

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON FAMILY RELATIONS
1219 University Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

January 1973

Volume 18, Number 1
Ruth H. Jewson, Editor

Dear NCFR Members,

The long-awaited revised NCFR Constitution is enclosed together with a ballot to indicate whether or not you approve.

In this letter I want to do two things, first review briefly the process which led to the new Constitution, second, explain or comment on key features.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION

In 1970 the NCFR Board of Directors and Executive Committee authorized a study to determine whether the organization could better fulfill the needs of its members. *Leland Axelson* was appointed survey chairman. Under his guidance, a preliminary survey was conducted through the Newsletter, and a questionnaire was designed, based on the responses. In January 1971 this questionnaire was mailed to a 25% probability sampling of the membership, asking about attitudes and opinions concerning the organization, its services, and its possible involvement in social issues of national concern. A detailed discussion of the results may be found in the July 1972 *Family Coordinator*.

In the meanwhile, a second committee was established, to review the purpose, structure and program of the organization, and to make recommendations for strengthening it. *Janet Brown* was chairman of this Study Committee. Committee members were *Leland Axelson, Marjory Brooks, Barbara Chandler, Stephen Fleck, Joseph Himes, Anne Lawson, Robert Levin, Robert Sherwin, and Laura Singer*. Earlier studies of the NCFR had been made in 1952, 1960, 1963, and 1969, and these studies were considered by both of the committees.

Gerald Leslie, 1971 NCFR president, received the reports, and used them as a basis for his Presidential address at the 1971 Annual Meeting in Colorado. He made eight recommendations designed to improve NCFR's functioning and to make the organization more responsive to the needs of the 1970s. These were thoroughly discussed in small groups at the conference. (See the January 1972 Newsletter for the recommendations and summaries of group discussions.)

Eleanore Luckey, who succeeded *Gerald Leslie* as president, put into operation twelve Regional Planning Committees, representative of the organization's professional and geographical areas. Regional chairmen included *Robert Kelley, George Carpenter, Ruby Gingles, Leon Smith, Caryl Moy, James Hawkins, Lester Keasey, James Lieberman, Eleanore Luckey, Gerald Leslie, Gladys Bellinger, and Loy Simpkins*, who also acted as legal consultant in the preparation of the revised Constitution. Each chairman held sessions with a committee from its respective region, thus involving a large number of NCFR members all over the country in planning. Their reports were circulated to the other chairmen and to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

As many as possible of the twelve chairmen met in Texas before the 1972 Groves Conference, to study their findings and make recommendations for the revised Constitution. *Eleanore Luckey* and *Ruth Jewson* then assembled them in Minneapolis, and the first of many drafts was circulated. In September the NCFR Executive Committee and several regional chairmen met in Washington to work on the Constitution again, and three more drafts were prepared before the Constitution was accepted by the Board of Directors as ready to be voted upon by the membership. A final revision was made on the basis of the meetings held at the annual conference in Portland.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION

In Article II, two objectives were added: disseminate information, and further effective social action. This is in line with the findings in the Axelson survey that NCFR members wish their organization to relate to current social issues. Article XV, a completely new Constitutional section on Social Action, has been added to facilitate the new objectives.

In Article III, a statement has been included that in addition to general membership in the Council members may hold membership in one or more NCFR Sections. The Sections will establish their own qualifications for membership and their own dues and fees, and will administer their own funds. The newly added Article XI discusses Section organization and functioning in more detail. Sections will now be able to carry on appropriate activities throughout the year, in addition to developing programs for the annual meetings. Each Section will be represented on the annual meeting program

committee, and the chairperson of each Section will be a member of the NCFR Board of Directors (Article VIII), unless that Section has a membership of less than five percent of the total general membership for two consecutive years.

Article XIII on Affiliated Councils is entirely new, added because of the recognized importance of the NCFR Affiliated Councils to the organization and to the country at large. A Congress of Affiliated Councils has been created, composed of all presidents of Affiliated Councils or representatives appointed in their stead by each respective Council. The Congress will be responsible for electing to the NCFR Board of Directors for a two-year staggered term one representative from each NCFR geographical district, each of whom shall also be a member of the Congress. The Congress will select one of their number to serve as chairperson of the Congress and as the Congress representative to the NCFR Executive Committee for a one-year term.

Committees, with their functions and length of office, are spelled out in the almost completely new Article X. Each committee will have student representation, as do the Board and Executive Committee. The new Constitution calls for the election by the general membership of the annual meeting program chairperson for a one-year term. The nominating committee will also be elected by the general membership.

Numerous additional changes have to do with assigning responsibilities more precisely and with streamlining the organization's functioning.

NEXT STEPS

If the new Constitution is accepted, an implementation committee, consisting of *Lee Axelson, Carlfred Broderick, William Nichols, Joan Aldous, Mary Heltsley, Ned Gaylin, Ronald Pitzer, Graham Spanier, James Lieberman, Eleanore Luckey, and Murray Straus* will go into action.

All of the many people who worked on the development of this Constitution hope that it will enable NCFR to meet more effectively the needs and wishes of the membership.

Cordially,
Murray Straus, President

Notices of summer workshops, courses and seminars are now being accepted for the March or May Newsletter.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS
CONSTITUTION

(Please note: the underlining signifies either an addition or change from the old Constitution.)

ARTICLE I.

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the National Council on Family Relations (hereinafter referred to as the "Council").

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE

Section 1. The Council shall be a non-profit educational and professional organization.

Section 2. The objectives of the Council are to provide opportunities for individuals, organized groups, and agencies interested in family life to: 1) plan and act together on concerns relevant to all forms of marriage and family relationships; 2) establish professional standards; 3) promote and coordinate educational efforts; 4) encourage research; 5) disseminate information; and 6) further effective social action.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person or organization interested in the purposes of the Council shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. There shall be seven categories of memberships: individual, family, contributing, organizational, student, emeritus, and life.

Section 3. Groups and agencies concerned with family life may hold organizational memberships.

Section 4. Members may, in addition to general membership, hold membership in one or more Sections. Each Section shall establish its own qualifications for membership and its own dues and fees. The monies of each Section shall be administered by that Section.

ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1. Dues for each category of members shall be established by the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board").

Section 2. Family and husband-wife membership shall be provided at a reduced rate for any family member who does not wish to receive an additional copy of the publications.

Section 3. Life membership shall be provided upon payment of a fee established by the Board.

Section 4. Memberships at a reduced rate shall be provided for emeritus members and student members.

Section 5. Payment of membership dues shall be annual, with memberships renewable upon expiration.

ARTICLE V,
OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Council shall be the following: 1) the president and president-elect, both serving a one-year term, with the president-elect being elected by the membership and becoming president at the end of his or her year as president-elect; 2) a secretary elected by the membership for a two-year term; 3) the immediate past president; and 4) a treasurer, appointed by the Board every two years.

Section 2. The executive officer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, the appointment to be confirmed by the Board. Terms of this appointment shall be set forth in a written contract. The executive officer shall be in charge of the national office of the Council, shall have general administrative responsibilities under the Board and Executive Committee, shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of committees, including the Executive Committee and Board, shall be responsible for the administration of the approved budget, together with the treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Council, and shall make regular reports to the Board. The executive officer shall perform such additional duties as the Board and the Executive Committee shall define.

Section 3. The elected officers shall take office at the close of the annual meeting. If for any reason an annual meeting is not held, they shall take office September 1.

Section 4. In case of vacancies in any office, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill the vacancies.

Section 5. With the exception of the president-elect and past-president, no officer as defined in Article V, Section 1, shall hold concurrently two offices as herein defined, nor shall he or she serve as a chairperson of a standing committee, nor as a Section chairperson during his or her term of office.

Section 6. Any officer who fails to perform his or her duties adequately may be relieved of his or her office by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

ARTICLE VI,
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The president of the Council shall preside at all business meetings of the Council. He or she shall be chairperson of the Board and the Executive Committee. He or she shall call meetings of these bodies and perform all duties assigned to him or her by the Council and the Board. He or she shall be able to create ad hoc committees. He or she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee, but shall not be able to vote except in the case of a tie.

Section 2. The president-elect shall serve as finance chairman. In the event of the president's absence, incapacitation, resignation, or death, his or her duties shall devolve upon the president-elect.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Council, the Board, and the Executive Committee. The secretary shall not hold office for two consecutive terms.

Section 4. The immediate past-president shall continue to serve as a member of the Executive Committee and the Board for a one-year term. He or she shall serve as a liaison agent with other organizations.

Section 5. The treasurer in consultation with the executive officer shall disburse funds as authorized by the Board and the Executive Committee, and shall serve ex-officio on the finance committee. He or she shall consult with the executive officer on matters concerning the monies of the Council.

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Council shall hold its annual conference and business meeting at a time and place to be chosen by the Executive Committee. Recommendations for site and date shall be made to the Executive Committee every two years by a committee appointed by the president.

Section 2. The Board shall meet during the annual meeting. Meetings of the Board shall be called at other times as the Executive Committee deems necessary or by petition to the president by ten members of the Board. Other Board or Executive Committee meetings shall be called at such times as the president deems necessary or by petition to the president by six members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board shall be the permanent governing body of the Council, and shall meet at least once a year.

Section 2. The Board shall consist of the following: 1) all officers defined in Article V, Section 1; 2) the chairpersons of the following standing committees: finance, international liaison, membership, public relations, publications; 3) the chairperson of the annual meeting program committee; 4) the editors of the Council publications; 5) one representative from each region elected by the Congress of Affiliated Councils, half elected in even years and half elected in odd years, and serving a two-year term; 6) three members-at-large elected by the Board; 7) two student representatives elected by student members of the Council, and serving two year terms; and 8) the chairperson of each Section.

Section 3. Any Section that has a membership of less than 5% of the total general membership for two consecutive years shall no longer send a representative to the Board.

Section 4. To retain membership on the Board, a member shall not miss two consecutive meetings unless formally excused by the president.

Section 5. A quorum of three-fifths of the members of the Board or of any standing committee shall be required in order to transact business.

ARTICLE IX.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility for implementing policies and programs established by the membership and/or the Board. The Executive Committee shall have the powers of the Board when the Board is not in session, subject to such directions and instructions as the Board may give.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following: a) all officers as defined in Article V, Section 1; b) the chairperson of the Congress of Affiliated Councils; c) the senior student representative to the Board; d) the Section chairpersons; e) the editors of the Council publications; and f) the annual meeting program chairperson.

Section 3. To retain membership on the Executive Committee, a member shall not miss two consecutive meetings unless formally excused by the president.

Section 4. A quorum of three-fifths of the members of the Executive Committee shall be required in order to transact business.

ARTICLE X.
COMMITTEES

Section 1. The finance, international liaison, membership, and public relations standing committees shall each consist of five members: the chairperson, the chairperson-elect, and three other persons. When the president-elect takes office, he or she shall appoint a chairperson-elect for each of these committees to serve concurrently with his or her own terms of office as president-elect and president, with the chairperson-elect becoming chairperson at the end of his or her year as chairperson-elect. The other three committee members shall be appointed by the president-elect in consultation with the committee chairperson-elect and shall serve staggered terms of two years, with the president-elect and committee chairperson filling vacancies as they occur. Committee members for these four committees shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms of two years. Each committee shall have student representation. Each committee appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Board.

Section 2. The finance committee shall prepare the annual budget, for presentation to the Board at the time of the annual meeting. The finance committee shall perform other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the Board. The fiscal year of the Council shall be January 1-December 31.

Section 3. The international liaison committee shall maintain ongoing contact with international family organizations through membership, representation at meetings, work on executive bodies, and attendance at international family conferences and congresses; shall encourage family research at international levels; shall serve as a liaison among professional colleagues around the world through correspondence, encouragement of exchange of professional positions, and the sponsoring of international memberships; shall work with other organizations in planning international conferences and projects; shall report international developments in the family field to the Council through its regularly constituted channels.

Section 4. The membership committee shall recruit members for the organization.

Section 5. The public relations committee shall communicate with governmental bodies, social and related agencies, and with the general public in such a way as to inform them of the Council's programs and purposes. It shall work actively with mass media.

Section 6. The annual meeting program committee shall have as its function the production of the annual meeting program, its evaluation, and recommendations for future programs. The annual meeting program chairperson shall be elected for a one-year term by the general membership. The annual meeting program committee shall be composed of the elected chairperson, one representative from each Section, and any additional members as may be needed, to be chosen by the elected chairpersons. Each committee member shall serve for one year.

Section 7. Candidates for the nominating committee shall be selected by the Board. Five members shall be elected by the general Council membership to serve one-year terms. The chairperson shall be elected by the committee. The function of the nominating committee shall be to prepare the slate and other pertinent information for all officers and committees elected by the general membership. This information shall be received by the executive officer no later than February 1 each year.

Section 8. The publications committee shall determine the broad policies of all publications of the Council; advise on present publications; recommend new publications, when needed, to the Executive Committee; and recommend successive editors to the Executive Committee. The editors shall be directly responsible to the publications committee. The committee shall consist of five members serving three-year terms. The chairman shall be elected by the committee to serve a one-year term as chairman. Committee members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. When terms of office expire or vacancies occur, they shall be filled by the president, in consultation with the chairperson, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI.

SECTIONS

Section 1. Sections of the Council shall be as follows: 1) Counseling; 2) Education; 3) Family Action; and 4) Research and Theory.

Section 2. Additional Sections may be created by the submission of a statement of purpose and a petition signed by at least 5% of the general membership and approval by the Board.

Section 3. The minimum organizational requirement shall include a statement of purpose; the election by the Section membership of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary-treasurer; and a meeting to be held concurrently with the Council annual meeting. Chairpersons shall be elected for a period of two years. Officers of the Counseling and Education Sections shall be elected in the even years; Family Action and Research and Theory in the odd years. Chairpersons of Sections that form subsequently shall be elected in years as determined by the Board.

Section 4. Each Section shall have its own statement of purpose and by-laws, subject to confirmation by the Board; and shall be responsible for all the activities related to its purpose.

Section 5. Each Section shall have a representative to the annual meeting program committee who shall serve as the annual meeting program chairperson for his or her Section. He or she shall be chosen by the Section chairperson, in consultation with other officers of his or her Section, and the annual meeting program chairperson.

ARTICLE XII.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. The official publications of the Council shall be determined by the Board upon recommendation of the publications committee.

ARTICLE XIII.

AFFILIATED COUNCILS

Section 1. Local, state and regional Councils on Family Relations which share the purposes of the Council may become affiliated with the Council upon presenting constitutions approved by the Board, and upon payment of dues established by the Board.

Section 2. Geographical regions of the Council shall be determined by the Board on the basis of recommendations made by the Congress of Affiliated Councils.

Section 3. A Congress of Affiliated Councils shall be composed of all presidents of Affiliated Councils or representatives appointed in their stead by each respective Council. Only NCFR members shall be eligible to serve in the Congress of Affiliated Councils. The Congress shall be responsible for electing to the NCFR Board of Directors for a two year staggered term, one representative from each NCFR geographical region each of whom shall also be a member of the Congress. The Congress shall select one of their number to serve as chairperson of the Congress and as the Congress representative to the NCFR Executive Committee for a one year term.

Section 4. The Congress shall meet at the time of the Annual Meeting. The chairperson shall be responsible for conducting a business meeting and other sessions the Congress deems appropriate.

Section 5. The Congress may produce suitable publications for the affiliated councils, subject to approval by the Board.

ARTICLE XIV.
ELECTION AND VOTING

Section 1. Each member is entitled to one vote for national officers and one vote for officers of Sections in which he or she holds membership.

Section 2. An organizational member has one vote, to be exercised by the duly constituted representative of the organization.

Section 3. Elective officers of the Council shall be elected by mail ballot of the members. A ballot shall be prepared in the Council office and mailed to the membership no later than April 1 of each year. In the return only ballots postmarked on or before May 1 of that year shall be counted. All marked ballots shall be retained by the Council office for a period of one year.

Section 4. The candidate for office receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

ARTICLE XV,
SOCIAL ACTION

Section 1. The president is chief spokesperson for the organization and shall present the views of the organization in response to social issues and legislative action relevant to family life.

Section 2. The membership at large and the several sections may prepare and submit majority and minority position papers or position statements to the Board. The Board shall take action on any submission supported by signatures of at least twenty-five Council members. The Board shall vote within sixty days; a three-fifths majority of the entire Board shall be required for approval.

Section 3. A proposal for urgent action on a position statement may be brought to the immediate attention of the Board by the chairman of the Family Action Section when at least twenty-five members of the Council request it. The Board shall vote on the statement within two weeks; a three-fifths vote of the entire Board shall be required for approval. Statements approved shall be promptly and widely disseminated and published in the next Council Newsletter.

ARTICLE XVI.
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Board, or by petition of at least 1% of the members of the Council.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution shall become effective if accepted by a three-fifths vote of the Council members voting by mail.

A CALL FOR PAPERS 1973 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations will be held in Toronto, Canada, at the Four Seasons-Sheraton Hotel, October 16-21. *Leland Axelson, Department of Sociology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306*, general program chairman, announces that the theme of the conference is: FAMILY STYLE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM.

RESEARCH AND THEORY SECTION *Joan Aldous, Chairman*

For the 1973 Research and Theory sessions, I would like to try to organize the sessions about the theory development process. I would welcome the submission of papers that could be categorized according to the following topics: 1) analysis and clarification of concepts important in the family area; 2) integration of existing research on some topic (codification); 3) reports of research findings with a focus on hypothesis testing; 4) theoretical papers e.g. new theories in a content area; revision and clarification of existing theories or theory development; 5) applied research or theory.

If you have ideas for other sessions and/or would like to organize one, please contact me by March 15.

To allow time for discussants and comments from listeners, there will be three papers a session with each presenter allowed 15 minutes. Papers should be submitted to me in outline or first draft form by April 30. If accepted, they must be ready in final form and sent to me by July 31.

Write me at: *Family Study Center, University of Minnesota, 1014 Social Science Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. Phone (612) 373-3497.*

FAMILY ACTION SECTION *Mary Heltsley, Chairman*

Papers, task forces, programs and legislation or suggested speakers are needed for the 1973 Family Action Section meetings. The sessions will center around the conference theme, FAMILY STYLE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM.

Sessions will be organized with focus on the following: 1) research related to current individual and family needs, changes, problems or life styles; 2) action programs related to current family concerns; 3) position papers about controversial family issues; 4) legislative leaders interested in family policy-making.

If you have ideas for other sessions, please contact me. Submit your ideas or rough drafts to me by April 30. My address is: *Department of Family Environment, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010*, or phone me.

EDUCATION SECTION *Ned Gaylin, Chairman*

This year we would like to encourage as much interaction and involvement in our section meetings as possible. We will undoubtedly have some paper sessions, but if there are ideas for workshop or seminar format (stressing talking with rather than talking at), we will emphasize them in order to make the sessions as impactful and interesting as possible. If papers are submitted they should be brief (about 15-20 minutes), and encouraging of questions, discussion, and interaction. We will also be concerned about the broad aspects and implications of education beyond the constraints of traditional classroom family life education. The by-word is creativeness!

Please observe the following time-table for submission: March 15--ideas and suggestions; April 30--first draft or outline of format and participants; July 31--final version and a firm participant commitment.

Direct all correspondence to me at: *Department of Child and Family Psychology, College of Human Ecology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742. Phone (301) 656-4351.*

COUNSELING SECTION *Ben Ard, Chairman*

The call is now going out for papers, ideas, presentations for the Counseling Section. This year we would like to have a varied program.

If you have any suggestions please submit them to me by March 15. The first draft or outline should reach me by no later than April 30, and the final version should be in my hands by July 31. My address is: *4200 California Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, California 94118. Phone (415) 387-1245.*

SPECIAL EMPHASES SECTION
K. F. King, Chairman

Papers are now being accepted for presentation in the Special Emphases Section for 1973. In keeping with the general theme of the meeting, the section will feature presentations in the following areas of concern: 1) Family Style and the Handicapped; 2) Delivery of Services for Families with Special Needs; 3) The North American Family, Individual Freedom, and Family Style; 4) Personal Freedom and Family Style--Youth Culture, Women's Lib; 5) The Indo-China War, POW's, MIA's and Family Style.

Papers should be submitted in outline in first draft form by April 30. If accepted, notice will be given by June 15. Please submit papers to me, *Director, Division of Child Development, Medical Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1720 7th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35233. Phone (205) 934-5241.*

Local Arrangements Chairman for the 1973 Annual Meeting is *Don Wilson, Sheridan College, Brampton, Ontario.*

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS
NOMINATION FORM FOR
OSBORNE TEACHING AWARD, 1973

The Osborne Award is presented yearly in memory of *Ernest G. Osborne*, outstanding family life educator and three-times president of the NCFR.

Criteria for Selection:

1. Demonstrated excellence in the teaching of family relationships.
2. Membership in the National Council on Family Relations.
3. Current and probably future engagement in the teaching of family relationships.
4. Willingness to promote dissemination of knowledge through participation in professional meetings and to seek publication in the journals of the NCFR.

Note: The amount of the Osborne Award, \$500, will be shared by two recipients who will each receive \$250. One award will be made to a woman and one to a man. Consequently, you may nominate one man or one woman or both one man and one woman.

Name of Nominee _____ Title _____

Address _____
(Use reverse side of page to indicate basis of nomination)

Names of three additional people to document nominee's qualifications:

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name of Nominee _____ Title _____

Address _____
(Use reverse side of page to indicate basis of nomination)

Names of three additional people to document nominee's qualifications:

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Signature of person making nomination _____

Title and address _____

Nominations will be accepted until May 1, 1973, and should be sent to:

*Dr. Karl King
Dawson Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602*