NCFMC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

May 19 – 20, 2017 is a date for the history books. It was the 100th birthday celebration of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs, which officially organized in March, 1917 in Charlotte, NC. The Downtown Holiday Inn, 320 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh, was the setting for the event, near the historic North Carolina State Capitol Building.

The festivities began on Friday, May 19 at 2 pm when facilitator, Janice Flinte of Greenville SC presented a 2 hour workshop regarding Online Festival Cup Registration with NFMC. In the near future NFMC will require this of all teachers who participate in the Festival (formerly Gold) Cup Plan. All registrants for the conference were presented souvenir tote bags and T-shirts with the NCFMC logo and the dates 1917 – 2017. Elizabeth Beam of Raleigh Music Club also provided beautiful sugar cookies with an exact replica of the NCFMC logo in edible icing on the top.

At the workshop conclusion, members prepared for the evening’s festivities. From 5:30 – 7 pm in the 20th floor banquet room, a dinner was held to honor 8 living past presidents: Sara Helen Moore, Patricia Copley, Mary Leila Andrews, Jenene Smith, Norma Alexander, Nettie Loflin, Marie Speece and June Knox. Each honoree was presented a corsage of miniature roses and a commemorative paperweight which was engraved with each former president’s name, her term in office and the words “Distinguished Service”. As NCFMC President, Joel Adams asked each past president to stand and be recognized, his grandson, Foxx Melton, assisted in delivering the mementos to the respective recipients. A special guest for dinner and the conference was National President, Michael Edwards, from Plantation, Florida. During dinner, attendees were entertained by a string quartet from Enloe Magnet High School. While enjoying the dessert portion of the meal, Sandi Mcdonald, CEO of the North Carolina Symphony, spoke to the group about the symphony’s commitment to education, touring many months of the year to play concerts for school children. At 7 pm, the group boarded a charter bus to the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Here a group picture was made before entering Meymandi Concert Hall for the program, *Russian Nights.* One of the program selections was Tchaikovsky’s *Violin Concerto in D Major,* played by the dazzling virtuoso and Grammy Award winner, Augustin Hadelich. Following the inspiring concert the group boarded the bus back to the hotel.

On Saturday, May 20, after breakfast on your own, attendees re-assembled for the opening of the General Session. Mark Fountain, son of former state president, Maxine Fountain, and treasurer of Raleigh Music Club, provided the welcome. This was followed by a short business meeting before presenter, Diane Higgins, led the group through a one hour workshop on *Composition for Juniors.* This was an informative session and provided incentive to teachers. After a short break, the open auditions for the new NCFMC McCallum Scholarship Award in Piano were held with 3 registered applicants who are planning on a major in piano at college or university. The winner of the $500 scholarship was Jane Zhou from Cary, a student of Florence Ko. Judges were: Dr. Richard McKee of Campbell University, Dr. Katherine Boyes Gilleland of Wake Technical College, and Dr. Bradley Hunnicutt of Shaw University.

Immediately following the announcement of the scholarship winner, Irene Craig, Chaplain presented a moving Memorial Service for those members who had passed away since the 2016 conference in New Bern. Those names were Gloria Ray Stipp, Charlotte Music Club; Margaret Cass, Jane Mosher and Rosemary Troxler of Euterpe Music Club of Greensboro; Joyce Chapman Brown of Hickory Music Club; Helen Friday Cloninger of Gastonia Music Club; and Beulah Cameron of Raleigh Music Club.

12:15 was the call to the luncheon in the Sky Tower Restaurant where breath-taking views of the downtown Raleigh skyline were viewed by all. Speaker, NFMC President, Michael Edwards spoke on *The Next 100 Years.* The theme was that NCFMC and NFMC members cannot insist on doing everything in the future the same way because “that is the way it has always been done”. Edwards went on to say we must be open to change in technology and the world around us, or we will become a useless relic in the near future. After his enlightening talk, two new members were inducted into the Hinda Honigman Fellows, Lorraine Hale Robinson and Julia Bircher, both from New Bern and members of the Saint Cecilia – East Carolina Music Club. Michael Edwards did the honors of presenting certificates and awarding the beautiful bronze medallions with ribbons for draping around the neck.

Following the Hinda Honigman Fellows Induction, members returned to the conference hall to hear 4 winners of the 2017 Student Collegiate Auditions perform in concert. They were Michaela Kelly*, soprano*; Jake Hemminger*, tenor*; Jacob Warren, *alto saxophone* and Stephen Saviola, *piano*. Jacob Warren was a first place national winner and Jake Hemminger was a second place national winner. At the conclusion of the concert, it was announced the 2018 conference would be held in Gastonia before the conference was adjourned. . One prominent member of NCFMC said the event was a reminder of the “glory days of NCFMC” when attendance was often in the hundreds. Truly, a grand time was had by all who attended the Centennial Celebration of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs. Onward to the next 100 years!

A list of Attending Members and Guests

Michael Edwards - NFMC; Janice and Helmut Flinte – SCFMC; Joel Adams, Elizabeth Huss, Mark Fountain, Brenda Bruce – Raleigh Music Club; Marie and Jeffrey Humphrey - Johnston County Music Association; Lib Hughston, Diane Higgins - Charlotte Music Club; Norma Alexander, Teresia Queen, Allen Queen - TMMC of Winston-Salem; Marie Speece, James Speece - MacDowell Music Club; Vivian Carter, June Knox, Jenene Smith - TMMC of Wilmington; Lorraine Hale Robinson, Johnie Robinson, Julia Bircher, Jack Bircher, Lynne Cox, Jerry Cox - Saint Cecilia/East Carolina Music Club; Bill Carroll, Sara Helen Moore, Cindy Abromaitis - Euterpe Music Club; Irene Craig, Becky Beatty – Sharps and Flats Music Club. Several non-member music lovers attended the banquet including John and Nancy Lambert, Ray and Carolyn Kohring, Beth McCollum, David and Jennifer Melton and son, Foxx and Rachel Stenbuck, who was the official photographer for the evening.