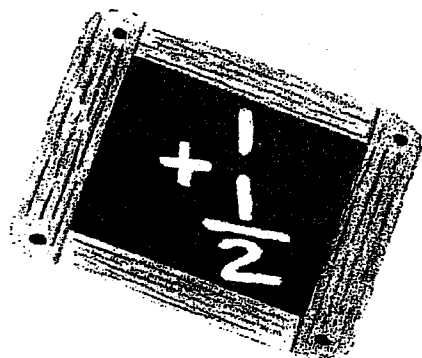
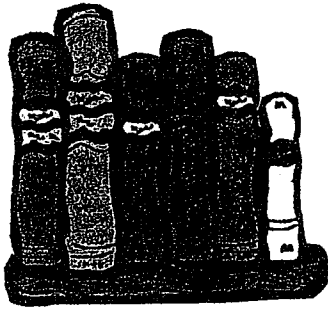


DULUTH BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS



- ★ 1894. Miss Anna R. Hare, a teacher at Hardy Hall, a private boarding school for girls located at the intersection of Woodland Avenue & Hardy Street, attended the national convention in 1892. On her return, she organized the Duluth Branch in 1894. The school later closed due to a scandal and the branch was disbanded.
- ★ 1901. The Duluth Branch was again organized with 28 members under the leadership of Mrs. Linus Kline. (Our earliest members never used their first names.)
- ★ 1912. The Educational Committee offered prizes to high school & normal school girls in the junior and senior classes for the best essay on "Why Girls Should Go To College." That committee also arranged for slide-illustrated talks on various colleges and the value of a college education.
- ★ 1913. The Branch brought in nationally recognized speakers for lectures that were open to the public and well advertised.
- ★ 1916. The Duluth Branch became incorporated. They formed a volunteer service committee to work on a variety of civic projects. They also presented an "Indian play" written by one of the members who was an authority on the legends and music of the Indians in our region.
- ★ 1917. Proceeds from lectures on modern poetry were used for World War I work.
- ★ 1920s. The Branch met in private homes of members and meetings usually included speakers such as Episcopal Bishop Bennett, Dr. John Powell of the University of Minnesota and Actress Cornelia Otis Skinner as well as local businessmen.
- ★ 1921. Nationally, Branches joined to create the American Association of University Women. The Duluth Branch was included.
- ★ 1922. The Branch had 122 members. Only graduates of selected, 4 year colleges and universities could join.
- ★ 1929. An editorial in the Duluth newspaper recognized the "long standing excellent work" in the Branch's scholarship fund. The programs concerning the local business picture became especially important following the stock market crash.
- ★ 1930s. Various study groups were established: literature, French, German, international relations, contract bridge, and investment groups were popular.



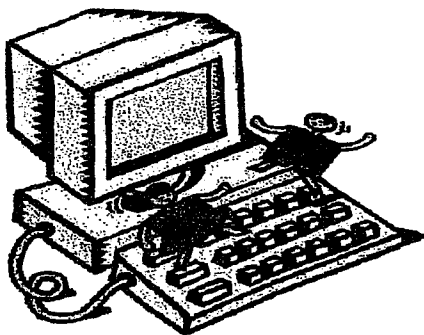
- ★ Mrs. A. T. Banning discussed "Is There a Feminine Fiction?" She was some 30 years ahead of the second women's movement.
- ★ 1931. Magazines were distributed to rural areas. Fifteen young females received scholarship awards, "one of the chief interests of the Duluth Branch of the AAUW" according to the Duluth newspaper. The 4th Minnesota state convention was held in Duluth.

- ★ 1933. The "Newshawk" became the "Bulletin" spearheaded by Janet Burns. Janet was later inaugurated into the Duluth Hall of Fame.
- ★ 1943. The Branch sold \$13,000 in war bonds.
- ★ 1948-49. Membership in the Branch reached a high of 474. Consideration was given to buying a clubhouse like the branches in Minneapolis and St. Paul with money earned in a variety of fund-raising projects including one which was a program on the equal rights of women. The Branch decided against a clubhouse.
- ★ 1950s. Another state convention was held in Duluth. Membership started the decade at 453 and ended the decade at 375 as more women entered the world of work outside the home. 75 percent of the members were involved during this time with some aspect of the Branch. Scholarships were raised from \$500 to \$1,000 with much of the money coming from a weekly children's movie series. Four members were incorporators for a new educational station. Florence Schneider was president of the Minnesota Division. She is the only president to have served two terms. Her emphasis was on the Minnesota mental health system. Major changes were enacted as a result of the Division's study and lobbying. Florence also also a member of the Association Committee on Social Studies.
- ★ 1960. Ground was broken for the AAUW Educational Center in Washington, D.C. with the Duluth Branch among the first 10 to meet the goal of \$3000. The building was completely paid for before the opening due to donations from all Branches. Duluth was given the opportunity to put something of historical value into the cornerstone of the building. Florence Schneider was on the building committee. John Rood, husband of Branch member, Dorothy Bridgeman Atkinson, carved 3 wooden panels for display. AAUW moved into the building in 1960 and moved out in 1988. The contents of the cornerstone were preserved and listed in the archives. The three panels were relocated to the seventh floor of the new Educational Corner.
- ★ 1962 (and 1968) Division (state) conventions were held in Duluth. E. F. contributions were raised to \$1,200.
- ★ 1965. Association reworked its list of acceptable colleges and universities. UMD graduates were now eligible for memberships.

- ★ 1966-1968. Gladys Swanson was president of the Minnesota Division. Gladys was later inaugurated into the Duluth Hall of Fame. The Branch compiled lists of women interested in and capable of positions in local government and commissions.
- ★ 1970. The scene was dominated by programs and study groups relating to pollution, abortion, ecology, technology, finances and health care.
- ★ 1972. The University of Minnesota Duluth became a college-university corporate member. Jane Maddy was appointed to represent UMD at state and national meetings.
- ★ 1980s. Activism increased and women were encouraged to become agents of change through an Association biennial focus topic of that name. The Branch was now comprised of women employed in many sectors of society and active on many community boards. Other members chose to work inside the home.
- ★ 1983. Branch member, Jean Olson, was elected president of the Minnesota School Board Association. Jean and another branch member, Mary Ryland, had been active on the local school board.
- ★ 1984. A contest was held to rename the Branch newsletter. Charlotte MacLeod won with "The Lob Tree." This continued the theme of the "Minnesota Pine", the state newsletter, at the Branch level. A lob tree was a very tall tree with the top lobbed out and used as a marker to show the way to voyagers.
- ★ 1986. The state convention was held in Duluth. Jane Ellen Maddy was elected as president of the Minnesota Division. During this time, she also served on the Association Committee for Women.
- ★ 1987. The Branch was listed on a plaque presented to NASA as part of the 34th biennial convention in Houston, Texas for contributing at least \$1.00 per member to the Judy Resnick American Endowment. Resnick was a former EF fellow. The book, "Winners: Women and the Nobel Prize," which included Marie Curie's story, was donated to the Duluth high schools.
- ★ 1988. Three males along with their spouses modeled in the EFP style show.
- ★ 1989. The Branch began sponsoring candidate forums with the League of Women Voters. An achievement was the recognition of 10 Century Club members, more than any other Minnesota Branch. Gifts were contributed to the Women's Transition Housing Project at holiday time.
- ★ 1990s. Stabilization of Branch membership around 200 members. Community projects funds of \$10,000 were obtained under the leadership of Theresa O'Gara and Sr. Timothy Kirby. A grant of \$10,000 was willed to the Branch by the estate of Irene May Berg, a former Branch president, to be used for community projects. The branch sponsored workshops for girls on various career opportunities. Books were given to the schools in recognition of Women's History Month. Emphasis was placed on diversity in our membership.



- ★ 1990. Maureen Johnson, member and math teacher at Woodland Junior High School, received a \$6,800 Eleanor Roosevelt grant to develop curriculum for non-traditional careers for girls.
- ★ 1991. The Duluth Branch held a city-wide round table on school issues with the emphasis on gender equity which was facilitated by an attorney from the National School Board Association in Washington, D.C.
- ★ 1994. Joyce Benson represented the Branch when she testified before ISD 709 against censoring the book, "War Comes to Willy Freeman." The school board voted not to remove this book. The Branch Co-sponsored the LPGA Girls' Golf Club. Board meetings were now held at the Building for Women as a visible way of supporting the building. The Branch undertook strategic planning to assure the Branch's relevance and survival in this era of downsizing and introspection.
- ★ 1996. The girls' workshop sponsored by the Branch changed its focus to self-esteem issues of 4th and 5th graders. Duluth again hosted the state convention.
- ★ 1997. Lake Superior College joined AAUW as a college-university corporate member. Saint Scholastic had been a corporate member but withdrew due to the controversy over abortion. They rejoined in 1999 giving the branch three corporate members.
- ★ 1998. Supported "An Income of Her Own," a program developed by the YWCA to assist girls to gain economic literacy and entrepreneurial skills
- ★ 1998. Received an award for contributions to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.
- ★ 1999. The Branch received five-star status for community action, public policy, visibility, Educational Foundation contribution (\$5,804) and Legal Advocacy Fund (\$573). The century culminated with a very successful state convention. Keynote speaker was Sarah Weddington, the attorney for Roe in the Roe vs Wade decision. Guests enjoyed the reception held in Glensheen Mansion. It was agreed that state conventions provide an excellent opportunity to understand AAUW not only on the local level but state, regional and national as well.
- ★ 2000. The Branch again received five-star status for community action, public policy, social justice, membership and fundraising: \$9300 to EF and \$914 to LAF. Sharon Finch was elected president of the Minnesota Division. Terri Griffiths was designated as president-elect..



- ★ 2001. At the state convention in Stillwater members approved a resolution to be sent to Association which would open membership to graduates of two year as well as four year institutions of higher learning. The Duluth Branch, at the two previous conventions had submitted a resolution supporting membership open to any person who supported the mission statement. A national endowment in the area of community grants was announced to honor the AAUW work of Jane Ellen Maddy