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# A Brief History and Assessment of the Health Occupations Education Division

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A BRIEF HISTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE  
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION DIVISION

Mary M. **Randall**<sup>1</sup>

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Abstract: The Health Occupations Education Division of the American Vocational Association is only 16 years old, but it has already compiled a history of accomplishments. The original interest group formed by an official of the United States Office of Education numbered 29 members in 1966; today, the Division boasts 2124 professional members. Division members have also organized a national student organization, Health Occupations Students of America; a teacher **educators'** group: the Association of Health Occupations Teacher Educators; an administrators' group: the National Association for State Administrators of Health

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Occupations Education and, a teachers' group; the National Association of Health Occupations Teachers. The Division is advancing into the next phase of professional growth and development with the publication of the Journal of Health Occupations Education and the HOE Newsletter.

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In December 1966, American Vocational Association (AVA) members with an interest in Health Occupations Education (HOE) recognized the need for a HOE Division in the AVA. The need was based on the urgency of the demands for trained health personnel, the obvious lack of participation of health occupations educators and employers in AVA and the proliferation of problems invading the health occupations among many diversified groups within AVA without any single coordinating force.

Organizational Meetings

The first meeting of the HOE interest group was called by Helen K. Powera, Chief, Health Occupations Division, Vocational-Technical Education, United States Office of Education, on December 5, 1966. Twenty nine persons were present. The purpose was "to explain means, whereby, the AVA members representing the health occupations might establish identity and visibility for health occupations within the AVA structure." The AVA members present decided to become a "committee of the whole" to further development of a Health Occupations Division and Louise M. Daily, Chief, Health Occupations, Illinois was elected Chairman of the Committee.

By the second meeting in December, 1967, 1,252 membership petitions had been received. Participants learned that the AVA Board was "receptive to the idea of divisional status **for** Health Occupations Education."

The AVA bylaws were also revised in December, 1967. One revision of the

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bylaws provided for the recognition of the New and Related Services Division of AVA, and the HOE group was listed as one of several groups within the new Division. At this time, the organizational criteria by which these groups could become AVA Divisions were also established. The most challenging criterion for the HOE group was the most basic one: a membership of 1000 health occupations educators.

Membership

Membership of the HOE interest group grew rather rapidly from the date of the first meeting in 1966, until the recognition of the group as a Division in 1970. There was rapid growth during the early years and slower maturation during the time prior to the achievement of divisional status:

December 1966	29	April 1969	9	4	0
November 1968	479	May 2, 1969	951		
February 1969	855	May 22, 1969	922		
March 1969	931	June 23, 1969	1,001		

Divisional Status

In June of 1969, a prepared petition for divisional status was submitted to the AVA Board. In July of that year, the AVA Board of Directors approved the HOE interest group petition for divisional status and HOE officially became a Division of AVA on July 1, 1970.

The HOE Division

In 1970, Dale Petersen, Administrative Assistant and Research Coordinator, University of Iowa, was elected the first Vice President of the new HOE Division and the Division's first operational policies were adopted. The first HOE Policy Committee was established and the first meetings of the Policy Committee and the Division membership were held.

### Divisional Change Throughout the Years

Many changes have occurred in **the** HOE Division during the past 16 years. The Division's membership is 2,124 as of June 30, 1986. The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), a national vocational student organization for students in vocational health occupations programs, was organized in 1976 as an integral component of the HOE program. Three groups for teacher-educators, teachers, and administrators have also been formed. The Division's Operating Policies have undergone several revisions and a "workable" Program of Work that is supportive of the goals of the American Vocational Association has been developed. Linkages are being established between the Division and (a) the health care industry, (b) the federal government, (c) other professional organizations in the health care industry, and (d) educational communities.

For years, HOE Division members stressed an interest in publishing a newsletter and a journal. Finally, as a result of many meetings and discussions these publications became a reality in 1986.

### The General Purposes of the HOE Division

The general purposes of the HOE Division included in the Division's Operating Policies have evolved over the years and now describe a comprehensive program of professional improvement. The general purposes include:

1. Establishing and maintaining an active national leadership in the health occupations;
2. Developing high professional standards among the membership;
3. Developing a better understanding of health occupations education;
4. Serving as an agent for the dissemination of information related to

health occupations education;

5. Encouraging cooperative working relationships between health occupations educators and other agencies, organizations, and institutions;

6. Identifying the function of health occupations education in preparing students for the world of work;

7. Working toward the development and expansion of quality health occupations education programs;

8. Keeping members of the HOE Division informed of policies, plans, and issues of the AVA as they relate to the development of vocational and technical education;

9. Providing a mechanism for effective communications and exchange between teachers, teacher educators, and supervisors of health occupations education;

10. Considering national, international, regional, state, and local needs and problems, and in relation to these, designing long-range goals for health occupations education;

11. Encouraging membership and participation in programs of AVA; and

12. Encouraging and supporting student activities which include participation of health occupations students in their student organization HOSA .

These purposes have been described because they present a comprehensive picture of the Division's maturing program of work and its current vision of the future. With widespread agreement on these, the purposes of the Division, the HOE membership can better serve the health care industry of the nation.

#### Membership Organizations

Several membership organizations within the HOE Division have developed

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as the interests of the membership have expanded to encompass broader professional horizons. At the present time, membership organizations include the National Association for State Administrators of Health Occupations Education (**NASAHOE**); the Association of Health Occupations Teacher Educators (**AHOTE**); and the National Association of Health Occupations Teachers (**NAHOT**).

Each organization has developed its own organizational structure, elected its own officers, and adopted its own operating policies, program of work, and statements of policy. These must conform to the broad operating policies of the Division and AVA, the parent organization. Each divisional organization also has liaison representation on the Division's Policy Committee, on each of its standing committees, and on such special committees as are deemed appropriate by the Policy Committee. The President, or a delegated representative from each divisional organization serves as the liaison representative to the Division's Policy Committee.

Other membership organizations may affiliate with the Division with the approval of the Division's Policy Committee, in accordance with the policies of the AVA Board of Directors. Although each remains independent, the current membership groups have produced "a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts." Teachers are on the front line in the struggle to prepare health care workers who can deliver quality health care to the nation; teacher-educators provide them with the professional tools to meet that challenge; and state administrators provide the management and communications expertise needed to organize the complex HOE enterprise. The Division is, in short, stronger and more competent as a Division than are the groups individually, and the Division's Operating Policies are structured to foster such "synergy" in the future.

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The Policy Committee

The purpose of the Policy Committee is to formulate and **carry out the** general purposes of the Division. The membership of the Policy Committee consists of voting members who are the elected officers of the Division, and a variable number of non-voting members.

The voting members are the HOE Division Vice-President, six members selected from specific professional backgrounds in the Division, and an eighth member (either the Past Vice-President or a Member-at-Large). The six **professional** members include an adult/continuing education teacher, a secondary education teacher, a **postsecondary** education teacher, a supervisor or administrator of two or more programs, a supervisor or administrator of a statewide HOE delivery system, and a teacher-educator in a collegiate program providing preservice and/or **inservice** preparation of HOE teachers.

The immediate Past Vice-President is eligible to serve as a voting member on the Policy Committee for the year following the completion of the Vice-President term of office. The Member-at-Large **is** elected from the classroom teacher constituency of the Division membership (secondary, adult and/or postsecondary with no administrative/supervisory responsibilities).

The non-voting members **on** the Policy Committee include the chairperson of the HOE Convention Program Committee; **the** president, or a delegated representative from each divisional organization; a designated representative from the **HOSA** Inc., Board of Directors; a liaison representative(s) from the United States Office of Education; and, the newly elected HOE Division Vice-President (if a Policy Committee meeting is held prior to July 1).

The Policy Committee has developed the Division's current statement of purposes and program of work. The committee also coordinates activities of



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the Division's membership. It has established communication linkages with federal and state agencies, with professional health care associations, and with the nation's health care industry. Members who are experienced and dedicated are vital to this committee. **All** Division members are urged to aspire to service on the Policy Committee, the administrative body of the Division.

Other Committees

Any member of the HOE Division is eligible for appointment to serve on the general and the special committees of AVA, in accordance with the provisions of AVA bylaws and policies of the AVA Board of Directors. In order to provide professional leadership opportunities for the largest number of members, the HOE Policy Committee members may not serve on any other AVA committees. This policy has benefited the Division over the years. The standing committees of the Division are the Awards, Convention Program, Critical Issues, Editorial and Publications, Membership, Nominating, Operating Policies, Professional Development, and Resolutions. As in the past, special committees may be appointed from **time** to time as they are needed to implement the work **of** the Division.

Student Organization

One of the major accomplishments of the HOE Division over the last 16 years has been the formation of **HOSA**. HOSA is the national student organization endorsed by the **HOE** Division as **well** as by the United States Office of Education as the appropriate student organization for those students who are enrolled in vocational HOE programs. A designated representative of the HOSA Inc. , Board of Directors is invited to serve as a liaison representative to the Division's Policy Committee.

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The promotion and expansion of HOSA is one of the most important projects of the HOE Division. A strong partnership between the HOE Division and HOSA should achieve the ultimate goals of preparing health care workers who will be able to accept the challenges of providing quality health care in a rapidly changing health care industry.

HOE Publications

Newsletter

The first issue of the HOE Newsletter was published in the Spring of 1986, under the direction of the Vice President of the HOE Division. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a communication link **among** the HOE Division members. Through this publication information can be shared from the various states as well as from the HOE Division. In addition, a calendar of events for the Division is included. Editorial materials should **be** forwarded to the Vice President of the HOE Division.

The Journal of Health Occupations Education

The first issue of the Journal of Health Occupations Education, an official publication of the HOE Division was published in the Spring **of** 1986. The purpose of the Journal is to keep health occupations personnel informed of current research methods and findings in HOE, current programmatic trends and issues in health care, and of new books which have an impact on HOE.

The refereed Journal publishes research and informative papers, as well as book reviews related to specific or broad occupational areas. Manuscripts and book reviews are juried by readers on the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Staff consists of the (a) Editorial Board Council (Editor, Associate Editor, Managing Editor and the Chairman of the Editorial and Publication Committee of the HOE Division); and (b) Editorial Board (21 member

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panel of reviewers elected by the Editorial Board Council). Members of the first Editorial Board Council include: (a) Editor, Dr. Norma J. Walters, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Health Occupations Education, Auburn University; (b) Associate Editor, Dr. James N. **Wilmoth**, Associate Professor, Auburn University; (c) Managing Editor, Dr. Beverly Richards, Assistant Professor, Health Occupations Education, University of Iowa; and (d) Chairman of Editorial and Publications Committee of the HOE Division, Dr. **Lauretta** Cole, State Supervisor HOE, West Virginia Department of Education.

The Journal is published **in** the Spring and Fall. Contributed research papers, informative papers and book reviews are submitted to the Editor for publication consideration. Subscriptions are submitted to the Managing Editor.

Summary

The newly formed HOE Division, was initiated by an official of the federal government, was small in number, and was united in scope. Through time the Division grew until **it** was large enough to attain self-governing and independent status within AVA. Its new members, with their self-determination, led to the development and statement of a sophisticated list of professional purposes. Its new members and their expanding professional aspirations have also led the Division **to** organize into three major membership organizations and a student organization.

The Policy Committee, as the administrative body, is purposely designed to provide a representative cross-section of **all** HOE members and interests. Other standing and special committees carry on the functions of the Division.

The Division is growing and evolving having recently begun publication of a Division Newsletter and The Journal of Health Occupations Education. Its

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expanding membership continues to enlarge its professional horizons through an increasingly sophisticated system of communications linkages between the Division's operational groups and individuals and the broader community of health care professions and the health care industry.

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