

AAUW

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION

A History

1920-1952

By

MARIE ROGERS VAIL

Published by the

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION

American Association of University Women

1954

FOREWORD

As the New York State Division of the American Association of University Women approached its quarter-century mark, it became evident to members who had followed its growth through the years that a history of its achievements should be written. At the same time, newly-elected officers were feeling an urgent need for answers to their questions: Who had been responsible for the Division's rapid growth? When had certain policies begun, and why? How had the fellowship program started? When had the individual branches been organized? Which of the study groups had come first? Had certain techniques ever been tried, and did they succeed or fail?

It was in the hope of making the answers to these and many other questions easily available that, in November 1944, I accepted the invitation of Mrs. James W. Kideney, State President, to become the first historian of the New York State Division. Little attention had been paid to preserving records, and none at all to organizing them. As Mrs. Kideney said in her letter, the new historian "would have to start from scratch." The task has been engrossing and rewarding, and I hope that I have been able to present the results in a form that will prove a convenient tool for officers and chairmen.

I owe my deepest thanks to Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Mrs. William Irving Zeitler and Mrs. Austin P. Evans, not only for reading the manuscript and giving valued suggestions, but also for their unfailing encouragement. I am indeed grateful to the interested women who contributed what material they had and pointed the way to more, and to those who shared with me their memories of the early days.

MARIE ROGERS VAIL,
Historian
1944-1952

INTRODUCTION

The story of the founding of the first organization of college trained women has been graphically told by Marion Talbot and Lois K. M. Rosenberg in their "History of the American Association of University Women, 1881-1931", written for the fiftieth anniversary of the Association. The book records how Marion Talbot and her friend and teacher, Ellen H. Richards, inspired by a vision of what might be done by college women working together, called a meeting of their college friends at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on November 28th, 1881. Eight colleges were represented by the seventeen women who came: Boston University, Cornell University, Oberlin College, Smith College, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, Vassar College and Wellesley College. Of the group, only four had been out of college more than five years. The next meeting was called for January 14th, 1882, "for the purpose of organizing an association of women college graduates", and on that occasion sixty-five women participated in founding the "American Association of Collegiate Alumnae", the first organization of college and university trained women in the world.

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION

Twenty years later, in 1902, representatives of the ACA branches in New York State came together for the first time. Their incentive for organizing was the grave concern felt by the western New York branches regarding the low salaries of teachers, and the inequalities of their pay. The situation was especially serious in rural areas. Instances were reported of teachers with college degrees who began teaching for \$400 a year. The state group began with five branches: the New York City Branch, founded in 1886; Central New York (Syracuse) founded in 1889; and Albany, Buffalo and Corning, founded in 1890. A committee on Educational Legislation was immediately appointed. Among its crusaders in the years that followed were Mrs. Frank H. Severance of Buffalo, Mrs. Andrew D. White, wife of the first president of Cornell University, Mrs. Anna Botsford Comstock of the Cornell faculty, and Mrs. Frederick E. Bates, also of Ithaca. Many years later, in 1940, Mrs. Severance wrote down a few memories of these early crusading experiences, and they were read at the Elmira Convention.

In July 1919, there occurred in London an event of lasting importance. It was a joint meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Alumnae, and the British Federation of University Women. Even then, a few far-sighted delegates envisioned the international organization of which we are now a part.

Within our own country, such a step necessitated, first of all, the bringing together into one national organization of a great number of college women's groups, including alumnae associations and college clubs. In view of the great differences in educational standards which existed, particularly between the "Association of Collegiate Alumnae" and the "Southern Association of College Women", it was a difficult task indeed. However, in April 1920, a conference of college women's organizations was called, and a year later The American Association of University Women came into being.

Meanwhile, the process of organization had been going forward within the states. In New York State, Mrs. Frederick E. Bates of Ithaca had been appointed temporary chairman by Mrs. C. A. Martin, Executive Secretary of ACA, and asked to organize a state division. On February 13, 1920, Mrs. Bates called a meeting of the eleven branches of ACA in the Home Economics Building at Cornell University, to discuss the questions both of a national association and also of a permanent state division. Representatives were present from Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Ithaca and Oswego. The New York City Branch could not send a delegate, but asked Mrs. Bates to act as its representative. The president of the Rochester Branch was ill and could not be present. Corning, Elmira, Syracuse and Utica were not represented. After endorsing a broad program for a national organization, the delegates decided not to wait for the outcome of the national meeting, but to proceed at once with the organization of a state division of ACA. Mrs. Bates was elected temporary chairman, Miss Edith Munsell (later Mrs. Chris A. Hartnagel) of Albany was elected temporary

secretary, and a constitution committee was appointed. Almost in the same breath, the delegates voted to establish the first standing committee: the Committee on Educational Legislation, with Mrs. Frank H. Severance of Buffalo as chairman, assisted by Miss Irene Earll of Ithaca as chairman of a sub-committee on rural problems.

In October of that same year (1920), the Council met again in Utica with representatives of eight branches present. The constitution was adopted, and Mrs. Bates was elected the first president of the New York State Division of ACA, with Miss Rachel Higgins of Oswego as secretary-treasurer. During the next few months, the constitution was adopted by the branches. When, in 1921, the ACA became part of the American Association of University Women, the New York State Division automatically became a part of the new organization.

NEW YORK'S FIRST PRESIDENT

The real story of an organization can be told only in terms of the people who envisioned its possibilities and strove to make them a reality. Thus it is that the early history of the New York State Division of AAUW seems, in a sense, to be personified by the dynamic woman who first called representatives of the branches together, and later became their first State President.

Juanita Breckenridge was born at Hopewell, Illinois, on December 31, 1860. While she was still a young girl, her father was killed in an accident. Thereafter, she was the more closely associated with her brother, and, when he decided to study for the ministry, she also determined to do so. She graduated from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, in 1885, and, in 1891, was the first woman to receive a degree from Oberlin Theological Seminary. Meantime, in the spring of 1890, she had applied to the Cleveland Congregational Conference for a license to preach. Hers was made the test case to determine the policy of the denomination. After six months of discussion, she was licensed at the Fall Conference, the first woman to become an ordained Congregational Minister.

She served as pastor of the Congregational Church of Brookton, New York, from 1891 to 1893. There she met Frederick E. Bates, and, on September 27, 1893, they were married at her childhood home in Hopewell, Illinois. Although she gave up her parish at this time, she continued to preach occasionally in nearby churches and to officiate at weddings and funerals.

After her marriage, Mrs. Bates made her home in Ithaca, N. Y., where both she and her husband were active in public affairs. In addition to her lifelong activity in AAUW, she was vice-president of the New York State League of Women Voters, a director of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, as well as president of the Ithaca Federation.

Yet, with all of this public service, she found time to enjoy her son and daughter, to walk and ride horseback, and to keep up the music which she loved. She sang, and played both the piano and the violin. Her home was filled with antiques and oriental rugs, and, in her music room was a

piano which she had had especially constructed with slender legs, because she considered the pianos of the period ugly. Even her clothes reflected the color and sparkle of her personality. Those who attended the 25th anniversary of the founding of the New York State Division, which was celebrated at a convention luncheon at Syracuse, will always remember Mrs. Bates, as she sat in the place of honor at the head-table, radiant with happiness in the fulfillment of her dreams of a quarter-century before.

One of Mrs. Bates' last public appearances was at an Ithaca Branch meeting, in the spring of 1945, the year of the Stay-at-Home Convention. After listening just once to the recordings which had been sent out from Washington, she gave a clear and concise summary of the proceedings. She died at Ithaca, June 11, 1946, at the age of eighty-five. This, then, was the dynamic, scholarly, civic-minded, but always feminine, woman who was the leader of the New York State Division during its formative years, 1920 to 1926.

1920-1926

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Frederick E. Bates, Ithaca
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Rachel Higgins, Oswego, 1920-1921
Mrs. Edgar A. White Syracuse, 1921-1926

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Educational Legislation: Mrs. F. D. Colson, Albany
Women in Public Positions: Mrs. Grosvenor Allen, Oneida, 1922-1924
Mrs. Paul B. Herrick, Oneida, 1924-1926
Recognition of Colleges: Dr. Georgia White, Cornell University, Ithaca,
1924-1926

The newly adopted constitution of the state organization provided for a council composed of the president and one delegate from each of the branches. The state officers were elected biennially by the council from its own number. At first the council met twice a year, but because of the cost of transportation, it was voted, in the spring of 1922, to have an annual two-day meeting thereafter. The change was recorded in the constitution, which was first printed in 1924. During the first six years, the following meetings were held: Ithaca, February 18, 1921; Syracuse, May 17, 1921; New York City, October 1921; Rochester, May 20, 1922; Ithaca, April 27-28, 1923; Binghamton, October 28-29, 1924; Rochester, May 14-15, 1926. Mrs. William Morton Wheeler, Director of the North Atlantic Section, and Mrs. Martin, National Secretary, were usually present at these meetings. Also working with the branches were the Sectional Membership Chairmen: Miss Lucy Cooper of New York City, and later (1925-1926) Prof. Elizabeth Whittaker of Elmira.

From the minutes of the Council Meeting held at Syracuse in May 1921, we learn that the Educational Legislative Committee was shifting its emphasis from the problem of teachers' salaries to that of educational standards. The committee ardently supported bills at Albany to abolish Teachers' Training Classes, and to raise the standards of Normal Schools, extending the course to four years. At this same meeting, we find AAUW pledged to "the placing of highly trained women on boards of trustees, on the Board of Regents, and on the faculties of higher institutions educating women." (A battle still in progress, after more than thirty years!) To this end, a registry of qualified women in the state was recommended. In her address, Mrs. Martin announced that AAUW had raised \$5000 toward the Curie Fund, and invited members of the council to attend a luncheon in honor of Mme. Curie at the Twentieth Century Club in Buffalo, June 16.

Speakers at the council meetings included such outstanding educators as Dr. Frank P. Graves, New York State Commissioner of Education, who addressed the council in 1923, and Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt, President of Mills College and National President of AAUW, who spoke to an audience of 135 at the banquet in 1924.

In its early years, the New York State Division included as many as twelve college clubs, as affiliated member groups. Later on, with the standardizing of national membership, several clubs became AAUW branches, and the rest eventually were dropped. By 1926, six new branches had been organized, bringing the total to seventeen: Mohawk Valley 1921, Jamestown (Chautauqua Co.) 1922, Schenectady 1923, Poughkeepsie 1925, Dunkirk 1925, Westfield 1925.

After the Binghamton meeting in 1924, no state meeting was held until that of May 14-15, 1926 at Rochester, and a loss of interest was evident. On the morning of May 14th, three state chairmen and the morning speaker all wired at the last moment that they could not be present. The falling off in attendance was marked. Only five branches had paid their dues. Apparently the slump in interest was nation-wide, for Miss Margaret Corwin, Director of the North Atlantic Section, reported a loss of 5000 in national membership. Although the addition of new branches had prevented a membership loss in New York State, nevertheless it was evident that the time had come for new policies and new methods, with a larger number of people doing the work. As a first step in meeting the problem, the constitution was amended to add 1st and 2nd vice-presidents to the list of officers, and these were included in the new slate. For a farther-reaching solution, a committee was appointed to draw up a new constitution for presentation at the next biennial meeting.

MISS ELIZABETH KIRKBRIDE

It is impossible to tell the story of the next four presidencies of the New York State Division, without first introducing the new Director of the North Atlantic Section, Miss Elizabeth Kirkbride of Albany. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, Miss Kirkbride became one of its first two alum-

City, which decided to have a fellowship of its own. Mrs. Thurman W. Stoner of Buffalo was appointed chairman, and began work at once.

The following spring, Mrs. Graham and the hostess branches arranged another series of group meetings: May 11th, eastern branches at Poughkeepsie; May 18th, southern branches at Binghamton; May 25th, central branches at Syracuse.

The next biennial convention was held at Rochester, May 3rd, 1930, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Sectional Meeting of May 1-4. The reports were inspiring. Two more branches had been organized, St. Lawrence at Canton 1927, and Nassau County, organized by Miss Kirkbride in 1929, bringing the total to twenty, all of whom had paid their dues of \$5.00 a branch to the State Division. Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Fellowship Chairman, reported \$1044.01 in the Fellowship Fund, with promises of more before the end of the fiscal year. The constitution, already debated two years earlier at Utica, was presented in its final form and adopted. It made provision for the first time for an executive board composed of a president, three vice-presidents and a secretary-treasurer to be elected at the convention, and of chairmen of standing committees to be appointed by the president. The board was to be responsible for the business of the state division in the interval between conventions. Committees on education, international relations, legislation and fellowships were specifically provided for in the by-laws, with others to be appointed as needed.

Following the convention, the constitution and by-laws were printed and distributed. But even this new and progressive document left one vital issue still unfaced: that of the State Division's finances. The dues remained \$5.00 per branch, with a \$2.00 assessment for the few remaining college clubs. And meanwhile, the board members continued to contribute not only their time and abilities, but also their travelling expenses.

1930-1932

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Charles H. Snyder, Rochester
1st Vice-President: Dean Jane Louise Jones, Canton, (St. Lawrence)
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. H. B. McFarland, Buffalo
3rd Vice-President: Miss Jennie A. Gouddy, Newburgh
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Florence A. Wolff, Rochester

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Education: Mrs. George R. Beers, Binghamton, (Southern New York),
1930-1931
Mrs. James Hanchett, Syracuse, (Central New York), 1931-
1932
Fellowships: Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Syracuse, (Central New York)
International Relations: Miss Alison Covert, Rockville Centre, (Nassau
County)

Legislation: Mrs. David Chandler Prince, Schenectady, 1930-1931
Miss Jeannette R. Graham, Schenectady, 1931-1932
Membership: Mrs. Charles B. Cleaves, Rochester
Publicity: Mrs. E. S. Knauss, Poughkeepsie

As authorized in the new constitution, the New York State Division now, for the first time, had an executive board consisting of five officers elected by the convention and six chairmen appointed by the president.

In accordance with the schedule of the previous two-year period, Mrs. Snyder made plans for regional meetings, to follow the National Convention, which was held in Boston, April 8-11, 1931. The first of these group meetings was held in Albany on April 17th, for the nine branches of the Hudson River Valley. Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Cleaves were present, and the guest of honor and speaker was Prof. Winifred Cullis, of London, President of the International Federation of University Women.

On May 9th, the branches in the central and western parts of the state were invited to a similar meeting in Rochester, but none responded. Mrs. Leonard, State Fellowship Chairman, was the only out-of-town guest. This lack of interest resulted in a change of policy two years later.

1931 marked a milestone in the history of the State Division. In November, Vol. 1, No. 1 of *The Mercury* was published. It was a single sheet, headed by the following news item: "We are all rejoicing in the reelection of Miss Elizabeth Kirkbride, Albany, as Director of the North Atlantic Section. We are very proud of her efficient leadership and pledge anew our loyal support."

In 1932, all plans were focused on the State Convention, held in Ithaca, May 27-28. The Depression may have accounted for the fact that only fifteen of the State's twenty-four branches were represented. However, in spite of the financial stress of the time, the Fellowship Chairman, Mrs. Leonard, was able to report 100% participation in the fund. There had been an increase of over 300 in the state membership, and four new branches had been formed: Newburgh 1930, Richfield Springs 1931, Queens (Flushing) 1931, and Yates County (Penn Yan) 1932. This period marked the beginning of the State Division's interest in kindergartens and in county libraries. A very interesting report, illustrated by an exhibit, was sent by Miss Elizabeth M. Smith of Albany, Chairman of the County Library Committee. Radio also made its first appearance. Buffalo reported half-hour broadcasts once a month, and the St. Lawrence Branch reported a series of twelve radio talks on the St. Lawrence University Station. Mrs. Emerson Fite, Past-president of the Poughkeepsie Branch, gave a talk on study groups, suggesting subjects and methods of presentation. In the international field, the Convention urged the ratification of pending treaties that would make the United States a member of the World Court. The Convention adopted *The Mercury* as the permanent name of the state bulletin, and voted that another number be issued in the fall. Among the guests of honor were Mrs. Andrew D. White, wife of the first president of Cornell University, and Mrs. F. J. Flagg, retiring president of the Massachusetts State Division.

1932-1934

OFFICERS

President: Dean Jane Louise Jones, Canton, (St. Lawrence)
1st Vice-President: Mrs. Emerson Fite, Poughkeepsie
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. John Bellamy Taylor, Schenectady
3rd Vice-President: Mrs. H. C. Thompson, Ithaca
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Louise Reynolds, Canton, (St. Lawrence)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Education: Mrs. James Hanchett, Syracuse, (Central New York)
Fellowships: Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Syracuse, (Central New York)
International Relations: Mrs. Lawrence Pasel, Canton, (St. Lawrence)
Legislation: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany
Membership: Mrs. Earle H. Kennard, Ithaca
Publicity: Mrs. E. S. Knauss, Poughkeepsie

The second issue of *The Mercury* was published December 3, 1932, and included brief paragraph reports from each of the branches.

The first recorded meeting of the State Executive Board was held on June 16, 1933, at the YWCA in Syracuse. Most of the discussion was devoted to financial problems, and a committee, with Mrs. Glasgow as chairman, was appointed to restudy the constitution and present amendments regarding dues, alumnae groups, and standing committees at the next convention.

On the following day, there was a conference for the members of the executive board, branch presidents and branch education chairmen. Reports were given by the state chairmen, each in turn being followed by questions and discussion from the floor. Mrs. Hanchett included the needs of libraries in her education report, and announced that she would have the help of Miss Mary Brewster, head of the Public Library Section of the Library Extension Division, of the State Education Department in Albany. Mrs. Glasgow's legislative report included an account of the work of the Women's Legislative Forum, during the legislative session in Albany. Among those present was Miss Mildred McAfee, then program chairman of the Poughkeepsie Branch.

The next meeting of the Board was held at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, on the morning of June 14, 1934, preceding the Biennial State Convention, which was held in conjunction with the conference of the North Atlantic Section, June 14-16. The most important business of the New York State Convention was the consideration of amendments to the by-laws. The Committee on Revision of the Constitution consisted of Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany, Chairman, Miss Kathryn Starbuck, Saratoga Springs, and Miss Edith E. Ware, acting for Miss Sarah Homans of New York City. Most of the changes recommended were for the purpose of harmonizing the state constitution with national policies, and were not controversial, but the proposed amendment regarding state dues set off a

battle royal that lasted through the afternoon and into an adjourned meeting in the evening. In view of the fact that thirty days' notice had not been given, the voting had to be unanimous. Eventually all of the amendments were passed except the one regarding state dues, which read, "Each branch shall pay annually into the state treasury a fee of five dollars for the first twenty-five members, and an additional fee of five cents per capita for membership exceeding twenty-five." This amendment had six dissenting votes, which meant that it had to be sent to the branches for ratification, a process which was not completed until February 1935.

The treasurer's report showed a membership of twenty-six branches, Saratoga Springs having been organized in 1932, and Essex County (Lake Placid) the following year.

1934-1936

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Emerson D. Fite, Poughkeepsie
1st Vice-President: Miss Ruth Witherstine, Buffalo
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Syracuse, (Central New York)
3rd Vice-President: Miss Ruth Wells, Saratoga Springs
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Catherine Taylor, Poughkeepsie

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Education: Dr. Ruth Andrus, Albany
Fellowships: Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Syracuse, (Central New York)
International Relations: Mrs. Lawrence Pasel, Canton, (St. Lawrence),
1934-1935
Miss Kathryn Starbuck, Saratoga Springs, 1935-
1936
Legislation: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany
Membership: Miss Ruth Witherstine, Buffalo
Publicity: Mrs. E. S. Knauss, Poughkeepsie

In the fall of 1934, the President and the Chairmen sent letters to the branches with lists of program suggestions, including an AAUW Speakers Bureau, and outlines for the study of county government, high school situations, and collegiate centers.

In April 1935, Vol. 3, No. 1 of *The Mercury* was published, with reports of the chairmen and branches, and a "boost" for the Los Angeles National Convention in June.

On May 3rd, 1935, the Executive Board met at East Aurora, and voted to sponsor county libraries as a state project, and to continue the speakers' bureau. "At least \$100" was voted toward the expenses of the State President in attending the National Convention in Los Angeles, apparently in celebration of the recent passage of the state dues amendment. On the

following day, the Board met at a conference with the branch officers and chairmen.

In March 1936, Vol. 4, No. 1 of *The Mercury* carried a full announcement of the State Convention, to be held May 8th and 9th at Saratoga Springs.

The Convention was preceded by a Board Meeting at which study groups were the outstanding subject of discussion. Some branches had already begun a study group program, and the Board voted to urge each branch to have at least one study group in international relations. This two-year period had brought marked improvement in the integration of the branches into the AAUW program. At their invitation, Mrs. Fite, the President, had spoken before seventeen branches, and Mrs. Glasgow, Legislative Chairman, before nine. Miss Kirkbride, Mrs. Glasgow, and Mrs. Zeitler represented the State Division at the Women's Legislative Forum, at Albany. The Division had been represented at the Herald-Tribune Forum. It had co-operated with the Syracuse Branch in a booth at the State Fair in 1934. \$2,431.53 had been added to the Fellowship Fund, making a total of \$11,768.26. The state membership had grown to 3004 national members and 278 associates. Three new branches, Herkimer, Plattsburg, and New Rochelle had been added in the latter part of 1934, making a total of 29 branches.

Among the guests of honor at the convention was the new Director of the North Atlantic Section, Mrs. Adam Leroy Jones, of Montclair, New Jersey, who was to serve from 1935 to 1945.

1936-1938

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. John Bellamy Taylor, Schenectady
1st Vice-President: Miss Ruth E. Wells, Saratoga Springs
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Syracuse, (Central New York)
3rd Vice-President: Mrs. Francis J. Kane, Dunkirk, (Dunkirk-Fredonia)
Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Mortimer F. Sayre, Schenectady

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Education: Mrs. W. Howard Pillsbury, Schenectady
Fellowships: Mrs. Campfield Leonard, Syracuse, (Central New York),
1936-1937
Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo, 1937-1938
International Relations: Miss Kathryn H. Starbuck, Saratoga Springs
Legislation: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany
Membership: Miss Ruth E. Wells, Saratoga Springs
Publicity: Mrs. Franklin A. Knope, Rochester
County Libraries: Miss Elizabeth M. Smith, Albany

Fine Arts: Mrs. Francis J. Kane, Dunkirk, (Dunkirk-Fredonia)
Guidance: Dean Catherine E. Reed, Buffalo
Social Studies: Miss Persia Campbell, New York City

The increase in state dues which had been approved the previous February made possible a broadening of the state program. The year 1936-37 saw the issuing of two numbers of *The Mercury*, Vol. 5, No. 1 in December 1936, and No. 2 in May 1937. However, finances were still a troublesome problem, and the Board voted to bring out two issues in non-convention years, but only one in the convention year.

From March 15 to 19, 1937, Mrs. Taylor attended the National Convention in Savannah. The following week, on March 23rd, she gave a report of the convention at a meeting of five branches at Adelphi College, with the Nassau County Branch as hostess. Round-table discussions on guidance and consumer problems indicated the trend of the times.

On September 16, 1937, the State Board met in Utica. Three new standing committees had been added as part of AAUW's expanding program: guidance, fine arts, and social studies. The last was a direct response to the interest in consumer problems which had grown out of the depression.

Following the Board Meeting, the remainder of the day, beginning with a luncheon, was devoted to a conference, at which twelve branches, geographically state-wide, were represented. At this time, the State Division, through its education and legislation committees, and through the branches, began active support of bills for State Aid to kindergartens.

In March of 1938, Vol. 6, No. 1 of *The Mercury* announced that the Biennial Convention would be held May 20-21, 1938 at Lake Placid. At its meeting on the 20th, the Board voted to continue the work on county libraries. And here, for the first time, the minutes record a discussion of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, a subject to continue on the agenda for many years.

The reports given at the Convention showed a state membership of 4200, and an increase of three in the number of branches. In 1936, Sewanhaka had been organized, but Richfield Springs had been forced to disband for lack of eligible members in the community. In May 1938, Ticonderoga, Alfred, and Malone had been added. Mrs. Taylor had made twenty-nine branch visits, in addition to those made by Mrs. Glasgow, Mrs. Pillsbury, and by Mrs. Kane, who had also been a national representative at the conference of the Canadian Federation of University Women, in Toronto.

Of outstanding importance was the contribution made by a special committee on the Basis of Membership, consisting of Miss Kathryn Starbuck, Chairman, Miss Emily Tarbell (later Mrs. Raymond Barhydt), and Mrs. W. Irving Zeitler. This committee acted as a clearing-house for the expression of opinion, and worked both with the National Headquarters and with the branches. As a result of its study, the committee presented at the convention a resolution affirming its approval of the Association's high standards for colleges and universities, recognizing its service to the advancement of education, but pointing out certain changing conditions, and recommending that the standards of admission be restudied to meet

them. After discussion, this resolution was passed unanimously, with the request that the matter be referred to the North Atlantic Sectional Meeting to be held in New Brunswick, N. J., June 9-11, as well as to the National Association.

Among the speakers at the Convention were Dr. Kathryn McHale, General Director of AAUW, Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, Dr. Marjorie Nicolson, and Dr. Mary E. Woolley, President of the Association.

1938-1940

OFFICERS

President: Miss Henriette M. Langner, Buffalo
1st Vice-President: Mrs. Harry E. Crum, New York City
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. William E. Severn, Corning, (Eastern Steuben)
3rd Vice-President: Mrs. William S. Murray, Utica, (Mohawk Valley)
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Emily H. Webster, Buffalo

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Economic and Legal Status of Women: Miss J. Winifred Hughes, Syracuse, (Central New York), 1939-1940
Education: Miss Ruth Merrill, Rochester
Fellowships: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo
Fine Arts: Mrs. Francis J. Kane, Dunkirk, (Dunkirk-Fredonia)
Guidance: Dean Catherine E. Reed, Buffalo
International Relations: Miss Helen Gohringer, New Hartford, (Mohawk Valley)
Legislation: Mrs. W. Irving Zeitler, Albany
Libraries: Mrs. Helmer L. Webb, Schenectady
Membership: Mrs. William E. Severn, Corning, (Eastern Steuben)
Publicity: Mrs. James Arthur Miller, Flushing, (Queens)
Social Studies: Miss Persia Campbell, New York City, 1938-1939
Mrs. Harold Norris Weber, Albany, 1939-1940

The fall meeting of the Executive Board was held November 5, 1938, at Cornell University. Most of the program, including all of the reports of the chairmen, was presented at an open session at which forty-one delegates from thirteen branches were present. Mrs. Zeitler, Legislative Chairman, reported that the National Legislative Committee was working on a recommendation for a revision of the Neutrality Act. Mrs. Webb, Library Chairman, reported on the need for rural library service, and the impossibility of furnishing it without a state appropriation. The question of appointing a state committee on the legal status of women was discussed. Mrs. W. W. Cotner, of Ithaca, was appointed editor of *The Mercury*.

By the time of the spring Board Meeting at Peekskill, March 11, 1939, a Committee on the Economic and Legal Status of Women had been formed and Miss J. Winifred Hughes, of Syracuse, had been appointed

chairman. Delegates from the branches were again invited, and forty-five were present. Mrs. Webb, Library Chairman, urged everyone to write to her senator and assemblyman urging the passage of the County Library Bill. Mrs. Glasgow, reporting for Mrs. Zeitler, pointed out that the Nursery School Bill had been killed in the senate, the Kindergarten Bill had been killed in the assembly, and the Bill to Increase State Scholarships had likewise been killed. The Board voted to send a New York State Exhibit to the National Convention in Denver in July, and this project was carried out by the Fine Arts Chairman, Mrs. Kane.

New York was represented at the Denver Convention by Miss Langner, President, Mrs. Zeitler, Mrs. Cotner, Mrs. Kideney, and Miss Reed. At this Convention, for the first time, the state presidents spontaneously came together in an unscheduled meeting, a circumstance which led to the open recognition of the state organizations at the Cincinnati Convention two years later.

The March number of *The Mercury* had been printed with the subtitle, *The News Letter*, and when the next issue appeared in the fall of 1939, it was a mimeographed edition called merely, *News Letter*, and sent only to the officers and committee chairmen of the thirty-six branches. It included a list of the branch presidents, as well as a report of the Executive Board Meeting which had been held in New York City on October 25-26, and reports of the state chairmen.

At the Board Meeting, announcement had been made of the resignation of Miss Persia Campbell as Chairman of Social Studies, and of the appointment of Mrs. Harold Norris Weber, of Albany, in her place. State dues had again been one of the chief subjects of discussion. The delegates to the National Convention had returned with the news that New York's dues were among the lowest in the country and wholly inadequate for the expanding work of the State Division. A committee was appointed to revise the constitution so as to include new committees which had already been appointed, and also to provide for an increase in the state dues, this committee to report at the next convention.

Committee reports followed: Mrs. Zeitler, Legislative Chairman, pointed out the trend toward economy on the part of the State Legislature, and urged the branches to study what effect cuts in the education appropriation would have in their local communities. Mrs. Kideney presented a detailed Fellowship report, showing a total of \$17,065.27, less than half of our \$40,000 goal. Among the subjects recommended for study by Miss Helen Gohringer, International Relations Chairman, were, first, Latin American Relations and the Good Neighbor Policy, and, second, Reciprocal Trade Agreements. Mrs. Adam Leroy Jones, Director of the North Atlantic Section, announced a Sectional Conference to be held June 13-15, 1940, at Barnard College in New York City.

The next meeting of the Executive Board was held at the Mark Twain Hotel, in Elmira, on February 10, 1940, to arrange for the Biennial State Convention. The March 1940 *News Letter* announced the plans: The Convention would be held on April 26-27, 1940 at Elmira, with a Board Meeting the previous evening. The theme: "Building Bridges."

At the Convention, the Committee to Revise the Constitution pre-

sented amendments to the by-laws. Those providing for committees to cover the broadening national program were passed without dissent, but the amendment to provide for an increase in state dues failed of the necessary vote, and again, as in 1934, the amendment had to be referred to the branches. The Membership Chairman reported six new branches: Garden City, Peekskill, North Shore, Hollis, Westchester, and Oneonta. At this Convention, for the first time, a formal State Legislative Program was voted upon. This program, which was presented by the Legislative Chairman, Mrs. Zeitler, and unanimously adopted by the Convention, covered three fields: *Education* — support of legislation favoring adequate state aid to education, including kindergartens and nursery schools. *Social Studies* — support of legislation favorable to consumer interests; extension of the merit system in government; and opposition to legislation infringing on the Bill of Rights. *Economic and Legal Status of Women* — opposition to discriminatory legislation against women.

Among the speakers at the Convention were Miss Frieda S. Miller, Industrial Commissioner of New York State, and Dr. William S. Pott, President of Elmira College.

1940-1942

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. William Irving Zeitler, Albany
 1st Vice-President: Mrs. Paul B. Findley, Flushing, (Queens)
 2nd Vice-President: Dean Frances E. Burlingame, Elmira
 3rd Vice-President: Mrs. Paul Collier, Rochester
 Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Creative Arts: Miss Alice Moshier, Saratoga Springs
 Economic and Legal Status of Women: Mrs. Paul D. Collier, Rochester
 Education: Mrs. John Bellamy Taylor, Schenectady
 Higher Education: Dr. Ruth A. Merrill, Rochester
 Dr. Charlotte Morgan, New York City
 Public Education: Miss Emily Tarbell, Syracuse, (Central New York)
 The Young Child: Mrs. Valentine B. Pratt, Corning, (Eastern Steuben)
 Miss Anne Holdford, Albany
 Adult Education: Mrs. James M. Spinning, Rochester
 Libraries: Miss Mary Brewster, Albany
 Guidance: Dean Eunice Hilton, Syracuse, (Central New York)
 Secretary: Mrs. Mortimer F. Sayre, Schenectady
 Fellowships: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo
 International Relations: Miss Helen Gohringer, New Hartford, (Mohawk Valley)
 Dean Frances E. Burlingame, Elmira

Legislation: Mrs. Helmer L. Webb, Schenectady
 Membership: Mrs. Paul B. Findley, Flushing, (Queens)
 Social Studies: Mrs. Harold N. Weber, Albany
 Labor Standards: Miss Katherine Woodruff, Oneonta
 Consumer Interests: Dr. Persia Campbell, New York City

The war years necessarily broadened the field of AAUW activities. There was endless co-operation with the Women's Division of New York State Civil Defense. In the branches, homes were opened to British refugee children. Child care centers were opened in industrial areas. Funds were raised for war relief. At the North Atlantic Sectional Conference, held at Barnard College, June 13-15, Mrs. Jones, the Director, had emphasized the distress of university women refugees in Europe, and urged the need for prompt relief. By April 1941, New York's contribution to the University Women's War Relief Fund was over \$1,200. But all of these added responsibilities only served to emphasize the vital importance of AAUW's aims and purposes. Consumer problems suddenly came to the foreground. International relations, school problems, labor standards were now realities felt by everyone.

In a period of sudden and rapid expansion, there is always a danger of superficiality. Mrs. Zeitler recognized this danger, and resolved that depth must be added to breadth in the AAUW program, that certain problems should be selected and studied thoroughly. Under her leadership, the New York State Division rose to a new and higher standard of "study-based action."

In order to bring the state officers and the branches together more frequently, during the two-year period, Mrs. Zeitler planned seven regional conferences and a workshop, each devoted to a thorough study of a single theme. Notices of each were sent to all the branches, even though the meetings primarily served the region in which they were held. The first conference was held in the clubrooms of the New York City Branch at Midston House, October 21-22, 1940. Eight state officers and chairmen, and members of nine branches were present at a program on, "The Psychology of Displaced Persons", which had been planned by the Education Chairman, Mrs. John Bellamy Taylor.

The second conference, held in Albany during a heavy snowstorm, on March 8, 1941, nevertheless was well attended by representatives of the nine branches in the area. The program on "Social Studies" began with a panel and forum discussion led by Mrs. Zeitler. There were reports of branch groups on "Social Trends" and "Consumer Interests", and of branch surveys of employment and social needs. Mrs. Glasgow spoke on "Women's Wages in New York State", and Dr. Esther Cole Franklin, Headquarters Associate in Social Studies, spoke on "The AAUW Social Studies Program in Action."

Dr. Franklin was so deeply impressed by the quality and effectiveness of the conference, that she asked Mrs. Zeitler to report on it at the Social Studies discussion meeting at the National Convention at Cincinnati in May. At this convention, the state divisions, as such, were first given a place on the formal program, and Mrs. Zeitler was the leader of the dis-

cussion group for the larger states — those with thirty or more branches.

Meantime, another Social Studies Conference had been held in March for the seven branches of the Long Island area, with Dr. Franklin and Mrs. Adam Leroy Jones as guests. "The Young Child" was the subject of a fourth conference, at Corning, on May 23rd.

In April 1941, an eight-page edition of the *News Letter* had been sent to all members of the State Division, the addressing and mailing being done by volunteers, because of financial pressure.

Fall activities began with a conference on "Public Education" held in Schenectady in October. And later that same month, Mrs. Zeitler and Mrs. Collier conducted a workshop in Rochester. Two more conferences rounded out the series: one on "International Relations" at Alfred, on November 1st, for the southern New York branches, and one on "Legislation" at Albany, in March 1942, with representatives from Schenectady, Mohawk Valley, and Saratoga Springs in attendance.

It should be pointed out that the state dues received by the Division in 1940-41 amounted to \$373, and that the state budget provided only for mimeographing, stationery and postage. In December 1941, because of financial restrictions, the *News Letter* went only to the branch officers and chairmen. In spite of the greatly broadened AAUW program, the state officers and chairmen still paid all of their own expenses. It will be remembered that, at the 1940 Convention, an amendment to the by-laws to increase the state dues had failed to receive the necessary vote, and therefore had been referred to the branches. By May 1942, when the regular issue of the *News Letter* was published for the entire membership, only twenty-one branches had ratified it. Since twenty-eight were needed, it was announced that the amendment would be voted upon again at the Biennial Convention, which was to be held at Albany, May 15 and 16. Plans for the Convention had been made at a Board Meeting at the home of Mrs. Zeitler in Albany, on January 24th. A final Board Meeting was held the evening before the Convention.

Among the speakers at the Convention were Dr. Sarah A. Blanding, Director of the New York State College of Home Economics, and Miss Margery Fry, formerly Principal of Somerville College, Oxford. Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman welcomed delegates and members to a tea at the Executive Mansion. Conferences were arranged with several State Departments.

At the business meeting, Mrs. Findley reported a state membership of 5100, including associates. A new branch, Whiteface, had been organized in 1941, but Malone had disbanded the same year, continuing the number of branches at thirty-seven. Mrs. Kideney again reported 100% participation of the branches in the Fellowship Fund. During the two-year period, \$4,634 had been raised, bringing the total amount to \$24,110.62.

The legislative program, unanimously adopted by the Convention, supported Federal aid to Education, supported the principle of extending the Workman's Compensation Act to Domestic workers, opposed legislation discriminating against women, and continued support of legislation favorable to consumer interests.

At long last, the Convention adopted the amendment to Article 6,

Section 2 of the By-laws, which read: "Each branch shall pay annually into the treasury a fee of \$5.00 for the first twenty-five members, and an additional fee of 15c per capita for membership exceeding twenty-five."

1942-1944

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo
1st Vice-President: Miss Katherine Woodruff, Oneonta
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Burnham Finney, Scarsdale, (Westchester), 1942-43
Mrs. Austin P. Evans, Montrose, (Peekskill), 1943-44
3rd Vice-President: Miss Lida S. Penfield, Oswego
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Mildred E. Ross, Buffalo

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Arts: Miss Alice Moshier, Saratoga Springs
Economic and Legal Status of Women: Miss Katherine Woodruff, Oneonta
Education: Mrs. Burnham Finney, Scarsdale, (Westchester), 1942-43
Mrs. Edward J. Streater, Bayside, (Queens), 1943-44
Fellowships: Mrs. M. F. Ashbrook, Scarsdale, (Westchester)
International Relations: Mrs. Walter W. Cotner, Ithaca
Legislation: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany
Membership: Miss Lida S. Penfield, Oswego
Recent Graduates: Miss Anne Calder, Syracuse
Social Studies: Mrs. Austin P. Evans, Montrose, (Peekskill)

By the fall of 1942, the World War was affecting every aspect of living, and the State Division had an increased responsibility for pointing out the ways in which college trained women could help most in winning the war and, at the same time, protect the values in which they believed.

Because of tightened restrictions on travel, the work of the State Division had to rely heavily on correspondence and bulletins, fortunately made possible by the increase in dues. Great care was used in planning meetings, so that several could be included in a single journey. In this way, Mrs. Kideney was able to visit eighteen branches during the first two years of her presidency and to hold four Executive Board Meetings. At each meeting, an attempt was made to contact the branches in the area.

The first Board Meeting was held at Midston House in New York City, on October 12th, 1942. Mrs. Kideney arrived in the City a few days early, so as to have personal interviews with as many Board Members as possible, and to attend a meeting of state presidents called by Mrs. Adam Leroy Jones, Director of the North Atlantic Section. The problem of coordinating a scattered board who could not travel, resulted in a plan which proved so satisfactory that it became permanent procedure: it was decided that each Board Member should furnish all the others with copies of her letters to the branches.

In addition to the usual encouragement of the study program, the State Division set up, as its project for the year, a plan to ensure that each branch should hold one or more community meetings in at least one of the AAUW subject matter fields, in an effort to contribute to an enlightened public opinion. Each subject matter chairman agreed to include in her first letter to the branch chairmen, a concrete suggestion for at least one such project. In planning the budget, it was possible for the first time to allot \$200 to travel expense. The Board had invited the presidents and subject matter chairmen of the eleven branches in the New York area to attend the afternoon session. All phases of the AAUW program were discussed in their relation to wartime problems.

By the extensive use of correspondence, it was possible to do without another Board Meeting until August 4-5, 1943, when the meeting place again was Midston House. At this time, plans were made for a State Social Studies Conference, which was held in New York on September 29th, under the leadership of Mrs. Austin P. Evans and Dr. Persia Campbell. All branches were invited to send representatives. Dr. Esther Cole Franklin, Headquarters Associate in Social Studies, presented the problem of "Price Control", and Dr. Helen White, National President, was the luncheon speaker. Two representatives of the Office of Price Administration took part in the program. Following the meeting, Mrs. Evans sent a report to all the branches.

On Wednesday, February 23rd, 1944, Mrs. Kideney held a Board Meeting in Albany, following a Legislative Committee Meeting of which Mrs. Glasgow was Chairman. It was found that travel restrictions had eased enough so that it would be possible to hold a mid-week State Convention. Plans were made, and the *News Letter* of March 1944 announced that the Convention would be held in Syracuse on Wednesday and Thursday, May 10 and 11, 1944. At the Board Meeting, held the previous evening, May 9th, reports showed a state membership of 4180. A new branch, Attica, had been organized in 1942, while two branches, Whiteface and Ticonderoga, had been war casualties in 1943. The State Program had included: care for the children of mothers in war industries, upholding standards of work for women, combating regulations against married women as teachers, combating inflation by extension of price controls.

During the two days of the Convention, Dr. Esther Cole Franklin, Headquarters Associate in Social Studies, Miss Helen M. Hosp, Headquarters Associate in Higher Education, and Mrs. Harriet Ahlers Houdlette, Headquarters Associate in Childhood Education, made important contributions to the program.

Among the guests of honor at the Convention were Mrs. Frederick E. Bates, founder and first president of the New York State Division, and Mrs. William Pratt Graham, second president.

The most exciting news of the Convention was the report of the Fellowship Chairman, Mrs. Ashbrook, that New York State had reached the \$30,000 mark, toward its goal of \$40,000. This fact was listed among the "Highlights of the Year" in the fall number of the AAUW Journal.

1944-1946

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo
 1st Vice-President: Mrs. Austin P. Evans, Montrose, (Peekskill)
 2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Walter Muir, Schenectady
 3rd Vice-President: Dr. Elizabeth McConkey, Keuka Park, (Yates County)
 Secretary: Mrs. David N. Scott, Buffalo
 Treasurer: Miss Sylvia Leary, Rochester
 Past President: Mrs. W. Irving Zeitler, Albany

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Arts: Miss Alice Moshier, Saratoga Springs
 Economic and Legal Status of Women: Dr. Elizabeth McConkey, Keuka Park, (Yates County)
 Education: Mrs. Edward J. Streater, Bayside, (Queens)
 Fellowships: Mrs. Horace B. Sadt, Albany
 Historian: Mrs. Robert W. G. Vail, New York City
 International Relations: Mrs. Walter W. Cotner, Ithaca
 Legislation: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Albany, 1944-45
 Miss Louise Burchard, Schenectady, 1945-46
 Membership: Mrs. Walter Muir, Schenectady
 Publicity: Mrs. David N. Scott, Buffalo
 Recent Graduates: Miss Elva M. Kingston, Poughkeepsie
 Social Studies: Mrs. Austin P. Evans, Montrose, (Peekskill)

The President's report at the 1946 Convention begins: "This biennium has been distinguished by the end of the war, first in Europe, then in the Pacific, by the atomic bomb, and by the formation of the United Nations. When the New York State Division last met in convention at Syracuse in May 1944, the end of the war seemed a somewhat remote but certain objective. . . . We meet now in the post-war period, and find its problems more profound, more involved and more pressing day by day."

This, then was the background of world events, in which AAUW was continuing its program of leadership. The new term had begun under restrictions of goods and travel. In October 1944, Mrs. Kideney met with six board members for an informal conference. On February 21st, the Legislative Committee met in Albany, with Mrs. Glasgow as chairman. The following day, Mrs. Kideney met with the State Board in Schenectady. In May 1945, a six-page *News Letter* was published.

May 1945 was also the time of the "Stay-at-home National Convention." Due to travel restrictions, the convention addresses and reports were recorded and sent to the branches to be played at special meetings. Voting was done in the branches and the reports sent in by mail. On Long Island, six branches came together to share the convention program.

The next Board Meeting was held at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel in Albany on June 20-21, 1945. Plans for the coming year included a *News*

Letter in the fall, group conferences of branch presidents whenever possible, a study of the problems of compulsory military training, of social security, of medical care, of price control, and of community planning, and a continued fight against delinquency.

1945 marked the twenty-fifth year of the New York State Division, and many members felt that there should be a record of its achievements. Workers new to the organization urgently felt the need of knowing what had gone before. In recognition of this need and of the approaching anniversary, Mrs. Kideney in November 1944, appointed Mrs. Robert W. G. Vail of New York City, Past-president of the Albany Branch, as Historian of the New York State Division. Since nothing of this sort had previously been done, the assembling of the necessary source materials was a long slow process. In February 1945, Mrs. Kideney sent the new historian the presidents' correspondence files from 1932 to 1942. On account of the death of Miss Ross, the secretaries' records were not available for some time. But in April 1945, the new Secretary, Mrs. Scott, sent the historian the secretaries' minutes from 1920 to 1938. Although the set of minutes was complete for that period, the minutes themselves left countless gaps in the information as to what really happened. During the next eight years, most of these gaps were filled from other sources, and much information gained from former board members. At the time of the June 1945 Board Meeting, already mentioned, the Historian had conferences with Mrs. Kideney, Miss Kirkbride, Mrs. Glasgow and Mrs. Zeitler, during which further sources of information were discussed, and the Historian worked out the pattern which the history was destined to follow. At that time, Miss Kirkbride sent the Historian a large package of materials from her personal file, which proved invaluable. Since there was still only scattered information regarding the dates of organization of the branches, a questionnaire was sent to the branch presidents. The replies revealed that, out of thirty-eight branches, only twenty-two had historians and only six had written histories. These facts led, later on, to a plan for encouraging the keeping of branch records and writing of branch histories.

In the 1945 National AAUW elections, Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow was elected Vice-president for the North Atlantic Region. This left a vacancy in the chairmanship of the Legislative Committee, and Mrs. Kideney appointed Miss Louise Burchard of Schenectady to that position. All of these changes were reported in the November 1945 *News Letter*.

On January 25th, 1946, the New York City Branch again opened its Club Rooms at Midston House for a conference of nine branches. While in New York for the meeting, Mrs. Kideney took advantage of the opportunity to meet informally with the board members in the area.

Two regular Board Meetings were held in 1946, one on February 28th in Albany, following a meeting of the Legislative Committee on the previous day, and the other on May 23rd, preceding the Convention. At the Albany meetings, three members of the State Education Department met with the Board to discuss educational legislation: Dr. Lewis A. Wilson, Deputy Commissioner of Education, Dr. John S. Allen, Director of the Division of Higher Education, and Dr. Warren W. Knox, Director of the Division of Secondary Education. The State was confronted by an emer-

gency situation due to the necessity of providing college facilities for returning war veterans, as well as for the high school students graduating in June 1946. The AAUW State Division encouraged its qualified members to assist in meeting faculty shortages, and, through the branches, urged members in college towns to open their homes to students. The Board sent a letter to the Governor's Commission on Technical Institutes urging that a favorable report be made to the Legislature in time for legislative action before the close of the session.

The Biennial Convention, announced in the April 1946 *News Letter*, was held at Sarah Lawrence College, in Bronxville, on May 24th and 25th. Participating in the program were: Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Regional Vice-president, Dr. Mabel Newcomer, Chairman of the National Social Studies Committee, Miss Lura Beam, Headquarters Associate in the Arts, Miss Helen Hosp, Headquarters Associate in Education, Dr. Helen Dwight Reid, Headquarters Associate in International Relations, Dr. Louise Pearce, Chairman of the National Committee on International Relations. Speakers at the dinner were: Dr. Harold Taylor, President of Sarah Lawrence College, and Mr. Louis K. Hyde, Jr. of the United States Department of State.

The reports at the business session were a record of notable achievement. The state membership was now 5046, a two-year gain of 866. Two new branches had been added, Batavia and Pearl River, and three others were in the process of organizing. The President had visited eighteen branches. Contributions to the Fellowship Fund had amounted to \$7,248.13, making a total of \$37,318.34. In the field of social studies, five branches had studied health insurance, nine worked on housing or housing legislation. Several branches wrote their legislators asking for the defeat of the anti-vivisection bill. All branches worked on price controls. Art groups that had been quiet during the war, renewed their activity in painting, drama and creative writing. A new question in the field of education was that of establishing a State University. The Executive Board had recommended that a study be undertaken by a commission to determine the need of such a university. Throughout her presidency, Mrs. Kideney had co-operated closely with the State Education Department, and on one occasion had met with the Board of Regents. She had enlisted the services of AAUW in a state-wide library survey made by the Education Department in 1945-46, a survey in which twenty-two branches took part. Under her dynamic leadership, AAUW had assumed a new position of responsibility in the community, and won the respect of governmental agencies.

MRS. ROBERT D. GLASGOW

In the National AAUW elections in the spring of 1945, the New York State Division and the Albany Branch were honored by the choice of Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow as Vice-president for the North Atlantic Region. Never was recognition more richly deserved. To those familiar with the outstanding work of the Albany Branch, it was only logical that two of the women who had contributed most to the quality of its achievement, should rise to leadership on the national level, Miss Kirkbride, 1927-1935, and Mrs. Glasgow, 1945-1949.

Dr. Josephine Burns Glasgow received degrees at the University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin, and taught mathematics at the University of Illinois before her marriage. In the Albany Branch, she served on many committees, her greatest interest being in legislation, and in 1938-39, was Branch President. In the early thirties, she was one of the founders of the "Women's Legislative Forum," which eventually came to include more than a hundred women's organizations, representatives of which continue to hold a weekly forum in Albany during the legislative session.

At the same time, Mrs. Glasgow had been making a vital contribution to the development of the State Division. She was State Legislative Chairman from 1932 to 1938, and again from 1942 to 1945. In 1933, she was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, which had the serious responsibility of rewriting the State Constitution so as to conform to national policies, and to activate the new national program. From 1940 to 1942, she was Secretary-treasurer of the State Division.

In 1940, Mrs. Glasgow was appointed by the Industrial Commissioner, to the New York State Hotel Minimum Wage Board, established under the Minimum Wage Law, to set minimum wages for women and minors employed in hotels in New York State.

Mrs. Glasgow's term as Regional Vice-president covered the period of transition from war-time to even more perplexing post-war problems. Through the confusion of those difficult years, she gave unfailing guidance, with quiet wisdom and a clear vision of the responsibilities of college women. For her, the honor of the office was only a challenge to greater service, and there were none who did not respond to the inspiration of her leadership.

1946-1948

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Austin P. Evans, Montrose, (Peekskill)
1st Vice-President: Mrs. Walter Muir, Schenectady
2nd Vice-President: Dr. Ruth Merrill, Rochester
3rd Vice-President: Mrs. F. N. Dealy, Plandome, (North Shore)
Secretary: Miss Dorothy Miesse, New York City
Treasurer: Mrs. Charles D. Stone, Binghamton, (Southern New York)
Past President: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Arts: Mrs. William T. Melchior, Syracuse
Economic and Legal Status of Women: Dr. Ruth A. Merrill, Rochester
Education: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo
Fellowships: Mrs. F. N. Dealy, Plandome, (North Shore)
Historian: Mrs. Robert W. G. Vail, New York City

International Relations: Dr. Elizabeth McConkey, Keuka Park, (Yates County)

Legislation: Mrs. John A. Miller, Albany

Membership: Mrs. Walter Muir, Schenectady

Publicity: Mrs. Harwood Huffcut, Peekskill

Recent Graduates: Miss Eileen Kearney, Poughkeepsie

Social Studies: Miss Eleanor Green, Pearl River

The activity of the State Division continued without a break. On June 21st, 1946, Mrs. Evans called a meeting of the new Board in the Social Room of the Men's Faculty Club at Columbia University. Six members were present and discussed plans for fall. The Board voted to omit the fall *News Letter*, and to use the money saved toward a regional conference. This conference was held at Elmira on November 2nd, and was attended by branch presidents and chairmen from nineteen branches.

The conference was preceded by an all-day Board Meeting at the Mark Twain Hotel on November 1st, with nine members present. Mrs. Kideney reported that she was sending material to the branches regarding the work of the State University Commission, and also regarding the Emergency Colleges. Miss Green reported that her committee was interested in the county health departments, in the work being done on informative labelling, and in the progress of the school lunch program. The Board voted \$100 toward the expenses of the President in attending the National Convention, to be held in Dallas, Texas.

The Legislative Committee met in Albany on Friday, February 6, 1947. The Board, at its midwinter meeting at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel on the following day, adopted the legislative program presented by the committee. The Board also voted to send out a *News Letter*, and this was published in April 1947.

The spring meeting of the Executive Board was held at the Hotel Morton in Atlantic City, in connection with a meeting of the North Atlantic Region, May 1-3, 1947. Mrs. Miller reported the passage of the Austin-Mahoney Anti-discrimination Bill, and of an emergency appropriation to continue the school lunch program. The Commission had not yet made its report regarding the need of a State University. Mrs. Dealy reported a contribution of \$4,034.74 to the Fellowship Fund, completing the New York State Fellowship Unit.

By the fall of 1947, the financing of public education in New York State had become a critical problem. To inform the branches about all aspects of the situation, Mrs. Kideney arranged three working conferences: in Albany on October 8th, in Buffalo on November 17th, and in New York City on December 11th. For the Albany and Buffalo meetings, she secured the participation of Frank C. Moore, Comptroller of New York State, Dr. Francis T. Spaulding, Commissioner of Education, Dr. Paul Mort of Columbia University, Director of the Educational Conference Board Study, and The Honorable Charles D. Breitell, Counsel to Governor Dewey; and for the New York City meeting, Dr. Spaulding, Mr. Howard Gould of the New York State Teachers' Association, Mr. Archibald Galloway, Deputy

State Comptroller, and Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh, Assistant Counsel to Governor Dewey.

The *News Letter* of October 1947 announced the addition of the Lyndonville-Medina-Middleport Branch.

On Saturday, November 1st, the Rochester Branch opened its new clubhouse for a regional conference. In addition to discussion groups led by State Board members, there were speakers, including Miss Marjorie L. Temple, Secretary to the National Legislative and Status of Women Committees, and Dr. Lulu Margaret Harontuneau, of Beirut, Lebanon.

On the previous day, October 31st, there had been a regular meeting of the Executive Board with eleven members present, and with Mrs. Robert D. Glasgow, Regional Vice-president, and Mrs. Soule, President of the Rochester Branch, as guests. The Board voted to invite the North Atlantic Region to join with the New York State Division in its Convention at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, May 20-22, 1948. The Board also discussed the urgent need for travel expenses to facilitate more branch visiting, and it was decided that the Biennial Convention be asked to amend the by-laws, raising the dues to \$.30 per member. Mrs. Evans was asked to appoint a committee to make a general study of the by-laws.

On January 16th, 1948, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Glasgow met with a group of Long Island and Westchester Branch Presidents at the home of Mrs. Robert W. G. Vail, 270 Riverside Drive, New York City, in an all-day session which proved so worthwhile as to set a precedent for future meetings. On February 5th, Mrs. Evans conducted a similar meeting in Albany for the half dozen branch presidents of that area.

On Friday, February 6th, Mrs. Miller called a meeting of the Legislative Committee in Albany, and this was followed by an Executive Board Meeting on Saturday, both meetings being held at the YWCA. Thirteen of the fourteen Board Members were present, and Mrs. Glasgow, Regional Vice-president, and Mrs. Zeitler, Chairman of the By-laws Committee, were guests. Plans were made for the State and Regional Conventions, to be held at Vassar College, May 20-22, and these were announced in the April *News Letter*.

The New York State Board held a brief meeting at 11:00 A.M. on May 20th, and the business meeting of the New York State Division was held that afternoon. To save time, the reports of the Executive Board Members and of the Branches had been mimeographed for distribution. In the biennium, the Division showed an increase of 1000 in membership, making a total of more than 6000. Three branches had been added, Kingston, Troy, and Lyndonville-Medina-Middleport, and one, Attica, had disbanded, leaving a total of forty branches. The contribution to Fellowships was \$8,914.70. The Legislative Program for 1948-50 was presented by Mrs. Miller, and adopted. A thorough study of the by-laws had been made by the Revision Committee, consisting of Mrs. Zeitler, Chairman, Dr. Rachel Brown, Mrs. Evans, and Mrs. Glasgow, ex officio. Many changes in wording were made either for clarity or to harmonize the State By-laws with current National Policy. The dues were increased to \$.25 per capita for 1948, and to \$.35 per capita thereafter. The changes were approved unanimously.

The program of the Convention was outstanding, especially notable being the address on "The Role of AAUW," by Althea Kratz Hottel, President of the Association, and the address on "The Human Rights Commission," by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Higher Education was represented on the program by Katherine Gillette Blyley, President of Keuka College, and Ruth C. Wright, Dean of Students at the City College of New York. There were reports from Janet H. Robb, AAUW Observer at the United Nations, and from Prof. Margaret Myers on the European Recovery Program.

1948-1950

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Austin P. Evans, New York City
1st Vice-President: Mrs. C. Harry Gilfether, Elmira
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Derrick A. Sherman, Flushing, (Queens)
3rd Vice-President: Miss Laura M. Ostrander, Fredonia, (Dunkirk-Fredonia)
Secretary: Mrs. George E. Symons, Larchmont, (Westchester)
Treasurer: Mrs. Charles D. Stone, Binghamton, (Southern New York)
Past President: Mrs. James W. Kidney, Buffalo

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Arts: Miss Isabelle Birdsall, Oneonta
Education: Mrs. James W. Kidney, Buffalo, 1948-49
Mrs. Kenneth L. Turk, Ithaca, 1949-50
Fellowships: Mrs. C. Harry Gilfether, Elmira
Historian: Mrs. Robert W. G. Vail, New York City
International Relations: Dr. Elizabeth McConkey, Keuka Park, (Yates County)
Legislation: Mrs. John A. Miller, Albany
Membership: Mrs. Derrick A. Sherman, Flushing, (Queens)
Publicity: Mrs. W. Harwood Huffcut, Peekskill
Recent Graduates: Miss Eileen Kearney, Poughkeepsie
Social Studies: Miss Eleanor Green, Pearl River

On September 18, 1948, eight members of the Executive Board met at the home of the President, Mrs. Austin P. Evans, 445 Riverside Drive, New York City. Plans were made for a regional conference to be held at the Hotel Syracuse, on Saturday, October 23rd, with a Board Meeting scheduled for October 22nd. The Board was especially concerned about the inequality of the work of the branches, and decided that a committee should be formed to review the work of all the branches, after which the Board Members should concentrate on visiting and aiding the ten weakest. To save time and travel expense, the committee was chosen from the New York area, and consisted of Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Huffcut, Mrs. Sherman,

Mrs. Symons, and Mrs. Vail. It was also voted that the October 1948 *News Letter* should be devoted to the building up of the branches.

As planned, the next meeting of the Executive Board was held in Syracuse on October 22nd. Eight members were present, and Mrs. Glasgow, and Mrs. Bopp, President of the Albany Branch, were guests. For the first time, Board Members were directed to keep a record of their travel expense, so that a settlement might be made at the end of the year. Since Mrs. Evans, as Chairman of the National By-laws Committee, would have her expenses for the National Convention paid by the Association, it was voted that Mrs. Kideney be sent to Seattle as the representative of the State Division. Later, Mrs. Kideney found that she could not go, and Mrs. Miller became the State Representative. The Board discussed the possibility of establishing a New York State Division Award to be given to an outstanding public school teacher for further professional training. It was voted that the President appoint a committee to study this possibility, and Mrs. Evans asked Mrs. Kideney to act as Chairman. The Branch Evaluation Committee had met on October 14th, and as a result of its findings, plans were made for Board Members to visit the weaker branches.

Twenty-two branches were represented at the regional meeting on the following day, when Mrs. Glasgow, and Prof. Neville V. Searfe, of London, were among the speakers.

On Wednesday afternoon, January 19, 1949, the branch education chairmen in the New York area met with Mrs. Kideney in the Conference Room of the New York Herald-Tribune. Current education problems were discussed, with especial attention to the State University.

Eleven members of the Executive Board met at the Hotel Wellington in Albany, on Saturday, February 5th. They approved the Legislative Program which had been prepared by the Legislative Committee on the previous day. The Branch Evaluation Committee reported that a meeting had been held on January 18th, at the home of Mrs. Symons in Larchmont. A questionnaire, to be sent to branch presidents, had been prepared, and the Committee planned to review the replies, and pass on valuable suggestions to all branches. Mrs. Kideney gave a report for the Teacher Award Committee, which included Mrs. Raymond Barhydt (Emily Tarbell), and Mrs. Gilfether. The Committee recommended that a Teacher's Award of \$1000 be raised and awarded by the New York State Division. The report was accepted and the Committee requested to develop further plans, to be submitted to the branches for a vote.

The *News Letter* of April 1949, like its predecessor, was focused on strengthening the branches.

On June 3rd, the Branch Evaluation Committee again met at the home of Mrs. Symons, for the purpose of discussing the results of visits to the branches, and of finding means to meet the needs thus revealed. It became apparent that in some instances, the annual reports of the branches were misleading. A report might be the work of a fluent writer, or, on the other hand, it might fail to reveal work that was actually being done by the branch. It was felt that more opportunities should be found for branch officers to meet with the corresponding officers of other branches.

The fourth meeting of the Committee was held at Mrs. Symons' home on September 20th. Mrs. Sherman had reviewed the annual reports of the branches and had prepared a table showing size of branch, local dues, number of study groups, per capita fellowship contribution, and date of recognition. Further visits to branches were planned and neighborhood meetings discussed.

The first neighborhood meeting of the new season was held on October 20th, at Hofstra College, with seven Long Island branches participating. Mrs. W. Clayton Lytle, newly elected Regional Vice-president, was present, and discussion groups were led by Mrs. Evans, Miss Green, Mrs. Huffcut, Mrs. Dealy, Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. Vail. Seventy-four members attended.

The October 1949 *News Letter* contained full reports of the Seattle Convention. Of greatest significance was the adoption of by-laws on membership policy, reaffirming the traditional practice that AAUW membership is open to any woman who holds an approved degree from an approved institution.

The fall meeting of the Executive Board was held at the Governor Clinton Hotel at Kingston on November 4th, with fourteen members present. The reports showed a notable increase in visits to branches. After a discussion of the associate membership problem, Mrs. Sherman, Membership Chairman, recommended that a proposition be presented to the Biennial Convention in May, providing for the registration of associate members, by issuing membership cards to them after verifying their eligibility. This was approved by the Board. Mrs. Stone, Chairman of the committee on selection of a place for the Convention, recommended that it be held in Buffalo.

On the following day, November 5th, a neighborhood meeting was held at the Governor Clinton Hotel. Reports of the Seattle Convention were given by Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Gilfether. Dr. Constance Warren, Chairman of the National Committee on Education, spoke on "Our Job in Education." One session was devoted to discussion groups led by State Chairmen.

Following an all-day session of the Legislative Committee, on Friday, February 3rd, the Executive Board held its opening session at 7:30 that evening, at the Wellington Hotel in Albany, and continued with two more sessions on Saturday. The Legislative Program was approved, and plans made for the Convention. Mrs. Kideney submitted the report of the Teacher Award Committee, and the Board voted to present the suggestions outlined to the Convention for action.

The April 1950 *News Letter* contained announcements of the State Biennial Convention to be held at Buffalo, June 2nd and 3rd, and of the North Atlantic Regional Conference to be held at Burlington, Vt., June 15-17.

At the business session of the State Convention on Saturday morning, June 3rd, Mrs. Zeitler, Chairman of the By-laws Committee, presented amendments to the State By-laws to make them conform to National procedures established by the 1949 National Convention, and these were

approved. Mrs. Sherman, Membership Chairman, presented the plan for registration of associate members, by issuing membership cards to them, after verification of their eligibility, all present associate members to receive cards. This was approved. The Convention also adopted the recommendations of the Teacher Award Committee: Mrs. Kideney, Chairman, Mrs. Raymond Barhydt, Mrs. Gilfether, Mrs. Turk. These recommendations provided for a Teacher Award of at least \$1000, to be raised separately from the National Fellowship Fund, and awarded by the State Division through a committee of five.

The biennial reports showed that \$13,878.07 had been added to the Fellowship Fund. Seven branches had contributed "Named Grants": Albany, Buffalo, New York City, North Shore, Schenectady, Southern New York, Westchester. The State membership of 7,316 showed an increase of 1209 in two years. Three new branches had been added: Nyack, Levittown, and Wellsville, making a total of forty-three branches. The data for the Branch Evaluation report had been assembled by the Membership Chairman, Mrs. Sherman, and a copy sent to each branch in the State, each State President in the North Atlantic Region, and to each Regional Vice-president. The work of the Board in implementing the findings of the Branch Evaluation Committee was unquestionably the outstanding achievement of the two-year period, and resulted in a strengthening of the whole fabric of the New York State Division.

1950-1952

OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Harry Gilfether, Elmira
1st Vice-President: Mrs. John A. Miller, Albany
2nd Vice-President: Miss Alice Dodge, Utica, (Mohawk Valley)
3rd Vice-President: Miss Sabra J. Hook, Saratoga Springs
Secretary: Mrs. Howard E. Greenough, Elmira, 1950-1951
Treasurer: Mrs. Vincent C. Connelly, Kingston
Past President: Mrs. Austin P. Evans, New York City

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Arts: Miss Barbara Chapin, Wellsville
Education: Mrs. Kenneth L. Turk, Ithaca
Fellowships: Mrs. Charles Concordia, Schenectady
Historian: Mrs. Robert W. G. Vail, New York City
International Relations: Miss Alice Dodge, Utica, (Mohawk Valley)
Legislation: Mrs. John A. Miller, Albany
Membership: Mrs. Derrick A. Sherman, Flushing, (Queens)
News Letter: Mrs. John Vandervort, Ithaca
Publicity: Mrs. W. Harwood Huffcut, Peekskill, 1950-1951
Mrs. Edwin E. Parker, Schenectady, 1951-1952

Social Studies: Miss Eleanor Green, Pearl River, 1950-1951

Mrs. Andrew P. Cope, Uniondale, (Garden City), 1951-1952
Status of Women: Miss Sabra J. Hook, Saratoga Springs

The 1950-1952 biennium continued the State Board's emphasis on service to the branches. The Long Island meeting on September 30th was attended by approximately ninety members, representing the ten branches of the area, and seventy-six members from the south-central area came together at Corning on October 14th.

On the previous day, October 13th, ten members of the Board held an all-day meeting at the Baron Steuben Hotel. The Board recommended that the branches help their local libraries to qualify for the newly appropriated State Aid, and that they be urged to stress the importance of the teaching profession. In that connection, discussion centered largely upon methods of implementing the Teacher Award voted at the last Convention. The Board voted that the recipient of the Award should be chosen by a committee consisting of Mrs. Kideney, Chairman, Mrs. Gilfether, ex officio, Mrs. Turk, representing the Board, Mrs. Raymond Barhydt, and a representative of the Albany and Buffalo Teachers' Colleges. The last two, appointed later, were Dr. Vivian Hopkins of Albany, and Dean Catherine Reed of Buffalo. The Board Representative should be responsible for contact with the branches, whose contributions were to be voluntary, with an average of fifteen cents per member as a goal. The Board recommended that the committee meet in November, and that a letter be sent to the branches the following month. Applications for the award would be accepted as soon as the money was assured.

At the neighborhood meeting the following day, the AAUW exhibit which the State Division had put on at the State Fair at Syracuse was on display. This exhibit had been organized by Mrs. Austin P. Evans with the help of Miss Christine Heinig, Miss Mary Bandouveris from the Association Office, and members of the Ithaca and Syracuse branches. Mrs. Gilfether represented the Association at the Forum of Women's Organizations on Women's Day at the Fair. The exhibit later was sent to Washington.

On the afternoon of November 17th, Mrs. Gilfether met informally with the Board Members of the New York area.

The Fall 1950 *News Letter* featured a report by Miss Laura Ostrander, retiring chairman of the Status of Women Committee, of her experiences at the International Federation of University Women Conference at Zurich, in August.

A meeting of the Legislative Committee was called for Friday, February 9th, 1951, at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel in Albany. To avoid duplication of the discussion of legislation, all Board Members were requested to be present at the committee meeting. At the Board Meeting the following day, the Legislative Program was adopted, and the work of the chairmen discussed.

The Spring 1951 *News Letter* announced the AAUW National Convention April 9-13, 1951, at Atlantic City. Eleven members of the State

Board attended the Convention, and a New York State Division Board meeting was held at the Chalfonte Hotel on the evening of April 11th.

Fall activities began with a conference for the Long Island branches, held at the Harkness Boy Scout Training Center on September 27th, under the chairmanship of the new Social Studies Chairman, Mrs. Andrew P. Cope. Mrs. W. Clayton Lytle, North Atlantic Regional Vice-president, gave the opening talk, and discussion groups were led by State Board members and branch chairmen. Shortly thereafter, a similar conference was held in Schenectady for the Hudson-Mohawk area.

The Fall Board Meeting, in Syracuse on October 16th, 1951, offered the first opportunity for putting into effect a plan for increasing contact with the branches, by arranging for as many Board Members as possible to visit branch meetings in the area. Following this Board Meeting, Miss Chapin attended a meeting of the Syracuse Branch. Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Connelly and Mrs. Vail flew to Rochester to take part in a meeting of officers and chairmen at their clubhouse that evening. Mrs. Gilfether and Miss Hook had dinner with the executive committee of the Oswego Branch. The visits proved so fruitful that the plan was continued as board policy.

There had been a growing desire for a new name for the *News Letter*. After the consideration of several suggestions, the Fall 1951 number came out under the new masthead: *Knickerbocker Notes*. In it, members were asked to save June 15-16, 1952, for the New York State Division Biennial Convention, which was to be held at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs.

The combined meetings of the Legislative Committee and the State Board were held at the Wellington Hotel in Albany, February 9th and 10th, 1952. Among the specific measures endorsed by the Board were: a bill requiring private nursery schools and kindergartens to meet State requirements, a bill amending the law providing State Aid for libraries, so as to qualify for additional aid under the National Library Services Bill, a bill establishing permanent personal registration, a bill to legalize the sale of colored oleo, a bill to permit the requisitioning of impounded animals for use under proper safeguards in approved laboratories and institutions for scientific tests.

Dr. James Allen, Deputy Commissioner of Education, discussed the proposed Regents Plan for eleven TV channels in New York State. Mrs. Kideney, Chairman of the Teacher Award Committee, announced plans for making the award at the State Convention.

The Spring 1952 *Knickerbocker Notes* was devoted to plans for the Biennial Convention, and also announced the North Atlantic Regional Conference, to be held at Pembroke College in Providence, June 5-7.

At the business meeting of the State Convention, the Legislative Program was presented by the Chairman, Mrs. Miller, and adopted. The reports showed progress in every field. The Teacher Award Committee reported that \$1120.48 had been received, enough to cover the \$1000 award and also the necessary committee expenses. There had been a marked increase in art education, and the Convention adopted a resolution proposed by the Arts Chairman, Miss Chapin, supporting the request of the New York State Art Teachers Association for funds to operate an art-mobile for the schools of the State. The Fellowship Chairman, Mrs. Con-

cordia, reported \$15,463 raised for International Grants during the two-year period, making a grand total for New York State of \$79,540. Seven branches, Albany, Buffalo, Nassau, New York City, North Shore, Schenectady and Westchester had given "Named Grants."

Officers elected for the next biennium were:

President: Mrs. C. Harry Gilfether, Elmira
1st Vice-President: Mrs. Charles Concordia, Schenectady
2nd Vice-President: Miss Emma M. O'Keefe, Rochester
3rd Vice-President: Miss Helen M. Overs, Jamestown
Secretary: Mrs. Clifford M. Gould, Buffalo
Treasurer: Mrs. Walter B. McFarland, Bronxville, (Westchester)

Two events in the Convention are most memorable: the first was the presentation by the State President, Mrs. Gilfether, of the first Teacher Award to Miss Geraldine McMullen of Marion, New York. Miss McMullen, a teacher in the elementary schools of Rochester, was to study for her Master's Degree at Ohio State University. The second unforgettable occasion was the address of Dr. Susan B. Riley, President of the American Association of University Women, at the banquet on Friday evening, on the theme, "A Time for Inquiry."

IN RETROSPECT

In this brief account, one can only touch the highlights of thirty-two years of achievement, one can only suggest the vision, the able leadership, and the selfless devotion of the women who have been responsible for AAUW's ever widening sphere of influence.

It is fitting that the greatest contribution should be in the field of education. The New York State Division's "study-based action" has had no small part in increasing and equalizing teachers' salaries, in raising the standards required of teachers, in replacing Teachers' Training Courses with Teachers' Colleges, in bringing kindergartens and school lunch programs into the public schools, and in securing State Aid for libraries. Another phase of the Division's interest in education has been its generous support of the Fellowship Program.

The depression brought consumer interests into the foreground, and, during the war, work in this field was intensified. Problems of food, health, and housing received attention. At the same time, the State Division supported the Minimum Wage Law, battled against delinquency, advocated the protection of women in industry, and urged equal pay for equal work. Yet even in periods of stress, interest in the arts survived, to blossom forth in better days in art, drama, music and creative writing groups. Nor has AAUW worked alone. Within the range of the AAUW Program, its members, both individually and as branches, have shared in civic projects.

Immeasurable in its influence has been AAUW's study of world affairs, its co-operation in the war effort, its support of the United Nations, of Reciprocal Trade Agreements, and of the Marshall Plan.

As we review the past, we are impressed again and again by the fear-

- May 1944 Amended to facilitate functioning of organization.
- May 1948 General revision to harmonize with National Policy. Dues increased to 25c per capita for 1948, 35c per capita thereafter.
- June 1950 Amended to clarify fact that state by-laws must conform to Association Constitution. (Outgrowth of National Convention vote on membership policy.)

STATE DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

Mercury

- Vol. 1, No. 1 November 1931
 Vol. 2, No. 1 December 3, 1932
 Vol. 3, No. 1 April 1935
 Vol. 4, No. 1 March 1936
 Vol. 5, No. 1 December 1936
 No. 2 May 1937
 Vol. 6, No. 1 March 1938
 Vol. 7, No. 1 March 1939 (Subtitle: The News Letter)

News Letter

- Fall 1939 (Branch officers and chairmen only)
 March 1940
 October 1940 (Branch officers and chairmen)
 April 1941
 December 1941 (Branch officers and chairmen)
 May 1942
 March 1944
 May 1945
 November 1945
 April 1946
 April 1947
 October 1947
 April 1948
 October 1948
 April 1949
 October 1949
 April 1950
 Fall 1950
 Spring 1951

Knickerbocker Notes

- Fall 1951
 Spring 1952
 Fall 1952

BRANCHES OF THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| New York City | ACA 1886 | AAUW 1921 |
| Central New York (Syracuse) | ACA 1889 | AAUW 1921 |
| Albany | ACA 1890 | AAUW 1921 |
| Buffalo | ACA 1890 | AAUW 1921 |
| Eastern Steuben (Corning) | ACA 1890 | AAUW 1921 |
| Southern New York (Binghamton) | ACA 1900 | AAUW 1921 |
| Rochester | College Club 1897 | ACA 1916 AAUW 1921 |
| Elmira | College Club 1916 | ACA 1917 AAUW 1921 |
| Oswego | College Club 1916 | ACA 1918 AAUW 1921 |
| Ithaca | ACA 1918 | AAUW 1921 |
| Adirondack (Glens Falls) | ACA 1920 | AAUW 1921 |
| 1921: 11 CHARTER MEMBERS | | |
| Mohawk Valley (Utica) | ACA 1913 | AAUW 1921 |
| Jamestown | Chautauqua College Club 1915 | AAUW 1922 |
| | (Divided into 3 branches 1925) | |
| Schenectady | College Club 1902 | AAUW 1923 |
| Aurora | | AAUW 1924-1926 |
| Poughkeepsie | | AAUW 1925 |
| Dunkirk-Fredonia (Part of Chaut'ua Coll. Club 1915) | | AAUW 1925 |
| | (Part of Chautauqua Co. Br. 1922) | |
| Westfield (Part of Chaut'ua College Club 1915) | | AAUW 1925-1951 |
| | (Part of Chautauqua Co. Br. 1922) | |
| 1926: 17 BRANCHES: (Note: Aurora disbanded 1926) | | |
| Waverly | | AAUW 1926 |
| 1928: 18 BRANCHES | | |
| St. Lawrence (Canton) | | AAUW 1927 |
| Nassau County (Rockville Center, &) | Coll. Club 1922 | AAUW 1929 |
| 1930: 20 BRANCHES | | |
| Newburgh | College Club 1929 | AAUW 1930 |
| Richfield Springs | | AAUW 1931-1936 |
| Queens (Flushing) | | AAUW 1931 |
| Yates County (Penn Yan) | | AAUW 1932 |
| 1932: 24 BRANCHES | | |
| Saratoga Springs | College Club 1916 | AAUW 1932 |
| Essex County (Lake Placid, Ausable Forks &) | | AAUW 1933 |
| 1934: 26 BRANCHES | | |
| Herkimer | (May) | AAUW 1934 |
| Plattsburg | (June) | AAUW 1934 |
| New Rochelle (Southeast Westchester 1935) | | |
| | (Nov.) | AAUW 1934-1938 |
| 1936: 29 BRANCHES | | |

Sewanhaka (Floral Park) AAUW 1936
Ticonderoga AAUW 1938-1943
Alfred AAUW 1938
Malone AAUW 1938-1941
1938: 31 BRANCHES (Note: Richfield Springs & New Rochelle disbanded)

Garden City (May) AAUW 1938
Peekskill (Jan.) AAUW 1939
North Shore (Manhasset &) (June) AAUW 1939
Hollis (June) AAUW 1939-1953
Westchester (Nov.) AAUW 1939
Oneonta (May) AAUW 1940
1940: 37 BRANCHES

Whiteface AAUW 1941-1943
1942: 37 BRANCHES (Note: Malone disbanded 1941)

Attica AAUW 1942-1947
1944: 36 BRANCHES (Note: Whiteface & Ticonderoga disbanded)

Batavia AAUW 1945
Pearl River AAUW 1946
1946: 38 BRANCHES

Kingston College Club 1925 AAUW 1946
Troy AAUW 1946
Lyndonville-Medina-Middleport AAUW 1947
1948: 40 BRANCHES (Note: Attica disbanded 1947)

Nyack AAUW 1948
Levittown AAUW 1949
Wellsville AAUW 1949
1950: 43 BRANCHES

1952: 42 BRANCHES (Note: Westfield disbanded 1951)