

A HISTORY OF THE PHILADELPHIA SECTION NO. 10 INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY

With Earle Graham, Hugh Mottern and Walter Obold as prime motivators, a group of 33 food technologists/scientists, 21 of whom were national IFT members, met at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa on March 15, 1945 to formally organize and apply for a charter as a local section of IFT. Hugh Mottern served as acting chairman of the group. A short program on Quality Control in Food Processing, with Lincoln Hyde, Sara Blangsted and Everett Meschter as speakers, was presented. On March 17, 1946, a charter was granted and the group became the Philadelphia Section of the Institute of Food Technologists, Regional Section No. 10. The region extended north to Trenton, N.J.; east to the Atlantic Ocean; south to Dover, De.; and west to Harrisburg, Pa. The first elected officers were: Earl Graham, Chairman; Arthur Bowers, Vice Chairman; Lincoln Hyde, Secretary; and Louis Mahle, Treasurer. Earl Graham served as the first councilor. Membership increased from 60 in 1945 to 80 by July 1946.

Under the active leadership of Henry Elkind, Jr. as Chairman of the Membership Committee, membership grew from 80 members in 1946 to 190, of whom about 65 were local members, in 1948. In 1947, Henry Elkind, Jr. also started the Section Newsletter. Attendance at the meetings increased from about forty in 1947-48 to 70 in 1949-50, attributable to this Newsletter. During this period, at the suggestion of C. Wagner, Chairman of the Education Committee, the seminar concept was introduced as part of the Section's program for the first time. A series of seminars on "Basic Processes in Food Preservation," conducted by W. A. Maclinn from Rutgers, were held from October 1947 to March 1948 to discuss unit operations. Seminar speakers included Mr. Towson, Dr. Strassburger, Dr. Howard, Mr. Sivyler, Dr. Dahle and Dr. George Hucker who was then President of I.F.T. An important event in the early history of the Section was to host the Eighth Annual National IFT Conference in Philadelphia on June 6-10, 1948. Historically, this successful meeting was important because of its international scope and because it was the first national IFT meeting to attract 1,000 attendees.

The national meeting held in Philadelphia, Pa. in June 1960 was very beneficial since the Section realized a sizeable income which was used to establish the Student Loan Fund to assist students interested in food technology, food engineering, food sciences, food distribution and allied fields. This Fund was successful because it gave juniors, seniors and graduate students the opportunity to continue and complete their education. The Section By-Laws were drafted and accepted on March 6, 1962. The Section again hosted the national IFT meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. on May 19-23, 1968. At this meeting Robert Marsh, Chairman of the Publicity Affairs Committee, initiated the first major attempt to place articles in the consumer press and to get TV coverage in order to explain IFT and its objectives to editors. As a continuation of this idea, Robert Marsh suggested that several articles which would require no editing should be prepared directly for publication and be provided to the editors each year. This was the forerunner of the Public Affairs Program. In 1978, the Section set up a committee to promote the Public Affairs Program which two other sections of IFT had already established. The Award to the Food Technologist Most Deserving of Recognition was established in 1968 to acknowledge important contributions made by a member to the Section, to the Institute and to the food profession. Stanley Segall was the first recipient of the Award which has been presented annually to some Section member since 1968.

Up through the mid-1970's, seminar topics dealt most frequently with nutrition, microbiology, food processing/preservation, food safety/ toxicity, FDA regulations' and utilization of by-products in the industry. Two seminars per year were scheduled and well attended with some attracting as many as 200 people. Many joint meetings with the University of Delaware, Drexel University, American Dietetic Association, Candy Technologists and Home Economists in Business were held and always well attended. Although these topics continued to be popular and important, a marked increase in subjects such as product development, new food trends, fabricated foods, encapsulation, membrane , separations, immobilized enzymes and especially sensory qualities of foods occurred since the mid-1970's. Texture, color and flavor/flavor chemistry of foods gained high recognition and popularity.

On March 28, 1974, the Section was incorporated as the Philadelphia Regional Section No. 10, IFT, Inc. That year, the Sectional Emeritus Member classification which granted retired members the same rights and privileges as active members, was established. Also in 1974, the Industrial Associate membership (now Corporate Associate) was to get corporations more interested and supportive of the objectives of the Section and IFT. The first Industrial Associate member was Leonard Flavors Inc.

The Philadelphia Section Lectureship Award was established in January 1974 to recognize an outstanding food scientist or a scientist in a related field who had made a

significant contribution to food science, nutrition or technology based on the scientist's lifetime achievements. The Award consisted of a \$1,000 honorarium and an engraved plaque to be given annually at a meeting where the recipient presents a lecture. The first Award was given to Dr. Emil Mrak on October 7, 1975. By 1974, the Section had become the fourth largest in the United States. The Section was honored to have Dr. Ernest Briskey one of its members, serve as President of IFT in 1975-1976. Along with numerous other prestigious scientific organizations, Dr. Briskey in behalf of IFT participated in the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the American Chemical Society in 1976. The Section By-Laws were revised and adopted on April 7, 1976.

From the National meeting in Philadelphia in June 5-9, 1977, the Section received \$1,000 which was set aside as "seed money" toward a Student Award Fund. Up to this time the Section did not have an official fund for this purpose, although symbolic awards were given to students since 1973. The intent of the Section was to build up a fund with sufficient reserve to be able to grant substantial awards to deserving students. After 10 years of debate, Bruce Poulterer got the Suppliers' Night off the ground in 1980 and led it for six years to an overwhelming success generating substantial income to support our students and education program. Additionally, the student activities were to stimulate greater student interests and more active participation in the Section. IFT dues and dinner costs have been subsidized by the Section's fund generated by the Suppliers' night, first held in November 1980. Sufficient income provided significant awards and since 1981, at least three awards, with some as high as \$1,750 per student, have been granted annually. The Suppliers' Night program has been mutually beneficial to students, to industrial exhibitors and to Section members. In 1972, the Education Committee, with George Turner as Chairman, initiated a slide-lecture series designed to promote food technology/food science projects in schools. In 1985, the Section appointed Jay Fox as committee Chairman of the IFT Career Guidance Program promoting food science and food technology as a career to local high school students.

In November 1978, the Section joined ten other local IFT Sections from the Northeast Section to the Carolina-Virginia Section and west to the Pittsburgh Section in holding Eastern Regional IFT meetings every other year. The purpose of this mini-type meeting was to fill the need for a forum for food technologists and scientists unable to attend national meetings where ideas and new developments in food technology and food science could be discussed. In 1984, an annual poster presentation was initiated by Marjorie Medina to stimulate sharing of research from academia, government and industry. Industry had to be enticed to participate and share their research.

On September 9, 1980, a group of members, under the leadership of Frank Flora and Barry Johnston, requested authorization to form a Central Pennsylvania Subsection of the Philadelphia Section, IFT. In May 14, 1981, Keystone Subsection No. IO-B was formally

organized as a Subsection of the Philadelphia Section IFT, with Frank Flora, Chairman; Gary Kasper, Vice Chairman; and Arun Kilara, Secretary/Treasurer. The membership of the Subsection was 223 at the end of 1987. As part of the Section's Fortieth Anniversary celebration in 1986, the Section created the Distinguished Service Award named 'Signal Award' to recognize a Section member with a long history of outstanding service to the Section and to IFT. This very special Award was first presented to Julius Bauermann. The membership of the Section has increased ten times since 1946, growing from 80 in 1946 to 800 in 1986. The Section is now the fifth largest in the United States.

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