

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On May 1, 1966, at 2:00 P.M., the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Headquarters will be dedicated. I trust that each of you shares my sense of excitement, as we move into this fascinating and challenging new state of development of our great organization. The quality and effectiveness of our work will increase many fold because of our new home.

It will be possible for our members from all over the State to meet here because of the location at the crossroads of our great highway system. I trust that clubs will hold affairs in our distinguished board room adjacent to our efficient kitchen. As many as five groups may use the building at one time for committee meetings, workshops, seminars or social events. Excellent storage has been provided for our important records and papers. We plan to have our lounge as a meeting place at all times for Federation friends; Samuel Johnson said, "A man, sir, should keep his friendships, in constant repair." What better place!

When this administration began, it was our intention to develop a Headquarters Fund, never dreaming that so quickly our building would be a reality, but through the efforts of our Headquarters Chairman and Committee and our members, a dream came true. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

We have reached other goals in this two years, a steady increase in membership, an advance in the personal development of our members, greater assistance to education both financially and morally, a closer rapport with other State women's organizations and with our Governor and legislators. We have studied and used many programs from our General Federation in this the Diamond Jubilee Year; and most of all we have had a desire for a broader outlook on national and international affairs.

As I come to this final editorial, my heart is full of gratitude to all of you, and to our Junior and Evening Membership Departments. Our future is bright because of your vision and courage and the fine supply of dedicated, imaginative and talented women in our midst.

"To be alive in such an age

With every year a lightning page
Turned on the world's great wonder book
Whereon the leaning nation's look
Where men speak strong for brotherhood
For peace, and universal good,
Where miracles are everywhere and every inch of common air
Throbs a tremendous prophecy of greater marvels yet to be."

—Angela Morgan



From the October 1966 NJSFWC CLUBWOMAN Magazine

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC



Headquarters 50th Anniversary Celebration November 19, 2015

NJSFWC HEADQUARTERS 50th ANNIVERSARY

- May 1964** President Lavenia S. Taylor announced at Convention that building a permanent Headquarters for NJSFWC would be the primary project of her administration.
- June 1964** Headquarters Committee proposed a fundraising project "Stamp of Approval" with the collection of green stamps.
- July 1964** Rutgers University President Dr. Mason Gross, an NJSFWC supporter, suggested 2 acres of land where headquarters now stands.
- December 1964** Rutgers University Board of Trustees and NJSFWC Board of Directors entered into long term lease to build on this site.
- January 1965** An architect, James S. Jones, AIA, was engaged to draw plans, as sufficient funds had been raised to cover this cost.
- February 1965** The General membership along with the EMD and Junior memberships raised \$17,000 to date through the stamp project. Each member was asked to contribute 1 filled book or \$2.00.
- March 1965** A rally was held at Voorhees Chapel on Douglass campus to give clubs information on the Headquarters project. More than 500 clubwomen viewed the floor plans and directions to the site.
- May 1965** At Convention, the members ratified the actions taken by the Board of Directors to build Headquarters. The lease was officially signed for 50 years with a renewal clause, with an annual rent of \$880.
- July 1965** The estimated cost was between \$73,000-\$157,000. The actual cost was nearly \$145,000. At this time more than \$53,000 had been received from the "stamp project".
- September 1965** The NJSFWC Fall Conference was held on Douglass campus. A ground breaking ceremony was held at the proposed site. President Taylor lifted the first shovel.
- October 1965** The construction bid was awarded to Melvin P. Windsor for \$122,286 with completion date of June 1, 1966. With \$60,000 raised, construction began. General Electric offered to install the kitchen appliances free of charge.
- November 1965** The committee learned that Public Service Electric and Gas offered to install the gas free of charge.
- January 1966** The building was enclosed and the slate tile roof, which was donated by the contractor, was in place.
- April 1966** The parking lot was finished and landscaping grounds was a project of the Conservation and Garden department, funded by stamps and donations.
- May 1966** On May 1st at 2:00 p.m. the Headquarters building was formally dedicated with 300 people in attendance and \$134,228 raised. The dream of the 45,000 clubwomen became a reality.
- April 2015** 50 years since the original land lease agreement was signed. A renegotiated land lease was signed at the end of April 2015 and includes a lease extension for a minimum of 25 years with an annual lease of \$ 21,216 for the next ten years.
- NJSFWC Headquarters building is in constant use; between Board meetings, committee meetings, District events and even club meetings, which any club can hold once a year at Headquarters for no charge. It truly has proven to be one of Federation's wisest investments. We hope you take advantage of this great asset.