

BRANCH MINUTE BOOK EXPLANATIONS

(1) The secretary-treasurer should know the rules and regulations governing Women's Institutes, as contained in the Hand Book.

(2) The blank space allowed for minutes of "Monthly, Executive and Directors' Meetings" should be used to record ALL meetings connected with the Institute. The minutes should be entered consecutively according to dates.

Minutes should be a clear, concise record of proceedings. They should be written legibly. The record of each item of business should constitute a separate paragraph. The first paragraph should state the kind, place and date of meeting, the name of the presiding officer and the number in attendance. The second paragraph should record the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and their confirmation, or, if they had been approved at the close of the previous meeting, it should be recorded that they were read for information. Succeeding paragraphs should record the business transacted in order of occurrence.

In recording a motion, the name of the mover should be given and the result of the vote should be stated — Moved by Mrs. Smith, and seconded, that . . . Carried.

Items or numbers on the programme should be mentioned briefly. A short synopsis of the lecture or discussion should be given, rather than a description voicing the secretary's opinion of the item. If it is desirable to record a complete description of the topic of a programme (including a full description of its procedures, field of subject matter surveyed, benefits derived and expected results), it should not be included in the minutes, but should follow them as a special report.

A final paragraph should record the closing of the meeting.

Minutes should be signed by the secretary and, when confirmed by the meeting, they may be signed by the chairman.

(3) The second section is for a chronological list of meetings held. This record should contain the place of meeting, attendance and number of addresses.

(4) The next section is for a record of cash transactions. The left-hand page should contain a full explanation of both receipts and expenditures; that is, the source from which money is received and the purpose for which it is expended. The detailed amounts should be entered in their respective columns.

Sample Entries on Cash Pages

Dec. 30 — Members' fees, \$8.50; Township grant, \$10.00.

Jan. 8 — Expenses of Mrs. A. in attending convention, \$3.45.

Jan. 10 — Queen's Hotel, Board for Lecturer, \$1.25; Postage, 20c.

Receipts			Expenditures			
Members' Fees	Grants	Totals	Postage and Stationery	Lecturers' Expenses	Miscellaneous	Totals
\$8.50	\$10.00	\$18.50			\$3.45	\$3.45
			\$.20	\$1.25		\$1.45

(5) The financial statement for the year ending April 30th is to be made out in duplicate in the section following the cash record, one copy being sent to the district secretary and the other left in the book. This statement must include the balance on hand according to the annual report of the previous year, and must also contain an accurate summary of all receipts, from whatever source, as well as the expenses for the year and a statement of the balance on hand at the end of the year. A correct copy of the annual statement should be made before it is entered on the form, each amount being entered exactly opposite the heading to which it belongs.

(6) Record names and addresses of officers each year in space allowed for purpose. Do not enter any names in the membership section until the fee of 25c has been paid. The names and addresses of new members may be added each year, and renewals should be recorded each year in the space allotted. Indicate when fee was paid and when the name was sent to the district secretary, and do not duplicate same during the year. Get the correct name and address of each member and always record it in the same way. Do not send the name of Mrs. J. T. Smith one year and Mrs. James Smith the next.

Note — The space in this book allows for the records of at least three years. Should the space for minutes not be sufficient for any Institute, the secretary might paste in a number of blank pages.