

A History of the Ohio Division of The American Association of University Women

1923 - 1924

In 1921, The Association of Collegiate Alumnae changed its name to The American Association of University Women. With the change in name came also a wide growth throughout the United States not only in organization of new branches, but also in organization into sections and states. Ours was the Northeast Central Section consisting of the five states: Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Wisconsin was the first of these five states to form its state organization.

On February 2, 1924, Miss Emma Perkins of Cleveland called together seventy delegates and guests at Lazarus' Tea Room in Columbus for the purpose of effecting an organization of branches in Ohio. Miss Perkins was present at this organization meeting, speaking on the status of the national organization, its 267 branches, and its 17,000 members. Previous to the organization meeting in Columbus, Miss Perkins had called together the branch presidents in Ohio at Cleveland in October, 1923. At that time a committee had been appointed to draft a constitution for the state organization. This constitution had been prepared in the interim and was read to the group in Columbus; with a few changes it was unanimously adopted. Miss Emma Perkins was elected the first president of the state organization of AAUW in Ohio. She at once appointed chairmen of committees for the following specific work: college relations, education, legislation, art and drama, publicity, extension, membership, and exhibits.

The following branches were represented: Youngstown, Warren, Wooster, Oberlin, Oxford, Toledo, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland. Hamilton branch was not represented. Delaware and Dayton had representatives present at Columbus, who thought that branches might be formed in their communities and that automatically they would become members of the state organization. It was significant that at the organization meeting all the members participating reported their branches "in a state of healthy activity." Through the years the Ohio branches have continued to live up to the slogan they coined at their organization meeting.

On October 23-24 of the same year, the newly organized Ohio Federation of Branches met in Columbus with 150 delegates and guests present. At the opening dinner at the Maramor on October 23, Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, National President, gave an address on "Education for