

# Cameos of Midwest Leaders - A Legacy

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The Midwest Association for Physical Education of College Women (MAPECW), an organization which covers the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia, has had in its membership roster and in its leadership positions some of the most well known women in the physical education profession. To illustrate this fact biographical information has been gathered on each president. Time does not allow me to highlight the contributions of all the 40 presidents in the 68 year history of MAPECW but will cover as many as I can.

Before relating some highlights of these individuals, the following demographic and historic information has been gathered to further illustrate the rich legacy of this organization.

23/40 were born in the states that comprise MAPECW but the leading state for a president's home state is Massachusetts with 6, which I believe further illustrates the prestige of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics (BNSG) in the early years. Wisconsin was the second state with 5 being born there. One president, Betty Menzi, was born outside the United States in the country of China.

11 either graduated from BNSG or Wellesley and the next most attended institutions for the undergraduate degree were 3 each from Wisconsin and Mount Holyoke.

9 received their Master's from Columbia and the most doctorates - 6 - were earned at the University of Iowa, while surprisingly, only 1 matriculated for the doctorate at Columbia but did not finish.

Out of the 40, 3 were M.D.'s, 24 received doctorates and 9 others earned Master's.

The leadership qualities of the president is illustrated by how many were also presidents of other state, district or national organizations.

Two - Mabel Lee and Margaret Ball - were president of AAHPER(D) and 8 held the office of President of Midwest District. Two were also presidents of other districts.

10/40 have been President of NAPECW and already in the short history of NAPEHE, 2 of its presidents - Trekell and Clifton - were former presidents of MAPECW.

6 presidents were at one time Chair of the now NAGWS and one, Mary Lou Remley, has been President of NAASH.

As you might expect, these leaders did not go unnoticed and brought honor to MAPECW by the honors they received.

16 received the AAHPER(D) Honor Award and 12 have been elected to the American Academy, and 3 of these 12 - Lee, Huelster and Clifton - have been President of the Academy. Two, Lee and Trilling, received the highest award from AAHPER(D), the Gulick Award, and Lee and Huelster were given the Hetherington Award. 16 were awarded the Honorary designation by NAPECW and 12 were so chosen by MAPECW. Furthermore, 15/40 received Honor Awards from their respective states,

But perhaps more reflective of the greatness of many of these leaders is the permanent memorials that were initiated at their respective institutions in recognition of their contributions. Thus, across the Midwest there is an Freer Gym. Halsey Gym. Norris Gym, Lee Gym, McKee Gym and a Davies Gym. In addition, there is a Bell Pool, a Dudley Field and a Dudley House. Furthermore, there are scholarship awards as tributes to Dudley, Schwein. Trilling, Huelster and Moulton. Moreover, there may be other forms of recognition that were not discovered by this researcher.

The pioneering spirit and dedication to the discipline of physical education is demonstrated by the fact that professional programs were initiated at Illinois State. Ohio State. Denison and the Universities of Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin by the efforts of the Chairs of these departments who were leaders of MAPECW.

And finally, there does seem to be a relationship between being President of MAPECW and longevity. Except for Lydia Clark, who died young at 46, all the other 14 presidents who are deceased were either in their 70's or 80's when they died, the oldest being Blanche Trilling at 88. Of the rest 12 are now retired and 3 of these are in their 90's - Helen Hazelton **IS** 91, Mary McKee is 97 and Mabel Lee will be 99 this summer. 8 are in their 70's and 80's and one is in her late 60's.

These brief cameos are one indication of the heritage of MAPECW. Some of these ladies were, and are, our most eminent leaders in the profession and they have left their imprint on their institutions, the Midwest and for many, the national scene. But like any organization it is the people that make it memorable and the legacy of MAPECW is not only its leaders but the genuine dedication and loyalty of its members.