

Past SOUTH DAKOTA

Convention Date

Fall of 1926
March 1, 1927
June 18, 1928
May 20-21, 1929
June 16-17, 1930
June 9-10, 1931
June 7-8, 1932
July 5th, 1933
October 8, 1934
July 22, 1935
May 6, 1936
June 9-10, 1937
May 16-17, 1938
May 17-18, 1939
May 6th, 1940
Sept. 8, 1941
May 13-14, 1942
May 27, 1943
June 14-15, 1944
Nov. 16-17, 1944
Oct. 17, 1946
Oct. 17-18, 1947
October 18-19, 1948
October 24-25, 1949
October 3-4, 1950

Convention City

Huron
Huron
Huron
Sioux Falls
Aberdeen
Madison
Mitchell
Sioux Falls
Huron
Rapid City
Sioux Falls
Aberdeen
Pierre
Mitchell
Sioux Falls
Huron
Sioux Falls
Huron
Sioux Falls
Rapid City
Rapid City
Watertown
Yankton
Sioux Falls
Huron

"BOX SCORE"

Aberdeen	2
Huron	7
Madison	1
Mitchell	2
Pierre	1
Rapid City	3
Sioux Falls	7
Watertown	1
Yankton	1
	25

Officers

HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

ELECTED AT THIS CONVENTION

President

Dr. Percy Peabody
Dr. F. E. Clough
Dr. F. E. Clough
Dr. Percy Peabody
Dr. R. S. Westaby
Rev. J. S. Harkness
Dr. H. J. Bartron
George Campbell
George Campbell
Rev. C. M. Austin
Rev. C. M. Austin
P. J. Blegen
P. J. Blegen
P. J. Blegen
Sister M. Viator, P. B. V. M.
Sister M. Viator, P. B. V. M.
Warren Darling
Sister M. Rose Marie, O. S. B.
Sister M. Rose Marie, O. S. B.
Edna Davidson, R. N.
Mabel O. Woods, R. N.
Sister M. Radegund, O. S. B.
O. M. Nelson
O. M. Nelson
Mother M. William, P. B. V. M.

Secretary

Dick Braskamp
Dick Braskamp
Dick Braskamp
Dick Braskamp
C. W. Carlson
C. W. Carlson
C. W. Carlson
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Geo. Kienholz
Harriet Anderson
Harriet Anderson
Harriet Anderson
Tom Hagen



A HISTORY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The South Dakota Hospital Association was organized in the fall of 1926 at an informal meeting held in Huron, mainly through the efforts of Dick Braskamp, who at that time was Superintendent of Lincoln Hospital in Aberdeen. Mr. Braskamp was assisted by the Chief of Staff of the Lincoln Hospital, the late Dr. R. L. Murdy. Drs. Clough of Lead, Peabody of Webster, and Bartron of Watertown, gave their enthusiastic support to the plan as is evidenced by the list of officers which appears elsewhere in this Silver Anniversary program.

Mr. Braskamp acted as Secretary of the newly organized Association during its formative years. As evidence of his ability to guide the destiny of the Association, let it be said that he later became President of the State Hospital Association of California and at this time is Superintendent of the Alhambra Memorial Hospital in Alhambra, California.

Generally speaking—conditions in South Dakota at the time of our organization were on a rather even keel. The inflationary period following the first World War had leveled off somewhat and conditions were more or less normal. Little did we know of the ups and downs the quarter century ahead would bring. Our annual conferences consisted mainly of discussions of ways and means to improve our services—conservation in our buying—improving public relations and making our people more hospital conscious.

It was not until after the financial crash of 1929 that things began to happen to hospitals. It seemed that nature and the elements combined with Wall Street to make it tough for the hospital administrator. Simultaneously with the disturbance in the financial circles our summers became hotter and drier. With the dry and dusty summers came grasshoppers and it soon became necessary for local and state and national governments to come to our rescue. Hospital receipts continued a downward spiral and financial worries contributed to a rise in illness incidence. It was during this period that it is said the hotel clerk asked the guest requesting a room: "Do you wish a room to sleep in or to jump out of".

Our conferences resolved themselves into a series of discussions as to how to keep our institutions solvent.

At the conference held in Mitchell in 1932 the first legislative committee was appointed, with Rev. C. M. Austin of Sioux Valley Hospital as Chairman. So far as the records disclose, Rev. Austin has acted as Chairman of that committee continuously since that time. Let it be said here that the services which Rev. Austin has rendered the hospitals of South Dakota down thru the years can never be over-estimated and his name and his accomplishments will ever rank high in the annals of our Association.

On June 2nd, 1933, the Legislative Committee met in Huron to discuss and formulate a program to be presented to the next Statewide Conference which was held in Sioux Falls on July 5th, 1933. At the November election in 1932, our State experienced a complete reversal in its political control and as conditions during 1933 became steadily and rapidly worse, Governor Tom Berry announced a Special Session of the Legislature for August, 1933. The principal legislation proposed for this Special Session was the legalizing of the sale of beer—and providing for an appropriate license and tax on its sale—the proceeds to be used for relief purposes. Our legislative committee—together with a group of influential citizens—called upon the Governor—asking that a portion of the funds so raised be allocated to the hospitals of South Dakota to augment their declining receipts. The Committee was graciously received and given assurance that the plan had the endorsement of the administration. However, it became necessary to carry the fight onto the floor of the session and as a result roughly 50% of the receipts in the so-called beverage revenue fund has reverted back to the counties since August 7th, 1933. On August 1st, 1931, the total amount which has reverted back to the counties "to be used for the hospitalization of the indigent where such hospitalization is necessary", reached the fabulous sum of \$3,008,727.97. It is doubtful that any State Hospital Association, regardless of the state, can point to such an accomplishment.

Almost simultaneously with the action of our legislature regarding our hospitals—a new idea was borne and put into action. It was called The Inter-Allied Council. For this idea we must give credit to Dr. B. A. Dyer, who was called in from his private practice in Arlington, to administer to the health needs of the people through the Farmers Aid Corporation—a state operated and federal-financed plan of medical and hospital care for the distressed farmers who were receiving financial assistance

thru the Farm Security Administration. The Inter-Allied Council consisted of two representatives of the medical, hospital, pharmacy, nurse and veterinary associations of the state. Since the problems of the veterinary association were only remotely associated with those of the other four associations, they dropped out of the Council, but the work of the other four groups continued on with conferences held nearly every month for several years. It finally became necessary to dissolve the Farmers Aid Corporation and thus the need for the Inter-Allied Council ceased to exist—except to say that the funds remaining in the Farmers Aid Corporation, in the process of dissolution, were turned over to the Inter-Allied Council and by it dispersed in a lump sum to the medical, hospital and pharmacy associations. Since the Nurses Association had been paid in full of all claims throughout the life of the FAC, they did not share in the final distribution of the remaining funds. Thus ended another chapter in the problem of hospital administration during the terrible 30's.

It was during the period of the Inter-Allied Council that the first Inter-Allied Statewide Conference was held in Sioux Falls in May, 1936. For the period of this conference—each of the Allied Associations held separate forenoon sessions and combined afternoon and evening sessions. In 1939 our Legislative Committee gave their assistance to the passage of the Basic Science Law as promoted by the State Medical Association. In 1940 with the war clouds again becoming disturbing—a defense preparedness survey was completed. Also during that year more and more attention was given to the possibility of the organization of a Blue Cross plan. In 1941 a program was devoted to memorializing Sister Flavia of Yankton, referred to as South Dakota's Florence Nightingale. At a special conference held early in 1942—the Association voted to increase its charges by a so-called 10% sur-charge. It was the first evidence so far as our association history records—that prices were rising and the purchasing power of the dollar was declining. Also during that year the 2nd Inter-Allied Conference was held. In 1944 we met in Sioux Falls and assisted in the observance of the 50th Anniversary of Sioux Valley Hospital. It was also at this conference that the Blue Cross plan of Associated Hospitals Service, Inc., of Sioux City, was endorsed for operation within our state. On July 1st, 1945, our Blue Cross Enabling Act went into effect. Our hospital licensing act was approved on March 1st, 1945,

but a petition was filed—referring the law to a vote of the people and following approval at the November election, became operative on November 5th, 1946.

Of interest and importance to the hospitals of South Dakota was the organization of the Upper Mid-West Hospital Association, and the first annual convention was held in Minneapolis on June 2-3-4, 1948. The area embraced by this association includes Manitoba and Montana, Iowa and Minnesota, North and South Dakota. It has been a great source of inspiration and information to the hospital administrators of our State and its continued growth and usefulness is assured. And incidentally, thru our share of the receipts from the exhibitors, it has also been a source of financial income for our treasury.

During the past few years many hospitals have been built and many of the existing hospitals have expanded their facilities to meet the growing demand for hospital care. In spite of greatly increased costs, much financial assistance has been received through federal matching of funds in areas where there is a lack of hospital beds to serve the public.

Finally—I am sure every member of the South Dakota Hospital Association who reads this sketchy history of the past 25 years will think of certain items of interest which should have been included herein. Might I suggest in closing that as such thoughts cross the mind of the reader—that he or she immediately appoint himself or herself as a committee of one to supply that information to me by letter. I, in turn, will agree to assemble all such suggestions and edit them as a supplement to this history to be incorporated in the annual conference program of our Association for 1952.

Gratefully and respectfully submitted,

Geo. Kienholz
St. Marys Hospital,
Pierre, S. Dak.