

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION  
of the  
New York Training School for Deaconesses

NEWSLETTER

November 1961

As you all know we attempted to have a meeting at Detroit in September of those attending General Convention. It is hard to find a suitable time for the members of the Alumnae Association to get together when everyone is busy in various ways before, during and after the very full program of General Convention. But try we did and ended up by having a Corporate Communion at Christ Church, followed by breakfast in the parish house, and then had our meeting in one of their lovely rooms. Those present included Dss. Edith Booth, Dss. Agnes R. Bradley, Dss. Amelia Brereton, Dss. Lillian Crow, Dss. Hilda L. Dieterly, Mrs. Allen J. Grey, Mrs. S. Janney Hutton, Dss. Ruth H. Parsons, Dss. Ruth Johnson, Esther B. Matz, Dss. Clara Searle, and Dss. Evelyn Seymour.

A letter from the President, Dss. Kate Mayer, was read and the discussion centered around the following question: What may be done to encourage interest in the Alumnae Association, and how best may this be accomplished? Would it be better to discontinue our efforts to hold an annual meeting and have the Executive Committee concentrate exclusively on helping to produce a yearly bulletin? (The majority who answered the request in the Annual Bulletin for some expression of opinion, said that they wanted to have this Bulletin continued.)

There was considerable discussion and the following suggestions are the result. The Bulletin to be continued. The dues notices to go out in the early spring, with a request for news items. The Executive Committee could then produce a Bulletin to be sent out in the early summer. Dues and Bulletin to continue annually, but a meeting be planned only each Triennium at the time and place of General Convention. However, any number of regional meetings could be held during the year, where ever "two or three are gathered together". These to be duly reported in the Bulletin. In this way the purpose of the Association, namely "fellowship" could be kept alive. The Triennial meeting, however, would be the official meeting, with an election of officers at that time. It was felt that the officers could be elected from the entire membership, and then the President could select the members of the Executive Committee from her vicinity so that they could work together during the triennium.

There have been a number of requests for an up to date list of names and addresses. This will be done after the first of the year. Would you please let us have your correct address, or that of any others you may know about. We have no addresses for several of our group.

Quote from a letter from Ethel B. Bellsmith, "I do think the Association should be continued. The fact that people continue to pay their dues must indicate an interest in the Association and in the News letter. "

Quote from letter from Betty Dugdale, " Like most of our Alumnae I cherish and value my training at St. Faiths. I believe I have used everything I learned there.....In my own parish I have been organist for the past thirty-one years, taught Sunday School, organized the Children's choir, etc.etc. and used all of my training. At Virginia House I have also benefited from my St. Faith's training - pouring tea! - even being sure that our beautiful linens were in order. "

" I do not think it matters really about the distribution of officers. These should include those who are interested and willing to work."

Deaconess Hutton came by Virginia House to see me.... I believe she is doing a wonderful work at the University of Virginia Hospital. I have never visited here there but my brother tells me that he knows of many cases of people whom she has helped which the doctors could not help. At the time of our visit we both agreed that we were glad that our training had been at St. Faith's with our two beloved deaconesses. I am sure that we received something there which you could not find elsewhere in training out of the school."

Meeting of the Executive Committee, November 4, 1961

Dss. Mayer, President; Mrs. Baxter, V. President; Dss. Seymour, Secretary; Dss. Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Basile, Mrs. Gledhill, and Miss Margery Ranger met at 2 P.M. to discuss the suggestions made by the group meeting in Detroit. All agreed they are worth considering, but what should we do about the By-Laws? Several changes would have to be made in order to work out these new plans.

It was decided by the group that this letter should go out, and everyone be given a chance to express herself. If you would care to take the time, the President would be glad to hear from you. Or, you may wait until Spring, when you will be given another opportunity to express your opinions.

It was decided that a meeting would be held in the spring in New York, and it would be hoped that there would be other groups in various parts of the country meeting to talk these things over. All ideas and expressions would be duly reported in the next issue of the Alumnae Bulletin.

In addition to the suggestions made at Detroit, the Executive Committee brought in the idea of belonging to the Association of Professional Women Church Workers. Some of our members already belong to both groups. Should we give up our own group, and those interested continue in this larger group?

There is also the question as to how our money should be spent. Who would have this authority? Who would make the decisions, or allotments, or decisions when appeals were made from time to time? Would this authority be vested in the Executive Committee? With triennial meetings it would be a long time between the times such matters could be voted upon. Perhaps a change in the By-Laws could take care of this.

This is a crucial time for our Association, so we ask each and every one to give this your serious thought, and let the President know how you feel about it. The present executive committee feels that it must carry on, and will welcome any help you care to contribute.

For any who do not have it handy:  
Deaconess Kate S. Mayer, President - 2914 Broadway, New York 25, N.Y.

Mrs. Frank W. Botthof, Treasurer, 851 Springfield Avenue, Summit, N.J.