

2-1957

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Recommended Citation

Ver Hage, Cecelia (1957) "Why Did I Join the ASWA? (Confessions of a Commercial Teacher)," *Woman C.P.A.*: Vol. 19 : Iss. 2 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/wcpa/vol19/iss2/5>

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WHY DID I JOIN THE ASWA? (CONFESSIONS OF A COMMERCIAL TEACHER)

By CECELIA VER HAGE, Holland Chapter, ASWA

"So you want to attend the National ASWCPA and ASWA National Convention in place of going to the Teachers' Convention. Why?"

This question the Superintendent would ask me tomorrow—if I could muster the courage to face him with my choice of conventions.

The clock struck eleven, twelve—"Why is it important? Why is it important?" kept dinning in my ears. "Why is it . . . why is . . . why . . . ? ZZZzzzzz

"The meeting will please come to order," gaveled the president of the Board of Education. "This special meeting has been called to question one of the teachers concerning her request to be excused from attending the Teachers' Convention. Will the accused please step forward?"

"Will you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but?"

"I do, on my ASWA honor."

"Is it true that you are asking permission to attend the national convention of ASWA and AWSCPA in preference to your going to the Teachers' Convention?"

"Yes . . . your . . . Honor," I stuttered.

"Does this so-called ASWA society have any connection whatsoever with the educational function of your classes? Is your presence at its convention pertinent to your position? According to your knowledge, ASWA is a women's organization independent of the principles of education."

"Sir, it is a women's organization, BUT it is definitely an educational organization. Let me give material evidence to substantiate my assertions. Four years ago the Holland Chapter, ASWA, gave a \$5 award to the most outstanding bookkeeping student in our high school. I was given an invitation to attend the June Educational Dinner meeting with this student. At this meeting I realized that ASWA and the Commercial Department of any high school were striving toward the same goal: EDUCATION, with its sights focused on the business world. Needless to say, I

became a member of the ASWA in the fall."

"Well, well," he muttered, "but . . ."

"Two years ago," I interrupted with no stuttering this time, "the Chapter sent an ASWA representative to our school with a movie entitled 'Accounting, the Language of Business' which was shown to the students of the Commercial Department. As a result, one student became interested and applied for and received an ASWA scholarship."

"That is very commendable," he commented, "but"

"Every year," I continued with full steam ahead, "the ASWA members arrange and conduct tours through offices, banks, or manufacturing firms for the high school commercial students."

"Seems to be a public-relations organization, too," he added with a reticent nod of approval.

"Very much so. Last year when the short-hand class was studying letters, one of the ASWA members consented to talk to the class about importance and appearance of business letters. To illustrate her talk, the movie 'Eight Parts of a Business Letter' was also shown to the class. This certainly was education also."

"Do you think that your attending this convention would be of value to you?" he inquired with a twinkle of approbation in his eyes.

"Indeed I do . . . indeed I do."

"All those in favor, please say 'Aye . . . aye . . . aye.'" . . . BBBBZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

"National convention, here we come!" came to life. How could a superintendent object to those facts? ASWA scores many hits. No one questions the activities of ASWA and their importance; women in business have rightfully gained a position of prestige.

If I can do my bit to pass this feeling along to teen-agers—the future accountants and ASWA and AWSCPA members—then joining ASWA has been most worthwhile.