

Inventory of the

**American Association  
of University Women  
Rockford Branch**  
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 248**

## INTRODUCTION

The records of the American Association of University Women, Rockford Branch, were donated to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center by AAUW, Rockford Branch President, Sheryl Almquist, on November 28, 2000. Addenda to the collection were added at later dates.

Property rights to the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The American Association of University Women, Rockford Branch, is divided into four series: Rockford Branch, State, National, and International. The first series documents the history of the Rockford Branch from its origination in 1929 through 2000. The records consist of bylaws, branch and board minutes, newsletters, yearbooks, membership information, treasurer's reports, and scrapbooks.

It is useful to note that the scrapbooks include copies of the Rockford Files, newspaper clippings, photographs, programs and correspondence. The treasurer's books provide information regarding dues, membership, check registers and other pertinent financial data. It is also important to note that in late 1991 the AAUW, Rockford Branch, newsletter changed its name from The Rockford File to The Initiative. Additional history of the AAUW can be found in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, 1999 folder (Box 8, Folder 13).

Series II gives information about the AAUW, Illinois Division, from 1975 through 2000. The records consist of directories, bylaws, publications, convention materials and photographs. Series III contains information about the AAUW on a the National level. The records date from 1881 through 2000. This series includes history, bylaws, membership information, publications, and scholarship information. It is important to note that records for the Educational Foundation are contained in this series. They include annual reports, fellowship and grant information, and publications. Series IV, the International Series includes one folder containing information on the International Federation of University Women.

The addendum contains program year notebooks which include by-laws, agendas, general and board meeting minutes, budgets, photographs, programs, project information, newspaper articles, newsletters, and convention programs.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Organized mainly by faculty and graduates of Rockford College, the Rockford Branch of AAUW originated in 1929. Since its inception the Branch has focused its efforts on such issues as education, international relations, culture/art, social welfare, government and equity activities.

In support of their causes the members have hosted a variety of fundraisers including teas, used book sales, cookbook sales, book reviews and dances.

From the beginning, members have been active in promoting educational opportunities for women. The Branch has supported a variety of local school referenda, and has been involved with SOURCE (Service of Uncovering Resources in the Community for Education) since its inception in 1970. The organization has developed various scholarship funds and in 1983 established the Mildred F. Berry Research & Projects Endowment Fund which provides grants to AAUW members to pursue community action projects. That same year it hosted the first annual Women in History Contest for 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders. AAUW has partnered the YWCA and League of Women Voters to offer classes on international relations and with Rock Valley College and others to produce the annual World Affairs Council conference which allowed two AAUW members to tour China.

Culture, the Arts and Social Welfare are also on the list of interests of the AAUW, Rockford Branch. The organization has a Cultural Interest Representative who has been involved with the Rockford Arts Council since the late 1960s. Members of the AAUW and other groups have worked together to create, produced and direct a monthly, one hour public service broadcast, "Women Speak Out." The organization also hosts art walks, theater parties, panel discussions and its annual "Beattie Is" festival. In furthering its interests in social welfare, the Branch hosted a series of money management courses for the disadvantaged, produced a booklet, "Let's Talk Money," and surveyed local nursery schools in an investigation of the need for care of children with working mothers.

In addition to the organizations other interests, government and equity for women have always remained high on the list of priorities of the AAUW. The members wrote and published "The ABC's of Local Government," supported the Bill for Federal School Aid, sponsored one of a series of debates between U.S. Senator Charles Percy and challenger Alex Seith, and hosted the 1979 Division Conference where Maureen Reagan and Judy Carter spoke as a protest to Illinois' lack of ratification of the Equal Rights Act. In 1984 the Branch joined four other women's organizations to form the Personal & Professional Power Coalition to educate area women on the topic of power. The branch also co-sponsored the Career Carousel to explore non-traditional career options for women.

[Historical Sketch taken from (History, 1929-1999, Box 1, Folder 1)].

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

AAUW  
 American Association of University Women  
 American Association of University Women, Rockford  
 Rockford  
 Universities  
 Women's Organizations

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
Series I. Rockford Branch			
1	1	History, 1929-1999	
	2	Bylaws, 1947, 1957, 1975-1977, 1981-1983, 1985-1989, 1993	
	3	Branch Handbook, 1965	
	4	Policy Sheet, 1971, 1977, 1981, 1985, n.d.	
	5	Strategic Plan, 1999-2000	
	6	Annual Report, 1969-1976, 1978-1981, 1983-1985, 1998-1999	
	7-9	Branch Meeting Minutes, January 1941-February 15, 1967	
	10	Branch Meeting Minutes, (1979, 1985-1988, 1999)	
	11-12	Board Meeting Minutes, April 5, 1939-September 1949	
	2	1-4	Board Meeting Minutes, October 1949-May 1976
		5	Board Meeting Minutes, (1985-1988, 1993-1999)
6		Meeting Information Cards, 1994-1996, n.d.	
3	1-4	Newsletter, 1975-1991, 1993-2000	
	5-6	Yearbooks (Directories), 1933-1938, 1940-1980	
4	1	Yearbooks (Directories), 1980-1999	
	2	Correspondence, 1983-1989, 1991-1996, 1998-1999, n.d.	
	3	Membership Cards and Information, 1993-1994	
	4	Honorary Life Membership Recognition, 1984-1988, 1998	
	5	Past Branch Presidents, 1930-1999	
	6	Branch Officers, 1985-1987, 1999	
	7	Membership Lists, 1992-1994, 1998, n.d.	
	8	Membership Directory, n.d.	
	9	Roster of Women Qualified for Public Office, 1959, 1965, 1969, n.d.	
	10	Interest Finder, 1973-1975	
	11	Membership Information and Cards, A-E, 1963, 1966-1972	
	12	Membership Information Cards, F-L, 1948, 1963, 1966-1972	
	13	Membership Information Cards, Mc-R, 1963-1972	
	14	Membership Information Cards, S-Y, 1962-1963, 1966-1972	

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6	1	Guest Book, 1971-1977, 1984-1990
	2-6	Treasurer's Book, May 1946-June 1980
7	1	Treasurer's Book, February 1983-July 1985
	2	Old Budgets and Bank Forms, 1938-1975
	3	Budget, 1985-1988
	4	Treasurer's Books, 1974-1976 (2 volumes)
	5-6	Treasurer's Reports, 1953-1956, 1965-1967, 1973-1979, 1985-1988, 1993-1994
	7	Unincorporated Organization Authority for Bank Account, 1976
	8	Contribution Report Form, 1973-1996
	9	Educational Foundation, 1980-1988
	10	Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, 1989
	11	Legal Advocacy Fund, 1993-1996
	12	Mildred F. Berry Endowment, 1982-1985, 1993, 1995, 1999
		President's Notebook:
	13	Arts Resource Survey, 1954-1958
	14	Branch Handbooks, 1961
	15	Constitution and Bylaws, 1941, 1947
	16	Directory of Illinois Artists, 1948-1949
8	1	General Director's Letter, 1954, 1963, 1964
	2	Local Reports and Study Groups, 1948-1949, 1954, 1957, 1962-1964
	3	Membership, 1946
	4	<u>Notes on the Arts</u> , General Director's Letter, 1951, 1952
	5	The Arts Program, 1948-1954
		President's Notebook:
	6	Art Program State Reports and Letters, 1960
	7	Handbook, July 1996
	8	Calendar, 1997
	9	Account Balance Report and Programs, 1997
	10	Bylaws, 1997
	11	President's File, 1978, 1988, n.d.
	12	Job Descriptions, n.d.

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	14	Advocacy Chair, 1983-1986	
	15	Arrangements Committee, 1982-1988, n.d.	
	16	Calling Committee, 1979-1980, 1983-1987	
	17	“A Career For All Seasons” Committee, 1986-1987, 1989	
	18	Education Task Force, 1985	
	19	<u>Empowering Women: Achieving Change Through Advocacy Networks</u> Task Force, February 1983	
	20	The Game Committee, 1994	
	21	Interest Group Coordinator, 1983-1985	
9	1	Legislative Committee, 1983-1987	
	2	Nominating Committee, 1985-1986	
	3	Study Groups, 1972-1973	
		Reports:	
	4	Year End Reports, Officers/Chairs, 1983-1989	
	5	Historian’s Report, 1983-1989	
	6	Membership Annual Reports, 1982-1990	
	7	Peace and National Security Annual Report, 1983-1984	
		Projects:	
	8	ABC’s of Government, 1975-1976, 1979, 1984	
	9	Annual Book Sale, 1974-1985, n.d.	
	10	BA 580 Research Project, n.d.	
	11	Coalition for Choice, 1985	
	12	Community Action Grant Application Form, Rock River Valley Girl Scouts, 1996-1997	
	13	Ebony Fashion Show, Presented by Taus Inc., 1996, 1999	
	14	<u>Initiative</u> Readership Survey, n.d.	
	15	Local Government Book Income and Orders, 1976-1977	
	16	Plant Sale, 1985, 1989, 1994, 1999	
	17	Rockford Branch Member Survey, 1980, 1994	
	18	Rockford Middle School Survey, 1972-1974	
	19	Rockford Peace Advocate Coalition Videos, 1987-1988	
	20	<u>The Rockford Sampler</u> Cookbook, 1985	
	21	<u>Source</u> , 1988-1990	
	22	Take Our Daughters to Work Day, 1995	
	23	Teenage Mentoring, 1988-1989	
10	1	Volunteering, n.d.	
	2	Woman to Woman, “Alcohol and You,” 1987	
	3	Women in History Competition, 1982	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
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	6	Women in History Competition, 1985	
	7	Oral History Contest Judge Sheets, 1985-1986	
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	12	Speech, Women in History Competition, 1989	
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	18	Oral History Contest Judge Sheets, 1990-1991	
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4		Women in History Contest Judge Sheets, 1993-1994	
5		Women in History Contest Papers, 1994	
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8		Poster Contest, 1998	
9		Photographs, Women in History Contest, March 2000, n.d. (10)	
10		Notecards, Women in History Participants, n.d.	
11		Women Mentoring Women, 1995-1996	
12		Women's History Curriculum Guide, 1983	
13		Women's History Week, n.d.	
14		Women's Vote Project, 1984-1985, n.d.	
15		YWCA Leader Luncheon, 1981-1983	
16		YWCA Leader Luncheon, 1986	
12	1-3	YWCA Leader Luncheon, 1987-1988, 1999-2000 Programs:	
	4	Event, Presentation, Workshop, and Convention Fliers, 1980,1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999	
	5	Program Plans, 1975-1976, 1995	
	6	Program Schedule, Rockford Branch, 1998-1999	

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12	7	34 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Houston, Texas, Pictures and Postcards, June 20-24, 1987 (30)	
	8	34 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Houston, Texas, 1987	
	9	36 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Portland, Oregon, June 22-25, 1991	
	10	Career Carousel, 1984-1986	
	11	Citizen's Ambassador Program, 1995	
	12	"Educational Reform: Everyone's Business," Rock Valley College, April 27, 1985	
	13	Personal and Professional Power Coalition, October 27, 1984	
	14	Second China-United States Conference on Women's Issues, Beijing, October 11-14, 1999	
	15	Workshop, 1994	
	16	Brochures, 1986-2000	
	17	Newspaper Clippings, 1966-1977, 1989-1999, n.d.	
	18	"Agent of Change" Award, 1984-1988	
	19	Feminist of the Year Award, 1988	
	20	Certificates, Rockford Branch, 1996,1997	
	21	Photographs, Dinner with Community Leaders and Lynn Martin, March 2000	
	22	Photographs, n.d. (4)	
	23	Bead Necklace, Roberta Ingrassie, President, 1990s	
	24	Bookmark, n.d. (1)	
	25	Buttons, Sticker, Pin, n.d. (10)	
	26	Tape, Unidentified Lecture, n.d.	
	27	Scrapbook Pages, 1968, 1970, 1992, 1998, 1999, n.d.	
Oversize	5 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1978-1989	
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Series II. State			
13	1	Directory and Bylaws, Illinois Division, 1987-1988, 1994-1995, 1998-1999	
	2	Brochures, 1987-1999	
	3	ERA, 1988, n.d.	
	4	Five Star Award, Illinois Division, 1996	

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	6	Member Count by Branch, February 1998	
	7	Membership Program Calendar, Illinois Division, 1995, 1996	
	8	Annual Report, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois, 1999	
	9	"Networking the Biennium," 55 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Brochure, Illinois Division, 1979	
	10	63 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention, Illinois Division, April 1987	
	11	Photographs, State Convention, Rockford, 1987 (2)	
	12	"Equity, Self-Development, Change," 64 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Normal, Illinois, April 23, 1988	
	13	71 <sup>st</sup> Annual AAUW Illinois State Convention Champaign, Illinois, April 29, 1995	
	14	<u>Transforming Education: Forging Partnerships</u> , Fall Conference, Illinois Division, October 28, 1995	
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	19	Photographs, State Convention, 2000 (8)	
	20	<u>75 Years of Making a Difference</u> , 1999	
	21	<u>Handbook for Branch Presidents</u> , 1980	
	22	<u>Program Development Guide</u> , 1985	
	23	<u>Connections</u> , Illinois Division, 1998, 1999	
14	1	<u>Illinois Link</u> , 1994-1999	
	2	<u>The University Woman</u> , 1975-1977, 1979-1981, 1993	
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	3	AAUW History, 1881-1986	
	4	Charter and Bylaws, 1983, 1985, 1999	
	5	Annual Report, 1998-1999	
	6	Brochures, 1989-2001	
	7	Educational Foundation, 1978, 1993-1996:	
	8	Annual Report, 1990-1992, 1997	
	9	Executive Summary and Action Guide, 1992, 1995	
	10	Fellowships and Grants, 1979-1980, 1992-1997, 1999-2000	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
14	11	<u>The First Hundred Years, How to Celebrate</u> , 1988
	12	<u>Girls Can</u> , Community Coalitions Resource Manual, 1996
	13	<u>Names Honored</u> , 1976-1978, 1980-1984
15	1	<u>Names Honored</u> , 1984-1988, 1990-1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1997
	2	Promotional Kit, 1985-1988
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	4	<u>Strategic Plan</u> , Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund, 1993
	5	Every Member Survey, 1990
	6	Fundraising, 1991-1992
	7	Insurance Plans, n.d.
	8	List of Missing Former Fellows, 1987
	9	Proposed Due Increase, 1998
	10	Travel/Tour Packages, 1996-1997
	11	Voter Education Campaign, 1995, 1996, 1998
	12	<u>Women's Work/Women's Worth</u> , 1985-1986
	13	<u>Women's Work/Women's Worth</u> , March 1986
	14	Convention Program, Washington D.C., June 19-22, 1999
	15	<u>Directory</u> , 1992-1993
16	1	<u>Membership Directory</u> , 1999
	2	<u>New Member Handbook</u> , 1990
	3	<u>Branch Leaders Handbook</u> , 1982, 1984
	4	<u>Gifts and Publications</u> , 1998-2001
	5	<u>Guide to Member Services</u> , 1999
	6	<u>AAUW Journal</u> , 1975-1977
	7	<u>AAUW in Action</u> , 1999-2000
	8	<u>Action Alert</u> , 1994, 1999-2000
	9	<u>Branching Out</u> , 1994, 1998-2000
	10	<u>Graduate Woman</u> , 1979
17	1	<u>Leader in Action</u> , 1982, 1983, 1989-1991
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	3	<u>Outlook</u> , (1989-1994)
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	5	Tape, ERA Keynote Program, Maureen Reagan, Judy Carter, and Liz Carpenter, 1979 (1)

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	8	Certificate of Appreciation, Membership Retention, April 11, 1992
	9	Invitations, 1996, 1998
	10	Math and Science Camp, 1991-1992
	11	List of Women Physicians, Winnebago County, n.d.
	12	Resource List, 1994-1995
	13	<u>The Link</u> , 1994-1995
<u>ADDENDUM</u>		
	14-16	Program Year Notebooks, 1997/1998-1999/2000
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19		Banner: AAUW, 1929-1999
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20	1	Membership Directory, 1999/2000-2001/2002
	2	Membership Benefits and Services, 2000
	3	Dues Reports, (1997/1998-2000/2001)
	4	Financial and Membership Information, 1993-1998
	5	Account Book (includes dues), 1992-2002
	6-7	Check Registers, August 23, 1992-April 29, 1999
	8	Dain Rauscher Investment Services/Investment Banking Statements and Tax Forms, 1998-2001
	9	Expense Ledgers (includes Dues Information), 1984-1993
	10-11	Legislative, 1981-1984, 2003
	12	PRISMS: Promoting Real-Life Interest and Success in Math and Science for Girls, 1996
	13	“Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America: A Call to Action, AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity,” ERIC Abstract, 1992
	14	Women’s History Month, Book Presentation and Poster Contest, 1997

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20	15	Women's History Month, Book Presentation and Essay/Poster Contest, 2000	
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		Photographs:	
	17	Janet Beger, Mary Dammann, Katy Paterson, March 11, 1999 (3)	
	18	State Convention, April 2000 (9)	
	19	Unidentified Luncheons, 1984, 1986, 1987, n.d. (23)	
	20	"The Way She Wore," December 1986 (14)	
	21	Women in History Contest, 1999 (9)	
	22	<u>Action Alert</u> , 1983	
	23	<u>Graduate Woman</u> , (1981-1984)	

#### ADDENDUM

21	1	Annual Meeting Postcard, 2004	
	2	Board Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2004, April 1, 2004	
	3	Board Job Descriptions, 2003-2004	
	4	The Initiative, Newsletter, (August/September 2003-Winter 2004/2005)	
	5	Membership Directory, 2003-2004	
	6	Women's History Month, (1999-2003)	
	7	Woman 2 Woman Summit, 2004	
	8	Honor List, 2004-2005	
	9	Diversity Turtle Award, 2003-2004	
	10	Branch Meeting Minutes, January 10, 1930-December 12, 1940	