

Fifty-eighth Annual State Convention

April 24, 1982

REPORT OF THE CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL 1981-82

The Chicago Area Council is benefiting from increased participation by branches and members. Thirty branches of thirty-seven in the Chicago area have joined this year by paying the \$5 annual dues per branch and appointing delegates.

The Council met on September 26 in Aurora to consider AAUW's priority issues and to choose goals for the year. A decision was made to direct the Council's programming toward branch leaders and members to enhance established goals and provide a service to branches. Specifically, the group determined there is a need for developing skills in managing diversity and conflict, and a broad consensus on implementing the Association Resolution on the Families and Work Project. Therefore, two meetings have been held to which all members were invited.

(1) Workshop on Constructive Use of Conflict, January 23, 1982, at the Evanston Public Library, hosted by North Shore and Wilmette-Winnetka branches. Committee members were Marilyn Sanders (Wheaton-Glen Ellyn), chair, Jackie DeFazio (Wheaton-Glen Ellyn), Carol Ingemanson (South Suburban), and Mary Eleanor Wall (Elmhurst).

(2) Conference on Families and Work, March 20, 1982, at the First Congregational (UCC) Church in Elmhurst. Members of the planning committee were Marge Tilley (Wheeling-Buffalo Grove), convenor; Jean Hastings (Mundelein-Libertyville); Florence Beckman (Elmhurst); and Pamela Block (Wheeling-Buffalo Grove), conference coordinator.

A pre-conference survey on Families and Work was sent to all branches to individually survey their members. Nine-hundred survey forms were returned and tabulated for informational purposes for the conference participants. This represents an extraordinarily high return rate and excellent response by the branches. Many Council delegates and other AAUW members served on subcommittees and as discussion leaders. Focusing on what branches can do, the Council's goal is to spark enthusiasm for branches to do a Families and Work Project.

The Council also represented the AAUW in a workshop on Women in the Third World sponsored by West Suburban YWCA and George Williams College. Artifacts and materials from Africa were exhibited by the Naperville branch which are part of their award-winning project to provide authentic artifacts from various countries for the use of public school social studies classes. Nancy Hill, Naperville member, explained the project. Also on the AAUW table were papers describing the annual AAUW United Nations Seminar, the African-American Educators Program (EFP), and the International Federation of University Women prepared by Gerry Harrison (LaGrange Park Area), ISD International Relations Representative.

Mary Eleanor Wall, Chair
Mary Ann Grady, Vice Chair
Margaret Tilley, Treasurer



Families and Work Conference Evaluation

March 20, 1982

24 of 37 Branches Participated (66% Participation)

There was a total of 61 participants, including four guests, excluding the guest speakers, many of whom were present for the majority of the Conference.

I believe that we achieved the purpose of the Conference -- to inform participants of the Families and Work concept and to give them many ideas for implementation to take back to their branches.

40 Evaluations were turned in -- 33 were very positive
3 were neutral
4 did not meet their needs
(They were looking for more "How to" type things which could be the next step.)

I believe that the best aspect of the Conference was the high quality of the guest speakers and group leaders. All of them were very much "on key" with their assigned topic.

Where do we go from here? Interest was expressed in the following topics:

- Negotiating skills for women (ex. non-traditional work patterns and fringe benefits, salary)
- How to develop "political savvy" - Marketing ideas to corporate business
- How to Manage Time and Personal Life When Working Outside of the Home
- Guides to establishing Day Care/Elderly Shelter Care facilities in communities (perhaps using empty classrooms and getting assistance from village governments)
- Dealing with Emotional Conflicts (Unfortunately, our speaker on that topic was ill that day!)
- How to Prepare Career-wise for Changes in Technology in Industry
- Developing a Network for Information Dissemination
- Interviewing top Fortune 500 Corporations

In summary, there appears to be about equal interest in personal assistance (ie. learning how to deal with one's life and work on an individual basis) and improvement of outside agencies (corporate business, community services) helping with the quality of life in relationship to work.

A financial report for the Conference will be submitted under separate cover by the CAC Treasurer.

Pam Block, Coordinator (4/10/82)