



York Society of Farm Women officers for 1997 are, from left, Hester Hemminger, treasurer; Arlene Keener, president; Lois Manifold, first vice president; Dolly Sutton, secretary, and Sandy Hilty, second vice president.

## York Farm Women Celebrate Hospitality, Friends

**JOYCE BUPP**

**York Co. Correspondent**

**YORK (York Co.)** — In what has become a tradition of the past several years, members of the York County Society of Farm Women celebrated their annual meeting with an outpouring of support for those less fortunate around the community.

Funds from the Farm Women's annual charitable fundraiser raised about \$2,400, split among three York County charitable organizations. Checks for \$790 each were presented to York White Rose Hospice, New Life for Girls, and New Life for Children.

The check presentations were a highlight of the Society's county convention, held November 7 at Wisheaven Hall, with a theme of

"Hospitality and Friends."

Helping to fulfill that theme, members continued another tradition of filling a long row of tables inside the hall's entrance with donations of dry and canned foodstuffs and non-perishable household supplies. Those products were later packed and delivered by a committee of Farm Women members to southern York County's Mason-Dixon Food Bank, and New Hope Ministries, serving the Dover and Dillsburg areas of northern York County.

The more than 200 Farm Women attending the convention were not quite sure what to expect when their morning program guest, The Bag Lady, came hobbling up the center aisle on crutches.

Rita McGinty, an actress, first played a bag lady in a theatrical production. She was so taken with the character that she saved costumes and props and eventually was led to begin presenting a humorous-spiritual program on the homeless. Her jokes, quips, mini-skits and collection of outrageous hats — which she plunks on the heads of audience members — are interspersed with sobering facts about the nation's homeless. It was her 181st performance and she donates all proceeds to the Interfaith Family Shelter, a Harrisburg center for the homeless.

Before she was through, The Bag Lady had the Farm Women howling with laughter, several of them parading around the room decked out in her hats and ultimately on their feet for standing ovation.

In another tradition for the York Farm Women's unusual meeting, a candle lighting ceremony memorialized members who had died since the 1995 convention.

York County Dairy Princess Tanya Thoman, Dallastown, and Dairy Miss Heather Crowl, Airville, spoke with the Farm Women about milk and good nutrition, using a cow puppet and poster. Afternoon entertainment was a musical program by The Eppeihmers.

During the business meeting, Hester Hemminger, Glen Rock, was elected county Farm Women treasurer. She replaced retiring treasurer Treva Stiles. Other officers are Arlene Keener, president; Lois Manifold, 1st vice president; Sandy Hilty, 2nd vice president; and Delores Sutton, secretary.



Checks to three York community organizations were the fruits of the Farm Women's annual charitable fundraiser. President Arlene Keener presented \$790 checks to Karen Porter, representing the York White Rose Hospice and Jose Pachero, accepting for New Life for Girls. A third check was donated to New Life for Children.



Wearing The Bag Lady's collection of outrageous and colorful hats, several Farm Women were "volunteered" from the audience for a chorus and hat parade.

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