

2017 – Integration Comes to the Society

For the first 129 years of its existence, the Memorial Society was a “ladies only” group. It is not known why as there was nothing in the group’s bylaws that limited membership to women. We know the Society was founded by a group of a dozen women, and perhaps it simply became considered a women’s organization – meetings were held on weekday afternoons in the homes of members followed by a social hour during which the hostess served refreshments. Also, years ago it was uncommon for organizations to have both male and female members.

For the Society, that changed in 2017 when the 13 female members of the Memorial Society welcomed three men into the membership fold – Donald Blaue, Bobby Phegley and Jerry Prouhet. Once it was known the Society was now an integrated group, more men joined, and today, the 28-member organization includes six men – Ramiz Hakim, Roger Nierman, Jerry Prouhet, Richard Ramey, David Reckamp and Ralph Reckamp. (Don Blaue and Bobby Phegley remained members until their deaths.)

This diversity has brought new ideas, energy and skills to the Society. We think the women who carried on the Society’s work for 129 years would be pleased to know the menfolk are now lending a hand!