

REGION AMERICAS UPDATE

Submitted by Joanne PEARSON, IFHE Vice-President Region of the Americas

Professional meetings of Home Economists are taking place throughout the Region of the Americas this year, a year when IFHE Council Meeting is not scheduled. In some areas, such as Canadian provinces and the United States of America, these meetings are held annually, while in the Caribbean region and in Brazil the meetings are held only biennially. Canadian provincial meetings have taken place this winter and spring in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Guelph, Ontario, and Calgary, Alberta, and the IFHE-US and AAFCS Meetings will take place in Phoenix, Arizona from June 21st– 25th. The Caribbean Association of Home Economists Meeting was held in Kingstown on the island of St. Vincent from April 17th– 20th, and the Brazilian Conference of Home Economics will be held in Recife, Brazil from September 14th– 19th. Regional structure for the IFHE Region of Americas has been a matter of discussion for a number of years. In July 2010 a constitution was approved in the IFHE Region of Europe establishing the European Association for Home Economics. Officers elected for this new European organization at the Leadership Meeting in Mainz, Germany in February were President (Vice-President Region of Europe), Vice-President (Member Representative Region Of Europe), Treasurer, and three to four representatives from various parts of Europe.

Vice-President PEARSON felt that it was time to again consider what form of regional structure was most appropriate for the Region of the Americas. Letters were sent to people who had volunteered in 2007 to serve on a regional planning committee that had never been activated. Additional letters were sent to people in the various subregions, including Canada, Caribbean, South America, and USA. At the present time the following people have agreed to serve on the committee: Geraldene HODELIN and Icilda FRENCH from the Caribbean, Carol ANDERSON and Liz GOLDSMITH from the United States, and Ruth BERRY from Canada. Additional volunteers, especially people from South America, are sought for this regional structure planning committee, with the goal for the committee to develop a proposed regional structure to present at the next Region of the Americas Business Meeting at IFHE Congress in Melbourne, Australia in July 2012.

Another regional group of leaders formed this year are the YPN coordinators. The Young Professionals Network (YPN) in the Region of Americas started as a group of active young professionals in IFHE about three years ago, and it has been actively recruiting members since then. The YPN now is a Council Committee of IFHE, with a coordinating committee made up of representatives from each region of the world. Kala STANTON, a secondary school teacher from the USA, is the newly appointed Region of the Americas representative for the next two years. Currently there are also YPN leaders in three of the four sub-regions - Maxine HILLS, a secondary school teacher, for the Caribbean, Rachael PETTIGREW, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Manitoba, for Canada, and Jacqueline WARNOCK, an extension agent, for the United States. A search is being made for someone who will assume the similar role in South America. The responsibilities of the subregional coordinators are to work with the Regional YPN representative, to make contacts with other YPN members in the region, and if possible to attend meetings of the YPN group at IFHE Council Meeting and Congress, and the Annual Leadership Meeting. Membership in the YPN is not based on age, but on stage of career. Thus, members of YPN may be students or active members in their first few years of employment following college.

A Region of the Americas webpage is under development and volunteers to provide information from each of the subregions are sought. In addition to providing regional text and pictures, volunteers who have skills in Portuguese, Spanish and or French to translate text from English for the regional website are also wanted. If you are willing to assist in any way please contact the Vice-President at pearsojm@jmu.edu , or webmaster, Mary ANDREWS at mandrews@msu.edu . To view the Regional Webpage, go to <ifhe-us.org> and Click on Region of the Americas.
(Text from IFHE Newsletter, NL_June 2011)