o'clock tea on Saturday to be furnished by the hotel as a courtesy to the organization.

A highlight was the Occupational Assembly held on Saturday afternoon. Titles of the short talks were:

- The Attitude of the Modern Girl
- The Creation of a Greeting Card
- The Uses and Uses of an Impression
- A Woman's Place in a Small Manufacturing Company
- Radiant Health: Paints and Brushes
- Cosmetics as a Field for Women

Emily Kneubuhl, national representative, applauded the idea of the convention being planned by the state executive committee when she said, "Ohio group had had the trail in a new kind of convention with the elimination of non-essentials and strict attention to business."

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Prior to this time representation to the state convention had been one voting delegate for each organization having a membership of fifty members or less and an additional delegate for each additional fifty members or major fraction thereof. It was at this convention that a change was made. Representation was "each club in the Federation shall be entitled to one voting delegate for each (10 members) or major fraction thereof."
median of the loans will make more rapid strides in the liquidation of the loans."

An attempt has been made to keep the young people interested by
organizing Junior Clubs. These clubs maintained "separate events" and
"programs particularly to their liking." Cincinnati, Newark, and Toledo
had such clubs. Twelve junior members had attended the convention.

The Cincinnati Club reported 195 minutes of broadcasting time; study
groups on economic questions were organized; programs took on a
seriousness of purpose. The federation strongly opposed the Minimum
Wage Law for Women and Minors only, saying it was discriminatory,
that it should be for men, women and minors.

1934-35

In spite of obstacles, the business women with courage and resource-
fulness went on with their plans. Ohio celebrated National Business
Women's Week. The convention was held in Columbus in May, 1934.

The convention body thought some method should be worked out
for preserving old records, even to establishing a library of records. It
stressed that every club should be a member of the International Federa-
tion. Topics of the round table discussions included "Art of Club Man-
agement," "Developing Club Personality," "Our Step in World Peace."

The Ohio Federation voted to affiliate with the Women's State
Committee of Ohio for Public Welfare, Health and Education, which membership
the state federation continues to maintain.

A change was taking place in the social and economic position of
women. The report of the president said

"I see our members among the first to adjust themselves to shifting
conditions and to see only a chance to serve the future but to spread
confidence to others as well.

1934-35

At the September board meeting in 1934, the president was given
authority to divide the state and appoint six district directors. This was
an experimental plan. While a far-reaching decision, it was not until
1940 that such action became a part of the constitution. The growth of
the district organization is given in Chapter IV.

The year 1934-35 was to see an increase of 20 members bringing
the membership back to 2500. The need for a central place to keep records
was apparent. Also there was continued talk of a state history.

Internationally, discussion centered around what clubs can do to
formulate peace.

The chairman of the Florence Allen Scholarship Loan Fund in report-
ing said, "Prosperity now turning the corner, all of them [those receiving
loans] will make more rapid strides in the liquidation of the loans."

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The Ohio Federation grew. The roots were well planted. Prior to this
time the history of the Ohio Federation was based on the minutes of the
meetings and the reports of the state officers. Now it comes from the
records of special and standing committees, from district directors, from
the legislative program and from the special projects which constantly
develop and become a part of the state program. The growth of these
activities is found elsewhere in this history.

At the close of the year 1937, the balance in the state treasury was
$1,500.69. The plan of district organization was paying off; 630 had
attended the six district meetings. There were 530 registered at the conven-
tion. The state bulletin came out with a new name, Buckeye Businessette.

Because of the tremendous amount of business to come before the
convention body the time was changed so that the convention could
officially open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and continue through Sunday.

As storm clouds for another World War gathered, women were feeling
the pinch of being dropped from positions. The state president in her
report in 1940 said

"The National Federation came into existence at the close of World
War I because the government felt the need of an organization of
business and professional women. Now as what promises to be an
other world war has broken, we find various state governments ac-
cepting to take their women their rights to work. In 1938-39, 22
states including Ohio attempted to deny this right.

Before another three years passed, the field of industry, never before
open to women, was fairly crying for women.

The membership had been clamoring for an executive secretary
and recognition of the district directors. At the 1940 convention the
president included both in her recommendations. She set up the machinery
by which these could be accomplished by recommending a general re-
vision of the constitution.

The first executive secretary was appointed September 15, and plans of
work of the state chairmen were mailed out from a central office in October.


In 1942 the resolutions committee asked the membership for an Equal
Pay Bill. It took eighteen years to fulfill this request. Voting machines
were used at the state convention. The national organization cancelled
meetings because of transportation difficulties, but Ohio held its convention.

Ten years previously, women were virtually starving for positions. At
the spring board meeting it was reported that within a year "there will
be another 12 to 15 million women at work."

The membership chairman's report indicated that "clubs are beginning to include women
in industry in their members."

Melanie Menderson, a member of the Cincinnati Club, was introduced
at the 1943 convention as National Parliamentarian. Mrs. Menderson
had been appointed in 1940 to succeed Belle Loewenstein, a former member
from Ohio, but at that time a resident of California.
By convention action, the state board of directors of the Ohio Federation was given wartime emergency powers until the next state federation meeting. The 1943 National Biennial had been cancelled.

In 1943-44 the state board passed a resolution inviting the National executive committee to hold the next biennial meeting in Ohio.

The districts, now carrying part of the responsibility of the growth of the organization made up the subject of discussion at all board meetings. A few voiced an opinion to do away with them. There was a strong demand to make the directors members of the state board. And voices were heard for redistricting.

The year 1944-45 could easily be termed the Ohio Federation World War II Year.

That year a check for $2,807.98, contributed by local clubs, was presented to the American Red Cross for Ohio's War Project, the purchase and partial maintenance of a mobile kitchen unit to be sent to the British Federation, which had undertaken the task of helping to keep the men and women who manned the anti-aircraft batteries fed.

At the request of the U. S. Director of War Mobilization Reconversion that organizations hold no meetings "that will involve the assembly of 50 people which require transportation and hotel facilities," the annual meeting was cancelled and an election of state officers by mail was authorized in connection with the executive board meeting in June.

There was no question, the clubs of the Ohio Federation agree to be following the State and National Federation in en- deavoring to function on a wartime basis by practicing economies and sacrificing to their utmost in projects and activities allied with the war effort.

At the 1944 Biennial in New York, Marie S. Schaffer, of Wooster, was elected second vice-president of the National Federation. That same year Olive Huston, of Xenia, was appointed Director of Field Services for the National Federation. The National Federation accepted Ohio's invitation to hold the Biennial Convention in Cleveland in 1946. To finance the convention, the state board of directors asked that each club contribute $1.00 per capita toward entertaining the National Federation.

Ohio was close to fourth place in membership nationally at the close of the year 1944-45. There was a need for more suitable space for state headquarters. If we are to retain our effectiveness as an organization we cannot appear to be following the State and National Federation in even- tuation from the local clubs, was $4,306.42, it was worth it. The membership at the close of the year, June 30, 1946, was 5,725, a jump from 4,990 the previous year. It closed the year 1947 with 93 clubs and 6,504 members.

The attendance at the 1947 convention was 739. $500.00 was budgeted for the work of the legislative committee. The president in her report to the delegate body recommended a code of the possibility of exchange of a business or professional woman from Ohio with a business or professional woman from another country.

The year 1947-48 opened with eight districts. A budget of $600.00 was established for the official state magazine. By the close of the year 14 new clubs had been organized.

In 1948-49, 10 new clubs were organized, and the membership stood at 8,088. A Small Business committee was created, and a recommendation was approved to hold a school for presidents in June.

From 1950 to 1955, the number of clubs grew from 119 to 141, and the membership for the same period changed from 8,325 to 9,716.

Ohio was third in the nation with Pennsylvania second and California first. There was a need for more suitable space for state headquarters. Because of the amount of business to come before the delegate body, it was necessary to have the opening session of the state convention on Friday evening.

A resolution was drafted urging the delegates of the United Nations assembly todraft a charter to provide for pacific settlement of international disputes and added "that we commend the valiant efforts of these delegates to evolve an accepted charter." By Presidential order, the banquet speaker, a Congress-Woman-at-Large from Illinois, was not permitted to leave Washington because of the nation-wide railroad strike.

The holding of the National Biennial in Cleveland in July 1946 was a "shot in the arm" to the Ohio Federation. While the cost of the entertainment fund alone, which came directly from the local clubs, was $4,306.42, it was worth it. The membership at the close of the year, June 30, 1946, was 5,725, a jump from 4,990 the previous year. It closed the year 1947 with 93 clubs and 6,504 members.

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In 1952 the membership of the state reached 9,162. This membership placed Ohio third in the nation with Pennsylvania second and California first. There was a need for more suitable space for state headquarters. Because of the amount of business to come before the delegate body, it was necessary to have the opening session of the state convention on Friday evening.

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welcomed the dispensing of the programs outlined in the national federation magazine, *The Independent Woman*.

With the term of the state president limited to one year, the federation faced a new challenge which was so ably expressed in the president's report that year:

> As we approach the future, the vistas of opportunities are tremendous and the accomplishments and success of women are vividly portrayed in those opportunities.

The president's devotion and exertion of strength in cooperation with the president-elect are vitally important and absolutely necessary as we advance into the future of opportunities.

Attendance at the district leadership training meetings reached 901 in the year 1955-56.

As a means of furthering understanding of the work of the United Nations, the Ohio Federation sponsored its first trip to the UN in the fall of 1956.

At a luncheon in Columbus in January 1957, the Ohio Federation honored women elected to the Ohio Legislature in the preceding election in addition to women appointed to state policy-making posts. Over 900 members were present at this meeting.

At the 1957 state convention there was a total registration of 1,185. This year 35 clubs sponsored 37 girls to the 11th session of the Buckeye Girls State in Columbus.

In 1957-58, in addition to the United Nations Tour, a tour was sponsored to Washington, D.C. which included a visitation to the National Federation headquarters.

At the 1958 Biennial, Helen Reisinger, a member of the Cincinnati Club, was elected Recording Secretary of the National Federation.

The year 1958-59 could rightly be labeled Legislative Achievements. The Equal Pay Bill was passed. A Nursing Home Bill was co-sponsored by the Ohio Federation. Over 1,000 reservations had been received for the second all-Ohio luncheon honoring women in state government. While floods were pouring into every crevice of the State, it took the Mayor of Columbus and the Governor of Ohio to keep these members from fairly rowing into Columbus, so successfully had the word been spread of the 1957 occasion. Finally the rains, the mayor and the governor won. The meeting was cancelled and checks for reservations were refunded.

In the 40-year period only eleven members of the Ohio Federation, in addition to the state presidents, have been members of the board of directors of the National Federation.

In the beginning the membership of the Ohio Federation flourished. Those members who assisted in the organization of the National Federation were the leaders in the organization of the State Federation. Those Ohio women, devoted and loyal, watched over the national organization with an "eagle eye." The National Federation came first. The records of the Ohio Federation indicate the many "firsts" that were suggested in order to strengthen the National Federation. As it was strong so would