

AN APPRAISAL OF OREGON'S
FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION
BASED ON JUDGMENTS OF MEMBERS

by

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A THESIS

submitted to

OREGON STATE COLLEGE

in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the
degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

June 1953

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Date thesis is presented

April 27, 1953.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to express her sincere gratitude to Dr. May DuBois for her unflinching guidance, patience, criticisms, and valued suggestions throughout this study.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made to Mildred Deischer, state adviser of the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America, for her interest and assistance, and to the writer's husband, George Varseveld, for his inspiration and encouragement during the writing of this thesis.

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AN APPRAISAL OF OREGON'S
FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION
BASED ON JUDGMENTS OF MEMBERS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Future Homemakers of America is the national organization for young people who are or have been studying homemaking in junior or senior high school. Inter-related with the homemaking curriculum, Future Homemakers of America provides opportunities for the development of each individual student through the carrying out of activities pertaining to homemaking education.

The Future Homemakers of America is an incorporate non-profit youth organization. Through the cooperative efforts of the American Home Economics Association, the Home Economics Division of the U.S. Office of Education, and youth enrolled in homemaking in secondary schools, the FHA organization was established in 1945.

Within the structure of the national organization, the state groups, supported by local chapters, perpetuate the objectives and goals of FHA. As stated in the Future Homemakers of America Official Guide:

The Future Homemakers of America brings together state groups interested in and working toward better home and family living, provides opportunities to share in solving problems important to home

life, and sponsors group projects, local, state and national in scope; it increases opportunities for the development of leadership and intelligent participation so much needed in a democratic society. (4, p.1)

The Oregon association received its charter in 1946. It was the twenty-sixth to be accepted by the national organization. During the first year, Oregon's association included 48 affiliated chapters with a total membership of 2,045 members. In 1950-51, when this study was started, there were 84 chapters with a membership of 3,502.

The eight national purposes developed by the youth at the first national meeting are the foundation upon which the Oregon program is planned. These purposes of FHA, listed in the constitution, are as follows:

Purpose I: To promote a growing appreciation of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking.

Purpose II: To emphasize the importance of worthy home membership.

Purpose III: To encourage democracy in home and community life.

Purpose IV: To work for good home and family life for all.

Purpose V: To promote international goodwill.

Purpose VI: To foster the development of creative leadership in home and community life.

Purpose VII: To provide wholesome individual and group recreation.

Purpose VIII: To further interest in home economics. (4, p.8)

Because the FHA purposes are guides for the local FHA chapters in choosing their activities and the yardsticks for measuring the chapters' success in meeting youth's needs, these purposes will be used as criteria to determine how the values which the FHA members recognized they received from belonging to this organization contribute toward the fulfillment of the purposes. Only through strong local organizations can the national purposes be achieved.

It is the purpose of this study to gain information which will help determine how effectively some local chapters in Oregon are carrying out the stated purposes of Future Homemakers of America. An understanding of the values members received from their FHA group may give insight as to how these purposes are fulfilled in the local chapters.

It is believed by the author that this study of Oregon's Future Homemakers of America may help the state FHA adviser, the state advisory board, FHA advisers as well as FHA members in their efforts to strengthen the total state program. It will also help individual chapters strengthen their efforts in working toward the eight purposes of FHA.

Statement of Problem

The purpose of this study is to make an appraisal of Oregon's Future Homemakers of America organization based on the judgments of members. This appraisal will attempt to answer the following questions:

1. How representative of the Oregon association of the Future Homemakers of America are those members whose judgments are used in this study?
2. What background experiences have the 600 respondents had:
 - a. In homemaking classes.
 - b. In membership in FHA.
 - c. In leadership positions in FHA.
 - d. In degrees earned in FHA.
 - e. In attending district, state or national meetings.
3. What judgments do the respondents reveal as related to:
 - a. Personal development.
 - b. Social development.
 - c. Community participation.
 - d. International understanding.
 - e. Club activities.
 - f. Homemaking participation.
4. How do the judgments of the respondents show that the Oregon chapters of FHA are meeting the purposes of Future Homemakers of America?

Summary

The Future Homemakers of America, a national organization for youth who are or have been enrolled in homemaking classes is strengthened by state groups which in turn are supported by local chapters. It is the strong local

chapters which perpetuate the purposes of the national organization.

The purpose of this study is to gain information based on judgments of FHA members in the state of Oregon which will help determine how effective the local chapters in Oregon are carrying out the eight stated purposes of the Future Homemakers of America.

Thus, the eight purposes of the national organization were used as criteria to determine how nearly the values which FHA members recognized they received contributed toward the achievement of these purposes.

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION

History

The development of the national Future Homemakers of America organization was an outgrowth of the interest of home economics educators. In individual home economics clubs found in high schools throughout the United States, they saw the possibilities of strengthening the goals of home economics education. Because these leaders recognized these home economics clubs as great potentials for strengthening education for home and family living, they determined to help to organize a strong national group.

Over a period of 20 to 25 years, high school home economics clubs had functioned under different types of organizations and with varying degrees of success. Some states had state organizations. Several of these were known as Future Homemakers. Others were called Junior Homemakers and Betty Lamp clubs. Usually the state organizations were under the leadership of the home economics supervisory staff of the state departments of education, or a committee of the state home economics association.

The American Home Economics Association was one of the first groups to sponsor high school home economics

clubs. Working mainly through the state home economics association, the organization of these clubs was a loose one, and the success largely depended upon the home economics teacher in each school and the person willing to act as state home economics club chairman. The value of unified effort in doing something to improve the club program was realized by the members of the American Home Economics Association. The first attempt at a national organization of all home economics clubs was under their direction and study.

A committee representing the American Home Economics Association was appointed in 1943 to study high school clubs. Some of the representatives were of the belief that the club programs could be improved by uniting the efforts of all club members towards the same goal of improving home and family life. Invitations were extended to each state to attend the national meeting to consider the development of a united organization. Vines (15), in summarizing a report by the Interim Committee on High School Home Economics Clubs, June, 1944, stated that a group of home economics education workers from 29 states met in Chicago on March 30th at the invitation of the American Home Economics Association. The Interim Committee again met preceding and during the American Home Economics Association convention. The Committee's report

stated that because there had been such variety of high school home economics organizations during the past, it proposed a plan for unifying the home economics clubs into a national organization. (15, p.15)

Plans were set up for the formation of this national organization under co-sponsorship of the American Home Economics Association and Home Economics Education Division of the U.S. Office of Education. It was also determined that the organization would grow through the efforts of the various home economics groups.

It was the goal of the home economics leaders that this organization should be a youth group in which the young people should have a large share in the founding and organization. To accomplish these goals the United States was divided first into regions and then into sub-regions. Then a group of students and their teacher-advisers were chosen by the schools in these sub-regions to represent their groups. These groups met in order to think through some of the purposes of this organization.

The necessary steps for founding the organization were carried through by representatives of each sub-regional group. These representatives were nominated at the sub-regional meetings as candidates for national offices. These candidates met for a week planning how to organize. As the basis of the work for the week, these

national representatives used the recommendations made by the sub-regional meetings. Plans for organizational procedure and a provisional constitution were set up at this meeting. The creed, name and purposes were of the girls' own choosing. Thus, Future Homemakers of America came into being. June, 1945, is celebrated as the date of the founding. (4, p.2)

Because this was to be strictly a pupil organization, the place of the adults was to guide and advise and to do only those things which were beyond what high school young people could and should do. The accomplishments during the first year on the national level were overwhelming. Frost, the first national adviser, listed the following as tangible evidences:

1. An independent organization was set up with office space and equipment with a headquarters staff.
2. A well-established system of working units at the national, regional, state and local levels had been developed.
3. The Official Guide was published.
4. Teen Times, national magazine, was distributed three times during the year.
5. FHA was an incorporated organization which had the power to grant state charters. Fifteen clubs qualified the first year.
6. The emblem as a trade mark was available in pins.

7. The first national meeting was planned and financed as well as 12 regional meetings. (1, p.157)

Frost (2), in 1946, related the tangible evidences of growth on the part of the members who attended the first national convention:

1. Girls carried on business meetings with a knowledge of parliamentary procedure that would shame adults.
2. Plans were made for community projects.
3. The members discussed freely, with no inhibitions, about the problems confronting young people today, and the adults present were amazed with their mature suggestions for solving the problems. (2, p.392)

Wyckoff (16, p.533) stated that by the year 1948 the Future Homemakers of America had repaid the loan of \$7,200 to the American Home Economics Association for the cost of the first national convention. Membership had grown from 92,516 in 1945, to 235,000 members in 1948.

The organization was planned to be of definite value to individual members, the school, community and the homemaking program. An aid to the understanding of the function of Future Homemakers of America in the homemaking program is found in certain statements in the introduction of the Official Guide:

The Future Homemakers of America is the national organization of pupils studying homemaking in junior and senior high schools of the United States and Territories. As an integral part of the program of home economics in the schools of America it offers

opportunity for the further development of pupil initiative in planning and carrying out activities related to homemaking.

The Future Homemakers of America brings together state groups interested in and working toward better home and family living, provides opportunities to share in solving problems important to home life, and sponsors group projects, local, state and national in scope; it increases opportunities for the development of leadership and intelligent participation so much needed in a democratic society.

.
It came into being through the cooperative efforts of youth enrolled in homemaking in secondary schools in building a national organization of their own in which they may develop social qualities and promote better home life for its members and their families.
(4, p.1)

Organization

The Future Homemakers of America is composed of chartered state associations. At the present time (1953), 47 states and two territories compose the national organization. The state associations are made up of chapters in junior and senior high schools offering homemaking. The chapter is the functioning unit of each school and is usually designated by the name of the school. The girls early decided to use the term "chapter" rather than "club" for the local organization. (6, p.12)

Membership

Membership in FHA is wholly voluntary. Any pupil, boy or girl, enrolled in homemaking and those who have been enrolled for at least a term are eligible for membership. By virtue of the fact that there are many more homemaking classes for girls than for boys, the organization is predominantly made up of girls. Provisions are made for active, associate and honorary membership. Those boys or girls in secondary schools who qualify for membership are active members whereas associate members are those persons who were past members but are no longer in high school. Associate members are not allowed to hold office or vote.

Honorary membership is given to those persons who have advanced the homemaking program or rendered outstanding services to FHA. Honorary members may be elected by the majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Officers and Advisers

There are three levels in the organization of Future Homemakers of America: local chapters, the state organizations, and the national organization. Officers for all three are elected annually. Usually there are nine officers in both the state and national units but the number

of chapter officers varies with the need of the group.

National officers usually meet prior to a national meeting on the alternate years when there is such a meeting, or upon call. The state officers meet for two days prior to the state meeting and for one week in August to plan the state program of work.

The executive council at each level is composed of the adolescent officers and adult advisers. At the local level, there is an executive council made up of the local officers and homemaking teacher who serves as adviser. State advisers are selected by the state supervisor of homemaking education, in cooperation with the state advisory board or committee. At the national level there is an executive council made up of national officers of the Future Homemakers of America, the national adviser, and four chapter advisers who serve without vote. The national adviser is appointed by the national advisory board.

(4, p.4)

Program of Work

Annually at the national meeting the national officers and advisers develop what is termed as a program of work for the year. This program is based on the purposes of the organization, and gives suggestions for group and individual activities which will be helpful to FHA

chapters for attaining the eight stated purposes. Included in the national program of work are suggestions for projects which state associations or individual affiliated chapters might carry out. One project suggested by the national officers was that of adopting a homemaking class in another country, especially emphasizing the importance of having "pen pals."

In turn each state association develops a program of work including suggestions from the national program of work and national projects.

Local chapters then follow the national and state programs of work in so far as they fit the local needs. A good program of work at the local level is based on the purposes of the organization, needs of the group, and goals of the homemaking program. (3, p.20)

Finances

National dues at the time of this study (1951-1952) were ten cents per member, with the exception of chapters with less than 20 members; then a fixed sum of two dollars was requested. The funds are used to pay salaries of headquarters staff and to defray expenses of printing the FHA national magazine and other items in carrying on the national organization.

State dues vary. The income helps to defray such

expenses of the state association as the annual state meeting and the week's summer outing of state officers to plan the year's work. Then, too, these dues provide money for delegates to national meetings, the usual running expenses and the publication of song books, and party ideas. The state officers also publish the "Beaver Bulletin" three times a year.

Both state and national dues are sent to state headquarters; national dues are then forwarded from the state office. Only FHA members affiliated with the state and national organization are able to receive publications and to order emblematic materials.

Local chapter members decide upon the dues for their chapter. Some chapters prefer to earn as a group. Local dues are never so large that a pupil may be prevented from belonging because of inability to pay dues. (3, p.23)

Degrees of Achievement

Degrees are based upon achievements of the individual. The national FHA recommends that each chapter appoint a degree committee consisting of a chairman and three committee members. The standards for degrees of achievement and bases for evaluation is approved by the National Executive Council and the National Advisory Board of the FHA. Information concerning standards and records for each

degree and suggestions for making the degrees an integral part of the FHA program can be secured from the national office or through the state adviser.

The three degrees are: (1) Junior Homemaker, (2) Chapter Homemaker, and (3) State Homemaker, and they are denoted by a key, a scroll, and a torch, respectively, which members receive in recognition of their achievement. (4, p.7)

Development of the Oregon's Association

The growth and development of Oregon's state association as revealed in the Notes on the History of the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America (9) show that the first unofficial state meeting was held on April 14, 1945, at Oregon City. On the agenda were two important issues to be discussed: "How can we strengthen our state organization?" and "What shall be our program of work for the next year?" During the first year, there were 48 Oregon chapters with 2,045 members. In June, 1945, the first state adviser, Miss Evelyn Swaim, and the state president, Miss Irene Trout, Oregon City, attended a joint meeting of the National Executive Council and National Advisory Board in Chicago. Miss Trout was elected to the office of national treasurer.

The charter for the Oregon association was received

on March 12, 1946. During this year, the first national adviser, Dr. Hazel Frost, visited Oregon for three days. A dinner meeting was held in her honor. The Oregon association's main project for 1946-47 was the establishment of a scholarship fund for a Future Homemaker member who was entering the School of Home Economics at Oregon State College. During this year, the Oregon FHA newsletter became known as "Chapter Chatter." One copy was sent to each chapter.

The second state Future Homemakers of America meeting was two days in length. It was held at Oregon State College on March 21 and 22, 1947. The first honorary members were selected and given recognition at this meeting. The advisory board held its first meeting on February 1, 1947.

Pendleton, the selected city for the third state meeting, April 23 and 24, 1948, gave some of the members an opportunity to see a part of the state which was entirely new to them. That same year six representatives from Oregon and the state adviser attended the first national convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Of significance to the development of the Future Homemakers of America in Oregon were the six district meetings held through the fall months of 1948 and 1949. The fourth state meeting held again at Oregon State College was even larger than previous meetings. The district

meetings have continued to be held each year. A Pacific regional meeting was attended by 19 Oregon chapter members and their state adviser during the spring term. So successful was the state executive retreat held at the Lake of the Woods the previous year that the executive council for 1949-50 met again at Camp Westwind to work on the state program of work, budgets, projects, and pertinent matters of business. Eleven Oregon girls and two chapter advisers attended the FHA Western Leadership Training Conference at Estes Park, Colorado, June 18-22, in 1951. Those attending were either state officers or district chairmen.

According to the Oregon Association Future Homemakers of America handbook (10) there were 84 chapters in 1950-51 with 3,502 members. Patterned after the national organization, each state is divided into districts. The number of districts a state may have depends upon the size of the state and number of chapters. The Oregon Association of FHA is divided into seven districts. Geographically speaking, the state was divided into thirds. The western part contains four districts; the central third, two districts; and the eastern part of the state contains only one district. (10, p.15)

Related Studies

Before the actual organization of the Future Homemakers of America, investigators were interested in the development of homemaking clubs, and the educational values club members received. The earliest study completed by Hurt (7) was that of evaluating the activities of 92 home economics clubs throughout the United States. Hurt attempted to evaluate club activities in terms of the educational values received by those who participated. She set up five general aims of education and used those aims in evaluating the information received from the questionnaire.

Hurt's findings were:

1. The home economics clubs in this study were attracting relatively few of the girls in the high schools, and very few of the boys.
2. Some opportunities were being offered by activities of the home economics clubs for the development of democratic ideals and practices in their members.
3. Opportunities for the development of the individual personalities through the activities of the clubs studied were limited.
4. Varied opportunities were being offered by the activities of many of the clubs for the development in the members of greater breadth and depth of interests.
5. Many club activities included experiences which seem to contribute to the improvement of home life of the members.

6. Practically all the home economics clubs were offering opportunities for the development within individuals of an increased interest in and a willingness to participate in social-civic life of school and community. (7, p.79)

Although Future Homemakers of America was not nationally organized until 1945, there were many state organizations of Future Homemakers. For example, Oklahoma, Texas, Hawaii and Colorado had active state Future Homemakers organizations prior to 1945. In 1940, Graves (5), using Hurt's diagnostic check list, made a study of 80 chapters of the Future Homemakers in Texas. In her conclusions, Graves stated that if intelligently guided, the Future Homemaker activities will offer opportunities for the development of democratic ideals and practices. In interviewing 28 mothers, Graves concluded that some personal development resulted from participation in the club, and that clubs served as a stimulation for class work as well as for effective "carry-over activities" into the home. Graves believed that opportunities were provided in club activities for experiences that seemed to encourage club members to improve community, home and family.

Pohlman (14), in 1947, studied 114 homemaking clubs to determine what practices successful homemaking clubs have in common and to determine what practices members and advisers of these clubs consider important to their

success. She found that practices important to successful clubs were:

1. Affiliation with national and state associations of the Future Homemakers of America.
2. Regular meetings with business-like procedures.
3. Nearly 50 per cent of the clubs felt that an appointed standing committee which functioned during the entire year influential to success.
4. Sending delegates to state and district meetings.
5. Working for degrees of achievement.
6. Providing programs and activities built around home activities, and based on development of leadership.
7. Joint meetings with homemaking clubs from other schools. (14, p.65)

Pohlman reported further that activities such as writing for school or local newspapers, group singing at meetings, and musical numbers by members of the club were also important to the success of the clubs. Some members of clubs also believed that the paying of dues and keeping an attendance record contributed to the success of the club.

Parr (12), in 1946, studied the problem of the value of extra-class experiences in homemaking education. She obtained the opinions of the girls, their mothers, and their teachers. When the judgments of the three groups

were merged, Future Homemakers organization ranked second in importance in value. Home projects ranked first in importance and wholesome entertainment for young people ranked third. More of the girls who took part in the Future Homemakers of America activities thought this activity beneficial than did girls who took part in other activities.

Pfeffer (13) reported in 1951 a letter that was compiled by a group of students who participated in a Future Homemaker workshop at Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1949.

These Future Homemakers of America pointed out:

FHA is valuable because each member is given an opportunity to experience continuous growth.

FHA is one of the best ways to develop an enthusiasm in girls for the job of homemaking.

FHA provides an opportunity to learn by cooperation with others.

FHA provides an opportunity for members to assume responsibility.

FHA works for better and happier homes for everyone now and in the future. This is the most important thing youth can do for a democracy.

FHA helps to broaden cultural interests.

FHA provides an opportunity for many racial and religious groups to cooperate.

FHA provides real life situations for applying learning processes in homemaking.

FHA is the only organization which helps members to see themselves as a part of a family group.

FHA money-making should be planned as a learning experience.

FHA is one of the most wholesome means for boy-girl relationships.

FHA chapters should be geared to the locality and the community.

FHA programs should be carried on by the members, with advisers acting as guides.

FHA will promote better homes, better communities, a better nation and a better world.
(13, p.24)

Pfeffer further stated that Future Homemakers of America is a means of raising the prestige of homemaking as a career and for recruiting girls for the study of home economics in college.

Helping all individuals to be active and meeting individual needs were problems that the majority of advisers "usually" or "sometimes" checked on Nelson's questionnaire. (8) Two problems that were "usually" or "always" troublesome for 30 per cent of the advisers were helping chapter members accept responsibility with a minimum of adult supervision, and helping the girls to see how degrees of achievement can be a part of the total homemaking program.

The purpose of Vines' (15) study was to determine to what extent the local chapters of the Montana Association of Future Homemakers of America fulfilled the purposes of

the national organization. Data were secured by sending a check list containing 72 activities to all 70 FHA chapters in Montana. The advisers were asked to indicate the frequency of the activities and their opinion as to the value of the activities carried out by their chapters during 1948 and 1949.

A second check list containing the 72 activities and columns corresponding to the eight purposes of the organization was given to a jury of 40 FHA advisers who attended Colorado Agriculture & Mechanical College during the summer of 1949. The 72 activities which were listed on both check lists were classified into five areas: promotional, social, educational, service, and money-making.

When the data were analyzed, it was found by Vines that the promotional activities were the most valuable in achieving the purposes of FHA. Social activities ranked second, educational activities next, service activities fourth, and money-making activities last. The study also revealed that the activities being performed could achieve the eight purposes of the organization. Three purposes, "To work for good home and family life for all," "To promote international goodwill," and "To emphasize the importance of worthy membership" were not being achieved by the activities frequently checked on the check list.

The author found that other studies related to the one she was writing revealed that FHA was providing opportunities for members to develop greater breadth and depth of interests, to develop democratic ideals and practices, and to develop personally. Other studies showed that FHA gave opportunities for improving the community, home and family through cooperation with others, and the broadening of cultural interests.

Summary

Not yet ten years old, the national organization of Future Homemakers of America has tripled its membership since its founding date in 1945. Investigators have found that before homemaking clubs were unified that the activities of such clubs throughout the United States were beneficial. Many club activities included experiences which seem to contribute to the improvement of home and family life. Since unification, greater opportunities were provided members through degrees of achievement, attending state and national meetings providing programs and activities built around home activities, which were based on development of leadership. One investigator believed that FHA was a means of raising the prestige of homemaking as a career.

Unity was an impetus for the Oregon association, for within two years after the national organization was established, the Oregon association increased from 48 chapters to 70 chapters, and in 1952 had a total of 84 chapters.

CHAPTER III

METHODS OF PROCEDURE

A study of the Future Homemakers of America program in the state of Oregon was made by the questionnaire method in order to obtain information as to the values the members believed they received and to the effectiveness of the local chapters in carrying out the eight national purposes.

Preliminary Questionnaire

In order to find values which expressed what the members themselves believed they received from the Future Homemakers of America program, the author sent a preliminary questionnaire to two local high schools within close proximity to Oregon State College. The members in these two local organizations were asked to answer freely (1) How has FHA helped you? (2) How could FHA help you more? (Appendix B)

Background information as to (1) number of years of membership in FHA, (2) grade in school, (3) chapter, state, or national offices held and (4) degrees earned was included at the top of the page.

From these two local chapters a total of 58 free expression questionnaires were returned. For the most part,

the members who responded were not very verbal, but merely listed in numerical order those activities which were most interesting, and benefits they believed they received. Those who responded were reluctant to give concrete suggestions as to how their FHA could help them more, or were unable to comprehend the many possibilities offered by the FHA organization. For the most part, answers to the specific questions were not given.

Development of Final Questionnaire

As a first step, the free expression answers to the first questionnaire were analyzed with the object of developing a list of the benefits which the 58 members reporting believed they had derived from their FHA participation. Since each girl may attach varying importance to these benefits, the writer has used the term "value" as an expression for each benefit to be listed in the final questionnaire. In its simplest definition, the word value means anything worth working for, anything held dear to be retained in an individual's life. Throughout this study the term "values" will refer to the statements of the benefits appearing in the final questionnaire.

As far as possible, the words used by the 58 members to express these values were incorporated in the final questionnaire. For example:

FHA has helped me to realize that a home is more than a place with children and three meals a day.

Her statement appeared on the final questionnaire as:

My FHA gives me a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of a homemaker.

Sometimes it was possible to use the words that FHA members had stated in the preliminary questionnaire.

Items 7 and 13 of the questionnaire are such examples:

- 7. Helps me develop self-confidence.
- 13. Helps me develop poise.

A girl in grade twelve, who had four years of experience in FHA, and had served as chapter officer wrote:

FHA has helped me to develop self-confidence and to feel more poised and assured in front of a group of people.

Thus handling the 58 preliminary questionnaires in the above manner, 72 statements of benefits received from FHA were listed separately on 3 x 5 cards, using the wording of those who replied. These statements were edited and revised or discarded by a jury of five which included members of the Oregon State College Home Economics Education staff, interested homemaking teachers, and one English teacher. The jurors selected 50 of the 72 statements of benefits as those around which the organization has been built.

Organization of the Spiral Questionnaire

The final stage of preparation for the questionnaire was that of categorizing the 50 itemized values into six categories:

1. Personal development
2. Social development.
3. Community participation.
4. International understanding.
5. Club activities.
6. Homemaking participation.

The purpose of the six categories was for ease in discussing the 50 items as they pertained to the eight national purposes of the Future Homemakers of America organization. It was believed that if values falling into one grouping were listed consecutively, each value might not be given individual consideration by the contributors. Therefore, the 50 values under the six groupings were distributed throughout the questionnaire in a rotational manner so that an item had been drawn from each of the six categories before drawing a further item from that grouping.

Since the six groups did not have the same number of items, the rotation was not the same throughout the questionnaire. There were 11 items in each of the personal development and social development groups. Eight items were related to the community participation. Only four items had to do with the international understanding.

Then, there were eight items in the club activities group as well as homemaking participation group.

Thus, the body of the questionnaire consisted of a check list of 50 items by which each member answering the questionnaire could evaluate her own FHA chapter, by checking either "yes" or "no." A "yes" answer was taken to mean that the member had benefited in this particular respect through membership in her local chapter and, therefore, indicated that to this member one or several of the FHA purposes were being fulfilled.

Background Information Questions

The background information questions were revised somewhat from those of the preliminary questionnaire. Information about the years in homemaking, years of membership in FHA, degrees of achievement earned, offices held and opportunity as a delegate were arranged at the top of the questionnaire so that the chapter member could answer each question by circling the number or name that pertained to her experience.

The questionnaire was checked by three members of the Oregon State College Home Economics Education staff and the state FHA adviser. On the basis of the appraisal and criticism of these people, the final questionnaire (Appendix B) was approved for this study.

Source of Data

The data used in this study were gathered from the return of 600 questionnaires from selected groups of FHA chapter members throughout the state of Oregon.

Since the plan for the study was to obtain opinions from individual FHA members, it was necessary to form some basis for selecting representative FHA groups. A report received from the state FHA adviser contained the chapters listed alphabetically by districts. A sampling of the 84 Oregon chapters was made by selecting every alternate chapter from the listing. Thirteen chapters were added or substituted by the state adviser, making a total of 47 chapters selected and asked to participate in this study.

Procedure for Distributing Questionnaires

A letter explaining the purpose of the study requesting cooperation was sent with a post card which provided space for recording the number of questionnaires needed by the participating chapter. The letter and card were sent through the state adviser's office to the selected 47 chapters. The chapters chosen represented the seven geographical districts of the Oregon association: Central, Eastern, North Western, North Willamette, South Coast, Southern, and South Willamette. (Appendix A, Table A)

Number of Questionnaires
Distributed and Returned

Of the 47 chapters, 36 chapters requested questionnaires, ten chapters did not reply to the request letter, and one chapter declined participation. However, of the 36 chapters willing to cooperate in this study, only 22 chapters returned their questionnaire before the deadline set by the investigator.

The 36 chapters agreeing to participate requested a total of 1,464 questionnaires. This number was distributed to the 36 chapters. However, 14 of the 36 chapters did not return the questionnaires, or returned the questionnaires after the deadline set by the investigator. Thus, 22 chapters ultimately participated in this study. To these 22 chapters the author distributed 971 questionnaires and received 653, a return of 68 per cent for these 22 chapters. (Appendix A, Table B)

Of the total 653 questionnaires completed and returned, 53 questionnaires were discarded because of incomplete information. Therefore, the data included in this study were made from the information furnished by the 600 questionnaires.

The data reported have certain limitations since only about 20 per cent of the total membership (3,502) in the Oregon association were represented. Twenty-eight per

cent of the total number of chapters (84 chapters) were represented. Another limitation lies in the fact that the questionnaire does not take into consideration that some of the items may not have been either positive or negative all the time. For example, many respondents believed the need of a "sometimes" when asked if their FHA chapter had interesting meetings.

Through an analysis of subjective values received by the 600 respondents, this study attempts to determine if the local chapters in Oregon are serving its members by fulfilling the purposes of the national organization. It is hoped that this evaluation will help the state adviser to strengthen the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America.

CHAPTER IV

RESPONDENTS TO QUESTIONNAIRES

In 1950-51, there were 84 chapters affiliated with the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America. Of these 84 chapters, 22 chapters participated in this study. These 22 chapters are located in seven districts in Oregon. In order to show on what representation the findings are based, it is first necessary to show what districts in the Oregon association are represented, the number of individual chapters representing the districts, and what type of FHA member answered the questionnaire.

Response from the Seven Districts

Requests for participation in this study were sent to a total of 47 of the 84 chapters which make up Oregon's Future Homemakers Association.

Of the 47 chapters contacted to represent the seven districts of the state association, only 22 took part in the study. These chapters represent 28 per cent of the total number of chapters in the state association. Twenty-five chapters did not participate for the following reasons: one declined participation, ten chapters failed to return the post card stating intention to participate and the remaining 14 chapters which received questionnaires

did not return them or returned them after the deadline set by the investigator.

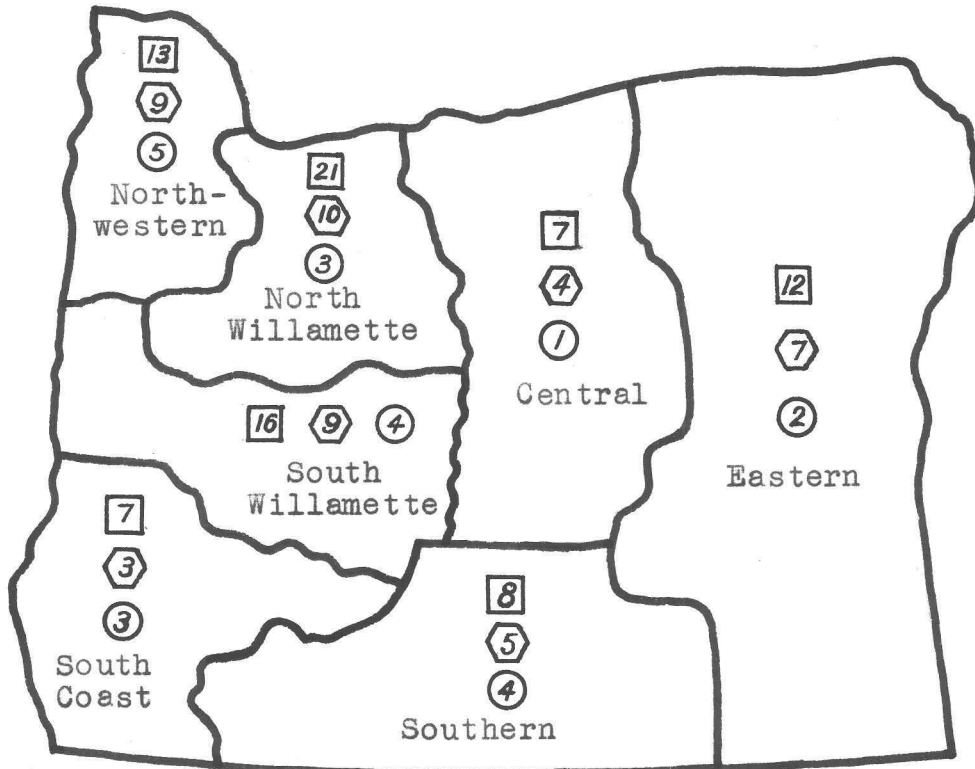
Response According to Districts

Chart I shows the districts in the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America, the total number of chapters in Oregon, the chapters which made up the original sample and the chapters which actually participated in this study. Table A in Appendix A also shows this representation.

As shown by Chart I, the Central district had only one chapter represented from the four chapters which were asked to participate. The Eastern district had two chapters represented from the seven asked to contribute. Five chapters in the Northwestern district sent returns whereas nine had been asked to participate. North Willamette district from which ten chapters were asked to participate was represented by three chapters. All of the South Coast chapters asked to participate did so. South Willamette district in which nine chapters were asked to participate was represented by four chapters. Southern district was represented by four of the five chapters asked to contribute to this study. Follow-up letters failed to get a response from districts with low representation.

Chart I

Districts in Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America Showing Total Number of Chapters, Chapters Sampled, and Chapters Participating.



KEY

- = Number of chapters in district
- ⬡ = Number of chapters requested to participate
- = Number of chapters which participated in the study

The average per cent of returns by each district based upon the number of questionnaires requested was as follows: Central, 28 per cent; Northwestern, 44 per cent; North Willamette, 27 per cent; South Coast, 48 per cent; South Willamette, 53 per cent; and Southern, 69 per cent. The total number of questionnaires returned represents approximately 20 per cent of the total membership (3,502) in the state of Oregon.

Since all districts in this study did not have equal representation, it cannot be assumed that the findings of this study are representative of the total groups of Future Homemakers of America in Oregon.

Response According to Chapters

Of the total 971 questionnaires requested by the 22 chapters, 653 (68 per cent) were received. Fifty-three of them were discarded because complete information was not given. (Table B, Appendix A) The 22 chapters varied in membership. The largest chapter represented 105 questionnaires and the smallest requested 12 questionnaires.

There was a wide variation in the per cent of returns from individual chapters. Of the 22 chapters participating, only two chapters returned less than 50 per cent of the requested questionnaires, 12 chapters had a return between 50 to 60 per cent and eight chapters had a return

of 75 per cent or more of the questionnaires requested.
(Table B, Appendix A)

Background Information of Respondents

The questionnaire which was used as a basis for gathering data for this study is found in the appendix. It contained a check list which provided the investigator information about the members' experience in homemaking classes and participation in FHA chapters.

Homemaking Classes Completed

In many high schools throughout Oregon, homemaking is an elective and thus it becomes a challenge to the homemaking teacher to meet the needs of the individuals in order to have a continuously stimulating homemaking program. The FHA when integrated into the homemaking classroom program often acts as a stimulus and the interaction of the one upon the other promotes both the homemaking classes and the FHA organization. The requirement of membership in FHA stipulates at least one semester of enrollment in a homemaking class in junior or senior high school. To continue membership in FHA it is not necessary to continue enrollment in the homemaking classes.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the 600 members' years of experience in homemaking classes.

Each participant was asked to circle the number of the homemaking classes completed and the homemaking classes in which she was enrolled at the time she answered the questionnaire. In Oregon, Homemaking I, II, III and IV are classes taught in freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years of high school. Table 1 indicates the per cent of members that completed each year of homemaking. None of the 600 respondents had taken homemaking in the seventh grade only.

Table 1

Homemaking Classes Completed by 600 Respondents

<u>Homemaking Classes</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
8 grade only	25	5
I	211	35
II	228	38
III	92	15
IV	39	6
None	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	600	100

Table 1 shows that 73 per cent of the girls who participated in this study were taking or had had Homemaking I and II. Only 25 members (5 per cent) had taken homemaking in the eighth grade. Ninety-two or 15 per cent had completed or were now taking Homemaking III, whereas only

39 or six per cent of the 600 respondents were in Homemaking IV classes. For some reason, five of the members who participated in this study stated that they had had no homemaking class experience but were members of FHA. It is evident that about three-fourths of this group of FHA girls would have not more than two years of experience in homemaking classes.

Years of Membership in FHA

The requirement for membership in FHA is to be taking or to have completed one semester in homemaking in a junior or senior high school. Table 2 shows the distribution of the respondents' membership in the Future Homemakers of America organization.

Table 2

Respondents' Years of Membership in FHA

<u>Years of Membership</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Less than 1	240	40
1	102	17
2	112	19
3	99	16
4	<u>47</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	600	100

Of the 600 FHA members who participated in this study, 40 per cent had been members in FHA less than one year. Except for a difference of ten members from one year of membership (102 members) in FHA and that of two years (112 members), approximately 18 per cent of the participants were in FHA either one or two years. Of the total group, 99 (16 per cent) had been in FHA three years, and 47 or eight per cent had been members in FHA four years. This table shows that a very small per cent of upperclass girls who have been members in the FHA chapters their entire time in high school are represented in this study.

Local, State, and National Officers

To be elected a national officer is the highest honor which can be conferred upon an FHA member. Under the national constitution, Oregon being in the Pacific Region may be entitled to a national office once in every three or four years as its turn in rotation of officers occur. Since there are nine state offices available annually against one national office each three or four years, the opportunity for election to a state office is considerably greater. The number of local officers each chapter elects varies with the needs of the individual organization.

Table 3 shows the number of participants who have had varying years of membership in FHA and who have been officers in the organization.

Table 3

Respondents Who Held Offices in FHA

Years of Membership	Total	Local Chapter		Officer in State		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 1	240	32	20	--	--	208	48
1	102	17	10	--	--	85	19
2	112	39	24	--	--	73	17
3	99	49	30	1	25	50	11
4	<u>47</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	600	164	100	4	100	436	100

Of the 600 members reporting, 164 members (27 per cent) had held a local chapter office, and four members (one per cent) had held state offices. No respondent had been a national officer. It is significant that 436 (72 per cent) of the 600 FHA members answering the questionnaire had held no office in FHA.

Table 3 shows that almost one-third of those who held local chapter offices had one year or less than one year of membership in the organization. In fact, 20 per cent of the local chapter officers had less than one year of membership in FHA. Almost half of the 164 who reported they were officers in their local chapters indicated that

they had been members of FHA three or four years. This table shows that the smallest group who have held offices come from members with four years of membership in FHA. Apparently the 85 per cent of the respondents to this questionnaire who were girls who had held offices in FHA had had three years or less experience in the organization.

Degrees Earned

Degrees are awarded FHA members for special achievement. At the present time there are three degrees which may be earned in the following order: Junior Homemaker, Chapter Homemaker and State Homemaker.

Table 4 lists the number of degrees of achievement held by members who answered the questionnaire. It also shows the years of membership these Future Homemakers have had.

There is a great diversity of opinion as to the importance of the degree program in the Future Homemakers of America. In some chapters, degrees of achievement may be emphasized much more than in others. It is not surprising, therefore, that 519 members (86 per cent) of the girls reporting gave no indication that they had worked on any degree. Seventy-nine members (13 per cent) of the 600 FHA members earned their Junior Homemaker degrees.

Thirty-six members (6 per cent) received the degree of Chapter Homemaker, whereas only three members (approximately one per cent) of the 600 members had been awarded State Homemaker degree.

Table 4

Respondents Who Earned Degrees in FHA

Years of Membership	Total	Junior		Degrees				None	
		No.	%	Chapter No.	%	State No.	%	No.	%
Less than 1	240	1	1	--	--	--	--	239	46
1	102	1	1	--	--	--	--	101	20
2	112	25	32	2	5	--	--	87	17
3	97	33	42	23	64	--	--	64	12
4	<u>47</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	598*	79	100	36	100	3	100	519	100

*The degree program requires that a member earn degrees in sequence. Two members reported that they earned only the chapter homemaker degree, however.

Table 4 shows that of 47 respondents who had been members of FHA four years, 28 had never worked for a degree. Nineteen had earned a junior homemaker degree. To earn a chapter degree one must already have a junior degree; therefore, 11 of the 19 had earned not only a junior homemaker degree but a chapter degree. Furthermore, the three who had earned the State Homemaker degree had also earned a Chapter Homemaker degree and a Junior Homemaker

degree.

In turn, Table 4 also shows that of the 97 FHA who had three years' membership, 64 had never earned a degree. Of the total 33 who held Junior Homemakers degrees, 23 were also holders of Chapter Homemakers degrees. Of those having two years' membership in FHA, 87 of 112 hold no degrees. Of the 25 who hold Junior Homemaker degrees, two also have Chapter degrees.

Table 4 shows that only two members with one year or less membership in FHA earned Junior Homemaker degrees of achievement. Twenty-five members (32 per cent) with two years of experience in FHA, and 33 members (42 per cent) with three years in FHA, and 19 members (24 per cent) with four years of experience in FHA comprised the 79 members who reported they had earned Junior Homemaker degrees.

Of the 36 Chapter Homemaker degrees awarded, two members (5 per cent) had two years of experience in FHA, 23 members (64 per cent) had three years experience, and 11 members (31 per cent) had four years membership in an FHA chapter.

The State Homemakers degrees of achievement were awarded to three members who had four years of membership in the same FHA chapter.

In Table 4 it is revealed that with increased years of membership the proportion of members who have earned

degrees of achievement show a consistent increase.

Delegates to District, State, or National Meetings

Both district and state meetings are held annually. In the seven district meetings which are usually in the late fall, there is no limitation as to number of delegates attending. It is an advantage to the local chapter to encourage all interested members to participate in district meetings. Surprisingly, only 144 members (24 per cent) of the 600 girls who answered the questionnaire had attended such meetings.

Attendance at the state convention is limited to two members for each chapter. Usually the chapter president and a strong junior member are selected to attend. A chapter may send more members if that chapter has responsibilities to carry on at the convention or is close enough to make the financing of such a trip possible for several members. Only 36 members (6 per cent) of those answering the questionnaire had attended a state meeting.

In June, 1950, the last national meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri. The prior year regional meetings were held throughout the United States. Delegates from Oregon attended the Pacific Regional Meeting at Santa Barbara, California, in June, 1949. Then in June, 1951, a Western Leadership Training Conference was held at Estes

Park, Colorado. This meeting again took the place of a national convention. Of the 600 FHA members who answered the questionnaire, only five girls, less than one per cent, have had an opportunity to attend any type of regional or national meeting.

Table 5 shows the number of members who attended district, state and national meetings in relation to the years of membership in their FHA chapter.

Table 5

Respondents Who Were Delegates to
District, State and National Meetings of FHA

Years of Membership	Total	District		Meetings				None	
		No.	%	State No.	%	National No.	%	No.	%
Less than 1	240	24	17	--	--	--	--	216	49
1	102	23	16	1	1	--	--	79	18
2	112	36	25	8	25	--	--	72	17
3	99	39	27	12	33	1	20	57	12
4	<u>47</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	600	144	100	36	100	5	100	445	100

Of the 144 members in this study who stated they attended district meetings, 24 (17 per cent) were in FHA less than one year, 23 members (16 per cent) were in FHA one year, 36 members (25 per cent) were in FHA two years, whereas 39 members (27 per cent) belonged for three years,

and 22 members (15 per cent) had been in FHA for four years.

State meetings were attended by 36 respondents. Eight (22 per cent) were members two years, 12 members (33 per cent) had belonged three years, and 15 members (42 per cent) were in FHA for four years. No member with less than one year of membership and only one with one-year membership had attended a state meeting. All but 11 of the members attending a state meeting had also attended a district meeting.

Four of the five members who attended a national meeting had four years of experience in FHA, the other member had three-years membership in an FHA chapter.

Table 5 shows that girls having three or four years of membership are those who attend more district, state or national meetings than any others. The implication may be that full benefit from returning delegates may be lost through graduating seniors. Especially does this seem true in the case of the four girls who attended a national meeting. In all probability, since they had attended FHA four years, they were seniors and would not be able to work in FHA for another year.

Typical FHA Member Who Answered Questionnaire

When the data concerning the FHA members were analyzed according to years of membership in FHA, and to the members' experience in homemaking classes and participation in FHA chapters, a typical FHA member who answered the questionnaire would be one that:

1. Had had or was taking Homemaking I or II.
2. Had been in the FHA organization two years or less.
3. Held no office in FHA.
4. If she held an office she would have three years or less membership in FHA.
5. Had not worked on a degree of achievement.
6. If she earned a degree of achievement would be in FHA two or more years.
7. Attended no district, state or national meeting.
8. If she had attended she would have had three or more years in FHA.

Of significance is the fact that of the 22 chapters responding the majority of girls in each chapter were freshmen or sophomores with one or two years of homemaking experience and that they held local chapter offices, but had not earned degrees of achievement, or attended district, state, or national meetings. It can be assumed, therefore, that local chapter officers are not selected primarily on the basis of years of experience in the

organization.

Comparison of the 600 Respondents' Years
In Homemaking Classes to Their Years of
Membership in FHA, the Offices They Held,
The Degrees They Earned and Their Experi-
ences as Delegates

Sometimes sponsors of FHA assume that girls who had had the greatest number of years in homemaking classes as well as the longest membership in FHA are the main source of leadership in their chapters. Actually, this should be true. To determine whether or not it is true for the 600 FHA members who participated in this study, the questionnaires were sorted according to the number of years the respondents had had in homemaking classes. Since continued enrollment is not compulsory for continued membership in FHA, Table 6 was compiled to determine the relationship between the number of years of membership in FHA and the number of classes in homemaking the 600 respondents had.

Table 6

Comparison of the 600 Respondents Membership
In FHA in Relation to Homemaking Classes

Classes in Homemaking	Total	Less than 1		1		Years in FHA 2		3		4	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
8	25	10	4	1	1	7	6	4	4	3	6
I	211	117	49	57	56	25	22	4	4	8	17
II	228	103	43	27	26	62	56	31	31	5	11
III	92	5	2	8	8	14	12	48	49	17	36
IV	39	2	1	8	8	4	4	11	11	14	30
None	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	600	240	100	102	100	112	100	99	100	47	100

Table 6 shows that of the 25 members who had only 8th grade homemaking, ten members were in FHA less than one year, one member was in FHA one year, seven members were in FHA two years, four members were in FHA three years, and three members of the 25 who had had only eighth grade homemaking had been members of FHA four years.

Of the 600 responding, 211 members had had Homemaking I only. One hundred seventeen of these had been in FHA less than one year, 57 members of the 211 had been members in FHA one year. Twenty-five of the 211 were in FHA two years, four of the 211 were in FHA three years and eight members of the Homemaking I group were in FHA four years.

The largest percentage of girls, 228 members, were taking or had taken Homemaking II when they answered the questionnaire. Of this group, 103 members were in FHA less than one year, 27 members were in FHA one year, 62 members of the 228 were in FHA two years, 31 members of the Homemaking II group were in FHA three years, and five members of the 228 were in FHA four years.

The Homemaking III courses had a representation of 92 members. Of these 92, five members had been in FHA less than one year. Eight members in the Homemaking III group had been members of FHA for one year. Only 14 members of the 92 in Homemaking III said they had been in FHA two years, whereas 48 members of the 92 members had membership in FHA three years, and 17 members of this group had membership in FHA four years.

Of the 39 members in the Homemaking IV group, two members had been in FHA less than one year. Eight members were in FHA one year and four members were in FHA two years. The largest group of these 39 members were the 11 members who had been members of FHA three years, and the 14 members who were in FHA four years.

Since homemaking is a prerequisite to becoming a member in FHA, it was strange that five members (one per cent of the 600 respondents) indicated that they had no homemaking training. Of these five, three members were

members of FHA less than one year, one member was in FHA one year and the remaining member had three years of membership in FHA. The reasons are not known why the five members had not taken any homemaking courses. Two of the five members came from the same chapter.

Table 6 seems to indicate that once a girl has joined FHA she continues her membership throughout high school. Membership in FHA seems to be consistent with their enrollment in homemaking since approximately 50 per cent of the girls who have had Homemaking I, II, and III have also had as many years in FHA. Table 6 also shows that 64 per cent of the girls in Homemaking IV have had either three or four years of membership in FHA.

Homemaking Class Experiences of Members Who Held Offices

One hundred sixty-four of the 600 members (27 per cent) who participated in this study had held a local chapter office in FHA. Twenty-one per cent (126 members) of the 27 per cent who held local chapter offices were girls who had had or were taking classes in Homemaking II, III, or IV.

Of the 25 members who had only eighth grade homemaking, six members (24 per cent of the eighth grade group) held local chapter offices. In this group of the 211 members who were in the Homemaking I, 31 members (15 per cent

of this group) held local offices. In the Homemaking II group of 228 members, 56 members (25 per cent of this homemaking group) were local chapter offices. There were 92 members in Homemaking III. In this group, 48 members (62 per cent of the group) were local chapter officers. Of the 39 members in Homemaking IV, 22 members (54 per cent of the group) held local chapter offices. One member who stated she had no homemaking class held a local chapter office.

Of the four members holding state office, one member had had only Homemaking I, two were in or had had Homemaking II, and one member said she had had Homemaking III.

These figures seem to indicate that the proportion of members who held local chapter offices increased with the years of experience in homemaking classes. About three-fourths of the members who held local chapter offices were girls who had two or more years of homemaking.

Homemaking Class Experience of Those Who Earned Degrees

Seventy-nine members of the 600 respondents earned Junior Homemaker degrees of achievement. Of these 79 members, 40 members (50 per cent) were in or had had Homemaking III or IV. Of the 600 members, 36 members earned a Chapter Homemaker degree. Twenty-nine (81 per cent) were enrolled in or had been enrolled in Homemaking III and IV.

Three girls who answered the questionnaire and were holders of the State Homemaker degree of achievement came from one chapter. Since not more than ten to 18 state degrees are awarded annually, it is remarkable that three would be in one chapter. The acquisition of a State Homemaker degree is usually only possible for those FHA members who are juniors or seniors in high school and who are enrolled in advanced homemaking classes and who have been members of FHA three or four years.

Since the requirements for the degree of State Homemaker are that the candidate has completed at least two years of homemaking instruction and has held the chapter degree for at least one year prior to the conferring of the State Homemaker degree, it follows that girls receiving these degrees would be at least juniors in high school and enrolled in Homemaking III. Nevertheless, it is apparent that a greater per cent of the Homemaking III and IV class members work for degrees than do the general FHA membership.

Homemaking Class Experience of Members Who Were Delegates

Of the 600 FHA members responding, 144 (26 per cent) were delegates to a district meeting. The homemaking experience of these 144 members were as follows: 83 members (57 per cent) were taking or had taken Homemaking I or II,

and 61 members (43 per cent) were in Homemaking III or IV.

As revealed by the data (Table 2) of the 600 who participated in this study, 439 respondents had or were taking Homemaking I or II, and 131 respondents had or were taking Homemaking III or IV.

It is significant that the 83 delegates are only 18 per cent of the total group in Homemaking I or II, whereas the 61 delegates represent 47 per cent of the 131 respondents who had or had had Homemaking III or IV. Apparently a greater per cent of upper class homemaking girls attends district meetings than freshmen or sophomores.

The data indicated this was also true in the case of members who attended state meetings since the 36 responded who attended state meetings, 25 (69 per cent) were girls who had or were taking Homemaking III or IV.

The five respondents who attended national meetings had a varied background in homemaking. Of the five, two members had or were taking advanced homemaking classes (III or IV).

There are no apparent evidences that years of experience is the basis upon which national delegates are chosen. Presumably, members who are interested and who are financially able are chosen to attend.

Summary

The 600 respondents to the questionnaire represented the seven districts in the Oregon association. These 600 members designated values which they believed were received through their FHA chapter. The majority of those responding were enrolled in or had had Homemaking I and II with two years or less membership in FHA. Only one-fourth of the 600 respondents had advanced homemaking with membership of three to four years in FHA.

Three-fourths of the girls held no offices in local chapters or state. No definite trend was found which indicated years of experience is the basis upon which officers are elected. On the other hand, the largest percentage of girls attending district, state or national meetings were those with three or four years membership in FHA. Those earning degrees of achievement were also those who had advance years in the FHA organization.

CHAPTER V

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA JUDGMENTS

The aim of this study was to determine how nearly the purposes of FHA were being achieved. To make this appraisal, FHA members were asked to react either positively or negatively to 50 itemized values which expressed how the organization was helping individual members. For the purpose of discussion, these values have been classified into six categories:

1. Personal development.
2. Social development.
3. Community participation.
4. International understanding.
5. Club activities.
6. Homemaking participation.

The 600 FHA members' responses to each category will be discussed separately in their relationship to the purposes of Future Homemakers of America organization, which are as follows:

Purpose I: To promote a growing appreciation of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking.

Purpose II: To emphasize the importance of worthy home membership.

Purpose III: To encourage democracy in home and community life.

Purpose IV: To work for good home and family life for all.

Purpose V: To promote international goodwill.

Purpose VI: To foster the development of creative leadership in home and community life.

Purpose VII: To provide wholesome individual and group recreation.

Purpose VIII: To further interest in home economics. (4, p.10)

Personal Development

The questionnaire was designed to use the positive approach. For example, the greater the number of "Yeses" in the tabulation indicated that the FHA members in this study believed their organization helped them develop the personal qualities listed. The 11 items pertaining to personal development as they appeared in the questionnaire with a tabulation of the total responses are presented in Table 7.

Table 7

Chapters' Provisions for
Personal Development of Members

MY FHA CHAPTER:	YES		NO	
	No.	%	No.	%
Helps me develop leadership ability	447	75	153	25
Helps me develop self-confidence	507	85	93	15
Helps me develop poise	426	70	174	30
Helps me develop efficiency	483	81	117	19
Helps me develop dependability	525	88	75	12
Encourages me to accept responsibility	551	92	49	8
Gives training in social etiquette	460	77	140	23
Gives me opportunity to express my ideas	545	91	55	9
Gives me an opportunity to act as chairman	325	54	275	46
Has helped me use my own initiative	325	54	275	46
Gives me an opportunity to learn to be a good member of a group	554	93	46	8

As shown in Table 7, the greatest lacks which 600 FHA members reported were that of not having the opportunity to act as chairmen, or to use their own initiative. The majority, however, believed that FHA helped develop their leadership ability. Apparently each member was provided

other opportunities for leadership beside that of acting as chairman. Whereas about one-half of the 600 who responded to the questionnaire believed their FHA chapters gave them an opportunity to act as committee chairmen, and an opportunity to use their own initiative, three-fourths of the group believed their chapters helped them to develop leadership ability and nine-tenths thought the organization helped them accept responsibility.

Of the total list of 11 items in the questionnaire which pertained to the personal development of the individual, such items as development of self-confidence, poise, efficiency, and social etiquette received positive responses from more than three-fourths of the 600 respondents.

An indication that Purpose III: "To encourage democracy in home and community life" was being fulfilled was disclosed in the fact that 91 per cent of the 600 respondents thought their FHA gave them an opportunity to express their own ideas, 93 per cent of the 600 responding indicated that they learned to be good members of a group, and 92 per cent said their chapter helped them accept responsibility.

Equally strong is the evidence that Purpose VI: "To foster the development of creative leadership in home and

community life" is being attained by the 22 chapters for reasons stated above.

Social Development

If Purpose IV and Purpose VII are interpreted in their broadest sense, that of working for good home and family life for all, and that of providing wholesome individual and group recreation, the 11 items grouped under social development suggest ways of promoting and developing the desired results implied by these purposes. These 11 items along with the responses are found in Table 8.

Table 8

Chapters' Provision for the
Social Development of Members

MY FHA CHAPTER:	YES		NO	
	No.	%	No.	%
Helps me establish close friendships with girls who have similar interests	548	91	55	9
Teaches me to cooperate with others	565	94	35	6
Helps me get along better with my family	367	61	233	37
Helps me get along better with my friends	495	82	105	18
Helps me develop understanding of people	464	77	136	23
Provides opportunity for meeting girls in other schools	469	78	131	22
Provides opportunity to take part in many social activities	488	81	112	19
Provides worthwhile services for the school	526	88	74	12
Provides opportunity to work with a group on a project	534	89	66	11
Provides "good times"	525	87	75	13
Gives all girls a choice of opportunities to participate in activities planned	533	88	67	12

Ten of the 11 items shown in Table 8 rated an affirmative answer from 80 per cent or more of the FHA members responding. The other item: "My FHA chapter helps me get

along better with my family" received a 61 per cent affirmative response.

Table 8 indicates that three-fourths or more of the 600 FHA members believed their FHA chapters helped them to cooperate with others, establish close friendships, get along better with their friends, and understand other people better. Their FHA chapters also provided opportunities for meeting girls in other schools, for taking part in social activities, and for being of service to the school.

The data give evidences, therefore, that the 22 chapters in Oregon have strived to fulfill Purposes IV and VII, that of working for good home and family life for all, and that of providing wholesome individual and group recreation.

Community Participation

Eight items were related to the ways by which FHA members may be contributing to the betterment of their communities. Generally speaking, the benefits which FHA members received should especially promote four of the national purposes. These are:

Purpose I: To promote the growing appreciation of joys and satisfactions of homemaking.

Purpose II: To emphasize the importance of worthy home membership.

Purpose IV: To work for the good home and family life for all.

Purpose VI: To foster development of creative leadership in home and community life.

The eight items directed toward the furtherance of these purposes were included in the study because they were based on the assumption that as an organization offers its members opportunities for developing responsibility toward community betterment, those attitudes of desiring to help others may be carried over into adulthood. Table 9 shows the 600 members' responses to the eight items in this category of the questionnaire.

Table 9

Chapters' Provision for Members to
Participate in Community Projects

<u>MY FHA CHAPTER:</u>	YES		NO	
	No.	%	No.	%
Informs public of homemaking program by means of window displays, service clubs, etc.	386	64	214	36
Invites participation of townspeople in school programs	357	60	243	40
Gains cooperation of parents for school projects	396	66	204	34
Makes me want to help other people	527	88	73	12
Provides opportunity for practicing good citizenship	522	87	78	13
Provides worthwhile services for the community	358	60	242	40
Helps needy families of the community	445	74	155	26
Carries child care instruction into community services	268	45	322	55

On the whole, the responses to this category were lower in the affirmative answers than the previous groups. Apparently less than half of the 600 FHA members responding believed their FHA chapters provided ways in which what they learned in child care was utilized in community service. However, in all other items, 60 per cent of the members or more expressed affirmative answers.

The following four items were approved by approximately two-thirds of the group:

1. Informs the public of the homemaking program by means of window displays, service clubs, etc.
2. Invites participation of townspeople in school programs.
3. Gains cooperation of parents of the community for school projects.
4. Provides worthwhile service for the community.

Table 9 also shows that the statement receiving the highest affirmative response referred to that of wanting to help other people. Almost nine-tenths of the 600 members answered "yes" to this statement. Not only did FHA chapters make their members aware of other needs, but they seemed to provide ways in which each member could help needy families of their communities. Three-fourths of the respondents gave an affirmative reply to this item.

This category contributes evidences that four of the eight purposes are attained in various ways.

Purposes I and VI, in their broadest interpretation, include spreading of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking to people in the community, and that of initiating activities related to home and community life. The data indicate that the majority of chapters responding informs the public of the homemaking program by means of window

displays, through service clubs, and other community channels. Two-thirds of the members responding stated their chapters invite participation of townspeople and parents in school programs and projects, and the majority of members reported that their chapters provided worthwhile services for the community as well as providing opportunities for practicing good citizenship. This study gives evidence, therefore, that various opportunities were provided in the 22 chapters which promote Purposes I and VI.

Purposes II and IV stress the importance of worthy home membership and the importance of improving homes to provide enjoyment for all members of the family. These purposes may be interpreted to include the importance for recognizing needs of others, and assisting others when needed. That these purposes were obtained in some respect was indicated by the response that 88 per cent of those reporting believed their chapters made them aware of others' needs, and 74 per cent believed that their chapters helped needy families of the community.

International Understanding

The fifth purpose of FHA is that of promoting international goodwill. The national officers each year give suggestions for carrying through this purpose. The responses made by the 600 FHA members in this study to

four items based on recommendations of the national officers are included in Table 10.

Table 10

Chapters' Provision for Members to Participate
In the Promotion of International Goodwill

MY FHA CHAPTER:	YES		NO	
	No.	%	No.	%
Provides opportunity to study home life in other countries	166	25	447	75
Helps us to share with people in foreign lands	218	37	382	63
Provides opportunity to be hostesses to people of other lands	147	24	453	76
Provides experiences for corresponding with people in other countries	165	30	435	70

Most chapter members responded negatively to the items shown in Table 10. The statements referring to opportunities to study home life in other countries, or being hostesses to foreign students and of corresponding with people in other lands received over 70 per cent negative responses.

The item, "My FHA chapter helps us to share with people in foreign lands," received the greatest number of affirmative answers. Perhaps this response may be due to the emphasis in the national work program that suggests the adoption of homemaking class in a foreign land.

Table 10 appears to indicate that Purpose V, that of promoting international goodwill, is not fulfilled by the majority of chapters who participated in this study.

Club Activities

Three purposes most directly related to the eight items listed under the heading of club activities are:

Purpose III: To encourage democracy in home and community life.

Purpose VI: To foster the development of creative leadership in home and community life.

Purpose VIII: To further interest in home economics.

The possibility of providing experiences for each FHA member which will help further interest in home economics, encourage democracy and provide experiences which develop creative leadership are illustrated in Table 11.

Table 11

Chapters' Provision for Participation
In Variety of Club Activities

MY FHA CHAPTER:	YES		NO	
	No.	%	No.	%
Makes me aware that FHA is national in its interests	575	96	25	4
Provides experiences in making and spending money for an organization	479	80	124	20
Provides experience for writing for school and local papers	125	21	475	79
Provides experiences in parliamentary procedures	405	68	195	32
Provides opportunity for group singing	406	68	194	32
Gives me opportunity to be on the radio	104	17	496	83
Gives me an opportunity for working on degrees	485	81	115	19
Has interesting meetings	125	21	475	79

As shown in Table 11, the greatest lack recognized by the majority of Future Homemakers of America who participated in this study was in the opportunities for radio and newspaper experience. Three-fourths of the 600 members indicated they did not have these opportunities by checking the "no" column. Of the 22 chapters represented, five chapters showed by their 100 per cent negative responses that they had no opportunity for radio work in their communities. It may be assumed that radio work is

limited in most chapters because of the distance to radio stations or because of the difficulties involved in preparing and presenting good programs.

Of the 600 members, 79 per cent believed that their meetings were uninteresting. Many respondents wrote the word "sometimes" in the margin of the questionnaire when answering.

As also indicated in Table 11, most FHA members are well informed about the FHA program as it is organized on a national basis. Ninety-six per cent stated they had become aware that FHA was national in its scope.

Previously, it has been shown that only 13 per cent of the total group responding had worked on a degree of achievement. Evidently the lack of degrees earned is not from lack of opportunities, since 81 per cent of the respondents stated that their chapters offered the opportunities to work on degrees.

Two-thirds of the respondents believed that their chapters provided experience in parliamentary procedures, and opportunity for group singing. Group singing is especially emphasized in the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America. A recent handbook (9) prepared by the state officers and adviser of FHA contains 11 pages of songs.

Eighty per cent of the 600 girls said their chapters

provided experiences in making and spending money for an organization.

Table 11, then, seems to show that the point of emphasis found in many Oregon FHA chapters is on experience in money-making projects, parliamentary procedures, and group singing. Through these projects many members are able to be leaders and initiate various activities such as selling hot dogs at basketball games. Thus, members develop leadership ability so that members can contribute to the organization through these various activities.

However, an analysis of the replies shows that only 21 per cent of the members reported their chapter had interesting meetings or provided opportunities to write for school or community papers, and only 17 per cent participated in radio work. It is recognized, therefore, that the chapters are not using all of the many possibilities which would help to achieve Purpose VI: "To foster development of creative leadership in home and community life."

The use of parliamentary procedures by the majority of chapters indicates that they strive to stimulate Purpose III: "To encourage democracy in home and community life."

The eight club activities listed on the questionnaire contribute a small part to the fulfillment of Purpose VIII:

"To further interest in home economics," which includes in its interpretation the developing of further interest in the field of homemaking education and the learning of what contributions members can make to home economics. Of those participating in this study, 96 per cent had the understanding that FHA was national in its interest. Surely understanding of the organization by individual members is necessary if the stated purposes are to be attained.

Opportunities for working on degrees could also play a part in fulfilling this purpose since degrees of achievement include exploring the many opportunities of home economics. Here again, the radio and newspaper can be used to contribute to the furthering interest in home economics. As stated previously, these two activities were not provided for the majority of members.

Homemaking Participation

Three national purposes are specifically centered around home and family living. These are:

Purpose I: To promote a growing appreciation of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking.

Purpose II: To emphasize the importance of worthy home membership.

Purpose VII: To provide wholesome individual and group recreation.

Items related to achieving the above purposes are listed in Table 12. The 600 FHA members' responses to these benefits are shown.

Table 12

Chapters' Provision for Increasing
Interest in the Home and Home Life

MY FHA CHAPTER:	YES		NO	
	No.	%	No.	%
Gives me a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of a homemaker	537	90	73	10
Helps me appreciate my home more	480	80	120	20
Provides experience in care of the home	442	74	158	26
Helps me be a better hostess in my home	439	73	161	27
Encourages me to improve my sewing skills	395	66	205	34
Provides learning experience in cooking	433	72	167	28
Helps me learn to take care of my clothes	386	66	214	34
Provides suggestions for leisure time at home	368	61	232	29

Ninety per cent of the 600 FHA members said their FHA chapters gave them a clear understanding of the responsibility of a homemaker. From comments written by the members, those who answered the questionnaires had difficulty in deciding whether it was FHA or their homemaking classes which helped them to develop this understanding.

Eighty per cent of the respondents said FHA helped them appreciate their homes more. Table 12 shows that all items received at least a two-thirds positive response. It would seem that the 600 FHA members believed that either their organization or their homemaking classes helped them develop interest in homemaking activities.

Purpose I, that of promoting a growing appreciation of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking, may be interpreted to indicate that through planned activities related to the home the members learn to appreciate the many joys and satisfactions of homemaking. Table 12 records that 90 per cent of the respondents thought that their chapter gave them opportunities of understanding the responsibilities of a homemaker and 80 per cent of the respondents believed Future Homemakers of America provided ways in which they were helped to appreciate their homes.

Purpose II is also being fulfilled by the majority of 22 chapters. Approximately three-fourths of the members responding were provided with activities which would develop homemaking skills. Certainly, accepting responsibility in the home and ability to cooperate can help one to become a more worthy home member.

The Official Guide for FHA says that Purpose VII, that of providing wholesome individual and group recreation, helps to strengthen worthy home membership by

combating idleness and restlessness. (4, p.6) The same members responding believed they needed suggestions for the use of leisure time at home. Of the 600 responding, 61 per cent believed their chapters provided this benefit and 29 per cent responded negatively.

Number of Respondents Who Replied
With 25 or More Negative Answers

Instructions sent to the advisers of the 22 chapters participating included a statement that there were no right or wrong answers to the 50 items listed on the questionnaire. However, since all the items were set up to indicate positive feelings towards FHA as to the benefits it was providing for its members, extreme negative responses should be worthy of special consideration. A total of 83 members (14 per cent) of the 600 FHA members responded negatively to 25 or more of the 50 items on the questionnaire.

To discover the reasons for the extreme negative response from the 83 members the questionnaires were analyzed for the members' experience in FHA, and membership in homemaking classes.

The first fact discovered was that of the consistency of negative responses in two chapters. Of the 83 questionnaires returned with negative checks of 25 to 48, 19 questionnaires were from the same chapter. This chapter,

representing the Southern district, had a total return of 32 questionnaires. It can be seen, then, that nearly 60 per cent of this chapter's returns showed the members believed that FHA had little to offer them. It is, therefore, very doubtful that in this chapter the national purposes were being fulfilled. One other chapter, representing the Northwestern district, had a return of 37 per cent of the members' questionnaires with 25 or more negative checks. In the case of these two chapters, it appears that there is a definite need for helping these Future Homemakers of America chapters achieve the purposes of FHA.

The data indicated that of the 83 negative questionnaires, 50 questionnaires or 60 per cent of the members had not any experience in FHA as an officer, delegate, or had earned a degree of achievement. It cannot be said, however, that these can be the reasons for the negative feelings since 72 per cent of the 600 members (Table 3) responding had held no office in FHA, 86 per cent of the 600 members (Table 4) responding had given no indication that they worked on degrees, and 75 per cent of the members (Table 5) had never been delegates to the district or state meetings.

The members who responded negatively with 25 or more "no's" on their questionnaires did not lack training in

homemaking classes. Of the 83 negative questionnaires, 51 questionnaires or again 60 per cent of the members who answered were in or had had classes in Homemaking I and II. It is significant to mention, however, that of the 600 responding, 25 members had only eighth grade training in homemaking classes. Of these 25 members, 15 or 60 per cent of those who had only eighth grade homemaking gave 25 or more negative responses. Lack of opportunity in homemaking classes may have influenced these members' responses.

The data revealed, furthermore, that of the 83 members who answered the questionnaire with 25 or more negative answers, 24 members (29 per cent of the 83 members) were in FHA less than one year. Thirteen members (16 per cent of the 83 members) were in FHA one year, whereas 23 members (28 per cent of the 83 members) were in FHA two years. Finally, 14 members (17 per cent of the 83 members) were in FHA three years, and nine members or ten per cent of the 83 members were in FHA four years. It goes without saying, therefore, that the 83 members were not lacking in years of membership in FHA. Nonetheless, they believed that as FHA members they were not receiving positive values from the organization.

Summary

For the most part the 600 FHA members' reactions to the 50 items listed on the questionnaire were positive. They indicated that they believed their chapter provided opportunities for attaining the benefits listed. Only eight of the 50 items listed received a negative response of 50 per cent or more. Four of these eight items were in the group of international understanding, three were in the category of club activities, and one was from the community participation category.

According to the data, the chapters who participated in this study were failing to achieve Purpose V: "To promote international goodwill." The category containing items related to this purpose received more negative responses than any other group. The item which said, "My FHA chapter helps us to share with people in foreign lands," received the most affirmative answers in this grouping. Probably this response is the result of the opportunity provided by the national offices to adopt a foreign homemaking class and sponsor part of its support.

Most chapters fail to promote the degree program. Although 81 per cent of the 600 respondents recorded that their chapters provided opportunity to work on a degree, only 13 per cent of the total group had earned a degree of achievement.

The results indicated that FHA and homemaking classes work hand in hand. Many girls found it difficult to say whether it was their homemaking experience or FHA which provided opportunities for stimulating interest in the home and family life.

The 83 members who believed they were not receiving many benefits from their FHA chapters were not lacking in experience in homemaking or years of membership in FHA. In the case of two chapters, it was believed by the investigator that the negative responses were due to lack of understanding of the national purposes and ways in which to attain these purposes.

Although it was true that 60 per cent of the members who responded with 25 or more negative answers had not had any experience as officers, delegates, or earned degrees of achievement, these could not be the sole criteria since three-fourths of the 600 members who responded to the questionnaire had never had any experience in FHA other than being a member.

The lack of homemaking experience in the case of the girls who had only eighth grade homemaking may have had some influence since 60 per cent of the group who had only eighth grade homemaking did not believe FHA had been beneficial to them. Perhaps this feeling is due to the fact that often FHA business or important announcements are

made in homemaking classes, or time is allowed then for committee meetings. Those not in the homemaking classes would be at a disadvantage in this respect.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was an attempt to appraise the value of Oregon Association of the Future Homemakers of America to its members through an evaluation of the benefits which members recognized they received from belonging to the organization. The evaluation was made on the basis of the eight national purposes of the Future Homemakers of America. Information and data were gathered through a questionnaire survey sent to the members of 22 FHA chapters chosen by a random sampling of the chapters in the Oregon state organization.

Data obtained through the questionnaire for the evaluation included the length of membership, and achievements of the member in her local chapter, years of experience in homemaking classes, and negative or affirmative answers to 50 items concerning the values which the FHA member might or might not receive from FHA.

In order to determine how effectively the local chapters in the state of Oregon were fulfilling the stated purposes of the Future Homemakers of America organization, the benefits received by the members were evaluated. To accomplish this the eight purposes of the organization were used as criteria.

Purpose I: To promote a growing appreciation of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking.

This purpose in its broadest interpretation includes the influence of the home on the community. The family is the basis for community life and, therefore, the strength of the community depends on satisfying home life.

To find satisfaction and joy in homemaking, it is necessary to have tools for appreciating, understanding, guiding, and directing home and family life. It is hoped that Future Homemakers of America will provide its members with these tools so that the members will help spread enthusiasm and appreciation of homemaking to people in many communities.

The data give evidence that the 22 FHA chapters in Oregon are providing opportunities for the development of joys and satisfactions of homemaking. Actual experience in the care of the home was reported by 74 per cent of the members responding. Evidently, other means for developing understanding and appreciation were provided since 90 per cent of the 600 FHA members replied that their FHA chapters gave them a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of a homemaker. The chapters studied also showed evidences that the understanding gained was related to a greater appreciation of the home and family members, since 80 per cent reported that their chapter helped them to

appreciate their home more, and 61 per cent stated that FHA helped them get along better with their families.

Members of Future Homemakers of America chapters participating in this study realize the importance of the home-school relationship and the value received in using community resources. It is true that in community life, a mother who truly finds joys and satisfactions in homemaking becomes a source of ideals for others. FHA chapters, for example, may wish to have a panel of mothers discuss one of the many teenage problems, or ask homemakers in the community to present their favorite hobby of flower arrangement, painting, or sewing projects. As many as two-thirds of the responding members stated that their chapters invited participation of townspeople in school programs and gained cooperation of parents for school projects. Further, almost two-thirds of the members replied that their chapters informed the public of homemaking education activities. It can be concluded from this return that the majority of chapters were actively promoting homemaking outside their organization.

Thus, the chapters in numerous ways were providing opportunities for promoting joys and appreciations of homemaking. As shown by the replies that two-thirds or more of the members in the responding chapters were providing opportunities which helped them better appreciate,

understand, and enjoy their home and family members.

Purpose II: To emphasize the importance of worthy home membership.

Certainly, a worthy home member is one who has the ability to cooperate and who is able to make wise decisions. This purpose includes in its interpretation the importance for recognizing needs of others, and assisting others when possible.

In the light of this interpretation, eight of the values in the questionnaire might have helped towards a realization of this purpose.

First, relative to this purpose, 94 per cent stated that their FHA chapter teaches them to cooperate with others. Such cooperation was further emphasized by the replies which indicated that 82 per cent helped them get along better with friends, and as previously mentioned, two-thirds believed FHA helped them get along better with their families.

Other indications that the respondents were given opportunities for gaining experience in group participation which undoubtedly gave members experience in making decisions is evidenced by the fact that over 90 per cent stated that FHA encouraged them to accept responsibility, gave them opportunities to express their ideas, and gave them opportunities to learn to be a good member of a group.

Group participation is significant if the worthy home membership is to include the importance of members gaining practice in making decisions and developing judgment. It is the purpose of FHA to help members become aware of their own capabilities. If, through group participation, FHA members are able to recognize both their own strengths and weaknesses, they can direct better their efforts in contributing to the needs of a family or community group.

In the light of these replies, it is reasonable to believe that a majority, 80 per cent or more, of the FHA members responding were gaining benefits from group participation that would help them become more worthy home members.

Purpose III: To encourage democracy in home and community life.

The founders of the Future Homemakers of America sensed the need for strengthening democracy in home and community life and believed that through the proper functioning of the organization the practice of democratic ideals could be fostered in its members and carried into everyday home and community life. The FHA chapter, in fulfilling this purpose, enables its members to work in a democratic atmosphere. From the beginning, the founders of FHA provided an office for a parliamentarian in both the national and state association. A parliamentarian is

optional in the local chapters; however, 68 per cent of the respondents said they received experiences in parliamentary procedures.

Accordingly, 75 per cent stated that their FHA chapters helped develop leadership ability, and 88 per cent recorded that they were helped to develop dependability. Both characteristics are decided assets to an individual living in a democratic society.

While 92 per cent believed their FHA chapter encourages members to accept responsibility, and 91 per cent gave members an opportunity to express ideas, only 54 per cent of the members believed FHA helped them use their own initiative. These figures give some evidence that most of the 22 chapters function as a unit, pooling ideas and decisions made by individuals. Since individual initiative is not fostered as much in group projects as in individual projects this benefit can best be promoted through the degree of achievement program. To earn a degree of achievement, individual effort is required for attainment. Unfortunately, only 13 per cent of the respondents indicated they had work on degrees of achievement; yet 81 per cent stated their chapter provided opportunities for working on degrees of achievement. Encouraging and helping members to work on degrees of achievement is the advisers' responsibility, and this weakness should

be remedied by them.

For the most part, the data indicated that FHA does stimulate democratic living for three-fourths of its members through the development of leadership ability, efficiency, responsibility, and dependability, all necessary in a democratic society. Of significance, too, is the fact that over three-fourths of the members responding stated their FHA chapters provided opportunities for practicing good citizenship, a further indication of the fulfillment of this purpose.

Purpose IV: To work for good home and family life for all.

The important word in this purpose is the word "all." It is hoped that FHA will provide ways to help members strive for a healthy, harmonious family life in which all members take an active part. A good home provides satisfaction for all members through sharing of responsibilities and pleasures.

Included in its interpretation, this purpose indicates the importance of recognizing the needs of others and that of helping others not only in materialistic ways but through understanding and tolerance.

The data revealed that nine-tenths of the girls responding believed their chapters taught them to cooperate with others. Mentioned before but also relating to this

purpose was the recording that two-thirds believed FHA helped them to get along better with their family.

Three-fourths of the members responding reported that their FHA chapter helped develop a greater understanding of people as well as helping them to be aware of the needs of others. The study showed that FHA members have many opportunities for developing this understanding. Again three-fourths stated that their FHA chapters helped them establish close friendship with girls that had similar interests, provided opportunities for meeting girls in other schools, and provided opportunities for working with a group on projects. It is understandable, then, why 82 per cent of the respondents would indicate that they believe their FHA chapter helped them get along better with their friends.

An analysis of the answers to those items referring to the development of positive personal characteristics showed that 85 per cent of the members replying had improved in self-confidence, 81 per cent believed they had improved in efficiency, 88 per cent thought they had become more dependable because of their participation in FHA. Such personal characteristics as these contribute much to the development of a worthy home member. It was quite evident, therefore, that this purpose was attained by the majority of chapters participating in this study.

Purpose V: To promote international goodwill.

When determining the goals of FHA, the committee involved did not overlook the necessity for the Future Homemakers of America to do their part in contributing to a lasting world peace. Through the national office, it is possible for individual chapters or state associations to adopt a homemaking class in a foreign country, and to participate in the world Christmas Festival. The national office also emphasizes the satisfactions of corresponding with pupils of other lands. Four items were included in the questionnaire which pertained to ways in which this national purpose could be achieved.

The statement which asked if the FHA chapter provided opportunities to study home life in other countries received an affirmative response of only 25 per cent. Again, only 24 per cent of the respondents replied affirmatively that their FHA chapters provided opportunities to be hostesses to people of other lands. Unfortunately, the data revealed that those chapters situated near colleges where foreign students are enrolled did not take advantage of having the foreign student attend FHA chapter meetings. On the Oregon State campus, for instance, there are at present, approximately 100 foreign students. Many of these students travel to speak to business and professional women or men's service clubs. Many opportunities for

learning first-hand information are available by having these foreign students discuss their country. Advantages would be gained also for the foreign students enrolled in college home economics in witnessing the functions of a high school organization of homemaking girls.

Although one of the national projects stresses the adopting of a foreign homemaking class, only 37 per cent of respondents in the 22 chapters stated their chapter provided opportunities to share with people in foreign lands. Likewise, only 30 per cent corresponded with people in other countries. The respondents' replies indicated, therefore, that their chapters have not included opportunities for demonstrating international goodwill. Since this purpose is not achieved by the responding chapters, this may be cited as one avenue along which the state association could direct its efforts in assisting the local chapters to broaden their program.

Purpose VI: To foster the development of creative leadership in home and community life.

It was believed by the founders that youth of today desire to be leaders and to initiate activities related to home and community life. This purpose implies, therefore, that all members do not have to be executive officers in order to develop creative leadership. Thus, FHA strives to develop in its members a broad outlook on life

by providing many types of experiences.

Approximately two-thirds of the respondents believed they were provided with opportunities for informing the public of the homemaking program by means of window displays, and contacting service clubs. Certainly, creative ability is necessary for creating a window display or preparing a talk or skit for a service club. Other provisions for developing poise besides presenting talks for groups are included in the program of the chapters reporting since the majority of the members believed their FHA helped them to develop poise. Related to this positive characteristic is the fact that 74 per cent of the members stated their FHA chapter helped them to be better hostesses in their homes.

The data indicated that two-thirds of the members believed their chapters provided experience in parliamentary procedures, provided opportunity for group singing, and four-fifths of the 600 girls gained experience in making and spending money. It is believed by the investigator that these activities provide members with opportunities to develop creative leadership ability by allowing members to initiate, plan, and carry out the plans for these activities.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that only 21 per cent of the members reported their chapters had interesting

meetings. Surely this indicates a weakness in the make up of FHA chapters and is indicative that potential leadership is not encouraged or guided effectively.

Benefits stated elsewhere, which were not fully utilized, and could contribute to this purpose also were those pertaining to radio work and creative writing.

It is seen, therefore, that the benefits included in this study show that this purpose was attained by the members of the 22 chapters responding, although not all possible experiences were utilized.

Purpose VII: To provide wholesome individual group recreation.

Basic to Future Homemakers of America is this important purpose. It directs attention of FHA members to the many productive activities for worthwhile use of time and thereby strengthens worthy home membership by contributing to a more interesting and enjoyable home life for the family members concerned.

The type of social activities undoubtedly would vary in each chapter; nevertheless, 87 per cent of the respondents stated their FHA chapter provides "good times" and 81 per cent stated that their FHA provides opportunities to take part in many social activities.

Although only 61 per cent believe their chapters provided suggestions for the use of leisure time at home,

two-thirds believed their chapters encouraged the improvement of sewing skills and provided learning experience in cooking. Evidently, homemaking skills as a leisure-time activity for high school girls is not suggested or considered as such by those responding.

As recorded previously, 68 per cent stated their FHA provided opportunity for group singing, certainly a benefit that is related to this purpose also.

Although not many benefits most directly related to this purpose were included in the questionnaire, those appearing received an affirmative answer by the majority of girls responding. Thus, within the limitations of this study, it is believed that this purpose was attained by the responding chapters.

Purpose VIII: To further interest in home economics.

This purpose includes in its interpretation the developing of further interest in the field of homemaking education and the learning of what contributions members can make to home economics. Of those participating in this study, 96 per cent had the understanding that FHA was national in its interest. Surely, understanding of the organization by individual members is necessary if the stated purpose is to be attained.

Opportunities for working on degrees of achievement also play a part in the fulfillment of this purpose since degrees that are earned usually require the exploring of the many opportunities of home economics. Of significance is the fact that although 81 per cent of the members stated that their chapter provided opportunities for working on degrees and as previously discussed, only 13 per cent of the total number responding had earned degrees.

Here again, the radio and newspaper can be used to further interest in home economics. However, values obtained from writing or presenting a radio script in which the members would be analyzing the organization for the community are not the only way in which FHA members can further the interest in home economics. Purposefully, the FHA members have many opportunities in attending conferences and various meetings to learn what values they can gain from home economics, as well as what contributions they can make to the field of home economics. It is hoped that these meetings will develop further interest for each member in the field of homemaking education. Since only 24 per cent of the 600 members responding had attended meetings outside their own chapter, there is a definite need to stimulate interest in district meetings, state and national meetings.

If the interpretation of this purpose is to mean the stimulation of further interest in home economics for members within the FHA organization, this purpose is not achieved by the majority of respondents.

Summary

Six purposes seem to be achieved for those 600 who answered the questionnaire but two need to receive greater emphasis if they are to be achieved. Future programs of work for the Oregon Association of Future Homemakers of America should center attention on:

Purpose V: To promote international goodwill.

Purpose VIII: To further interest in home economics.

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APPENDIX A

Table A

Distribution of Questionnaires to Future Homemakers of
America Chapters in Seven Districts in Oregon

Districts	Total		Chapters asked to participate		Chapters participating	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Central	7	8	4	9	1	4
Eastern	12	14	7	15	2	9
Northwestern	13	16	9	19	5	23
North Willamette	21	25	10	21	3	14
South Coast	7	8	3	6	3	14
South Willamette	16	19	9	19	4	18
Southern	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>18</u>
TOTAL	84	100	47	100	22	100

Table B

Distribution and Replies to Questionnaires
Sent to 22 FHA Chapters

<u>Districts and Chapters</u>	<u>No. paid members in FHA</u>	<u>No. re- quested</u>	<u>No. ret'd.</u>	<u>% ret'd.</u>	<u>No. dis- carded</u>
<u>Total for Districts</u>	907	971	653	68	53
<u>Central</u>					
<u>Madras</u>	53	58	34	59	2
<u>Eastern</u>					
<u>Wallowa</u>	35	38	34	89	0
<u>Nyssa</u>	61	62	46	74	2
<u>Total</u>	96	100	80		2
<u>Northwestern</u>					
<u>Newberg</u>	50	60	31	50	5
<u>Astoria</u>	27	25	23	92	2
<u>Clatskanie</u>	35	35	25	71	2
<u>Banks</u>	25	25	25	100	4
<u>Yamhill</u>	30	30	26	87	4
<u>Total</u>	167	175	130		17
<u>North Willamette</u>					
<u>Oregon City Sr.</u>	49	55	13	24	0
<u>Grant, Portland</u>	12	12	11	92	1
<u>Estacada</u>	32	20	13	65	0
<u>Total</u>	93	87	37		1
<u>South Coast</u>					
<u>Myrtle Point</u>	61	55	32	58	5
<u>Coquille</u>	40	40	25	62	4
<u>Roseburg</u>	61	63	20	32	1
<u>Total</u>	162	158	77		10
<u>South Willamette</u>					
<u>Cottage Grove</u>	42	45	37	82	0
<u>Willamette</u>	27	30	22	73	1
<u>Toledo</u>	24	23	20	87	2
<u>Lebanon</u>	23	30	18	60	0
<u>Total</u>	116	128	97		3
<u>Southern</u>					
<u>Lakeview</u>	80	90	62	69	1
<u>Medford Jr.</u>	63	105	92	88	12
<u>Merrill</u>	44	45	32	71	4
<u>Rogue River</u>	24	25	12	50	1
<u>Total</u>	211	265	198		18

APPENDIX B

Dear Girls:

I have been a Future Homemakers of America adviser and am now at Oregon State College working on a master's degree. Will each of you be kind enough to help me with some of my graduate work by completing the following?

Thank you,

Audrey Ingraham

DIRECTIONS: Circle the number or word that pertains to you:

Your Grade in High School	9	10	11	12	
Years of Membership in FHA	less than 1	1	2	3	4
Past or present FHA Chapter Officer	Yes	No			
Past or present FHA State Officer	Yes	No			
FHA Degree Earned	Junior	Chapter	State	None	

DIRECTIONS: Please answer the following:

HOW HAS FHA HELPED YOU? HOW COULD FHA HELP YOU MORE?