



AAUW Cortland Branch An Early Historical Timeline

CORTLAND (NY) BRANCH

1949 - Cortland college first expressed an interest in having their graduates become eligible for AAUW membership.

1952 - Donnal Smith, President of SUNY Cortland, wrote to AAUW national headquarters asking again for this college to be approved. Letters from many alumnae prodded the administration to ask for this approval. When alumnae tried to join other AAUW branches, they were told that SUNY Cortland was not an approved college. This was a bias against teachers colleges at the time.

1952 - A letter from AAUW National told Donnal Smith that it would be several years before Cortland College would be considered due to a backlog of applications.

1953 - A letter from AAUW National told Donnal Smith that they were postponing the consideration of all applications until after the AAUW convention in 1955. The reason given was due to new methods being developed to evaluate programs of liberal education.

1956 - A letter from AAUW National informed Donnal Smith that the committee voted "not to invite you to proceed with your application." The reason was that in the 1955 convention the standard was adopted to require that half the requirements for any degree had to be in liberal courses. According to the committee's interpretation, only one of Cortland's options met this requirement.

1959 - A motion was passed at the AAUW National convention that "when an institution has been placed on the AAUW approved list, recipients of all baccalaureate degrees granted by that institution will be eligible for membership in the Association." It went on to say that liberal content would still be an important factor.

August, 1963 - A letter from AAUW National informed Dr. Donovan Moffett, president of SUNY Cortland that in June the national convention voted to list for AAUW membership eligibility any institution which offers a recognized baccalaureate or higher degree, which is accredited, and which requests listing. Since Cortland was already on the list they would now be considered by the board at their meeting in November.

November 18, 1963 - A letter from AAUW National informed the president of SUNY Cortland that they had officially been placed on the AAUW qualified list.

December 1963 - Ben Sueltz, who was acting President of SUNY Cortland wrote to AAUW National that Miss Shirley Wilson, Dean of Women, would be the liaison person between the college and AAUW National.

August 18, 1964 - A news item submitted by Grace Bentley reported that six local women met yesterday to discuss the formation of an AAUW Cortland chapter. Miss Lenore Allway, Miss Margaret Halligan, Mrs. Russell Bentley, Mrs. C.F. Crowe, Mrs. Edward Telling and Mrs. William Schaub talked with two women from the Binghamton chapter.

October 4, 1964 - Some 25 different colleges and universities were represented at an organizational meeting held at the YWCA. The four areas of study for this year were selected: community problems, cultural interests, education, and world problems. Temporary officers were elected: Miss Sandra Meade (Decker), chairman; Miss Barbara Kuhlman, secretary; Miss Lois Osborne, treasurer; and Mrs. Edward Telling, membership secretary.

1965-1966 Yearbook - President Miss Eleanor Blodgett, 48 members including Grace Bentley, Sandra Decker and Joan Johnson.

Fundraising through the years:

The sale of Claxton Fruit Cakes

Election News Service - AAUW volunteers donated their time to call in election results.

Garage Sale

AAUW Bed and Breakfast program

November 5, 1990 - AAUW Cortland branch celebrated its 25th anniversary at the home of Dorothy Hopkins.

