

CONVENTION HISTORY FROM THE HISTORIAN

by Margie Bohn, CCPPNS Historian

The history of parent participation nursery schools, otherwise known as “co-ops”, begins at the University of Chicago in 1915, and in California ten years later when a school was started in Berkeley under the guidance of Katherine Whiteside Taylor. These women, in a time of hats and gloves, not only wanted a cooperative play situation, but one of their primary interests was child development and parent education; so then, as now, they had discussions and speakers at their meetings.

As the coop movement spread area councils, beginning in the 1940’s, were formed as a channel for information and exchange of ideas. (Sound familiar? Though we call it networking.) The first area council was East Bay in 1946 with 10 schools, followed in 1947 by Los Angeles with 7 schools. In 1948 Northern and Southern council members came together to form the statewide organization that eventually was named California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools. (CCPPNS). They had yearly business meetings alternating north and south (ring a bell?) to which they added discussion groups / seminars (workshops?) Dating back to 1953, in Los Angeles the major emphasis was review of the constitution and business. In 1954 the group met in Long Beach and besides business had 6 discussion groups. A theme, “ Research Points the Way” was chosen to guide the 1955 meeting. These annual daylong meetings evolved into CONVENTION.

Over the years each convention committee has given every effort to continue the original focus of the “founding mothers” with educational workshops, adding a dynamic keynote speaker, good food, and vendors with a variety of wares. In recent years the convention, now spread over two days, has reached out to the entire family with workshops for dads, care and activities for children, concerts, puppet shows, and other special events. IT’S FOR EVERY ONE!

The convention is planned for you – each of you, so whatever “hat” you are wearing, whether parent, board member, director, and or teacher there is something special for you. Of course we all benefit from the great workshops, however there are special workshops for developing leadership of board members, as well as discussion groups and networking sessions for directors and teachers where the new and experienced learn from one another. IT’S FOR EVERYONE!

As worthwhile as the keynote and workshops are, an added bonus is the meeting and mixing with people from all over California, and when you leave convention you will realize you have developed a wonderful warm feeling of belonging, and a general understanding of the purpose and dynamics of CCPPNS.

From 1953 to 2003 the essence of convention had grown and developed into an exciting and rewarding event – not to be missed. And this year PCPI, the international organization, whose president is our own Susie Stone, will join us for a concurrent convention. How great is that! IT’S FOR EVERYONE!

So – READ the INFORMATION about CONVENTION in beautiful SAN FRANCISCO in this issue of the PRESCHOOLER.

Put the DATE on the CALENDAR so you won’t miss it.

Since Convention IS FOR EVERYONE – it is everyone’s responsibility to spread the word; Area Councils, Directors, Board Members, Parents.

PLAN NOW, so you can -

- Benefit from the information
- Enjoy the fun
- Share the Camaraderie

Look forward to seeing you there.

Margie Bohn
CCPPNS Historian