

Activities of Women's National Organizations

by REBECCA STILES TAYLOR

INDIANA CLUB WOMEN END FINE YEAR'S WORK UNDER PRESIDENT LENA HARRIS

LAFAYETTE, Ind.—The thirty-eighth annual convention of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's clubs was held July 8, 9, 10 at Lincoln school, Lafayette, Ind., with Mrs. Lena Harris, president, presiding. All sessions were open to the public.

Promptly at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday the executive board met with its chairman, Mrs. Lula Bean. The internal workings of the organization, its policy, financial transactions and important programs were discussed and adjusted.

The formal opening came at 3:30 p.m. with Mesdames Lena Harris and Helen Jefferson, first vice president, presiding. The general routine of opening was carried out, the report of the executive board read and acted upon, and a number of reports completed the afternoon meeting.

On Tuesday night a banquet was given the visitors at the Y.M.C.A. with Miss Minnie D. Hoffman in charge. After the presentation of the flag by Messrs. Charles Vaughn, Derwood Bandrent, Sterling McElwaine and Robert Semmes, Rev. M. W. Brandon made the invocation and the Second Baptist church woman's chorus sang. Offering welcomes to the convention were the mayor, Hon. Austin Killian, who was presented by Rev. Rufus Andrews, Rev. C. H. Jackson for the churches; Isabella Masse for the N.A.C.G.'s; Charles Williams for the Masons; S. H. Wharton for the citizens; Mary L. Hoffman for the Eastern Stars; Sterling R. McElwaine for the schools; Evelyn Bass for the Household of Ruth, and Rev. G. W. Williams for the Odd Fellows to all of which Mrs. Helen Jefferson of Indianapolis responded.

Interspersing musical numbers were had by Harold Robert Harris, Lafayette Music Advancers, Mrs. Fred Vaughn, Ein Zwei Drel Glee club, a quartette by Marjorie Bass, Charlotte Bass, Betty Bohannon and Bernice Bohannon; Mrs. Gilbert Patterson and the Phyllis Wheatley Girl Reserves. The state officers were presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Herod and the flag was retired. The benediction closed the exercise of the evening.

At the Wednesday morning session Mesdames Lena Harris, G. B. Hill, O. Beatty and E. Davis, presided. Mesdames Edna Isom and Minnie Williams were in charge of the quiet hour which preceded the day's work. Reports of the state club house by Mrs. Emma White, report of the trustee board by Mrs. Julia Reed and of the secretary of the state home by Cordella Garnett were heard; a panel discussion of the "Christian Church"; greetings from the clubs of Anderson, Crawfordville, East Chicago, Evansville and Fort Wayne were heard and a parliamentary drill by Miss Millie Hoffman completed the morning session.

Wednesday Afternoon

At the afternoon session Mesdames Lena Harris, Nannie Waddy and Malissa Cannady presided. A social service symposium was held by Mesdames Jessie Riggins, Y. K. DeArmund and Pauline Atkins. This was followed by reports of officers and heads of departments. Mrs. Edna Perdue, supervisor of girls, had an hour with the N.A.C.G. Visitors were introduced.

Wednesday Night

Miss Julia Jefferson presided. Fine arts, music, the state president's address and a playette along with musical selections composed the program. The president was presented by Past State President Carrie Crump. Atty. Carey Jacobs spoke on legislation.

Thursday Morning

Mesdames Lena Harris, Lula Bean and Sophia Mills presided. Memory hour was in charge of Mesdames Edna Isom and Minnie Williams. At this time the deceased club women were remembered. The Mother, Home and Child program was in charge of Mesdames Carrie Wilson, Nellie Smith and Gertrude Williams. An Educational Symposium was held by Mesdames Lula Lane, Armentia Ellis, Mary Reed and Misses Zerah Priestly and Myrtle Smith. Greetings were had from the clubs of Princeton, French Lick, West Baden, Gary, Muncie, Richmond, South Bend, Logansport, Shelbyville, Terre Haute, Rockport, Vincennes and Washington. The highlight of this session was the presence of Mrs. Oscar A. Ahlgren (white state president of Indiana club women and eight members of her staff. Her subject was "Holding Fast to Our Ideals of Freedom."

The historian, four district presidents, reports of officers and chairman of committees consumed the rest of the day. Mrs. Sallie W. Stewart reported \$2,077 raised in the drive for the club house in Indianapolis. The club women under Mrs. Harris raised \$3,500 during the club year. The officers elected were as follows:

Reelected were: Mrs. Lena Harris, Gary, president; Mrs. Helen Jefferson, Indianapolis, first vice president; Mrs. Anna Waddy, West Baden, second vice president; Miss Millie Hoffman, Lafayette, recording secretary; Mrs. Mary Hatfield, Gary, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Julia Jefferson, Indianapolis, man National Association of Color-treasurer; Mrs. Edna Perdue, chaired Girls of Indiana; and Mrs. Lula Bean, chairman of executive board.

New officers chosen were Mrs. Ollie Johnson, Indianapolis, state organizer; Mrs. Evelyn Davis,

Gary, auditor; Miss Verah Priestly, Evansville, statistician; Miss Myrtle Smith, Terre Haute, parliamentarian; Mrs. Edna Isom, Washington, chaplain; and Mrs. Emma White, Indianapolis, superintendent of the state club home.

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NORTHWESTERN CONGRESS A.M.E. CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EDUCATION

DES MOINES, Iowa—The fifth annual young people's congress which was held in St. Paul A.M.E. church, Des Moines, Iowa, July 8-10 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of leadership training among African Methodists of the Northwest and perhaps of the entire connection, for just fifty years ago, (May, 1891) in a district Sunday school convention then in session in Ottumwa, Iowa, a committee was appointed with the late Dr. J. W. Laws as its chairman, which committee outlined the first normal or teacher training course ever laid down for Sunday school teachers in the A.M.E. connection.

Because of this significant fact Mrs. S. Joe Brown, who had been appointed by Bishop John A. Gregg as conference superintendent of young people brought to Des Moines Bishop William A. Fountain, Sr., of Atlanta, Ga., who in addition to being the vice senior bishop of the church is president of the board of Christian education of the connection. He brought with him his wife, who is treasurer of the Connectional Women's Home and Foreign Missionary society. Both took prominent parts in the celebration of this Golden Jubilee.

About two hundred young people with their adult leaders were present from the states of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota and a three days' religious institute was held, with lectures being given to the various sections on the work of the Sunday school, the Allen Christian Endeavor League and the Junior Missionary work and to the entire delegation on the history of the American Negro and the history of the A.M.E. church.

Bishop Fountain conducted each day a seminar on the modern church for the pastors present. At the close of the congress certificates were awarded to those who had attended and turned in note books on the various lectures.

The concluding session was given to contests in oratory, voice and piano, the orators each speaking upon the subject "African Methodist Youth in a Changing World." The winners of which were (in oratory) Mr. Hobart Garrett of Des Moines; (in voice) Miss Gloria Williams of St. Paul, Minn., and (in piano) Miss Ruth Blaney of St. Paul, Minn.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were Miss Lucy Davis, Des Moines, president; Miss Bernice Allison, St. Paul, Minn., first vice president; Franklin Lintz, Ottumwa, Iowa, second vice president; Miss Loraine Curry, Minneapolis, Minn., secretary; Herman Cayton, Oskaloosa, Iowa, assistant secretary; and Miss June Henry, Davenport, Iowa, treasurer.

Bishop John A. Gregg, who was to have presided, was detained at the bedside of his wife, who passed away at their residence in Kansas City, Kan., on the last day of the congress and a delegation from the congress motored to Kansas City on the following day and attended the services held in Kansas City, some following her remains to her former home at Lawrence, Kan., where she was buried on Saturday, July 12.

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PENNSYLVANIA FED. DRAFTS ADELAIDE HARTY FLEMING PRESIDENT ANOTHER YEAR

Breaking a policy of some years, the Pennsylvania State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, Inc., meeting at Cheyney State Teachers college, on Tuesday re-elected Mrs. Adelaide Harty Fleming, R.N., as president, in a "draft" movement after Mrs. Fleming has literally begged that she be retired after serving four years.

With all sections of the state supporting the nomination, the Philadelphia was elected, carrying back into office with her all of her cabinet. On the same day members of the Junior State Federation re-elected Miss Bettie Cuff of Coatesville, as their president.

Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, president of the college, welcomed the federation and told of the outstanding scholarship of the five young women who were recipients of the federation's scholarships last year.

Gives Cheyney \$250

The Federation voted continuance of its annual scholarship aid to Cheyney totaling \$250 and appropriated \$50 donation to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and \$25 to the United Service Organizations. The latter came after a talk by Mrs. Lela Walker Jones, a member of the campaigning committees for USO which will build club houses for soldiers and other enlisted men.

Before the session was closed on Wednesday, the president was authorized to make presentations to the President of the United States and the governor, asking that these officials use their influence to prevent discrimination in defense industries.

Strengthening Stakes

When the convention was opened on Monday afternoon, Mrs. Fleming gave the president's annual address, speaking on the convention topic, "Strengthening the Stakes." She called for a strengthening of stakes in the race's use of its opportunities,

in the present campaign for integration into the national defense, in the old-time virtues of honesty and integrity.

This part of the program also heard a welcome from Mrs. Leslie Pinckney Hill; Mrs. Fannie E. Morton, Pittsburgh, treasurer of the federation, who responded, and Mrs. Hazel Garland, McKeesport, who presided.

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All officers were re-elected as follows: Mrs. Adelia Harty Fleming, R.N., Philadelphia, president; Mrs. Elma Veney, Homestead, vice president; Mrs. Susan J. Blockson, Sewickley, recording secretary; Mrs. Leafie White, Pittsburgh, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anna Corbin, West Chester, organizer; Mrs. Annie E. Morton, Pittsburgh, treasurer; Mrs. Helen L. Duckett, Philadelphia, parliamentarian; Mrs. Viola Hill Green, Philadelphia, publicity.

New trustees are Mrs. Jessie Moore, Rankin; Mrs. Annie Franklin, and Mrs. Jean Southern, Philadelphia.

Junior officers elected as follows: Miss Bettie Cuff, Coatesville, president; Miss Bessie Gibson, Pittsburgh, vice president; Miss Marie Ballimoree, Pittsburgh, recording secretary; Miss Elizabeth Brodnax, Philadelphia, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Bradford, Coatesville, financial secretary; Miss Hazel Howell, Homestead, treasurer; Miss Henrine Martin, Erie, parliamentarian; Miss Sarah Ball Trout, Coatesville, organizer for the east; and Miss Josephine Ralston, Erie, organizer of the west.

Future Called Challenge

The principal speaker was Miss Anna Brodnax, teacher at the Howard high school Wilmington, and national president of the National Business and Professional Women's clubs.

She traced the development and achievements of the Negro race, during the past years and pointed out the challenge of the future. Graduate of Oberlin college and Columbia university, and holder of the Phi Beta Kappa key, Miss Brodnax warned that "the Negro is entering new fields, in which he has never before been considered."

"Education is a vital necessity," she declared, "and an organization of women can do much to see that the men and youth of the race get the education and training necessary."

Women Have Part

She did not leave the women out of training programs, but reminded them that they must not overlook the important job of morale building that they can do at home and in peacetime occupations.

Also on the Monday evening program were the Rev. Dr. Winsmore Mason, pastor of Allen A.M.E. church, Philadelphia, who brought a "Message from the Christian Church;" G. James Fleming, chairman of the Participation of Negroes in National Defense and managing editor of the Tribune, who spoke on Negroes and the defense program; Mrs. Maude B. Coleman, state interracial consultant, who responded to Dr. Hill.