

New Jersey Schoolwomen's Club celebrates 100 years

By Kimberly Crane



The New Jersey Schoolwomen's Club with four of the six scholarship recipients. From left: NJSC 2nd VP Alicia Somers, NJSC President Ginger Isaksen, recipients Ciara Mary O'Keefe, Isabella Arbelo Miranda, Lisette Kiran Szeman and Sofia Alexandra Parillo, and two of the three scholarship committee members, Linda Pesce and Judy Jordan.

At its 1924 convention, the of the New Jersey State Teachers' Association, which later became the New Jersey Education Association a group of 29 women educators, from eight counties, met to discuss forming a schoolwoman's association, similar to such organizations for male teachers, such as the New Jersey Schoolmaster's Club or Schoolmen's Club. The organization's first meeting was held May 2, 1925, at the Stacy Trent Hotel in Trenton with 176 members present. Membership grew to 359 by 1968.

On May 3, members of the New Jersey Schoolwomen's Club (NJSC) celebrated the organization's centennial with a luncheon at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township.

Small but mighty

Today, club membership averages 40 members.

"A lot has changed in over 100 years," NJSC 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair Alicia Somers said. "We are a small but mighty group of women in the field of education who continue to believe in and uphold the purpose and mission of the NJSC."

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A mission of service, support and scholarships

The club's first service project began in 1927 with a donation of \$100 to flood relief. In 1948, a scholarship fund was created. Presently, NJSC conducts several annual projects including school supply donation, hat and glove drives, food pantry support, and collecting pajamas and books for women's shelters.

Every May since 1948, NJSC holds a scholarship award luncheon. Each year, six women who are preparing for a career in education each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. This year's scholarships were awarded to Ella Megan Rajeok, Ciara Mary O'Keeffe, Isabella Arbelo Miranda, Lisette Kiran Szeman, Sofia Alexandria Parillo and Julia Rose Thompson.

NJSC membership

NJSC represents all units of active and retired educators who are teachers, therapists, paraprofessionals, administrators, supervisors and other women in the field of education. Woman dedicated to improving public education and supporting other woman educators may receive an invitation to join from any current member.

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