

DIXIE COUNCIL DISTRICT III & IV HISTORY

Dixie Council District III & IV is composed of the eight southeastern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The establishment of credit clubs was encouraged by the credit bureau managers in the area. The bureaus were also associated as sponsors of the Retail Credit Managers Associations, who became members of the International Credit Association which were divided into districts. District III was composed of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, and District IV was composed of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Florida was the first state to organize and had formed a state association of Credit Women's Clubs several years before organizing Atlanta, Georgia, on March 27, 1936. In February, 1937, the Dixie Council of Credit Women's Breakfast Clubs was organized in Atlanta with Marion Brooks of Baton Rouge, LA, as President. The Chattanooga, TN, club was also organized in 1936, and by this time clubs were being formed in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama as well. The first Dixie Council and Southern Conference Convention was held in Nashville, TN, in February, 1938. With the assistance of Pauline Shepherd, a past Florida Association President and International Secretary-Treasurer, and Kitty Lofton of Atlanta as Dixie Council President, the Georgia State Association of Credit Women's Clubs was organized in Savannah, GA, with five Georgia clubs in September, 1940. While Kitty Lofton was President of Dixie Council in 1940-1941, she and her corresponding secretary Jennye Lemon of Atlanta, traveled 10,000 miles throughout Dixie Council, visiting clubs, organizing new clubs and state associations.

The Mississippi State Association was organized in December, 1940, and the first club in South Carolina was Columbia organized in February, 1941, and Greensboro, North Carolina was the first club to be organized in that state in March, 1941.

In April, 1941, the annual meeting of Dixie Council of Credit Women's Clubs was held in Savannah, GA. At this time there were 7 clubs in Alabama, 5 clubs in Florida, 5 clubs in Georgia, 5 clubs in Louisiana, 3 clubs in Mississippi, 1 club each in North and South Carolina, and 5 clubs in Tennessee. This convention had 24 of the 32 clubs in the Dixie Council as official delegates.

The District is still strong and viable, although membership and clubs have declined dramatically. State Associations in Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina have disbanded, however associations in seven of the states are still active.

A successful 75th district meeting was held in Marietta, GA, in April, 2012, with Deborah Tyler of Jackson, TN, installed as 2012-2013 President. Our current International President is Diane Radcliff from Charlotte, NC, and Rhonda McKinney of Atlanta is a nominee for International office. Since the organization of our association, Dixie Council District III & IV has had 14 members from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee to serve as International President. Out of the 44 years we have selected a Credit Professional of the Year, District III & IV has had 19 members to win this award. The Hall of Fame was organized in 1986 and 7 members of District III & IV have been honored and 3 District members have received the Helen B. Sawyers Hero Award.

History compiled by Joyce S. Dove, CCCE/MPCE April 31, 2012