

Historical Record of AAUW--1950

Association of Collegiate Alumnae 1882-1921

1881, November 28th, 17 young women college graduates met to organize an association of women college graduates, with headquarters in Boston. They were from 8 colleges - Boston U., Smith, Wellesley, Oberlin, Vassar, Cornell, U. of Michigan, U. of Wisconsin. They met at M.I.T.

1882, January 14th. General meeting of the alumnae of the 8 colleges. 65 women present. Constitution and By-laws adopted. Object - "to unite alumnae of different institutions for practical educational work. Marion Talbot, the founder, became the first secretary, an office she held for 14 years.

During 1882 4 other colleges admitted - M.I.T., Wesleyan College (Connecticut), Syracuse, and University of Kansas. 1883 Northwestern University admitted.

1883, December 1, The Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae was organized in Chicago as an independent association and not as a branch, as was originally expected.

1884 Washington, D.C. became first branch;

1886, January - New York City; then the so-called Pacific Branch; later called the California Branch, and now the San Francisco Bay Branch.; May 1886, Philadelphia; October 1886, Boston;

1889. The Association of Collegiate Alumnae had met in different cities, and in 1889, in October, it met in Buffalo, New York. The Western Association met with it, and decided to merge with it. Three new branches became members - Chicago, Minnesota, and the Central New York Branch (Syracuse).

Mrs. George Townsend, president of the Buffalo Women's Educational and Industrial Union, called upon the college women of the city to assist her in entertaining the combined meeting. At that time there were in Buffalo only 8 college women, eligible for membership, and of that number only 5 had gone to college from Buffalo.

This little group was the nucleus for the formation of the Western New York Branch, as it was called at the time and until 1921. Five women attended the first meeting of this group - Harriet Ransom Milinowski (Mrs.), Lena Hill Severance (Mrs.), Mary M. Wardwell, Maude Austin, and Ella C. Lapham. This group became the officers with the exception of Mrs. Severance, who became Chairman for Educational Legislation. Mrs. Milinowski became president and Miss Wardwell, secretary.

1890, October, Western New York Branch became the 10th branch, Detroit having been admitted earlier in the year.

The first undertaking of the newly formed branch was to assist in the development of the University of Buffalo, with assistance to the endowment fund. They interested young women in going to college, conducted important investigations, collaborated in gathering statistics, took a hand in educational legislation, and cooperated in bringing to Buffalo lecturers of distinction, among them President Elliott of Harvard.

1893 & 1894. The work of establishing home libraries in the poorer portions of the city of Buffalo was carried on with encouraging results. Two libraries were in operation. Members of the branch visited them regularly once a week, spending an hour or two with the children over the books and playing games.

Chronology

1902 The branch began one of its most outstanding achievements—the establishment of a College Creche. An appeal was made by the Charities Society of the city for the branch to establish a creche in a thickly settled part of Buffalo so that working women might leave their children for the day. Thus the College Creche was established in a part of the Neighborhood House, Oak and Goodell Streets. The A.C.A. assumed its financial obligations (which amounted to about \$1600. a year) and the members gave freely of their time in the actual running of the creche. The branch continued to support the Creche until, the need having been adequately demonstrated, the City of Buffalo took over the project. It is now supported by the Community Fund.

(1903 The Southern Association of College Women was formed and continued to do a great work until 1921, when it united with the A.C.A. to form the AAUW.)

Mrs. Milinowski seemed to have served as president until 1893, when Mrs Seward Simon became president. Mrs. Edward Mason succeeded her in 1895.

55 members

1898-1899 the oldest roster on file. Miss L. Gertrude Angell was a member, and I believe she has held membership the longest of anyone in Buffalo - over 52 years. Miss Mary Dudley was president. 1898-1900. Miss Hallie Poole was chairman of a committee on Manual Training and Domestic Science; Miss Angell was on Membership Committee(1898-1899). The next year Miss Poole was chairman of the Press, and Miss Angell of High Schools.

1900-1904 President Miss Hallie Poole. Meetings were held in homes. Membership from 62-76.

1902 College Creche started.

1904-1906 President Mrs. Lewis Wright Simpson.

1907-1909 " Mrs. Lucien Howe. Fellowship Fund \$200. Schoolgirls' Committee reported that Juniors and Seniors in High School are spending too much money for pleasure and are attending theater too often. (75¢ to \$1.40 a week) Needs

of Buffalo Public Schools at that time were given as a truant school, medical care, ungraded rooms for defective children and vocational schools. Member of City Federation of Women's Clubs, but rejected invitation to join Western Federation.

1910-1911 President Mrs L. Gertrude Angell

1911-1912 President Mrs. C. N. Millard Resolution was adopted "Whereas Buffalo is the only city in the U.S. that does not have a Board of Education....it is hereby resolved that the A.C.A. are heartily in favor of a Board of Education on which there shall be women, appointed by the mayor, to serve for a term of from 3 to 5 years, without pay, and to have all the powers and duties with reference to school property and to the supervisory and teaching force that similar boards have in other cities."

Committee worked closely with the University for the Greater University of Buffalo. \$150 given toward education of a Buffalo girl.

1912-1913 President Mrs. Thomas B. Carpenter (Balance on hand \$2.55) Associate Members admitted. Committee appointed to consider formation of a College Club in Buffalo. The increased membership taxed the capacity of the homes of the members, used for meeting places. Studio Club, 508 Franklin Street, use of a beautifully furnished apartment 5 afternoons a week, 3-6 o'clock \$40.00 a month. Guild of Allied Arts, 623 Delaware Avenue, 2 large rooms, \$5 per meeting, tea included if number present does not exceed 50. Elmwood School, 2 large kindergarten rooms available for meetings. The Old Nichols School on Norwood for sale \$15000. Large and energetic committee be appointed to start campaign to secure members for a college club, to consider methods of organizing and financing the same, and of securing a suitable house.

1913-1915 President Miss Elsa James (Mrs. Albert H. Garvin) In January motion was made to set up a permanent scholarship fund to assist students wishing to borrow money and pay it back later.

Motion that a committee be empowered by the Assn. to draft working plans for the organization of a College Club and to submit two plans for 1) College Club and 2) Club House for the A.C.A.

A constitution was adopted for a College Club for women in Buffalo. About 150 women signed. Membership in A.C.A. 180. \$350 to be given to Miss Poor as scholarship. The first meeting of the A.C.A. in October 1914 was held at the College Club House, 163 Park Street (36 years old) All members of the A.C.A. were admitted to the College Club without an initiation fee. House at 163 Park Street was rented, not bought. Meetings of A.C.A. were held there until 1922.

1915-1916 President Mrs. Frederick K. Wing. Amendment- "The regular meetings shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month from October till May unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Board." Election of officers had been changed to March. Membership 169. Most of the speakers this year,

as had been true for a few years, were college presidents. Booklet published containing names of officers, personnel of standing committees, program, membership and Constitution and By-Laws, which had been adopted in 1913.

1916-1918. Pres. Dr. Carro Croff. Scholarships \$350 to be divided between two. Resolution, the purpose of which was the betterment of sanitary conditions in the public schools. Endorsed the wider use of school buildings. Whenever a president or representative from a college spoke, graduates from that particular college were invited as guests. Pres. of N. Atlantic Section of A. C. A. was one of the speakers. A.C.A. endowed a bed for the Red Cross Base Hospital. Miss James in charge of Red Cross work for the Branch. Education Comm. became War Relief Group. Red Cross work done by A. C. A. & College Club members two afternoons a week. Each member served as one of the hostesses once during the year, the fee being 75¢. Sold Liberty Bonds.

In 1912 it had been suggested that the whole country be divided into ten sections, with a vice-president for each section. In Oct., 1916, a pioneer sectional conference was held in Boston. Fifteen other branches of section asked to be guests of hostess branch. Nine accepted. Dr. Croff and Mrs. Severance represented Western New York Branch. Announced course in instruction of women voters at Townsend Hall for \$1.00. Urged all college women who speak more than one language to attend so they may in turn go among the foreign population and teach duties of citizenship. Resolution to ask the City Council to consider favorably the proposed measure to increase salaries of teachers in our public schools. Many members worked at the Thrift Kitchen on Chippewa St., an experimental station of the State for information concerning wheat and the use of substitutes, and could be used at the Liberty Bond Booth there. Miss Sickmon on Speakers' Bureau of the Liberty Loan. Twenty-two colleges represented in membership of Branch. Young women students at U.B. guests of Branch at an evening meeting. Membership 162.

1918-1920. Pres. Mrs. Lewis J. Burns. Three French women students at D'Youville College sent to this country by their own gov't to receive the education offered in scholarships by American Colleges. Buffalo's quote of 150. Guests of A. C. A. Programs devoted to war work of allied nations. Bill before Congress to create a Dep't of Education in Cabinet & to appropriate 100 million dollars to its use for better education for all. Resolution to cooperate with Board of Education in its new public school building project. April, 1919, the funds used for scholarships were to be considered in the nature of loans and to be repaid as soon as possible by recipient. Membership--142.

During the second year, programs were in charge of college groups. Dues raised to \$4.00. New York State Division formed in 1920. State Conference held at Ithaca to consider

reorganization of the National A. C. A. Endorsed Normal School Salary Bill for increased salary of Normal School teachers. Motion that married women be permitted to teach in our schools. Motion that branch recommend to school board that pay to substitute teachers be advanced from \$3 to \$5 in the elementary grades and to \$6 in high school. National Club House established in Washington, D. C. I. F. U. W. had been formed by British, American and Canadian Branches. By-Laws amended to read, "Three vice-presidents", instead of "one". Membership--146.

1920-1922. Pres. Mrs. Berend J. Burns. The Assn. had always been interested in U. B. In 1915 a Greater Buffalo Comm. had been appointed, and each member was charged to lend her aid and enthusiasm, especially to the College of Liberal Arts so recently organized. In 1920, nearly \$2000 was raised for a scholarship, and \$500 for the endowment fund. Two hundred dollars was raised for the gift of American Women to the Women's Medical Colleges of the Orient. Two hundred seventy dollars was raised for Armenian Relief. Twenty-seven dollars was raised for the Madame Curie Radium Fund. The women of America are to present a gram of radium, costing \$100,000 (nearly \$80,000 already raised), to Mme. Curie. A. C. A. worked toward the establishment of two new offices at U. B.-- those of Dean of Women and Director of Physical Education. U. B. Council has not made any additions to the staff, the first great step being to secure a chancellor, whose duty it will be to build up the academic and administrative side of U. B. Members appointed to City Planning Comm. Com, also appointed to consider means of creating a closer union between A. C. A. and College Club, the C. C. having suggested that A. C. A. unite with them. One hundred college women from the Toronto Federation met with college women from Niagara Falls in June, 1921, to honor Mme. Curie. Proposed that Buffalo Branch and Toronto meet at a dinner. Southern Association of College Women in 1921, The term "University" was used because it belongs to the International Federation, and on the continent "College" is not on a par with "University". Three main interests: 1. raise standard of education. 2. take part in international federation. 3. to establish a national clubhouse in Washington, around which the affairs of the Association might center. Meetings seemed to be joint meetings of A. A. U. W. and C. C. First mention of regular executive meetings. Became "Buffalo Branch" instead of "Western New York."

1922-1924. Pres. Mrs. George H. Camehl. Chancellor Capen came to U. B. Lillias Macdonald appointed first Dean of Women.

Recommendation to furnish a room in Foster Hall for the U. B. women. Card Party for it. Proceeds \$575.75. Members gave many accessories also. Presentation tea to turn room over to women.

Graduates since 1917 of Liberal Arts of U. B. and graduates

of U. B. Medical School who have had two years of liberal arts admitted as Associate Members.

Question of withdrawing from Buffalo Federation, but finally appointed committee to study constitution of Fed. so that decisions of Federation will be more representative of public opinion, within the Federation. Meetings now being held in homes and other public meeting places/sic/. Scholarships continued to be provided for girls attending U. B. and other colleges. College Clubs made donations toward the furnishings for the room at Foster Hall. Pageant of Colleges. April meeting at Foster Hall to be an Annual event. Immigration Dinner at Statler \$2.00. Membership 201.

1924-1926. Pres. Mrs. Malcolm Baird. Meetings at Lafayette Community House. Bernard Club voted to have a 100% membership in A. A. U. W. \$327 from card party. Backed City Planning Association. Voted to impose a penalty of 10% for non-payment of dues. Voted that the Buffalo Branch subscribe its quota for the National Club House. All programs without cost to Branch. Board meetings once a month. Continued to add to room at Foster Hall. Branches at Lockport, Niagara Falls, East Aurora, St. Catharines and Toronto invited to attend the Annual Banquet. Gave brief survey of their work.

Recommendation from the Guggenheim Foundation that A.A.U.W. Branches change their support from Scholarships to fellowships. Working on Historical Pageant for May dinner. Mrs. W. H. Gibbs in charge. Quota for Club House was \$1244. As customary, the April program at Foster Hall was in charge of Dean Macdonald. Mrs. Baird, President, made 259 calls on members. Outstanding work of the year: contributing to the Washington Club House, the U. B. Fund, and two scholarships. \$100 sent to Washington. Miss Poole's name continues to be mentioned in connection with some committees, especially scholarship. Education Committee, under Dean Macdonald, at request of State and National Association made a survey of schools in Erie, Niagara, Genesee and Wyoming Counties to tabulate history textbooks in use. Women's Room at Medical School of U. B. refurnished with money left after furnishing room at Foster Hall. Mrs. Severance, Miss Wardwell, Mrs. Olmstead and Mrs. Milinowski were all present for the Historical Pageant.

1926-1928. President Mrs. Thurman W. Stoner. Dean Macdonald presented resolution, "Whereas the Buffalo Branch of AAUW had been interested in the progress of the University of Buffalo for many years and has accepted its graduates as associate members, it recommends to the Comm. on Admissions of the North Atlantic Section of AAUW that it consider favorably the application of the University of Buffalo for National membership."

Constitution and By-Laws revised in April, 1927. Program for the year was along the lines of the Departments of the University Schools of Music, Education, Library, Dramatics, etc. Membership 259. Paid \$525.16 on pledge to the Club House, leaving \$298.84. Lorado Taft brought to Buffalo for March meeting. Card party in Univ. Alumni Clubhouse for Girls' Room

in Edmond Hayes Hall. College Club members guests at Feb. meeting. March meeting at Town Club. College Club Pres. asked that AAUW unite with College Club. Child Study Gr. formed with Mrs. A.W. Thompson as Ch. Questionnaire being sent to each member to find out what subject they would be interested in, in forming other study grps.

April meeting in Ed. Hayes Hall. Membership 282. \$400 in "singing fund". During the year, the executive boards of C.C. & AAUW held a joint meeting for purpose of formulating plan for uniting of two clubs. Several special meetings also held. Questionnaire sent to each member of AAUW. Plan not accepted, but answers showed that a great many members were in favor of one club in Buffalo for College Women.