

Farmer's union elects area officers

NEW CUMBERLAND - The Pennsylvania Farmers Union, which claims to have approximately 3,000 members state-wide, met here at the Sheraton Motor Inn on Monday and Tuesday of this week to hold its annual convention.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Union, as yet, is not large enough to hold its own charter, but is nevertheless, active and affiliated with the National Farmers Union which claims family memberships of nearly a quarter million. In the Tuesday afternoon session, 13 county organizations were either chartered or rechartered to allow for increases in membership. A list of those chapters, their presidents and respective home towns follows:

Lancaster County local, president over by Albert Mellinger of Strasburg.

York County local, Albert Bentz of Thomasville is president. He succeeded Albert Garber, who stepped down last Tuesday.

The Chester County local is led by Cox Shepherd of Cochranville, who along with Bentz was elected to serve as a director to serve on the executive committee.

The Perry County local has Truman Holman as president. He's a farmer from the Millerstown area.

Lehigh County's chapter selected Lester Loch of Kempton as president.

Franklin County's chapter president is Harold Goshorn, who hails from Dry Run.

Columbia County farmer, Paul Zeisloft of Danville heads the local in his County.

The Somerset local is headed by George Stahl, Somerset.

The Mercer County local has Robert Ross of Greenville at the helm.

In Washington County it's Irk McConnell who will preside over the local chapter.

Clarion County's local selection Ronald Whiting of New Bethlehem to head its unit.

Jefferson County Farmers Union local is presided over by Ivan Himes of Brookville.

Crawford County's Donald McNamara from Meadville is head of his County's chapter.

The two-day meeting, held just across the river from Harrisburg in the spacious facilities of the Sheraton, was attended by approximately 70 members and delegates from all over the state. Highlights of the affair included an address by the state's secretary of agriculture, Raymond Kerstetter; remarks by Edison Osborne who heads the Bureau of Markets within the Pa. Department of Agriculture; and Tony Dechant, National Farmers Union President.

Not being chartered yet, the Pennsylvania Farmers Union does not have its own offices and is guided instead by the national office. Forney Longenecker, who farms outside of Lititz, Lancaster County, serves as organizational director for Pennsylvania.

In continuous existence since 1902, the National Farmers Union has "Cooperation, Legislation, and Education" as its motto, and proclaims the protection



Albert Mellinger, president of the Lancaster County chapter of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, receives a newly signed charter from Bob Lewis of the National Farmers Union. The Pennsylvania Farmers

Union to date is not large enough to have its own charter and is therefore without state-wide officers. The group held its annual meeting in New Cumberland earlier this week.

of the family farm as its single most important purpose. It has used the term "union" - meaning "united effort" since its beginnings which was before labor organizations became widely identified with the term. The national organization's full name is

"Farmers' Education and Cooperative Union of American." Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, it is sometimes confused with the National Farmers Organization, which is an entirely different group. Prior to the convention's closing on Tuesday af-

ternoon, the group selected five people to serve on an executive committee for the advisory board which is comprised of the presidents of all local chapters. Lancaster County's Al Mellinger, Strasburg, was chosen as chairman. A dairyman with 275 head of

Northumberland unit, was elected to the position of vice-chairman on the executive committee. Irk McConnell from Washington County is to serve as secretary-treasurer.

The National Farmers Union convention will be held in New Orleans, March 14-17, it was announced, with Joe Gross being the Pennsylvania delegate to that affair. Albert Bentz was picked to serve on the policy drafting committee for the National Convention.

Holsteins (including youngstock), Mellinger is in his third year as a member of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union. He underlined the group's number one purpose as being "very strongly interested in the family farm."

Joe Gross, who heads the

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