HISTORY

Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs

by

Mrs. Frederic Libke

I
BEGINNINGS

1915 - 1920

1915 - Mrs. Clark J. Tisdell, president of Muskogee Musical Arts Society, was appointed President of Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs by National Federation of Music Clubs for purpose of organizing the state federation. The attempt being unsuccessful, Mrs. Tisdell resigned. Some Oklahoma music clubs continued to pay dues to NFMC, with the result that a few Oklahoma clubs have music-federation-membership pre-dating OFMC organization, e.g., Tulsa Hyeckha's NFMC membership dates from 1913; Muskogee Musical Arts' from 1916. (Some clubs confuse their early general-federation membership with music-club-federation membership.)


* Muskogee
*** Muskogee
* Muskogee
*** Tulsa
*** Tulsa
*** McAlester
*** Sapulpa
*** Okmulgee
** Stigler
* Tahlequah
** Claremore
** Nowata

Musical Arts Society
Ladies Saturday Music Club
Music Study Club
Hyeckha
Piano Study Club
Fortnightly Music Department
Symphony Music Club
Wednesday Morning Music Club
Musical Coterie
Music Club
Harmony Music Club
Wednesday Music Club
* Named in Muskogee Phoenix, April 3, and/or April 4, 1917, and elsewhere.
** Named in 1932 Souvenir Edition Ckmulgee Sunday Times-Democrat, giving
   as source organization-meeting "Minutes in possession of Mrs. A. D.
   Cochran, Sec'y."
*** Named in both publications.

Mrs. Bevitt resigned August 1917 on moving from the state. Mrs. Elmo
Wilkins, First Vice President, automatically succeeded to presidency. Other
officers elected at organization meeting included Mrs. Claude L. Steele,
Muskogee, Second Vice President; Mrs. A. D. Cochran, Okmulgee, Secretary;
and Mrs. Maude Whitaker Harmony, Sapulpa, Treasurer.

1917-1920 Mrs. Elmo Wilkins, 2nd President. December, 1917, Mrs. Ora
Frost, Tulsa, elected 1st Vice President by mail ballot. By spring
of 1918, four more clubs had joined OFMC, to make the total membership
sixteen:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bartlesville</th>
<th>Musical Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ardmore</td>
<td>Philharmonic</td>
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<td>Enid</td>
<td>Madrigal</td>
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<td>Sapulpa</td>
<td>Fiducia</td>
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Second state Convention, Okmulgee, March 28-29, 1918. Due to World War I,
flu epidemic, post-war depression -- no conventions in 1919 and 1920. For
two years OFMC inactive, but organization status maintained, and (some) clubs
paid music-federation dues to State and/or National. Mrs. Wilkins withdrew
from Federation activity due to illness in her home.

OFMC: 16

II

The TWENTIES

1920-1921 Mrs. Ora Lightner Frost, 3rd President. Feeling is strong on
the part of those whose memories go back to this time, with these
three viewpoints variously held:

1- Mrs. Frost, as 1st Vice President, automatically became president when
   Mrs. Wilkins became inactive, even tho Mrs. Wilkins did not resign.
2- Mrs. Frost did not become president, but merely acting-president.
3- Mrs. Frost was President of Hyeckha District -- and as District President,
   not State President, directed OFMC's re-activation in 1920.

A State Board meeting was held in Tulsa. CALL was issued in December, 1920,
for State Convention in Oklahoma City in January, 1921. Theme: "Mid-winter
Mrs. O. R. Hisel Honored
By Music Club Federation

Of interest not only to her many friends and acquaintances in Muskogee, but throughout the state of Oklahoma, will be the news that Mrs. O. R. Hisel, 408 South 15th Street, has been awarded a citation by the Oklahoma State National Federations of Music Clubs for her work in correcting early history records of the Oklahoma Federation.

The year 1921 was used by both Federations as the time the Oklahoma Federation was organized. Correctly, the Oklahoma Federation was organized in Muskogee in April, 1917. At that time sixteen music clubs of Oklahoma met at the call of Mrs. F. D. Bevitt, President of the Musical Arts Society, the hostess club.

Mrs. Bevitt, called this meeting upon the request of Mrs. A. J. Ochsner, the National President. Mrs. Bevitt, an outstanding organist, was elected the first president of the new Oklahoma Federation. Four months later she resigned due to the family moving to Jamestown, New York. Mrs. Elmo Wilkins of McAlester, then vice-president, succeeded Mrs. Bevitt as president and served a period of four years.

The correction in history record due to Mrs. Hisel's work has been accepted by both State and National Federations of Music Clubs.

Mrs. Hisel will be presented the citation at the state convention next April when it convenes in Lawton. She is historian of the Musical Arts Society, and also historian for the Northeast District of the Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs.