



AAUW
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Remember
Ann Chipley Fellowship
#4051

Ann was an active member of the Rocky Mount branch, and was president of AAUW NC 1980-82. She served the Association as Director of the Program and Policy Department, and at the time of her death she was Legislative Director of AAUW. The Association Board established a Fellowship in her memory in 1996. Since then, it has grown to about \$40,000, still short of the \$100,000 needed to fund a fellowship. AAUW NC branches are encouraged to designate some of their EF contributions to this Fellowship.

From the October 2004 AAUW Poughkeepsie Newsletter.

PUBLIC POLICY- A BIT OF AAUW HISTORY

from a speech by Ann Chipley at the NYS Convention , April 1987

Editor's Note: some board members had questions about AAUW Public Policy so the following will give each of you some historical facts about AAUW Public Policy. Other articles will discuss current policies.

“Some of our members think that AAUW’s public policy activism is a new thing. Some of our members think our feminism is a departure from AAUW’s heritage. Not so! We were born a feminist organization, created to push for more open access to higher education for women. That was more radical in 1881 than anything we advocate today. The 17 young women who met to give birth to AAUW were the daughters of the first generation to ever hear women speak in public. Not many years before, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton had drawn crowds largely because of the novelty of hearing a woman speak in public.

Our first legislative committee was formed in 1898 and by the early 1900's branches were involved in working for such legislation as child labor laws, compulsory education, juvenile courts, and increased money for schools and libraries. In the same period, AAUW did an in-depth study of vocational education and published a report describing the institutional training women for professions other than teaching.

Before 1920, we were also supporting equal pay for equal work in schools, and opportunities for advancement, including a protest of the inequality of pay in education in 1917. A study by the Washington, DC branch of pay equity in the federal government was done in 1913!

In the 1920's AAUW did a study of child development that led to the pioneering work in nursery schools, kindergartens, and child guidance. We urged the appointment of women to the diplomatic service, cooperated in a study on training women for chemistry careers, and undertook a study on the earning capacity of university women. It was in

1926 that AAUW’s Committee on the Economic and Legal Status of Women was formed to work on issues of equity for women.

Also in the 20's AAUW was recognized as the public involvement leader in arms limitation. We were accepted as an auditor at the 1922 arms limitation conference, and at the 1932 conference, the president of AAUW was an official delegate.

We don’t have time to detail AAUW’s whole history of public policy activism, but it is important to know that we have been a leader in issues of education, equity, and peace for 50–70–100 years.

In 1952, AAUW showed the kind of courage that I have come to admire in AAUW women. It was in the midst of McCarthyism, when too many Americans were allowing themselves to be cowed by threats and name-calling. Not AAUW. The statement issued by AAUW analyzed the danger of the communist threat to freedom and democracy and warned that we were in danger of losing our liberties by the very means adopted to defend them.

Another time that AAUW set the example for the country was in 1968 when we adopted, for the first time, a single focus overview for all our work. That was “Action for a Unified Society,” designed to respond to a period of great civil rights unrest. The Association Board was meeting, and during the meeting they went up to the roof and saw parts of Washington burning. They returned to the meeting determined to mobilize AAUW. The branch in which my own AAUW activism was born – Rocky Mount, NC– responded by integrating their branch. You have to realize that we are talking about eastern North Carolina and a group of very courageous women. When I joined the branch 4 years later, it was still the only integrated organization in town. That’s why I joined. I knew that was where I would find the women in Rocky Mount whom I wanted to know.”