

Farm Women Compared To Energizer Batteries

They Just Keep Going And Going

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)**

—“Farm Women are like Energizer Batteries,” said Fern Hitz, president of the Lebanon County Society. “They just keep going and going.”

Indeed, as the county societies reported on the activities of their 3,285 membership, it was evident that they have been spreading happiness across the state with numerous projects for the needy.

“But it isn’t all work,” said Barbara Malehorn, York County Society president, of the many fund raising events. “The only way to have and keep happiness is to give it. And the more we give, the more we have.”

Members from across the state convened in Harrisburg on January 11 to tell how they have spread

happiness, elect three new board members, and listen to inspiration speakers.

Although it was the 74th convention of the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania, it was the first time the convention was held for one day only instead of the customary two-day event.

The day-long meeting began at 9:30 a.m. in the Forum and ended with an evening banquet at the Penn Harris Inn, Harrisburg.

During the business session, members elected two new directors, Lois Laffey of Chester County and Janice Kress of Green County. Audrey Gilbert of Somerset County was elected secretary.

Lois Hughes, second vice president of the organization, reported that the societies lost 59 members, mostly through death during this past year, but gained 68 new members, which makes a net gain of nine members.



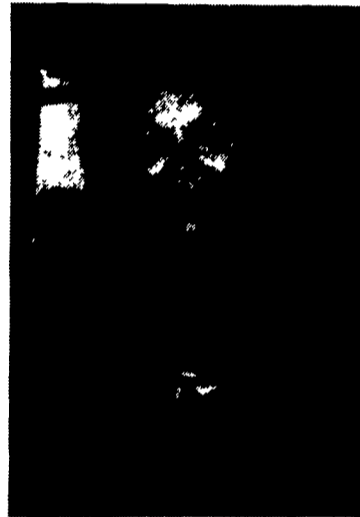
State officers of the Society of Farm Women are from left, Becky Swallon, Somerset Co.; Darlene Schmelts, Dauphin Co.; Lois Hughes, Cambria Co.; Dorothy Strickler, Berks Co.; Arlene Witman, Lancaster Co. Standing, from left, are Audrey Gilbert, Somerset Co., and Janice Kress, Greene Co.



President Arlene Witman put aside the new dress she had purchased for the banquet and wore this T-shirt instead to remind members to participate in the Heifer Project during the upcoming year.



Joanne Hershey encourages members to celebrate life.



Solist Helen Williamson, moved from Kentucky to York County six years ago when she and her husband purchased a farm. Helen joined Farm Women, who soon learned of Helen’s musical talent. She is now kept busy singing for churches and organizations. Helen said that her mother used to say that the neighbors did not need alarm clocks because Helen would wake up them with her singing.



Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Crystal Sweighoffer and Jan Harding, director of Pennsylvania Promotion and Dairy Princess Services, made an appearance at the Farm Women Convention.



The Melody Moms provided musical entertainment in the afternoon. From left are Torle Hostetter, pianist; Jean Zurlin, Mary Emrich, and Sandy Yocum, all of Lancaster County.

Twenty members observed 90-year-old birthdates for which they were honored with a Farm Women pin.

President Arlene Witman, who heads the societies, reported that she logged 3,500 miles as she traveled to county meetings. She



President Arlene Witman, center, receives a \$10,000 check from Naomi Bupp, right, as Joyce Bupp, left, looks on.

challenged everyone to participate in the heifer project with at least \$3 a member donated. Heifer Project International works to alleviate world hunger, one family at a time, by giving a heifer or other livestock to a needy family who then passes on one of the animal’s offspring to a needy neighbor.

During the afternoon session, a memorial service was held for members who died during the past year.

Naomi Bupp, who spearheaded the Farm Women’s Cookbook, presented a \$10,000 check for the scholarship fund. To date, \$44,000 has been donated to the fund.

Six scholarship winners who each received \$1,000 this past year include Lancaster countians Amy Fyock, Kathy Esbenschade, and



Jeffrey Balzer told of his rescue after he was lost for three days while climbing Mt. Washington.



The Hollyhocks, farm women members from Dauphin County, provided special music during the banquet.

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