

NACAC HISTORY 1940s

NACAC History: 1940

A Decade of War and Challenge to a Nation and a Profession

James Gage, Beloit College (WI), ACAC President 1941 (presented as transcribed from oral history tapes) remembers the decade:

Well, I think we actually published a code of ethics you know, and then if we caught, anybody violating that... you see this got going during the Depression. And it was really very difficult to get students. All of a sudden people couldn't afford to go to college anywhere. So colleges were, everywhere, having a hard time getting enough students. And some of them, especially the women's colleges I think, did a lot more pressuring and... well, they could make offers that a good, well-established college wouldn't stoop to. I can't remember just what they were though. I just remember that there were horrible things that we thought were being done and we wanted to control that. Plus... my recollection was one of the main things was to keep in good relationships with the high schools and if all of us came flooding in at different times they would get a negative response entirely. But we'd get a better response if we did things in an organized way. Now, some high schools did organize college day programs and they may have done it regardless of us and invited any colleges they wanted to.

I can remember being at New Trier High School for their college day program on December 7th, is it 1941? Pearl Harbor Day. Because someone had a little radio and they came over. Pearl Harbor had been bombed. And it was announced right at that meeting. It's interesting because people say, where were you on such and such a day? Where were you... I can always remember I was at New Trier High School. That was of course, '41.

Well, by that time I was still in it and, did I say we did establish a Chicago office? And Mr. Hale was put in charge of that. And if he left in 1939 then it was of course, before that. And I think the Chicago office, was maintained for awhile afterwards, but not for very long.

Meetings in 1940 and 1941:

Officers:

- Chairman 1939-40: Thomas Carpenter, Knox College
- Chairman 1940-41: (Mr. Freeman, per minutes 3/23/41)
- Secretary-Treasurer 1939-41: Ralph L. Ferguson, Lake Forest College
- Secretary-Treasurer-elect 1941-42: Machin Gardner, Grinnell College note:resigned

Few accounts or records of the association's history is found in NACAC archives for the period of January 1940 through February of 1941. The archival history resumes with minutes of a meeting in March of 1941, although a history of NACAC written by then-President Harry M. Gerlach for the Summer 1958 A.C.A.C. *Journal*, notes minutes from an Executive Board meeting in February of 1941 (not located). However, it is known that the following members were elected to the Executive Board and served during this time:

For term expiring March 30, 1940: Jay Gerber, Northwestern University, Robert Farber, DePauw University and Ralph L. Ferguson, Lake Forest College (Secretary-Treasurer 1939-40)

For term expiring March 1941: Thomas Carpenter, Knox College (Chairman, 1939-40), R. P. Petrie, Monmouth College and Mrs. R.S. Degoyler, Rockford College.

For term expiring March 30 1942: C. M. Lawson, Central YMCA College, Mrs. Charles Englebracht, Ripon College and Machin Gardner, Grinnell College (Secretary-Treasurer, note: "resigned").

At the beginning of the 1940s-decade, several ad hoc committees remained active, including:

- College Day Study Committee
- Committee preparing Manual of Information on member colleges for use in advising students
- Committee designing "inquiry blanks" for use in high school visits

NACAC Mission

The National Association for College Admission Counseling advocates and supports ethical and professional practice in helping students transition to postsecondary education. NACAC promotes high professional standards and social responsibility through collaboration, knowledge and education.

For more information, visit www.nacacnet.org

- Committee set up to coordinate college days in the Chicago area, encourage consolidation of smaller college days, discourage college days conducted by organizations other than high schools, and discourage elaborate college days requiring fees.

During this decade there was much continuous turnover among members of the Executive Board. It might be conjectured that, at least in some measure, this may have been due to the time of WWII.

NACAC History: 1941

There is currently only record from one meeting in this year, although an earlier history written by Harry Gerlach, NACAC President in 1958, refer to minutes of an Executive Board on February 18, 1941.

- Officers March 1941-March 1942:
- Chairman: James Gage, Beloit College
- Vice-Chairman: Unknown
- Secretary Treasurer: Ralph L. Ferguson, Lake Forest College

March 1941:

A General Meeting of Members was held on March 25, 1941 at Olson's Restaurant in Chicago. Twenty members attended and it is recorded that the meeting was "opened by Mr. Freeman, Chairman." (Note: This is curious, as there is no record of a chair of the association by the name of Freeman.) From minutes of this meeting, it might be inferred that the association was relatively inactive during 1940, since it was decided that no dues would be assessed for 1940 and that the dues for 1941 should be assessed immediately.

A pivotal decision reached on this date was "that membership in A.C.A.C. implies acceptance of and adherence to the standards of the association." This is another benchmark point that has remained a foundation of NACAC throughout the years.

A committee was appointed for the purpose of preparing bylaws for the association. Members were: Benjamin Van Riper of Carleton College, chair, C. M. Lawson of Central YMCA College and Mrs. George Fender (institution unspecified in minutes).

In addition, a committee was appointed to work cooperatively with "the Mid-West Guidance Association."

NACAC History: 1942

Officers March 1942-March 1943:

(These officers were in office on October 20, 1942, per the minutes of that meeting)

- Chairman: James Gage, Beloit College
- Vice-Chairman: James M. Macaulay, Cornell College
- Secretary-Treasurer: E.C. Bone, Illinois College

March 1942:

A General Meeting of members was held on March 17 at The Pantry in Park Ridge, Illinois, chaired by James Gage of Beloit College.

At this meeting three members were elected to replace board members whose terms would expire as of March 1942. Elected to serve until March of 1945 were: E.C. Bone, Illinois College; C.A. Serenius, Augustana College; and Clarence Deakins, Knox College.

Reports were heard from several ad hoc committees. The committee that was appointed to interface with what was now named "The National Guidance Association" (formerly the "Mid-West Guidance Association") reported that this organization was working to further guidance activities in schools and colleges. It was suggested that all A.C.A.C. college members should apply for membership in this association.

Also reporting was the committee appointed to implement a "College Plan Blank" requests for which had been made by 60 schools throughout the Midwest. Many other high schools had requested copies that they would duplicate on their own. Suggested additions to the data already collected on these blanks, included both student IQ and grades to date.

A constitution for A.C.A.C. was presented at this meeting, although no copy is found in the archives. However, "changes" to the document presented are recoded in minutes of this meeting and include:

A specification that "Membership shall be open to institutions through officers of administration charged with responsibility for selection and/or admitting applicants to accredited colleges."

- A specification that "No institution shall have more than one vote."
- Setting a quorum as one-third of voting members in order to conduct business at a general meeting.

A vote was then taken to approve the constitution as amended, likely the first constitution adopted by the association.

Another committee was appointed to work with the Association of High School Principals to work to eliminate duplication of dates for college days and to coordinate locations in order to facilitate travel by colleges.

It was suggested that colleges report, by October 1, to high school principals on students enrolled from each high school.

October 1942:

The association meeting in 1942 was held on October 20 at Parker High School in Chicago, following that school's college day. Vice-Chair J. M. Macaulay, acting in the absence of Chair James Gage, called the meeting to order.

Minutes of this meeting are the first to appear on letterhead stationery, the heading reading:

**The Association of College Admissions Counselors
Room 2011
400 W. Madison St.
Chicago, Illinois**

C.A. Serenius of Augustana College, a charter member of the association gave an overview of the organization's growth since its founding 1937. An interesting note is that lunch was prepared and served by students of Parker High School.

At this meeting it was necessary to elect five individuals to replace resignations on the Executive Board—including James Gage who, as noted earlier, was to serve as chair. Those elected included: Wm. E. Scott, University of Chicago (3-yr. term); Mr. John Phelps, Rose Polytechnic Institute and A.C. Hames, Kalamazoo College (2-yr. terms); Grace MacHortar, MacMurray College and Margaret Weigel, Monticello College (1-yr. terms).

A financial report given by secretary-treasurer, E.C. Bone showed an association balance of \$119.49. Delinquent dues were to be collected from members, in order to "carry on the work of the A.C.A.C. during the coming year."

Members were informed that the Executive Board had been in contact with the National Broadcasting Company in attempt to arrange radio time "to be used by the A.C.A.C. in describing the opportunities available for students in the colleges during wartime.

The next meeting date was set to be March 23, 1943, again at Parker High school with lunch served by students. Cost of the lunch was set at 60 cents.

October 21, 1942 Executive Board Meeting:

Gerlach cites this Executive Board meeting as originating the idea for a "college guidance booklet," to be published by the association. (This is not fully accurate, as significant discussion regarding an ongoing effort aimed at development of a "college information manual" with the same purpose took place in December of 1939.) At the October 1942 meeting, William E. Scott of the University of Chicago was designated to bring to the next Executive Board meeting a proposal for layout and printing costs.

NACAC History: 1943

March 1943 Membership Meeting:

According to the early history by Gerlach, William E. Scott of the University of Chicago, who was designated in October 1942 to bring to the next Executive Board meeting a proposal for layout and printing costs, reported at the March 23, 1943 membership meeting at Parker High School that: "In view of the present changing order in education, it was recommended that such a ["college information manual"] publication be postponed for the present. Such a booklet would necessitate the expenditure of a large sum of money which might of necessity be duplicated in the near future." That recommendation was accepted.

May 12 and October 18, 1943, Executive Board Meetings:

The need for the publication was again discussed at an Executive Board meeting in May of 1943, which was held in the Beloit College office of the Chicago Daily News Building.

After extensive discussion and the deliberations of a committee assigned to work out details, it was decided to go forward with a handbook for use by "guidance teachers and counselors." This handbook was to include general information on all member colleges.

Documented meetings in 1943:

Officers: March 1943 to March 1944:

- Chairman: James M. Macaulay, Cornell College
- Secretary-Treasurer: John B. Laing, Beloit College

October 1943:

The membership met the following day, on October 19, 1943, in a meeting held at Parker High school in Chicago. The chair was J. M. Macaulay. Minutes were read from the meeting of March 23, 1943 (minutes not found in archives). Secretary-treasurer J.B. Laing gave a financial report showing a balance of \$630.79 for the association.

Much of this meeting's business concerned the "guidance booklet" which, by this date, was at the printer. In a report given by Jane Kellogg Reid of Northwestern University, it was noted that this booklet was "instigated" by Dean Flagg of Skokie High School and was anticipated by the Chicago Board of Education as a valuable tool for guiding high school seniors. Mrs. Reid stated that a decision had been made to publish this booklet solely under the auspices of A.C.A.C., rather than "in conjunction with any other organization as was formerly contemplated." 1500 copies of the booklet were to be printed of which 500 were earmarked for distribution by the Chicago Board of Education to Chicago public high schools. Considerable discussion that followed included questions regarding how many booklets each member college and each high school might receive, whether additional copies should be distributed through member college representatives or "the central office", and how "the central office" might keep a record of all high schools which received the booklet in order to avoid duplications. Some felt that a larger number of booklets would be required. In the end, it was decided to maintain the number initially printed at 1500, pending the success of the publication for which financing came from a \$10 per member assessment. A motion carried to "refer the distribution of the booklet to the Executive Board with the provision that those who want to buy extra copies may have the privilege to do so."

At this meeting an amendment to the association's constitution was approved:

Membership in the Association of College Admissions Counselors shall be extended only to colleges and universities holding proper accreditation in the North Central Association or similar regional accrediting agencies. Any member of the A.C.A.C. as of October 1943 who does not hold such accreditation shall be placed on inactive status for a period of two years from the date of notification by the Association of inactive standing. If such accreditation is not secured by the end of the two-year waiting period, such said (sic) college shall be dropped from membership in the Association.

Before this meeting adjourned, C.A. Serenius of Augustana College was asked to speak to the origins of the association. His response stated that: "In 1937 they attempted to set up an organization similar to one already established in Ohio and suggested that if the Association was really interested in seeing how similar our organization is to others, we should appoint a representative to attend the meetings of other associations and check on the similarity of principles, aims, purposes and the origin."

NACAC History: 1944

Officers: March 1944-March 1945

- President: C.A. Serenius, Augustana College
- Vice-President: Grace MacHortar Hatch, MacMurray College
- Secretary-Treasurer: John B. Laing (re-elected) Beloit College

March 1944 "Annual" Meeting:

By the March 21, 1944 meeting, held at Lawson YMCA in Chicago, approximately 45 member colleges appeared on a roll-call roster. J. M. Macaulay of Cornell College served as chair and John B. Laing as Secretary-Treasurer.

The chair reported that an additional 500 guidance booklets were being reprinted and would be available to members for 25 cents per copy, after which the remaining copies would be mailed to high schools that had not yet received them.

Once again several current vacancies on the Executive Board were filled. In addition, three new board members were elected for terms March 1944 to March 1947, including: Willard Umbreit of DePauw, Oscar Olson of North Park College, and Mrs. W.A. Bowers of Milwaukee-Downer. When the Executive Board met following the membership meeting, C.A. Serenius of Augustana College was elected president, Grace MacHortar Hatch of MacMurray College, vice-president, and John B. Laing of Beloit re-elected as secretary-treasurer.

"Miss Farrell" of Chicago's Taft High School raised a concern, that "college representatives were wholesale telephoning and writing her for permission to attend their College Day program." The membership was reminded by the secretary that "an announcement of a College Day program did not constitute an invitation."

A modest balance of \$136.44 for the association's finances was reported, as well as an unpaid bill of \$53.00 for the additional printing of guidance booklets. Despite a request from the Executive Board to increase member dues to \$25, those present only supported dues of \$15 with the caveat that a special assessment of members might be made, if necessary.

A report was made by a committee appointed to review the association's constitution. This was followed by "heated debate" over the provisions of the "Code of Ethics" dealing with student application procedures, which specified:

V. Code of Ethics.

1. Procedure of application.

- a. An application is considered bona fide only if the following procedure has been followed:
 - 1) Formal written application is made for entrance.
 - 2) Transcript of credits has been sent in.
 - 3) Payment of deposit of some kind as evidence of good faith.

So much "controversial discussion" ensued over the third point—payment of the deposit—that a committee was immediately appointed to consider and report back to the whole. By meeting's end, the following wording was adopted:

- a. An application for admission to a college or a university is considered bona fide when:
 - 1) A formal written application has been submitted and a request made for a transcript.
 - 2) The association recommends that an entrance fee or room deposit or deposit on tuition charges is desirable.

Minutes from "The A.C.A.C., College Camp, August 14-17, 1944:

While previous histories of NACAC designate the Annual Conference held in 1947 at Hotel Moraine on-the-Lake in Highland Park, IL, as the first national conference, reading of minutes prior to that 1947 date make it clear that "annual" meetings of the association were held before this date. Perhaps most interesting, in the summer of 1944, members of the association convened in Lake Geneva, WI, for a two-day "Camp College" gathering. Members arrived on August 14, and meetings were held on the following three days. Not only was business of the association conducted, but there were presentations of topical sessions, as well. Forty-five individuals, representing 28 member institutions, attended.

Speakers included:

- Harold Gibson, director of admissions at MacMurray College, on the topic, "College Social Programs During War Time." Noted in the minutes: "Following Mr. Gibson's very interesting talk, the subject was further pursued by a discussion from the floor."
- William Scott of The University of Chicago on the topic, "Selection, Admission, and Orientation of Students". Notes on this presentation are: "Mr. Scott gave us a very realistic picture of the work done at his university. He discussed the manner in which the university plans to handle the returning veteran. He made it quite clear that the university does not plan to treat the returning veteran as a privileged (sic) individual, but rather as one of a normal group."
- In addition, Chair Macaulay led a discussion of scholarship practices among the members present.

Business conducted over the three days included appointment of committees to "formulate a statement on scholarships." A report was heard on the progress of the College Day

Committee, which had completed work on a new "Pre-College Questionnaire." That committee was also working on development of a "pre-counseling program" and an educational program addressing the "problem of badly organized college days in several schools."

The association voted to publish a supplement to its guidance booklet, now referred to as the "Guidance Handbook" for 1944 and to publish a new booklet in 1945.

Finally, a vote supported another meeting at College Camp in 1945 at the same time of year.

October 1944 "Semi-Annual" Meeting:

A "semi-annual" meeting of the association was held on October 24, 1944, in the Stevens Building Restaurant in Chicago. Seventy-one members and guests attended. The agenda appears to have consisted primarily of topical addresses to members. No business conducted was recorded in the minutes.

Three presentations to members were made. C. E. Hostetler, chief of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Educational Division of the Veteran's Administration, spoke on "The Vocational Rehabilitation, Education and Re-Training Program of the U.S. Veteran's Administration." Frank S. Endicott, director of the Placement Bureau, Northwestern University, addressed "What Business and Industry Expects of the Colleges, and its Implications in Student Recruiting." Donald J. Cowling, president of Carleton College, "discussed the four year college."

NACAC History: 1945

Officers March 1945-March 1946:

- President: John B. Laing, Beloit College
- Vice-President: R. P. Petrie, Monmouth College
- Secretary-Treasurer: Ernest E. Hanson, Northern Illinois State Teachers College



Midshipmen celebrate the end of war with Japan
courtesy United States Naval Academy

March 1945:

Seventy-two members attended the "annual business meeting" of the Association on March 20 1945, held at Central YMCA. Membership Chair, James Macaulay reported on 11 new members of the association. This appears to be the first record of public institutions joining including: Bowling Green State University, University of Illinois, Western Illinois State Teachers College, and Northern Illinois State Teachers College.

The College Day Committee reported that the pre-college questionnaire development was complete. Efforts to work with high schools to improve both counseling in the schools and college day programs had shown progress.

It was reported that the supplement to the Guidance Handbook had been completed and mailed to high schools in the Midwest.

The committee appointed to develop the next summer meeting reported. In a response to the wartime national scene, "A discussion followed as to the advisability of having such a meeting in view of the government's desire to limit all such meetings for the duration." A vote was taken to omit the 1945 summer meeting.

An auditing committee reported positively on the treasurer's records which showed income from membership fees and the sale of handbooks of \$859.67, expenditures of \$522, leaving a healthy balance of \$337.67.

Once again committees were appointed to review the association's constitution and to study best practices for College Day programs.

Election of officers were held with the following results:

- President: John B. Laing, Beloit College
- Vice- President: R. P. Petrie, Monmouth College
- Secretary-Treasurer: Ernest E. Hanson, Northern Illinois State Teachers College; and Board member: E.E. Stafford, institution not noted.

1945 Executive Board Meetings:

Historian Gerlach describes two Executive Board sessions held in May of 1945. He notes that on May 8 a vote was taken in favor of publishing a new college booklet to be distributed in October. On May 17, it was decided that the guidance booklet should be updated and published annually in the future.

At an Executive Board meeting on October 24 at The Daily News Building in Chicago, a decision was made to allocate 450 copies of the guidance booklet to Chicago public high schools, 100 to Cook County high schools, 125 to private and parochial schools in Chicago, and 1200 to high schools throughout the states represented in association membership. Nearly 1,000 additional copies would be distributed to members and made available for purchase.

At this October meeting, the Executive Board spoke of a need for an A.C.A.C. national organization, perhaps for the first time. The membership committee was assigned to study this issue and report back to the board.

NACAC History: 1946

Officers 1946-47:

- President: Willard Umbreit, DePauw University
- Vice-President: (re-elected) Richard Petrie, Monmouth College
- Secretary-Treasurer: Robert Amaden, Lake Forest College

March 1946:

At the annual business meeting held March 20, 1946, at the Lawson YMCA, the following standing committees made reports: Guidance Booklet, Pre-Counseling, College Day Programs, Membership and Scholarship.

The Constitution Committee reported and a few changes to the constitution were adopted, the most substantial included:

- Abandoning the concept of individual memberships—“The whole idea of ‘individual memberships’ should be dropped... Individual memberships hark back to the time when the A.C.A.C. was new and the amount of the fees controversial, which is no longer the case. It is clearly understood now that the members of the Association are colleges, not people, and all such members should pay the same dues.”
- Rewording the paragraph in the Code of Ethics dealing with application fees and deposits to read: “The Association recommends that an entrance fee, or room deposit, or deposit on the tuition charges, be required in all cases and regarded as an essential part of any bonafide application.”
- Specifications for publicizing scholarship awards: “In announcing scholarships, the terms of the awards shall be stated in sufficient detail so as to avoid any misconceptions regarding the amount of the annual stipend.” This latter diverted from the committee’s recommendation to specifically prohibit reporting of scholarships as the total four-year award, or four times the annual award.

Summer meeting dates were set for Monday, August 19 through Thursday, August 22 at the Wakazoo Inn in Michigan.

After a report of the nominating committee, vote, and meeting of the board to select officers, the following members were elected to office:

- President: Willard Umbreit, DePauw University
- Vice-President: (re-elected) Richard Petrie, Monmouth College
- Secretary-Treasurer: Robert Amaden, Lake Forest College
- Board members: William Scott, University of Chicago and Ruth Winter, Grinnell College.

Retiring President Laing suggested that the association might want to consider a new location for its headquarters, which had been located in the Beloit College office for the past three years.

December 1946:

It is reported in Gerlach’s history that all members met on December 11, 1946 at Lawson YMCA. At this meeting a motion was adopted to appoint a secretary in each of the eight states represented in membership for the purpose of coordinating college days within that state. Gerlach states, “This was the beginning of state secretaries in the A.C.A.C.”

NACAC History: 1947

Officers March 1947-March 1948:

- President: Willard Umbreit, DePauw University
- Vice-President: (re-elected) Richard Petrie, Monmouth College
- Secretary-Treasurer: Robert Amaden, Lake Forest College

January 1947 Executive Board Meeting:

When the Executive Board convened in the Grinnell College office on January 30, 1947, state secretaries were appointed for Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin—pending necessary amendment to the association’s constitution.

A motion also carried to “recommend to the general membership at the Annual Spring Meeting that there be an amendment to the constitution making the Planning Committee an addition to the Standing Committees.” This committee would be “charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Executive Board long range functions of the Committee and the Association, and also consider associating ourselves with other similar organizations,”; in effect, perhaps, NACAC’s first strategic planning group.

A committee was appointed to plan time, place and content of program for the summer meeting.

Planning Committee Meeting, March 1947:

The newly adopted Planning Committee met on March 3, 1947 in the admission office of Northwestern University. Members attending, included: John B. Laing, Beloit College; Dorothy Sherrick, William Woods College; William Scott, University of Chicago; George Seulberger, Northwestern University; Raymond Dooley, Illinois Wesleyan; and Robert Amaden, Lake Forest College. The appointed chair, William Selden, Northwestern University, was unable to attend.

As an outcome of this meeting a number issues were forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration and action:

- The need for a working committee to encourage the secondary schools to develop and carry out a college day program... consistent with the ACAC recommendations. The state secretary could possibly constitute such a committee or be chairman of a larger group.

- Consideration of a full-time paid secretary-treasurer. This would necessitate setting up a central office and providing for secretarial assistance. It would call for a revision of the financial structure of the association.
- The committee recommends that the Executive Board indefinitely postpone consideration of associating with other national or regional organizations.
- It was also recommended that the summer meeting be abandoned and there be consideration of a two-day fall meeting held at a central point in connection with a college day which will tend to draw the largest membership, and that the college officials be extended special invitations.
- It was recommended that consideration be given to the publishing and mailing of a quarterly newsletter to the general membership.
- It was generally agreed that there should not be any consideration given to promoting the use of a uniform transcript among the secondary schools.

First Recognized Annual Conference Summer 1947, Hotel Moraine-on-the-Lake, Highland Park, IL:

Despite any recommendations of the Planning Committee, it is generally accepted that the first “officially” recognized Annual Conference of the association took place in the summer of 1947 at the Hotel Moraine-on-the-Lake in Highland Park, Illinois. A photograph of those attending is found in the NACAC Archives and is published in a 1977 NACAC Newsletter, labeled as 1947. Absent any written records/documents from or about that conference, we are fortunate to have a candid and colorful description of his experience as an attendee from John Hafer, ACAC President 1953-54, which was published in the NACAC Newsletter in 1977, 40 years after NACAC’s founding:

In 1947, ten years after the founding of ACAC, I attended my first Annual Conference at the Hotel Moraine-on-the-Lake in Highland Park, Illinois. I had been appointed Director Admissions at Coe College three months before. Not knowing anything about admissions, having come from a high school principalship in New York, I was anxious to meet the “old timers” and seek their counsel. I was a real rookie from east of the Ohio River, and I guess my white shoes showed it. I knew little about the Midwest, for I had been there only once during the early part of the World War II when the paratroopers were assigned to help the farmers harvest wheat.

If I recall correctly, I was there well before the registration desk opened for business, for I was anxious to meet the people from admissions. It seems to me that 47 people registered for that meeting, the largest number to date.. Everyone seemed happy and friendly. I was impressed when most of them greeted me. My white shoes, uncommon in those days to the Midwesterner, seemed to attract attention.

Shortly after the registration desk closed most people went to their rooms, but I stood around to see what was happening and to meet people. I was thrilled when a tall, athletic-looking man dressed in a beautiful sharkskin suit invited me to come

with him to a Board planning meeting so that I would get to know everyone better. I soon discovered that he was Willard Umbreit, the President of ACAC, and one of the finest men I have ever known. For many years he was Director of Admissions at DePauw University. Everyone loved and respected Willard, for he was a happy-go-lucky person with great charm who also took his work very seriously.

Bill Scott, from the University of Chicago, who was to later serve two terms as President of ACAC, was another impressive man at the Board meeting. Also present were Scott Henry from Stephens College, later to serve as President; Macaulay from Cornell College; and John Laing from Beloit, who was President before Umbreit.

Those admissions people attending that conference will be known to only a few, if any, of the present-day membership of NACAC, for many changes have taken place in thirty years. For the most part, they were the architects of ACAC who continued to give leadership to the organization for many years. As the history of NACAC is written, they should not be forgotten. Needless to say, I cannot remember everyone who was there but I want to name them as best I can. Bob Amaden from Lake Forest College served as Secretary of the organization for many years to come, and Fred Rechlin from Valparaiso was always elected Treasurer. Others included Bill Seldon from Northwestern, Don Klinefelter from Carleton; Marshall Hulbert from Lawrence; Clarence Keel from Westminster in Missouri; Esther DeMerritt from Coe; Florence Dooley from Lincoln College; Dorothy Sherrick from University of Chicago; Ruth Winters from Grinnell College; Paul Napier from Muskingum; Dayton Grafman from National College of Education; Clum Bucher from Indiana University; Harland White from Purdue; Fred Totten from Wabash; Grace Hatch from MacMurray; and Margaret Weigel of Monticello.

After dinner and before the meetings began, I learned that a rookie had a decided role. I was informed that newcomers are expected to procure wine and cheese for a reception after the meetings. It seems that I remained a rookie for many years, for this chore continued for a number of future meetings. The three gallons of wine and four pounds of cheese were obviously questioned by the business manager at Coe College, but I seemed to get away with it.

I must return to the agenda for that first meeting. Few conventions today, having grown extremely large, could get away with an unstructured meeting, but that is what happened. The meeting was concerned with procedures rather than policies, the mechanics of handling applications, and relationships with the counselors in the secondary schools. Someone spoke about a uniform transcript—we heard that subject for many years to come! The real shock came when someone thought that the colleges should use a standardized test in the admissions process, and the SAT was mentioned. People seemed (not?) to know much about the College Entrance Examination Board and its test program. As one goes back to 1947, few colleges in the Midwest were using standardized tests except the state universities. There was much discussion, heated at times, for few colleges were willing to require the SAT test.

I think it was at this conference that I heard one of the greatest speeches I ever heard on the subject of admissions. It was delivered by Dr. A.J. Brumbaugh from the University of Chicago. He spoke about the importance of admissions, the roles that we were to play in deciding the educational fate of young people, and the fact that we were a professional organization in its infancy. I listened with enthusiasm and pride, and felt honored that I could be a part of such an organization. For the first time in my admissions experience, I heard the words Precollege Counselors, and our role in the precollege counseling network. He gave us the "do's and don'ts" of our jobs. Some years later, Lou Fritzscheier, Dean of Boys at Oak Park High School, spoke to ACAC on the same subject as seen from the standpoint of the high school counselors. These two speeches set the tone for the 1951 Conference in Cleveland, where the theme was "Salesmen or Counselors." Professionalism was emerging rapidly.

NACAC History: 1948 and 1949

Officers, March 1948-March 1949:

- President, March 1948-1949: William E. Scott University of Chicago
- Officers, March 1949-March 1950:
- President, March 1949-1950: Scott Hemry, Stephens College, Missouri
- No record of association meetings is found in the NACAC Archives for 1948.



Executive Board Meeting, November 1949:

The final archival record of an association meeting for the 1940-49 decade is that of an Executive Board meeting held at Carleton College on November 10, 1949, chaired by President Scott Hemry of Stephens College, Missouri. Business conducted at this meeting focused on the number of Guidance Handbooks to be distributed. A mechanism for distribution to "non-North Central" high schools throughout the eight-state ACAC region that had an interest in ordering or purchasing the handbook was considered. No decision was reached.

In addition, the minutes state, "Some discussion took place on the necessity of encouraging and urging member colleges, who do not send representatives to our conferences, to fulfill their total obligation of the membership."

Ruth Winter of Grinnell College and Robert Amaden of Lake Forest College were appointed to once again update and reprint the constitution of the association.