

“SIXTY-THREE YEARS”

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN

FAIRBANKS BRANCH
AND
ALASKA DIVISION

Compiled by
Fairbanks Branch
American Association of University Women
1936 - 2005

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FORWARD

Thanks to wonderful historians Ellen Witcher, Barbara Matthews and Joyce Harris Upham from the Fairbanks Branch of the American Association of University Women. These women have kept track of important Alaska history over many years. AAUW is deeply rooted in territorial and State history.

Please note. This history does not include State and Branch information after 2005.

FAIRBANKS BRANCH BRIEF HISTORY REPORT

The Fairbanks Branch of AAUW was organized in November 1936, and recognized by the national Association in March the following year. March 1937. Some of the charter members were Mary Adler, Vide Bartlett, Lydia Fohn-Hansen, and Kay Patty, wife of the University president. The first meetings were dinner meetings held in downtown restaurants such as the Model Cafe and Pioneer Grill. The group met regularly for bridge to earn money for both local and national fellowships. Another money raiser was concerts held at the Empress Theatre, followed by teas.

In 1948, AAUW joined with the Soroptomist Club and Beta Sigma Phi to start a concert series in Fairbanks, bringing musical artists to the area. This became the FCCA, or Fairbanks Community Concert Association. The Branch even sponsored a Girl Scout and a Brownie Troop. In the early 1950's the Branch grew to 127 members.

From 1956 to 1961, the Branch held a Creative Arts Workshop each summer for 9-12 year olds. Members also sponsored the Fairbanks Children's Theatre for two years. This theatre group continues today. For many years we sponsored Jean Gordon's Young Linguists Group to introduce youngsters to foreign languages.

The Alaska Division of AAUW was officially recognized in 1965, with Myrtle Philleo of Fairbanks as its first president. The Branch continued raising money for scholarships and fellowships, holding its first House Tour in July 1973. This has become our primary fund raiser over the years. After two long

years of spearheading an area-wide push for bicycle trails, Branch members joined Governor Jay Hammond in 1976 as he dedicated and rode the first bike trail along Farmers Loop.

Some other past projects of ours included sponsoring two chairs for the Fairbanks Drama Association, contributing \$500 to the Judith Resnick American Fellowship Endowment in honor of the female astronaut killed in the Challenger mishap, sponsoring a public meeting on personal protection, spearheading a Pro-Choice Rally in Bicentennial Park, decorating a room at WICCA, and helping sponsor an area-wide motivational workshop “Discovering Me,” for girls in 6 - 8th grade, along with their accompanying parent or other adult.

Each year we offer two \$500 scholarships to local women planning to upgrade their education or pursue educational projects. We have an active Book Group that meets monthly, and a Travel Group that meets whenever a traveling AAUW member is willing to share trip slides and memories. There is also interest in reviving our Movie Video group.

Some of our earliest Branch presidents were Lola Tilly, Kay Patty, and Myrtle Philleo. Under the leadership of our current president, Susan Johnson, we look forward to another fun and productive year in the Fairbanks Branch of AAUW.

IN- DEPTH HISTORY
OF
THE FAIRBANKS BRANCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY
WOMEN
1936 -1946

The Fairbanks Branch of AAUW was organized at the home of Mrs. Bernard Carr, November 14, 1936. Mrs. Carr had met with Dr. Bunnell, President of the University of Alaska, in New Haven, Connecticut. On her return to Fairbanks, she asked her friends about forming such a group. The National Headquarters were contacted and the formal process of becoming a branch of the Association was underway. Mr. E. L. Bartlett, a charter member, chaired the committee to draft a constitution for the Branch. Upon completion of the necessary constitution and local bylaws and election of officers, the Branch was recognized by the national organization on March 24, 1937, although the letter did not arrive until April 17.

Meetings were first held at the Model Cafe and Pioneer Grill downtown since these restaurants were large enough to accommodate the original twenty-four members and their guests. These were dinner meetings. Members were close-knit in friendship as well as bound to work together in study groups and raising money for local and national fellowships. The Branch members also met regularly for bridge, charging each member a fee for the Fellowship Fund.

Almost from the start, concerts were held to raise money. In the fall and spring of 1938-1939, concerts were held using

local talent from the membership, citizens, and personnel stationed at the nearby military base, Ladd Field. The concerts were held at the Empress Theatre (near Co-Op on Second Avenue). Patrons were charged \$1.50 and teas followed each concert.

Study groups were formed to explore topics suggested by the Association. The arts, world affairs, legislative advancement, and literature dominated this early period from 1936 to 1946. One study group worked on licensing and supervision of homes caring for children. In February, 1938, it was resolved that America should boycott Japanese goods.

In 1942, war in Alaska seemed a real possibility. The National War Relief Fund gave the Branch \$500 in case of need. This was invested in a bond. National headquarters of AAUW contributed money, which was also used to buy a bond. The bonds were allowed to mature and came to the rescue of the Branch in the 1950's when concert involvement was greatest.

During the war years membership increased. The Branch supported the war effort by selling bonds and entertaining servicemen at the U.S.O. with Sunday dinners and cookies at social events. Problems in handling the social functions were noted in the minutes of the time: From the Secretary to Lt. Alvin Hebert, Ladd Field. "The AAUW went on record endorsing your plan to provide companionship for the soldiers, but the members asked me to tell you that they do not have any daughters of a suitable age for these "social" functions some members would be glad to act as chaperones or invite the soldiers to their homes for dinner." During the summer of 1942, the Branch

sponsored the Fairbanks Garden Club to promote Victory gardens. That same summer, members had a garden tour. The big money raising effort became an annual winter concert. Proceeds went to aid a graduating senior girl intending to continue her studies at the University of Alaska.

As the war progressed, dinner meetings gave way to desserts. Meetings were held in such places as City Hall and the Tivoli Cafe, but as the food was less complicated, member's homes were often used for meetings. Each member was assessed the cost of refreshments, ranging from a low of fifty cents to a high of one dollar.

A special interest group of the period was to make a film of Mt. McKinley Park. In 1941, Dr. Adolf Murie took 100 feet of film for the Branch. The whereabouts of the film is unknown today.

Membership had increased from the original 24 to 46. The treasury grew from \$50 to a high of \$1,100 due to the War Bonds.

1946 - 1956

During the second ten years of Fairbanks Branch of AAUW, members had ambitious plans for money-raising concerts, which were the mainstay of the period.

“The efforts of the Branch were directed toward the success of the Fairbanks Concert Committee. The Committee was organized in the spring of 1948 by the AAUW, the local Soroptomist Club, and the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi; three members from each of the organizations forming the executive committee. For the first time in Fairbanks history a concert season by imported artists was presented. The Committee purchased a Steinway piano, each of the participating organizations putting up 1/3 of the down payment, with the expectation that the piano would eventually be paid for from concert proceeds. The piano was purchased in Seattle and flown to Fairbanks in time for the first concert scheduled for October {on account of the west coast maritime strike most imports came by air. From then on a series of events occurred which might have happened elsewhere, but illustrate the frustrations to which Alaskans are often subjected.

The only place adequate for concerts was one of the local theatres, which the Committee could afford only on Sunday afternoon, as there was no matinee scheduled for that time. Any delay meant postponement until another Sunday. Also to have the artists' fees within reach, they had to have concerts scheduled in other Alaskan towns on the same tour. Carol Brice was the artist for the first concert in October, 1948, Fartell and Wennerhold were booked to sing in November, and Amparo Iturbi was scheduled to use the new piano in April.

The night before the first concert word was received that Miss Brice was weathered in in Juneau and would be unable to reach Fairbanks the next day. She did come the next month to give a concert. Then word was received that Mr. Wennerhold had died and Mr. Hatfield was being substituted in his place, and the concert would come off according to schedule. It did— with reservations.

The party was weathered in in Anchorage but the plane finally got through, landing at the airport at the time the concert was scheduled to start. The audience had come in -35 degree weather so no one wandered away while they waited. Before the end of the first group of numbers, it was apparent something was amiss and then the program was hastily revised, Miss Fartell carrying on by herself. Mr. Hatfield had imbibed too copiously while waiting for flying weather and the curtain had to be rung down in the middle of one of his numbers, and that is the last the audience saw of him.

Next, word was received that Miss Iturbi could not keep her April engagements, but could come to Alaska the first week in January. For Fairbanks, that meant Sunday, January 2, a time not ordinarily desirable after New Year's celebrations. However, plans were changed to accommodate the artist and a greeting party met the plane from the States the evening before the concert. No artist arrived! Some frantic wiring disclosed she had reservations to arrive early the next morning. Of course that plane was late but she was finally welcomed at 10 a.m. She had been up all the day before and all night and would need the rest of the day to rest. When informed the audience would be waiting at 2:30 she was amazed. She had not read her contract

but had assumed it was an evening performance.

Then, when Miss Iturbi learned she was to use a Steinway, she absolutely refused to go on as she was under contract to Baldwin. This had been taken up with her manager but she knew nothing of it, and would not consent to appear until she talked to the local Baldwin agent who assured her there was not a Baldwin piano available for the concert. The concert started on schedule, but Miss Iturbi was most unhappy with the Steinway and at intermission refused to return to the stage. The audience enjoyed a much longer intermission than usual while a Baldwin spinet was located in someone's apartment and 8 husbands recruited from the piano and carried it to the theatre, fortunately a short distance. The Branch indicated—"We are keeping our fingers crossed for the coming season."

Other concerts were arranged through the Alaska Music Trails. This group, directed by Mr. Maxim Shapiro, was formed to bring artists from Alaska and from outside the Territory to Alaskan audiences for greater appreciation of fine music.

Members also participated in the Fairbanks Dog Derby and Ice Carnival. Teas were given at the Nordale Hotel following the Carnival, which was held in the spring.

Mrs. David Adler helped organize and promote a Book and Toy Exhibit before Christmas each year. This was a community interest project to put in one place suitable presents for children.

The Branch continued to support the U.S.O. and sponsored a Girl Scout and a Brownie Troop. The sale of calendars and

magazine subscriptions, Pink and White Elephant Sales, and book sales helped keep the Branch in the black since the purchase of the Steinway piano and meeting the expenses of performers was a constant worry. The money was also used to help a high school girl attend the University of Alaska and for contributions to the National Fellowship Fund.

Study groups on children, arts, and world affairs were topics of the regular meetings. Local problems of the school system, city planning and zoning and the University of Alaska were explored. Other meetings consisted of slide-talk shows of Russia, Hawaii and Peru. At Christmas regular Branch meetings were dispensed with in favor of musical entertainment. Members and choral groups from the town and University were heard at different times. Spring luncheons usually had notable persons as speakers, such as commanding Generals from the nearby bases, visiting national AAUW officers, and even Bradford Washburn, Director of the Museum of Science in Boston.

Toward the end of the second decade, the Branch had 127 members and \$500 in the treasury.

1956 - 1966

The years from 1956-1966 were ones of change: Alaska became a State; the town population had doubled; the University of Alaska was well established; travel and communications to the outside were easier. Music remained the money raiser, but art became the main interest of the Branch.

By 1956, the Steinway had been paid for. It had seen hard use and the decision was made to sell the piano. Besides, the concerts had become profitable and were standard fare in the town.

The AAUW Branch and the two cooperating organizations, Soroptomists and Beta Sigma Phi, were asked to form the Fairbanks Community Concert Association. The Branch had helped establish the concert idea and by 1958 national artists were being invited to make the series more interesting. So the three groups gave up their formal association and the FCCA was formed. The three organizations still participated by selling tickets, attending concerts, and serving as officers in the new association. The original association was ended when the jointly owned piano was sold in 1958.

In the second half of the 1950's, the Branch began holding art shows in the local schools. This idea was enlarged to include public showings of art borrowed from museums outside. The Branch paid shipping costs and arranged for display locally. The Fairbanks group also sponsored showings of local artists. All of the efforts to educate the Branch members and the public about art were not entirely successful as shown by this comment in a President's report:

“A great lack of interest of the local membership is art and an even greater obstacle is the fact that those who express an interest in art have no comprehension of contemporary art except for paintings of a moose in a meadow.”

Study groups waned during this third decade, though membership was at its highest, nearly one hundred members.

From art the Branch moved into theatre, radio and television. A mass media survey taken in 1959-1960 showed, among other things, that radio programming could be improved. To this end, members worked for more educational and interesting programming. Results of the survey were presented to the Chamber of Commerce. In the spring of 1965, a member read stories for children each Thursday afternoon on KFAR-TV. The series lasted eight weeks and was later picked up as a storytime by KUAC(FM).

From 1956-1961, the Branch conducted a Creative Arts Workshop for children. These workshops included ceramics, dance, drama and art, and were offered to 9-12 year olds for six Saturdays each summer.

The Branch sponsored the Fairbanks Children's Theatre in its first production “The Emperor's New Clothes.” Members made and painted backdrops, and their children appeared in the show. This sponsorship lasted two years and the theatre group is still in existence.

In 1964, member Jean Gordon began a Young Linguists Group. The Branch sponsored her efforts to introduce languages to young children in an informal setting. French, Spanish, and

German were some of the languages offered, depending on the availability of teachers. This program continues today.

Membership declined during these years to a low of 71.

The Alaska Division of AAUW was officially recognized by the Association as a state division, the 50th, at the 1965 convention in Portland. Myrtle Philleo of Fairbanks was introduced to the convention as the first state president. Delegates from Fairbanks and Anchorage were there to share the applause. At the end of that year the first Division Bulletin was published containing news from all six branches: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau-Douglas, Kodiak, Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe and Ketchikan. In April, 1968, the first state convention was held in Juneau with eight members of the Fairbanks Branch in attendance. The theme was "Getting to Know You." The second state convention, in 1970, was held in Fairbanks.

Prior to 1955 the University of Alaska was not on the AAUW list of approved colleges and universities and therefore alumnae were not eligible for membership. Many of them attended branch meetings, however and it was a happy day in 1955 when the University of Alaska became an approved institution and we could take its alumnae into membership. During the 1960's the university was a corporate member for a time but then dropped its membership. Corporate membership was renewed in 1976 and Lola Tilly was named corporate delegate by the university. By this time the university had several campuses in the state making liaison with other branches more feasible.

The city of Fairbanks suffered a devastating flood in August, 1967. This did not deter the Branch from holding its annual fall membership tea. Mrs. K. M. Rae offered her home on campus on the hill since no home down in the flood plain could be cleaned up in time for the event.

From 1967 onward the Branch continued to select study topics closely related to problems at hand. Mental health, pollution and native rights captured the attention of the Branch in the middle 1960's. In implementing the programs, public meetings were held and there were forums on television and radio with prospective legislators, and local candidates and issues were given equal attention.

Fellowships fund raising moved from selling magazines, bridge and dinner parties to fashion shows and benefit dances. Beginning in 1970 and continuing for two or three years funds were raised by selling chances on a painting or a sculpture by well-known Alaskan artists. In July 1973 the first Golden Days House Tour took place, with four Fairbanks homes open to the public. Despite torrential rains the tour was a great success. It has become an annual event, held during Golden Days, Fairbanks' week-long celebration of the discovery of gold and the subsequent founding of the city. Each tour has been more successful than the previous one.

Contributions to the Fellowships fund, or the Educational Foundation as it has now become, have included three named gifts of \$500 each. One was given in memory of Kathryn Patty, another in memory of Myrtle Philleo and one as a tribute to Lola Tilly in appreciation of her devotion to the Branch. A

\$500 gift in Vide Bartlett's name is planned for 1977.

In the Fall of 1972 the Branch spearheaded a bicycle survey to discover if there was a need for bicycle paths in the Fairbanks area. For the next four years members wrote letters, testified in favor of bike paths and even appeared on radio and TV to explain the survey. Results of the survey came to fruition in 1976 when Governor Hammond dedicated the Farmer's Loop bike path, built by the Department of Highways.

Reading and creative writing groups, both with monthly meetings, were formed in the 1970's. For a while an observer program, with members attending borough assembly and school board meetings regularly, seemed well established in the early 1970's. Although it has not continued it aroused greater interest in the proceedings of the two bodies and some members continue to attend.

Now that there are many cultural and educational organizations in the community, AAUW membership has declined from years past when there was less "competition" and perhaps fewer demands on one's time. However, membership appears to be on the increase again and although our total is still under 60, the percentage of members who attend branch meetings and are involved in branch activities is greater than it has been for several years. Life begins at 40)

Compiled from minutes and other archives by Joyce Harris Upham: March, 1977

ALASKA DIVISION AAUW HISTORY: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE DIVISION:

The Alaska Division of the American Association of University Women was officially recognized at the 1965 national convention in Portland. President Myrtle Philleo and secretary Ellen Whitcher, both from Fairbanks, were called to the convention stage to receive an ovation from the audience which included presidents Priscilla Ferguson, Anchorage, and Margaret Van Flein, Fairbanks, and delegates from their branches.

Groundwork for the Alaska Division had started many years before. In 1958 Dr. Cox, North Pacific Region vice president, asked Margaret Davidson of Ketchikan to head a steering committee to form a state division. I was the Fairbanks member of the committee but do not recall who represented Juneau and Anchorage. I do remember that progress was very slow. We were working on proposed bylaws when Mrs. Davidson moved out of state.

In the fall of '59, each of the four Alaska branches was asked to submit the name of a delegate to the State Presidents Conference the following summer—the first time Alaska had been included. I was the lucky one chosen and spent several days in Washington, stopping at Ketchikan, Juneau, and Anchorage on my way home.

The following year, 1961, Frances Concordia, Association treasurer and longtime board member, came to Alaska for the “birth” of the Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe branch. During her visits to the branches, a state division was mentioned and so in '62, I believe, a Committee for a State Division was formed. I was

chairman, working with the branch presidents. Dr. Cox had resigned because of family illness. Arealie Shannon, her successor, was a great help and inspiration to us.

There was much correspondence with its usual frustrating delays. Then, as now, it seemed to take forever to contact everyone and get replies. We seldom phoned — rates were much higher then and there was little money. Each branch contributed something, but the “kitty” just about covered postage, as I recall.

Before we could be chartered or officially, recognized, bylaws had to be drawn up and approved by the Association Bylaws Committee as well as by our branches, a nominating committee appointed, slate of officers presented, and elections held — all by mail. We did it! At times we despaired, for there was seldom unanimity — but finally in the spring of '65 (and by then there were six branches, for Kodiak had been chartered), we had it all together, and in June we were launched. Then the real struggle began.

The first officers, who were to serve two years, served three because a state convention was not practicable until 1968. We had to depend mainly on correspondence, but we were often helped by Edgar Philleo, “Mr. AAUW,” who had a list of AAUW calls to make whenever a business trip took him near a branch. We used his office for conference calls and ran off a newsletter on his press. Myrtle printed our letterheads, too.

Our membership in '65-66 was 385. It has not yet reached that high again. The first state convention was held in Juneau in 1968. Losing Ketchikan, the oldest branch in Alaska, in 1971

was a blow. Margaret Petro, second president, was unable to fill her term of office because of illness and family problems. Carolyn Moody, first vice president, took over Mrs. Petro's duties and then was elected president at the second state convention in Fairbanks in 1970.

A look through our scrapbooks tells more of our history. These had been formative years rather than years of great accomplishment. But we are a young division in a young state — and both division and state are growing.

— **Ellen Whitcher, April 1974**

DIVISION Established:

June 1965

BRANCHES Established:

Ketchikan:	1934, withdrew 1971, reinstated 1980
Fairbanks:	1937
Anchorage:	1955
Juneau:	1955
Sitka:	1961
Kodiak:	1965

DIVISION REGIONAL MEETINGS:

May 66 in Sitka

April 71 in Juneau

October 73 in Juneau 1968

“Getting to Know You” was the theme of the first Division convention in Juneau, April 19-21. Dr. M. Marion Spector, AAUW 2nd VP, was speaker and travel visitor.

1970 The second Division convention was held in Fairbanks April 3-5 with the theme “Tuned to Action” and 25 out-of-town participants. Registration fee was \$3, banquet \$5.50, and Saturday luncheon \$4. Snowy weather both in Fairbanks and Anchorage interrupted the Spring weather just enough to cause distress, making planes late and appointments untimely. President Carolyn Moody arrived a day late due to illness, and

the 2nd VP had to preside until she arrived. Association visitor Dorothy Thornton, North Pacific Region VP, suggested a committee draw up a state policy sheet, as we currently had none.

1970-72 Carolyn Moody was Division president.

1971 A statewide workshop was held April 2 in Juneau with Mrs. Maxine Johnson, Missoula, Montana, as visitor. She spoke at a Saturday luncheon emphasizing a push towards legislative involvement, urging members to have “little action groups” on some local or state project of significance. From Juneau, she visited Anchorage, Kodiak, and Fairbanks. Although Ketchikan branch disbanded, state membership increased 5%. The 1971 Association convention was held June 27 - July 1 in Dallas, TX, with five Alaskans attending. “Alaska was very much heard from at the Convention in Dallas,” said the NJ state president. Alaskan delegates answered questions and passed out brochures, newspapers, and pamphlets which were snapped up by other delegates. Pink was the official convention color and the Dallas Committee wore pink tailored dresses.

1972 The third Division convention “Launch Your Branch for Action” was held April 21-23 in Anchorage with two out-of-state participants: Dr. Patricia Lanier, Association 1st VP and member of the EFP board, and Mrs. Dorothy Thornton, North Pacific Regional VP. Connie Stewart was elected Division president, 72-74. Registration was \$13 which included the banquet and meals. The Division adopted the concept of satellite branches. 71-72 the Division contributed \$6.40 per capita to EFP, 8th in the nation. The Regional Convention was held in Missoula, Montana, Aug. 3-5.

In October the Alaska Division had 218 members.

The annual Division board meeting and workshop was held in Juneau, with the theme “Today =Tomorrow Power.”

April 1, 1973, the Division listed 266 members. Eight of them attended the Association convention in Washington, D.C., June 17-21, bringing with them a Division banner made by members of the Juneau-Douglas branch. Already opening AAUW to men was discussed, with lots of views expressed. A big “first” for Alaska: Robbie Stell of Juneau was elected at the North Pacific Regional dinner as NP delegate to the Association nominating committee. The 1973 fall Division board meeting was travelling Round Robin with president Connie Stewart flying to branches. The meeting was called to order in Anchorage on October 18 at 9 a.m., reopened in Fairbanks Oct. 24, and in Juneau on Oct. 27. The booklet “The Native Peoples of Alaska” sold for \$1.50 a copy, raising money for the Alaska Division Centennial Fellowship Fund. In September 1974 the booklet reverted back to the Anchorage branch which produced it. The Division raised \$1980 for EFP, or \$7.44 per capita. Issues were “This Beleaguered Earth, A Dollars Worth, Crisis in Public Education,” and “We the People.”

1974 Sitka was the site of the April 26-28 Division convention, “Participation Is the Name of the Game.” Keynote speaker was Dr. Claire Fulcher, AAUW 1st VP. Our regional VP, Dorothy Thornton, was also a visitor. On Saturdays the workshop theme was “Leadership Training.” Nancy Gross was elected Division president 74-76. Concern was expressed that state membership had decreased to 245 members. National

ratification of the ERA was a major concern, with 5 more states needed to ratify by March, 1979. Alaska has already ratified.

Division dues were \$3, with 265 members listed by Sept. 1, 1974. Alaska's per capita giving to EFP was \$9.90, 3rd in the nation.

1975 The Association convention was held in Seattle, June 15-19, with Ellen Witcher chosen official Alaskan delegate along with Division president Nancy Gross. The Division selected Kodiak to receive a special one-time-only Association travelship for \$200 to the convention. The Alaskan delegation was recognized on the floor for being the only division with a representative present from every branch. Association dues were raised \$2 to \$8.50, with Life Membership \$190.

In February the Division listed 259 members, but this dropped to approximately 211 by November on new membership rolls.

In October, 1975, newly elected Association president Dr. Marjorie Bell Chambers visited Sitka, Fairbanks, and Anchorage, a real treat for Alaska.

1976 Association convention was in Juneau with Marianne Craft Norton, Washington Division president, as travel visitor. Mae Dunsing was elected Division president 76-78. The program included tea at the Governor's mansion. The \$15 registration fee included two dinners!

Membership was 234, and the Division contributed \$2200 to EFP, or \$8.53 per member.

The North Pacific Regional meeting was held July 29-31 in Ontario, Oregon, and was attended by our new president Mae Dunsing.

1977 Eight members attended the 29th Association convention, "Bridges to Equality," in Minneapolis. The Division received an Association grant of \$3,000 over a two-year period to increase membership. Alaska branches contributed \$3,621 to EFP in 1977. Attempts were made to organize branches in Ketchikan and Kenai/Soldotna; also possibly in Tok.

As of November 1, Division membership stood at 241: Anchorage 81, Fairbanks 46, Juneau-Douglas 40, Kodiak 29, Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe 44, and 1 Member-at-large.

1978 Kodiak was the site of the Division convention April 28-30, with 40 persons attending. Travel visitors were Anne Voilleque, NP Region VP, and Dr. Yvonne Condell, Chair AAUW EFP, who led workshops on membership.

Jan Foster, Anchorage, was elected president 78-80. Membership at that time was Anchorage 89, Fairbanks 51, Juneau 44, Kodiak 39, and Sitka 44, plus 3 members at large. Specific problems discussed were the same ones that have plagued the Division since its inception: Board not acquainted, transportation a problem, and no time for communication/discussion except every two years. Division dues are \$3.

Division contributions to EFP were \$4,649.43.

The NP Region conference, "Women in Action," was held July 28-30 in Spokane, Washington. The Association funded the trip to the conference for Alaska President Jan Foster and

1st VP Barbara Matthews. Discussed was applying for a grant to send two members from each division in the NP Region to Alaska's convention in May, 1980.

1979 In early May, Anne Voilleque, NP Region VP, and Jeanette Miller, Calif. Division president, visited each branch in Alaska. Evelyn Bonner of Sitka put together an Alaskan slide show, with each branch asked to send in 10 slides of their activities.

Eleven Alaskan delegates were among the 2050 members attending the 30th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 24-28. The Association board voted to pay airfare of division presidents from Alaska and Hawaii to the nearest city in the continental U.S. for this convention only. Alaska contributions to EFP were \$2,960.

Ketchikan reorganized, having disbanded in 1971, and was rechartered in November. The Division reported 266 members, although branches listed Sitka 39, Juneau 58, Anchorage 112, Fairbanks 50, and Kodiak 3, or 291.

1980 In January Alaska was informed it could call on the WATS Line to the Educational Center in Washington, DC, for a 6-month trial period. With 1,980 branches in the Association, AAUW bylaws prohibit the Association president from traveling to branch meetings; however, Alaska is the exception. Travel visitors to Alaska in February were Mary Grefe, Association President, and Anne Voilleque, North Pacific Vice President. They visited Fairbanks, Kodiak, Anchorage, Juneau, and Ketchikan. Weather prevented a scheduled stop at Sitka. President Grefe observed that Alaska must be "experienced first

hand to be understood...only after visiting the state can one appreciate the special and unique problems of Alaska.”

The annual State Executive Board meeting was February 7 in Juneau. The Association gave Alaska two free registrations to the Boston Centennial convention that summer, to give to branches with membership under 75 Ketchikan, the newest branch, received one and the second fell by lot to Juneau. The Division contributed \$4,364 or \$7.44 per capita to EFP.

The 7th biennial Division convention was held in Fairbanks May 16-18, with the theme “Be A Voice, Not An Echo.” The Division applied for and was granted a \$2,000 State Division Public Service Project grant to bring eight travel visitors to Alaska to conduct a day-long community workshop (Families Facing Change: stress management, effectiveness training, conflict management, communication; and Parliamentary Procedure and Grant Writing) and to participate in the Division convention: Marianne Craft Norton, Claudia Gray, Dr. Aiayne Hannaford, Linda Kroll, Jane Lopp, Ann Felice Rogers, Janet Sperry, and Anne Voilleque. The morning Membership/Program Workshop was “Putting It All Together.” Registration cost \$25. Jan Foster was reelected president 1980-82, but when she moved out of state in 1981, Jane Snyder of Fairbanks took over the remainder of her term. The NP Regional Conference was held July 27-29 in Kalispell, Montana.

1981 The first AAUW Alaska Division Legislative Day, “Be A Voice,” was held in Juneau so members could lobby for AAUW issues, meet legislators, and view a general session or committee hearing.

Thanks to the hard work of all branches, the Alaska Division contributed \$4,834 to the EFP 1980-81. At the Association convention in Boston in June, President Jane Snyder and Marcia Oswalt accepted two Association awards for Alaska: highest per capita contribution for the 10 year period of the Centennial Fund, and 2nd highest per capita contribution for 1980-81. The Centennial Fund was completed at \$10.6 million. Sixteen Alaskan members attended the national convention, where total registration was 3391. The Alaska Division was also honored with two membership awards: one for the greatest percentage increase in branches in the biennium 1979-81, and one for the greatest percentage increases in membership. Ellen Whitcher of Fairbanks won the AAUW-ERA raffle prize of \$500.

1982 The Division convention was held April 30 - May 2 in Anchorage, with Dr. Evelyn Bonner of Sitka elected president 82-84. Travel visitor Bette Willson, member of the AAUW Education Foundation and chair of the Policy Committee, presented a workshop "Money Talks." Banquet speaker was Judith Ross, Regional Chair of "Families and Work." Doris Davies, North Pacific Regional VP from Montana, attended as a resource person. Anchorage branch members provided housing. Registration cost was \$35 which included all meals and the workshop. The Division contributed \$5,202 to EFP.

The NP Regional Conference, "Women: A New Era," was July 30 - August 1 in Moscow, Idaho.

In October the Division held its first audio-conference on the Legislative Teleconference Network, funded by a Division Topic Implementation grant.

1983 The Association convention was held in San Francisco June 25-29, with 13 Alaskans attending. Alaska Division ranked highest per capita in contributions to EFP. Fairbanks branch made an AAUW Division banner to display at convention, highlighting “Advocacy Network.”

AAUW President Mary Purcell and Doris Davies, NP Region VP, visited all six Alaskan branches February 28 - March 8.

We continued to hold board meetings via audio-conference on the Legislative Teleconference Network (using their network “after hours”). Association President Mary Purcell and Executive Director Quincalee Brown participated from Washington, DC, in the May 23 Alaska Division board meeting via audio-conference, a “first” for Alaska! The Division must fund any future teleconferences, as the grant was for one year, so each branch was asked to contribute \$1 per member to continue the teleconferences until the Division Convention when a possible dues increase could be discussed.

The board voted to establish an Alaska Division Research and Projects Endowment with an initial \$6,000 raised by Alaska branches. We must raise \$25,000 in 10 years to establish this.

The Alaska Legislature issued a citation honoring AAUW for “its impressive record of achievement.”

On June 29, 1983, the Alaska Division Bulletin received a certificate of honorable mention (or 3rd place) in the category of under 2500 members in national competition with 18 other state divisions of similar size.

1984 The Division convention, “Empowering Women,” was

held April 27 - 29 in Sitka. Travel visitors were Judith Turpin, AAUW Peace and National Security Chair, who led a workshop on "Peace & National Security," and Claudia Gray, Director of the North Pacific Region, who led the workshop "Integrating Branch Program/Branch Administration." Registration fee was \$40 which included meals, and housing was provided by Sitka branch members. Marcia Oswalt, Kodiak, was elected 1984-86 Division president. Division dues were raised from \$3/year to \$10/year.

Marcia Oswalt and Marcia McKenzie attended the North Pacific Regional Conference in Portland, Oregon, July 20-22, "Updating Today's Woman." Delegates proposed changing the Region's name to "Mountain-Pacific Region." Alaska Division was first in EFP per capita giving (\$18.33) for 1983-84 and the Alaska Division Research and Projects Endowment has grown to \$11,042.61 in only two years.

The Division Board had been able, during the past year and a half, to meet several times by using the State Legislative Information Teleconference Network. Initially this was funded by a Topic Implementation Grant from the Foundation and carried on this year by branch contributions of \$1 per member. Most Division Board members felt this continued communication was necessary to our growth as a Division. Recently use of the Legislative Teleconference Network was closed to nonprofit users, including AAUW. Money to operate the Division was a real concern, with Board members having to absorb many of their own expenses. It was felt this limited the number of people who could afford to hold office, and discouraged Division communication.

1985 Governor Bill Sheffield proclaimed the week of March 3-9, 1985, as American Association of University Women Week in Alaska. The proclamation stated in part: “The American Association of University Women has existed in Alaska for over 30 years and has branches in six communities. Its total membership is over 300.” In January Juneau reported 102 members, Anchorage 80, Fairbanks 66, and Kodiak 55.

Seven Alaskan delegates attended the 1985 national convention, “Education, Equity, and Change,” held in Columbus, Ohio, June 23-27. Association issues were “Public Support for Public Education” and “Women’s Work/Women’s Worth.” MVP Fiarriet Booth and PDVP Marcia McKenzie were selected to attend a pre-convention Membership Workshop to become AAUW Orientation Trainers.

The Alaska Division was awarded \$100 seed money to implement a Division orientation program. At the convention the Division sold a “Planning for College” booklet (prepared by Ketchikan with \$2000 Public Service Grant) and Alaska theme gift wrap paper, produced by Kodiak, raising \$240 for EFP. Alaska Division was recognized at the convention for being second in per-capita contributions for 1984-85. Our total contribution this year was \$5,420.60. Association dues increased to \$22 beginning January 1. ERA continued to be AAUW’s top priority.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts awarded the Division a \$5,362 grant to send a small version of Judy Chicago’s “The Birth Project,” a provocative fiber exhibit, to small communities around the state in the spring of 1986.

1986 Juneau was the site of the Division convention, April 25-27, with the theme “A Capital Affair.” For the first time, members attending were urged to stay at the convention hotel rather than individual homes, to promote some after-hours togetherness. Registration fee was \$30, plus \$25 for the banquet Saturday night. Travel visitor was Gretchen Ilgenfritz, Director of the Mountain-Pacific Region. Marcia McKenzie of Juneau was elected president 86-88. Our Alaska Research and Projects Endowment reached \$16,463.21 in three years.

The Division actively showed its support for the issue of Pay Equity by joining the Pay Equity Coalition, a statewide federation of member organizations and individuals formed three years ago.

The Mt.-Pacific Regional Conference was July 24-27 on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham.

Association President Sarah Harder and Mountain Pacific Director Gretchen Ilgenfritz made branch visits in Alaska September 8-13.

In October Division membership stood at 228. Instead of four bulletins a year, the Board decided to have three, to help the budget.

1987 The Division sponsored the first International Essay Competition for highschool students grades 9-12, to stimulate global awareness in Alaskans. We were the first Division to report “honor roll” contributions (\$1 per member) to the Judith Resnik American Fellowships Endowment with 100% participation. At a special presentation to NASA in June at the

Association Convention in Houston, Alaska was the first state listed on the scroll, along with all six branches. Convention members voted to admit men to AAUW for the first time, and three men joined Alaska branches in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Anchorage!

The Division sold Alaskan coloring books at \$4 each (\$3.50 plus .50 for shipping) to raise funds for EFP. We contributed \$4,525 this year, including \$984 for the Resnik Endowment. Three teleconferences were held.

1988 Anchorage, with Kodiak assisting, hosted the Division convention, "Reach for the Stars," with 50 people attending. Leaders on Loan were Oklahoma Division President Vivien Ng, Kathy Marshall from Minnesota, and NP Regional Director Barbara Fischlowitz. Three Division projects were introduced: a Bicentennial Girl Scout Individual Liberties Patch and packet for Alaskan Girl Scout Councils, a Time to Care/Value of Volunteer Experience project, and a "Promoting Individual Liberties/Freedom to Read" project to develop critical reading skills with "Freedom to Read" units focusing on so-called banned books. Three branches (Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Ketchikan) participated in the national AAUW Time to Care survey. Rosemary van der Laan was elected president 88-90. Housing for the convention was the Barratt inn, with some meetings and the banquet held at the Clarion Hotel; the banquet celebrated 100 years of EFP.

The Division listed 300 members 88-89, one of nine divisions to show growth. Division dues were \$10. Membership was: Anchorage 36, Fairbanks 61, Juneau-Douglas 78, Ketchikan 20,

Kodiak 54, and Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe 16, or a total of 265. Total Division contributions to EFP this year was \$4,260, with the Alaska Endowment now at \$25,000.

This year the Division International Essay Contest had the support of the Alaska State Writing Consortium.

The Association Biennial Convention was held June 24-25 in Washington, DC. The Alaska Division had proposed an AAUW Gender Balance Resolution encouraging leading women's organizations to join a national effort to attain a gender balance on state boards and commissions by 1999. The resolution did not pass.

The Regional Conference was held at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu July 28-31, with the theme "One Gender- Varied Cultures: Reconciling the Difference." Alaska received a \$1500 grant from the Association, used for registration fees for the six Division members attending and to partially reimburse travel expenses, according to the Division policy formula.

The Association awarded the Division a Seed Grant of \$750 for our Time to Care project "The Value of Volunteer Experience," one of only eight Association awards for TTC.

1989 "Not for Women Only: A public forum on work/family issues" was the title of a partnership project to promote positive societal change through a consciousness-raising program demonstrating that work/family issues are NOT the concern of women only. Public forums were held in Anchorage and Juneau, with focus on state and federal Family Medical Leave legislation. Also 3-hour leadership/development sessions were

offered for branch members. Two Kodiak AAUW leaders went to Anchorage, and one leader from Sitka and one from Ketchikan worked with Juneau leaders. The Association funded airfares for these traveling leaders.

The whole Division is now participating in the pilot program for direct billing of dues.

The Alaska Division signed on to a state Amicus (Friend of the Court) Brief, submitted by the National Committee on Pay Equity, on behalf of the Alaska Commission for Human Rights, for review by the Alaska Supreme Court. The Court recently decided against a claim by Public Health Nurses that the state had violated the Alaska equal pay statute by paying PHN's less than Physicians Assistants.

A Division Pro-Choice coordinator was selected to work with branch coordinators on the Pro-Choice campaign in Alaska.

Governor Steve Cowper proclaimed March 5-12 "AAUW Week" in Alaska. This coincided with the national AAUW Week. The Legislature also issued a Legislative Citation in honor of AAUW Week.

The Division sponsored the third annual AAUW International Essay Contest, with the Alaska State Writer's Consortium again endorsing the contest.

The 35th AAUW Biennial Convention, "Choices, Changes, Connections," was held in Washington, DC, in June, with the Division president and 7 other AAUW members attending. Alaska Division participated in the "Poster

Power” Showcase with a 4x8' corkboard display highlighting AAUW projects in the state. U.S. President George Bush accepted membership in AAUW and some 1600 women lobbied on Capitol Hill on Family Medical Leave legislation. Alaska was 7th in the nation for per capita EFP fundraising, \$28.08/person or \$5219 total. The Alaska Division Endowment is \$76.65 short of being fully endowed at \$35,000.

The Division used the award from the TIME TO CARE Seed Grant for its project “The Value of Volunteer Experience,” assessing the attitude of the state’s major employers toward volunteer work experience. The Division printed a Time to Care pink brochure and kit translating volunteerism into resume language. The kit sells for \$7 but the brochures were available free. A “Freedom to Read” project cosponsored by the Alaska Library Association and AAUW is intended to broaden K-12 youth’s vision of the world and ideas by introducing quality materials as the basis for discussion. The project evolved under the Protecting Individual Liberties issue.

The Division received a \$200 award for “growth among small Divisions,” one of 14 Divisions so recognized. Our Division membership is 350 as of 4/89. With a goal of \$150 for the Legal Advocacy Fund, we received about \$370 from branches and individuals to send to the Association LAF!

1990 Ketchikan is the site of the 12th biennial Division convention with Fairbanks co-hosting. The theme is “Choices for Tomorrow’s Women,” and Leaders on Loan are Joanne Stern, Mt. Pacific Regional Director, and Georga Sutton, Executive VPAAUW. Site is Salmon Falls Resort, and workshop topics

are “Long Distance Leadership,” “Increasing Branch Diversity,” and “Focus on the Future: What Direction for the 90s?”

March was Teen Pregnancy Awareness month, and at the request of the Alaska Division of AAUW, Governor Steve Cowper proclaimed the week of March 4 - 10, 1990, as AAUW Teen Pregnancy Awareness Week. The Governor’s office staff wore blue ribbons to demonstrate their concern, and AAUW branches in Alaska carried distributed blue ribbons to borough and city offices.

The Division sponsored the 4th annual International Essay Competition but this year the project was funded by the Alaska State Writing Consortium and the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies (College of Rural Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks). Prizes ranged from \$100 for 1st place, to \$10 for 5th place, with the judges consisting of AAUW area representatives for Culture, Community, Education, and International Relations, and a representative from the Alaska State Writing Consortium.

The Regional conference was in Bozeman, Montana, July 20.

Compiled by Barbara H. Matthews, Division VP Programs April 1990

Hove and Jan Gingerich represented the Branch at national Convention in Washington, DC. Our 17th Annual House Tour was nearly cancelled when we could not find enough houses—at the last minute, we found a third house! Because we had only three homes, we dropped the ticket price to \$6 and made only \$1,186, half our usual profit. In November we sponsored a Pro-Choice Rally in Bicentennial Park, supported by other local organizations. Although it was a frigid -27°, over 200 persons came, including several borough and state officials! According to President Fran Hove, “The Daily News-Miner said we may not have had the largest gathering in the nation, but we certainly had the chilliest—and we didn’t do badly in the numbers department, either.” The Branch became a charter member of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund for Women and Girls by contributing “at least \$5 per member before June 30, 1990.” The fund will commission research and fund action projects of issues important to women and girls, especially those related to gender differences. Members helped at Santa’s Clearing House in December before adjourning to a restaurant for dinner and a white elephant gift exchange.

1990

Blue ribbons were given to teachers, borough and city mayors, borough assembly members, and city council members to bring attention to the fact that one of every 8 female teenagers

in Alaska becomes pregnant each year. Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Juanita Helms and Fairbanks City Mayor J. D. Nordale proclaimed March 4-10 as Teen Pregnancy Awareness Week. Branch members voted to endorse the candidacy of Marcia McKenzie, Juneau, for Regional Director, rather than Division President Rosemary van der Laan. Fairbanks helped host the Division Silver Anniversary Convention, "Choices for Tomorrow's Women," held in Ketchikan April 27-29. Mary Slaughter, Margaret Soden, Pat Turner, and Ellen Witcher represented Fairbanks. Division secretary Margaret Soden handed the office to newly elected secretary Pat Turner, and Fran Hove was elected Division Membership VP. Ellen Witcher continued as Division Historian. The chairperson of our local scholarship committee, Ann Rhian, died unexpectedly at age 38, and we renamed the award the AAUW Ann Rhian Memorial Scholarship. The Gourmet Group celebrated a February Hawaiian Luau, and in May enjoyed dinner a la Russe at Fran Hove's. Aldean Kilbourn hosted the spring "Bring-a-Friend" membership luncheon at her home. Tickets for the 18th annual House Tour increased to \$10, with four homes, two of them log. The Travel Group "journeyed" to India, and the Book Group met monthly, with hopes for a Writers' Group and a Movie Group. We held a successful garage sale in August, and in October Division Program VP Jan Foster came to Fairbanks to conduct a workshop on leadership skills, held in the Senior Citizen Center. In December members helped wrap gifts at Santa's Clearing House before going on to Susan Johnson's for a potluck supper

1991

Our first meeting was “snowed out,” due to a severe storm! The Branch contributed \$250 to ACCA for an Ann Rhian Memorial, suggesting purchase of a microwave oven. Nancy Johnson was elected president, and we increased the amount of our Ann Rhian Memorial Scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000, so we could offer two scholarships. 25 women applied. In March we presented a Readers’ Theatre, and the May membership luncheon was held at the Regency Hotel. To aid the Legal Advocacy Fund, members donated books and paid \$1 to take home “new” books. In December we had 51 members, down 12. Branch dues increased from \$7 to \$11, for total annual dues of \$47. Our Branch decorated a room at WICCA, painting and purchasing draperies and bedspreads. Pat Turner, Ellen Witcher, and Nancy Johnson attended the Association Convention in Portland, and in July we hosted our most successful House Tour yet. In November the Branch held a roundtable discussion on “Shortchanging Girls—Shortchanging America,” how girls are ignored or not challenged in the classroom. The Travel Group and Book Group continued, and our holiday potluck was a huge success, with approximately 50 members, spouses, and friends gathering at the home of Lynn and Don Weldon.

1992

The Branch reported 51 members in January. Our March annual business meeting celebrated our Branch’s 55th birthday! We prepared a display on Women’s History Month at the Noel Wien Library in March } and in May we held our membership luncheon at The Pumphouse. EFP named gift honorees were Nora Lee

Borden, Meg Gaydosik, and Nancy Johnson. We also awarded three Ann Rhian Memorial Scholarships to women completing their education at UAF. The state convention was held in Anchorage in April, at the Hilton Hotel. Our House Tour netted \$2500, with tickets still \$10. Jodi Gouwens and Barbara Matthews chaired an August garage sale that raised over \$500. Our big summer event was an IFUW Potluck in August at Lynn Weldon's, where we hosted over 20 delegates returning from the International Federation of University Women convention in Stanford. Our Christmas social was a potluck at Aldean Kilbourn's and, in addition to exchanging white elephant gifts, we brought wrapped gifts for teenagers for Santa's Clearing House.

1993

AAUW Executive Director Anne Bryant shared an "Alaska potluck" with 25 members and guests at Gloria Taylor's home in March. She explained a new study dealing with sexual harassment in schools, and alerted us to the national drive by Far Right Conservatives to take over local elective offices. Our May membership luncheon was held at the Vallata Restaurant on Goldstream Road. Jan Gingerich and Barbara Van Flein were our EFP Named Gift Honorees. Rose Mary Johnson became president, and she attended the National Convention in Minneapolis in June, along with Nancy and Glenn Johnson, and Pat Turner. The Board voted to donate journals to the six graduates of the Teen Parenting class at Hutchison Career Center. With four homes in our 21st annual House Tour, we netted \$3,300. Jo Scott hosted our fall brunch, where the Gourmet Group served dessert and espresso, the Book Group led a literary

mixer, the Reader's Theatre gave a short play, and the Travel Group provided tongue-in-cheek international door prizes. We had 36 people, including 13 guests and 2 new members. For the first time the Branch rented a PO Box for official mail. In October we hosted a panel on "Hostile Hallways," sexual harassment in the schools. We become a 5-Star Branch under the able leadership of Chairperson Irene Peyton. The first meeting of the video group was held at Margaret Soden's home to view the movie "Passion Fish." In November we helped sponsor a forum "A National Health Care Plan: What will it mean to me" along with the Alaska Public Health Association., American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Tanana League of Women Voters, and Denall Center-Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. About 70 persons attended the 3-hour workshop, moderated by Irene Peyton.

1994

Fairbanks hosted the biennial state convention, "Many Facets of AAUW," at the Captain Bartlett Hotel in May, with Nancy Johnson as chair. Two Leaders on Loan from WA and CA led discussions on leadership and membership. Member Vera Alexander hosted a potluck dinner at her home. For \$1, we could rent or exchange hats from FLOT's "My Fair Lady" production, with the donations going to the Legal Advocacy Fund. Six branch members are on the State Board: Nancy Johnson, President; Pat Turner, Membership; Fran Hove, Educational Equity; Ellen Witcher, Historian; and Rose Mary Johnson, Education Foundation. The Branch donated journals to 15 graduates of the Teen Parenting Program at Hutchinson Career Center. Member Natalie Komisar offered the UAF

President's House for our May Membership Luncheon, where we recognized named gift recipients Lola Tilly and Glenn Johnson. We also introduced the two scholarship winners, selected from 29 applicants. The Branch held a "Cook 'n Book Shower" for the UAF Women's Center, bringing kitchen items or a book for the bookshelves. In July we held our 22nd annual AAUW House Tour with a profit of \$2,834. Jodi Gouwens chaired an August garage and book sale, which netted over \$650. Eighteen members and three guests attended our September Potluck Brunch at Aidean Kilbourn's. With other women's organizations, we participated in Lamonts "Ladies' Night Out," an evening of shopping to benefit the Breast Cancer Detection Center. We continued our "Second Time Around" sales of used clothing brought by members-but we brought more than we bought! Branch member Gretchen Murphy discussed "Equity in Math and Science" at the November meeting. We were right in step with the Association's 1994 Every Member Survey which showed the single most critical issue for AAUW action is "Gender equity in education." The video and book groups continued to be active throughout the year, and in December the Hoves' hosted our Holiday Potluck Supper.

1995

"Discovering Me," a workshop for 6th - 8th grade girls and parents or adult friends, was a rousing success in April, after months of hard work by AAUW members and other Fairbanks organizations and individuals. Branch president Irene Peyton was project director, with Linda Porter and Pat Werner as coordinators. Sixty girls and 50 adults attended the Saturday workshop, whose purpose was to increase the girls' self-worth

and encourage them to set and reach goals, especially in nontraditional fields. The May luncheon was held at the Vallata Restaurant where Jo Scott was named EFP Honoree, and we awarded two local scholarships. On July 15, our 23rd annual House Tour raised nearly \$3,500, with Ellen Witcher as chairperson. Our branch newsletter states that “The door count at the university president’s house was 337—not counting wedding guests.” Due to a scheduling error, a wedding was held at the home while the House Tour was still in progress! The newsletter continues, “the bridegroom had an embarrassing moment when a hostess opened a door to show the guestroom, and there was the bridegroom getting into his pants! The bridal party was supposedly using other rooms for dressing.” The president’s wife directed traffic out in the road, sending wedding guests to one driveway and entrance, and directing House Tour guests to another entrance! Pat Turner and Irene Peyton joined 25,000 women at the international NGO Forum on Women, near Beijing in September. They returned in time for the annual fall membership brunch at Jo Scott’s, with 30 members and guests. The book group, travel group, and video group met monthly, and we filled Fran Hove’s home for our Christmas potluck social. Alaskan AAUW members are tough, as our newsletter notes “Branch meetings are not cancelled unless the temperature drops below -35 degrees according to the MUS official account!”

1996

The State Convention “Plug into Power” was held in Anchorage April 19-21. We held two membership functions: a spring luncheon at the Regency Hotel, and a fall brunch at Aldean Kilbourn’s. Our 24th Annual House Tour in July netted nearly

\$3,000. Another successful garage sale held at Gloria Taylor's, and chaired by Irene Peyton, raised \$435. In December members and guests gathered at Enid Cutler's home for a holiday potluck, with wrapped gifts donated to women and children at the Rescue Mission, and Ellen Whitcher reading from "A Child's Christmas in Wales."

1997

In February we sponsored "Girls in the Middle," a panel discussion by mothers, educators, and middle school girls. Held at Noel Wien Library and attended by over 60 persons, the panel discussed issues affecting girls' ability to succeed in school. The Branch contribution of \$1500 to the Educational Foundation was equally divided between the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and Research and Projects (used for grants). Attending the Association Convention in Anaheim, CA, in June were Nancy and Glenn Johnson, Stephanie Stowman, and Pat Turner. Twenty members and five guests enjoyed the May luncheon meeting at the Captain Bartlett Inn. Member Gael Murakami donated a watercolor, "Old Valdez Harbor," which raised over \$200 in an in-house raffle. Fran Hove hosted the Christmas party in her home.

1998

The state Biennial Convention "Weaving the Threads: AAUW on the Last Frontier" was held April 24-26 in Kodiak. In May, so many of our Branch members were out of town that the Spring luncheon was cancelled! This was the 26th year for the Annual house tour, which raised \$2500. An August garage sale with co-chairs Irene Peyton and Suzanne Black at Suzanne's home

netted over \$390. At the October meeting, Judith Kleinfeld of UAF disputed AAUW's study that girls are being shortchanged. Our December holiday meeting was an Alaskan Luau at Enid Cutler's home, with Irene Peyton and Ann Hill cooking Hawaiian foods. Hawaiian dancers entertained us and led us in authentic dancing!

1999

The year got off to a good start in January when author Lael Morgan discussed her book "Good Time Girls," on shady ladies who were part of Fairbanks' history. The May luncheon was held at the Rivers Edge, and the 27th House Tour in July raised \$2600. Maree Barney-Sutley hosted the Christmas party in her home, with teenage gifts designated for Santa's Clearing House. Programs during the year ranged from learning about computers, to public health programs, to how to save your hear by reducing stress.

2000

Branch policy now advocates canceling winter meetings if the temperature is -30°F or colder by 4 p.m. In April we held a progressive dinner, with salads at Barbara Matthews' home, the main course at Margret Van Flein's, and dessert at Nancy Johnson's. For the 28th House Tour, we had five homes instead of the usual four, raising over \$4,000. Association dues increased \$10 to \$39, state dues are \$10, and Branch dues \$11, making this year's total dues \$60. Margaret Van Flein hosted the fall membership brunch in her home.

2001

The AAUW State Convention was April 28 – 29 via telephone conferencing, which was a new approach. The Branch held a progressive dinner with salads at the home of Barbara Matthews. The main course was at the home of Margret VanFlein. The dessert was at the home of Nancy Johnson. Susan Johnson was president 2000 – 2001. Our 28th House Tour in July had a net profit of \$3,714.94. Maree Barney-Sutley hosted the annual Holiday Party. The Book Group continued meeting monthly.

Exit exams for highschoolers were the topic of our January meeting. It was followed by a community forum at the Noel Wien Library sponsored by AAUW, League of Women Voters and the School District. Holistic Health was the February topic. In March we met with AAUW Mountain – Pacific Regional Director Candace McKenzie at the home of the University of Alaska Fairbanks President and Mrs. Hamilton for a potluck dinner. We announce two AAUW local scholarship winners at our Spring Luncheon at the Princess Hotel. Our annual House Tour in July netted approximately \$3,000. Pat Babcock became Branch president in July. Margaret VanFlein hosted the Fall Membership Brunch. Programs featured the Minority Affairs Officer of the School District, and former member Meg Gaydosik speaking on her experiences on communications while living in Russia. Susan Johnson hosted our Holiday Party, with donated gifts given to WICCA (Women's Shelter).

2002

At Branch meetings, we learned about an ongoing trial to prevent cancer, with local participants being recruited, and the WICCA public relations director met with us to explain their name change to Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living. Regional Director Candace McKenzie again ventured north to bring us up to date on AAUW happenings. Susan Johnson spearheaded an AAUW/Borough contest with school children writing to the Mayor telling how they'd make the Borough a better place to live. The contest was April 1 – 19 and close to 200 entries poured in. We awarded ten \$50.00 cash prizes and winners were honored at a Borough Meeting. Pat Babcock became branch president and we raised the amount of AAUW Ann Rhian Memorial Scholarships from \$500 each to \$750. Suzanne Black, Rhea Freese and pat Turner attended the Regional Convention in Reno, Nevada May 31 – June 2. We ordered books "Women Gaining a Foothold, Transitions through Work and College" to present to each Guidance Counselor of the six area high schools, along with a letter from our AAUW Branch. Membership stood at 42, and we again held our annual House Tour in July. This raised \$2,876, because of \$750 we paid for a breakage at one home.

2003

The Spring Luncheon was held at an oriental restaurant in May. With three houses available for the House Tour, we raised \$2,630 with expenses of \$470. The fall Brunch was a potluck held at Brenda Birdsall's Mt. Aurora Fairbanks Creek Lodge in the hills north of Fairbanks. Officers for 2003 – 2004 were Suzanne Black, President; Margret VanFlein, President Elect; Ruth Prokopowich, 1st Vice President for Programs; Judy Jackson, 1st Vice President Elect; Nancy Johnson, 2nd VP Membership; Gretchen Murphy, 2nd Vice President Elect; Aldean Kilbourne, Secretary and Margaret Soden,

Programs included education, investing, the UAF Women's Center and assisted living. Maree Barney-Sutley hosted the Holiday Party.

2004

The Spring Luncheon at Gambardella's honored the two AAUW Ann Rhian Memorial Scholarship winners. For the first time we put an advertisement in the newspaper telling about the scholarship; As a result, we received a record number of applicants. The Association's \$2.00 dues increase went into effect, raising the combined branch dues to \$62.00. Life members continued to pay \$21.00. Book Group remained very active, discussing such diverse books as "100 Years of Solitude" by Mexican author Martinez, "Middlesex" (a novel about a hermaphrodite) by Eugenidef and a series of novels about an African woman detective in Botswana. State Vice President for Membership Chairman Nancy Johnson attended the AAUW State Conference in Anchorage April 17 at the home of President Ruth Jean Shaw with visiting Mountain Pacific Regional Director Alice Bartelt. The University of Alaska Fairbanks has rejoined AAUW as a College and University Partner. The University representative to our Branch is: Earlina Bowden, Director Campus Diversity and Compliance, Office of the Chancellor. Fairbanks Branch has Alaska's largest membership with 39 members; Kodiak had 28 and Anchorage 24. Taking office July 1 were Margret VanFlein, President; Aldean Kilbourne, President Elect; Judy Jackson, Vice President for Program; Pat Turner, Vice President Membership; Margaret Soden, Treasurer and Aldean Kilbourne, Secretary. Programs ranged from a February meeting at the UAF Women's Center to a program on investing, to Karen Parr explaining ideas for a senior housing project. House Tour Tickets increased five dollars to \$15.00. The House tour profit was \$3,114.60. About 25 members and guests enjoyed the Holiday potluck at the home of Aldean Kilbourne.

2005

On January 17 there was a wonderful meeting "Art in the Eye of the Beholder" at the home of Susan Johnson. Ritchie Musick told us how she had started taking painting lessons last summer and showed us her first attempts, her sketchbook, her paint box, paper, etc...all in her kit. Pat Babcock and Suzanne Black who have been painting for many years talked about their work with watercolor and acrylic and showed some of their work. Gael Murakami teaches watercolor. She showed her sketchbook, which she carries wherever she goes...making pen and ink sketches she may use in future paintings. She is trying gouache now, another watercolor technique. February 19 Shirley LaForge gave an excellent program, "Alaska Nursing Education". The program discussed the University of Alaska Fairbanks Nursing Program. The Annual Meeting was at the Girl Scout Council office. Our program was presented by Nancy Klammer, Director of Volunteer Services, and featured an overview of the history of Girl Scouting, with an emphasis on its history in Fairbanks. It included a fashion show of

uniforms through the years. The Spring Luncheon was held at Zachs on April 23. A Presentation was given by the Literacy Council Staff at the Noel Wien Library in May.

**FORMER PRESIDENTS
FAIRBANKS BRANCH**

Dorothy Robe*	1936 - 1938
Fay Hurley*	1938 - 1941
Elsa Weidner	1941 - 1942
Helen Cunningham Fire*	1942 - 1943
Helen Pratt	1943 - 1947
Caroline Weiler	1947 - 1948
Evelyn Graham*	1948 - 1949
Susan Merritt	1949 - 1951
Katrina Moore*	1951 - 1953
Lola Tilly*	1953 - 1955
Katherine Patty*	1955 - 1957
Myrtle Philleo*	1957 - 1959
Ellen Witcher	1959 - 1961
Susan Jackson	1961 - 1963
Ray Rae	1963 - 1965
Margret VanFlein	1965 - 1967
Helen Three Stars	1967 - 1969
Helen Burrell	1969 - 1971
Patsy Turner	1971 - 1973
Mary Slaughter	1973 - 1976
Margaret Soden	1976 - 1979
Vicki Kolb	1979 - 1981
LaRee Wilton	1981 - 1983
Joyce Upham	1983 - 1985
Barbara Matthews	1985 - 1987
Nancy Sopp	1987 - 1988
Fran Hove	1988 - 1991
Nancy Johnson	1991 - 1993
Rose Mary Johnson	1993 - 1994
Irene Peyton	1994 - 1995
Pat Turner	1995 - 1996
Victoria Joan Moessner	1996 - 1997
Pat Turner	1997 - 1998

Ann Hill..... 1998 - 1999
Margaret Soden 1999 - 2000
Susan Johnson 2000 - 2001
Pat Babcock 2001 - 2002
Suzanne Black 2002 - 2004

***Deceased**

NAMED GIFTS RECIPIENTS 1971-2004

Lola Tilly..... 1971
Myrtle Philleo..... 1975
Vide Bartlett 1977
Ellen Witcher 1978
Barbara Matthews 1979
Mary Slaughter 1981
Margaret Soden 1981
Jean Gordon 1982
Rosamond Weller..... 1983
Ellen Witcher 1983
Leslie Parrish 1984
Jane Windsor 1985
Bruce Gordon..... 1986
Joyce Upham 1986
Jodi Gouwens 1987
Patricia Werner 1987
Suzanne Black 1988
Mildred Wenger..... 1988
Pat Turner 1989
Fran Hove 1990
Brenda Birdsall 1991
Rose Mary Johnson 1991
Nora Borden 1992
Meg Gaydosik..... 1992
Nancy Johnson 1992
Jan Gingrich..... 1993
Barbara Van Flein 1993
Glenn Johnson..... 1994
Lola Tilly..... 1994
Jo Scott..... 1995

Ann Hill.....	1996
Irene Peyton	1996
Gloria Taylor.....	1996
Suzanne Black	1998
Margaret Soden	1998
Stephanie Stowman	1999
Margret Van Flein	1999
Madeleine Betz.....	2000
Joan Moessner.....	2000
Pat Babcock.....	2002
William “Bill” Whitcher	2003
Suzanne Black	2004
Pat Turner	2004

