

NASSW

Membership Newsletter

January, 1952

I. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.

A meeting of the Temporary Inter-Association Council will be held in New York on February 2-3, 1952. The reports from the various Membership Associations will be considered at the meeting and action is to be taken on those reports.

It is gratifying to have had such wide participation from our membership in this most important decision. The Executive Committee of NASSW studied carefully the votes and comments of our membership and the report which will go to the TIAC meeting is based entirely on membership vote. A full report will be contained in the March Newsletter.

The Constitutional Convention to bring into existence the Council on Social Work Education is scheduled for January 28th. A report on this will come in the March Newsletter.

The Annual Conference of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development will be held in Boston (Hotel Statler), February 10-14. Mr. Arno Bellack, Executive Secretary of that Association has again given NASSW the privilege of having school social workers act as resource people in the various study groups of the Conference. Miss Abell and other members of the NASSW Program Committee provided Mr. Bellack with names of a number of school social workers who might serve in this capacity.

We are happy to report that the International Council on Exceptional Children has invited NASSW to have a representative on their Advisory Council. Miss Abell, who has been working closely with ICEC, reported this splendid opportunity to the Executive Committee. It is hoped that the name of our representative can be included in the next Newsletter.

The Annual Convention of ICEC, beginning on May 2, 1952, will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

II. PLAN OF WORK OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR 1952

Alma Laabs, Chairman of Regional Representatives has outlined the major points in the program undertaken by Regional Representatives, for the year, as follows:

1. Stimulate both professional and contributing memberships.
2. Assist the Board Finance Committee
(Possible plans for work have been submitted to Regional Representatives).
3. Stimulate talks and discussion groups on social work in education at local, state and regional meetings of both educational and social work groups.
4. Recruit professional material for possible use in the Bulletin.
5. Keep the National Office informed of various developments in the regions.
6. Keep the Regional Board members informed regarding their own regions so they can more adequately represent the Region in Board and Executive Committee meetings.

Miss Laabs is planning also to hold a meeting of Regional Representatives at the National Conference of Social Work in Chicago, May 25-30, 1952.

**III. TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK,
MAY 25-30, 1952, CHICAGO**

Miss Irma E. Mohr, Chairman of the Program Committee, reports a tentative program of Association meetings to be held at the National Conference of Social Work. The program promises to be stimulating and helpful. If you are planning to attend the Conference, do not delay longer in making your reservations. See September and November Newsletter for instructions.

Here is the tentative program:

Tuesday, May 27th

2 to 3:30: Plans are under way for a joint meeting with American Association of Social Workers for a panel discussion on the study of school social work undertaken by the two associations.

4 to 5:30: Business meeting followed by a cocktail party.

Thursday, May 29th

2 to 3:30: Planning for School Children in a Period of Crisis

Chairman - Miss Opal Boston, President, NASSW
Speaker - Dr. Helen Ross, Administrative Director
Institute for Psychoanalysis
Chicago, Illinois
Discussant to be announced.

4 to 5:30: Round table on the School Social Worker's Role in Interpretation within the School Setting

Chairman - Miss Carmelite Janvier, Director of Special Services, New Orleans, Louisiana
Participants - Jerry Kelly, Winnetka, Illinois
Alice Laden, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Margaret Porter, Bureau of Child Guidance, New York City
Others to be announced.

8:30 P.M.: The School Social Worker's Responsibility for Developing Resources in a Rural Area

Chairman - Mrs. Marguerite Robb, Visiting Teacher
Colorado Springs Public Schools
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Panel Discussants - Virginia Quattlebaum, Visiting Teacher, Tifton, Georgia
Emil Sunley, Director of School of Social Work, Denver University, Denver, Colorado.
Others to be announced.

IV. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MENTAL HEALTH

We know that Irma E. Mohr and Alma Laabs attended the International Congress on Mental Health held in Mexico City, December 11-19. Miss Mohr very generously agreed to meet our request for a brief summary so that some highlights might be shared with you through the Newsletter. You will be interested in the excellent report she has written:

"The Fourth International Congress on Mental Health, held in Mexico City from December 11th through December 19th, included representatives from thirty-eight countries. The majority of representatives came from North America and the Latin Americas, and there was real opportunity for the Americas to exchange points of view and to share common interests.

The people of Mexico entertained the delegates of the Congress royally including a memorable reception at the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, a visit to the new university in process of construction on the outskirts of Mexico City, a tea given by the Social Workers of Mexico, a luncheon given by the Press of Mexico and a Posada or Christmas party, in which the old Mexican customs were observed.

In keeping with its previous programs, the Congress emphasized the broader aspects of mental health including community aspects of mental health, mental health problems of transplantation migration, occupational mental health and mental health in children. In connection with the last topic, papers were presented in relation to the mental health of children at various age levels including some fascinating discussions of the relationship between child rearing and culture patterns.

In addition to technical and plenary sessions, the Congress maintained a series of working groups where the delegates joined in spontaneous discussion of problems related to mental health. I was fortunate enough to be included in a working group on Human Relations in the School chaired by Dr. H.S. Kraines of Chicago. Included in the group were psychiatrists, educators, psychologists and social workers. One of the outstanding members was Mrs. Anne Norvig, principal of an experimental school in Copenhagen, Denmark. Other members came from throughout the United States and from the Latin Americas. The committee gave itself to a consideration of the broader administrative factors which might further human relations in the school and in its report to the Congress made the following recommendations:

1. That the interest of the community in the schools be effectively stimulated through the use of a wide variety of techniques.
2. That the Board of Education in each community be non-partisan and be devoted to creating those facilities and that atmosphere most conducive to the development of the child.
3. That school administration be as decentralized and as democratic as is possible within the existing legal

framework as to stimulate the individual initiative and imagination of all school personnel.

4. That teachers both in pre-service training and in in-service training be assisted in developing greater insight into the dynamics of human relationships; that this be made possible through the active participation of teachers in a variety of experiences with children, family and community; and that in the interpretation and evaluation of these experiences, the teacher have continuously help toward deepening her understanding of mental health implications.
5. That a permanent committee of the World Federation for Mental Health on Human Relations in the School be formed for the continuous study of this problem and be authorized to assemble and evaluate and distribute information on the diverse approaches to mental health in schools of different countries.

Dr. Kraines has agreed to serve as Chairman of this permanent committee and the conference members of the working group have also agreed to continue their membership on this permanent committee. The NASSW, from time to time, will, no doubt, be asked to contribute material to further the work of this committee on Human Relations in the School."

V. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Mrs. Regina Collins, Supervisor, Social Work, Denver Public Schools, writes that they have three additional staff positions this year.

Lucile Abell gave a paper at the Massachusetts State Conference of Social Work in late November on "Social Work Within the Framework of the School." The general topic for the session was Common Goals of Education and Social Work. Two school administrators also participated in the panel.

There was one change in the NASSW Program Committee. Charles Ramsay, Saginaw, Michigan is a member of the Committee rather than Mrs. Regina Collins, Denver.

Some members of the Illinois Chapter of School Social Workers sold fruit cakes again this year as a fund raising plan for NASSW.

At least six, and perhaps more, members from Georgia are planning to attend the National Conference of Social Work. Several from Ohio, a large number of the Indianapolis staff and many of the Illinois workers are also planning to attend. Because of the large concentration of school social workers in the Middle West, we are looking forward to a large attendance at the Conference and opportunities to know each other better.

The Illinois Chapter of School Social Workers completed its organization this past fall and has made plans for regular activity.

There will be a further report from the Finance Committee in the March Newsletter.

The National Midcentury Committee for Children and Youth, Inc. moved its headquarters to New York in the fall. The new address is 160 Broadway, New York 7, New York.
