

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN MARYLAND
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- April 1942 Delegates of the Baltimore, College Park, and Frederick Branches, attending the South Atlantic Regional Conference in Baltimore, asked to form a Division in Maryland.
- Nov. 18, 1942 The Maryland State Division was officially launched with four branches (now including Carroll County) approving bylaws and electing Mrs. J. D. Duve as President
- 1943 The MD division began a Scholarship Handbook and a Speakers' Bureau as its first activities.
- 1944 The Marylander, the division bulletin, first appeared
- 1945 The division emphasized branch participation in fund raising for the AAUW Fellowships Program. A general workshop for program planning was held.
- 1947 The division launched its first independently sponsored Legislative Program.
- 1948 The division legislative chair assisted in organizing the MD Council on Education.
- 1950 An exhibition of children's paintings at the division convention became the first of numerous periodically held art shows at the state meetings.
- 1953 The division introduced workshops at state meetings to strengthen division and branch programming.
- A Code of Procedure was drafted for each board member to define duties.
- The state calendar was revised to list increased activity in the division.
- 1954 The International Relations Committee presented two major events: an AAUW sponsored booth on Thailand at the Baltimore Festival celebrating the founding of the United Nations; and the first of a series of one day trips to the United Nations in New York for county high school students.
- MD Area Mass Media (MAMM) awards began
- AAUW was represented in the UN Association of MD, the Nationalities Council and the MD Conference on Citizenship.

Improved financial management, better communication, a policy sheet, and position descriptions strengthened division administration.

1956 A MD high school student was given \$700 for a summer exchange in Finland as part of the International Farm Youth Exchange Program.

1957 Forty-six delegates went to the Association convention in Boston.
The division joined the American Council for Better Broadcasts and the Legislative Clearing House of MD.

1958 The division participated in a state arts resources assessment, a survey of mental health facilities in MD, and a study of guidance facilities.

A roster of women qualified for public service on the state level was compiled.

The Day in Annapolis was begun.

1960 An arts brochure on "Historical and Cultural Interests of MD" was published.

A study of junior colleges was begun.

The status of women roster was revised.

1964 The division worked toward the seating of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

The new AAUW structure from the Denver Convention was implemented.

A study of the status and career education projections of the division was begun.

1966 The Maryland State Division Endowment Fund for Fellowships was established.

1967 In May the 25th Anniversary of the Division was celebrated by 23 branches

The first Maryland Division handbook was completed.

An update and revision of the legislative program was made.

- 1969 Because of confusion over support for less restrictive abortion laws, a poll was taken. With a 25% response 84.5% were in favor of less restriction.
- 1971 The Division had 24 branches and 2,323 members. A new member brochure was published.
- The first named fellowship honoring a Maryland woman, the Bertha Sheppard Adkins Endowed Fellowship for Advanced Work in American History, Government and Politics, was established.
- 1972 The project, "Study of employment opportunities for mature women and problems related to their employment", (WERQ), was started.
- The Division became involved with the Smithsonian project on paintings executed before 1914.
- Began a study of state financing of education.
- 1973 A study of Maryland women making outstanding contributions to Maryland was begun.
- Women's Fair I was held in Baltimore.
- WERQ conferences were held.
- 1975 The MD International Endowed Fellowship (begin in 1966) made its first award.
- Four booklets from WERQ were published.
- The division was awarded a Service Project Grant for the identification and promotion of MD women leaders as contemporary models.
- The Choices and Challenges Project was begun.
- 1976 The Bicentennial project on MD women was published.
- 1977 An economics conference with MD National Bank was held.
- Restructuring of the division continued.
- 1981 The Families and Work project began.
- 1983 The Leadership Training Project, based on the California Handbook Leadership Project began. A \$1600 Research and Projects Community Service Grant was received.

- 1984 "Get Out the Vote" project was conducted.
- 1985 The McKeldin Library at the University of MD agreed to accept the AAUW records in its Women's Studies Collection.
- At the AAUW convention in Columbus, division members performed a 20-minute version of Aristophanes' Lysistrata.
- 1986 Choices and Challenges, a two-year project, began.
The MD State Department of Education gave a \$6,000 grant to continue the project began in 1975.
- Leaderlines, a communication to be used by branch and state leaders, was published for the first time.
- 1988 Maryland sponsored "Winning Words", a seminar held as part of the Regional Conference at the University of MD.
- 1989 The MD division received a \$4000 Education Foundation grant to hold a career fair in March 1990.
- 1990 AAUW was selected by Giant Food as part of their Women's History Month promotion to have an organization statement on their quart cartons of milk.
- The first Computer Math Science Fair was held at Annapolis Mail. The fair encouraged girls to take math and sciences courses and learn about careers in the math, science, and computer fields from female professionals.
- 1991 CMS Fair documentation won first place for MD in the Public Information Competition and the Project was displayed at the Power Station Display at the Association Convention in Portland, OR.
- MD was the first state to contribute to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's challenge to match the bequest of Peggy Keen.
- 1992 The MD Education Equity Roundtable was held as part of the AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity.
- 1993 The MD division became AAUW Maryland as a major bylaws revision was approved at the state convention.
- 1995 A Diversity task force was appointed.
- AAUW Maryland Public Policy Fellow Program was initiated to forge a liaison between the delegation in Annapolis and the Public Policy Committee.
- First Summer Leadership Conference was held.

AAUW MD advocated for continued funding for Title IX gender equity services by Maryland State Department of Education and for gender equity in the newly developed Maryland High School Assessment guidelines.

AAUW MD received the "Write Women Back Into History" Award from The National Women's History Project

Regional Dialogues for Change were conducted.

AAUW MD participated in the 75th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage by parading with thousands of other women's organizations in Washington, D.C.

1997 A Conference on Girls was held in coalition with the Maryland Commission for Women, the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland and the Department of Human Resources.

The first Women of Tomorrow Awards were presented to outstanding Maryland girls.

1998 AAUW Maryland signed on as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against Loudoun County VA Public Libraries. The use of Internet blocking software prevented patrons from accessing the AAUW MD web site. The federal district court declared the use of mandatory blocking software unconstitutional.

AAUW Maryland cosponsored a Conference for Girls which featured a sleepover at the Dental Museum and a day of workshops.

Work is on-going to add more information to this chronology.