

**IFHE-US Business Meeting - 2014**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**  
**Region of Americas Report**  
Joanne Pearson, IFHE VP, Region of Americas

Since the last Council Meeting, in Melbourne, Australia, the Region of Americas has been represented on the IFHE Executive Board by Geraldene Hodelin (Jamaica) as Immediate Past President, Audrey Drayton (Barbados) as Member Representative, and me, Joanne Pearson (USA), as Vice President for the region. At the regional level, a planning committee, with at least one member from each of the four sub-regions, has been operating via email. Members were Carol Anderson, Ruth Berry, Geraldene Hodelin, Sandra D'Avila and Icilda Ffench. The goal of the committee was to develop a proposed regional structure that was then presented at the Region of Americas Business Meeting at IFHE Congress in Melbourne. Further input from members in the region was solicited and then the final version of the structure for the region is to be voted upon at the regional business meeting to be held at Council Meeting 2014 in Canada.

The Americas representative on the YPN Coordinating Committee for the last two years has been Gwendolyn Hustvedt (USA). Sub-regional YPN coordinators for each of the four sub-regions have been Hope Mayne, the Caribbean; Denise Nemhard, Canada; Jacqueline Warnock, USA; and Beatriz Galvao, Brazil. The four country/sub-region liaisons for the last two years have been Sandra D'Avila (Brazil), Marilyn Weber (Canada), Audrey Drayton (Caribbean) and Carol Anderson (USA).

The Region of the Americas webpage has been developed by Mary Andrews. The URL for the page is [www.IFHE-Americas.org](http://www.IFHE-Americas.org). Volunteers willing to work on further development of the webpage and people to provide information from each of the sub-regions have been encouraged to contact the Vice President, Joanne Pearson ([pearsojm@jmu.edu](mailto:pearsojm@jmu.edu)), or Mary Andrews ([mandrews@msu.edu](mailto:mandrews@msu.edu)). Regional update articles from the Americas appeared in the September and December 2012, March, September and December 2013, and March and June 2014 issues of the *Home Economics News*.

The Nominating Committee for the Region of Americas, composed of three people each from a separate sub-region, was chaired by Marilyn Weber. The committee's task was to develop a ballot for the election of a new Vice President on the IFHE Executive Board for the term from 2014-2018. Each of the members of the committee, Marilyn Weber, Mary Andrews and Janice Maison, made contacts to members in their sub-region soliciting people to serve as the next regional vice president. Duties of the position were explained and announcements of the position were made at numerous meetings held in the region. After an extensive search for qualified candidates, only one person stepped forward to accept the nomination for Vice President for the term from 2014-2018. Because the Nominating Committee was unable to secure any other nominations the decision, after consultation with the IFHE secretariat and the IFHE President, was that the committee fully endorse Genevieve (Jenny) Schroeder for the position of Vice President of the Americas and that there would not be the need for an election.

A major item on the agenda at the last two regional business meetings held at the February Leadership Meetings has been the discussion of plans for Council 2014 which will be held in London, Ontario, Canada on the campus of Brescia College. The planning committee headed by Joanne Mackie and Shirley Jones has been very pleased with the

facilities and conference planning group at the college. The new air-conditioned residence hall on campus has been completed and will be the principal on-campus lodging option for the Council attendees. A one-day pre-Council Symposium will take place on Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup> with the focus being the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists, Inc. (CAHE) was held April 7-10, 2013 in Bridgetown, Barbados. Theme of the meeting was “Home Economics Empowerment: Education for Sustainable Lifestyles”. Annual Meetings of IFHE-US were held in conjunction with the Annual Conference and Expo of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) in Houston, Texas in June 2013 and in St. Louis, Missouri in June 2014. Meetings in many of the Canadian provinces were held in both years, also. Upcoming meetings in the Caribbean and the USA will be from March 27- April 2, 2015 in Georgetown, Guyana and from June 24-27, 2015 in Jacksonville, Florida.

The proposed structure for the Region of Americas will be voted upon at the Region of Americas Business Meeting to be held at Council 2014 on Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. The proposal is as follows:

**Elected Officers:** Vice President and Member Representative, who serve on the IFHE Executive Committee, each for a period of four years, one starting at the close of Congress and one at the close of the next Council Meeting.

**Appointed Positions:** Four country/area liaisons; Chair of Nominating Committee; YPN Representative from the region to serve on the YPN Coordinating Committee for two years and four sub-regional YPN representatives each for a period of two years; Webmaster

**Nominating Committee:** Composed of at least three people, each from a different sub-region and the chair of the committee appointed by the regional Vice President.

**Dues for the Region:** None

**Activities of the regional organization** under the headings of

- Member Services
  1. Country/area (sub-region) liaison activities such as collecting IFHE dues or seeing that they are paid in a timely manner; handling officer balloting on a sub-regional level; providing information to VP and Member Representative
  2. Activities of YPN Representative to YPN Coordinating Committee and sub-regional YPN representatives
  3. Activities of the Nominating Committee
  4. Region of Americas webpage ([www.IFHE-Americas.org](http://www.IFHE-Americas.org)) and upkeep by the Webmaster
- Member Outreach/ Continuing Education
  1. Regional educational programs based on current theme(s) of IFHE – to be self-supporting in cost
  2. Outreach projects – in line with current agenda of IFHE – to be self-supporting &/or supported by outside grants