

American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch Records

Collection Summary

Identifier: MA 15

Title: American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch Records

Dates: 1935-2007, undated

Extent: 1.42 linear feet (1 record box, 1 document case) Digital: .202 Files, 36 Folders, 12.2 MB

Creator: American Association of University Women, Brookings, Branch

Language: English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, collection ID, box number, folder number, collection title, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

This collection documents the activities and governance of the American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch, from its founding in 1931. Materials include reports, meeting minutes, newsletters, programs, bylaws, correspondence, financial and fundraising records, membership lists, and photographs. The records illustrate the branch's administrative functions, educational initiatives, scholarship programs, study groups, and involvement in community and legislative issues.

The collection also contains historical documentation on the branch's development and key figures, including Gertrude Stickney Young and Vivian Volstorff. Together, these materials provide insight into the role of a local women's organization in promoting education, women's rights, and civic engagement in Brookings and South Dakota.

Biography

The Brookings Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was founded in 1931 with 37 members under Miss Gertrude Young. Full membership recognition for South Dakota State College (SDSC) graduates came in 1950 after sustained effort.

Early programs included promoting a kindergarten, which the branch ran in the city library basement from 1932 to 1941 before it joined the public school system. During World War II, members supported the war effort through ration distribution, Red Cross work, and material salvage. The branch has consistently contributed to the National Fellowship Fund through events such as bridge benefits, style shows, and sales of maps, books, and calendars.

Scholarships have long been a priority. A junior-year fellowship evolved in 1962 to awards for a high school senior and an incoming SDSC student. Following Miss Young's death in 1964, these became the Gertrude Young-AAUW Scholarships.

Study groups have grown in importance. By 1954, groups covered child study, money management, international relations, music, and crafts. In 1963–64, the focus shifted to four areas: community problems, cultural interests, education, and world issues. These groups spurred action programs including support for educational television, international book distribution, special education initiatives, and engagement with legislative issues, particularly in education and women's rights.

Scope and Content

This collection documents the activities and governance of the American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch, offering valuable insight into the organization's role in promoting education, women's rights, and community engagement. It includes reports, minutes, newsletters, programs, bylaws, and correspondence, though no series is complete.

The collection provides documents related to the branch's administrative functions, including annual reports, bylaws, financial and fundraising activities, and meeting minutes from both

regular and executive board sessions. These records highlight the decision-making processes, organizational priorities, and project initiatives undertaken by members. Membership lists and reports on various projects further illustrate the group's impact on local and national issues.

Of particular significance is the documentation on accreditation efforts, project initiatives, and study groups, which reflect the branch's commitment to education and social advocacy. The history of the Brookings Branch contains valuable narratives on its founding and key figures, including Vivian Volstorff, who played a crucial role in the branch's accreditation, and Gertrude Stickney Young, its first president. The collection also includes correspondence, news clippings, and a scrapbook that was dismantled for preservation purposes, offering researchers insight into the branch's evolving role in civic engagement.

Newsletters and event programs further illustrate the organization's outreach efforts and evolving priorities over time. Fundraising records, member surveys, and policy documents provide context for the branch's financial and strategic decision-making. Photographs, brochures, and promotional materials add a visual dimension to the collection, offering a deeper understanding of the group's public presence.

This collection is a valuable resource for researchers studying women's organizations, grassroots activism, and local history. It sheds light on the Brookings Branch's contributions to educational initiatives, legislative advocacy, and broader societal issues, making it an essential reference for those examining the intersection of gender, education, and civic engagement.

Access Points

Subjects

- Women college graduates—Societies and clubs
- Women in education

Names

- American Association of University Women. Brookings Branch
- Volstorff, Vivian V. (Vivian Virginia), 1907-2002
- Young, Gertrude Stickney, 1884-1965

Places

- South Dakota--Brookings

Genre

- Digital files
- Photographs
- VHS

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Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Accreditation	undated
1	2	Affiliates agreement	2004
1	3	Annual reports	1941-1958
1	4	Annual reports	1980-1989
1	5	Arts Festival	1996-1997
1	6	Beacon	1985-1991
1	7	Beacon	1992-1997
1	8	Beacon	2002-2004, 2007
1	9	Book sale	1994-1997
1	10	Branch membership award	1985
1	11	Brochure and button	2001
1	12	Budget	2002-2006
1	13	Brookings Branch Gazette	1974

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	14	Brookings Branch	1955, 1975, 1981
1	15	Bylaws	1948, 1981-1986
1	16	Bylaws	1996-2003
1	17	Celebrating Women Who Shape the Future	2009
1	18	Conference - Getting Our Geese in a Row	1998
1	19	Clippings	1969-1992
1	20	Collected booklets, pamphlets, flyers	1944-1993
1	21	Correspondence	1947-2005
1	22	Dimensions	2003
1	23	Financial	1954-1993
1	24	Events	1995-1998
1	25	Fundraiser	1998-2005
1	26	Get-Out-The-Vote Grant	2002
1	27	History of Brookings Branch	1963-1991
1	28	Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: Different Paths to the White House	undated
1	29	Luncheon and Gift Basket Auction	2007
1	30	Mayoral Proclamation - Financial Literacy for Youth Month	2006
1	31	Meeting about Vivian Volstorff	1998
1	32	Member funeral programs and obituaries	1991-1992
1	33	Member Survey	2004
1	34	Membership	1990-1998
1	35	Minutes	1935-1941
1	36	Minutes	1936-1943
1	37	Minutes	1940-1947
1	38	Minutes	1973-1982
1	39	Minutes	1982-1985
1	40	Minutes	1985-1990
1	41	Minutes	1992-2004
1	42	News clippings	1995-1999
1	43	Officer information	1995-1998
1	44	Pie Fest	1998
1	45	Photographs	1951-2004
1	46	Policy and strategic plan	1989, 1996

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	47	Program books	1946-1947
1	48	Program books	1956-1957
1	49	Program books	1964-1970
1	50	Program books	1970-1975
1	51	Program books	1977-1987
1	52	Program books	1987-1999
1	53	Program books	2000-2007
2	1	Projects and study groups	1968-1998
2	2	Public Policy Impact Grant	2007
2	3	Research and Projects Community Action Grants	1994-1995
2	4	Right Foot	1994-2003
2	5	Scrapbook [1 of 2]	1953-1972
2	6	Scrapbook [2 of 2]	1953-1972
2	7	SD AAUW Board Meeting Minutes	1994-1999
2	8	SD AAUW Board Plans of Action	1994-1995
2	9	SD AAUW Executive Board	1998-2004
2	10	SD AAUW Leaders' Letter	1994-1997
2	11	SD AAUW Policies	1996
2	12	Sister-to-Sister AAUW Girls Summit	1997
2	13	Sister-to-Sister AAUW Girls Summit	1999
2	14	Suggestions for the president	1954-1965
2	15	Upper Midwest Regional Conference - Weaving Women's Lives Together	2002
2	16	Words of Choice	2006
	DGTL-F02	Book Sale	2013 May 12
	DGTL-F03	Bylaws	2010
	DGTL-F04	Conference	2001-2004
	DGTL-F05	Correspondence	2000
	DGTL-F06	Court Appointed Special Advocates	2003
	DGTL-F07	Directory	2004

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
	DGTL-F08	Fair Tax	2003
	DGTL-F09	Fund raiser	1998-2005
	DGTL-F10	Public Policy Impact Grant	2007-2008
	DGTL-F11	Jump Start	2005-2006
	DGTL-F12	Legislative	2000-2002
	DGTL-F13	March for Choice	2003
	DGTL-F14	Member Survey	2004
	DGTL-F15	Newsletters	2001-2006
	DGTL-F16	Postcards	2003-2009
	DGTL-F17	Presidents Duties	2009
	DGTL-F18	Program Booklets	1999-2005
	DGTL-F19	Public Policy	2001-2007
	DGTL-F20	Right Foot	1998-2003
	DGTL-F21	SD AAUW: Agendas, Minutes	2000-2010
	DGTL-F22	SD AAUW: Awards	2001
	DGTL-F23	SD AAUW: Board	2004-2006
	DGTL-F24	SD-AAUW: Conference	2001-2010
	DGTL-F25	SD AAUW: Correspondence	2000-2002
	DGTL-F26	SD AAUW: Directories	2001-2006

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
	DGTL-F27	AAUW: Membership	2003-2004
	DGTL-F28	SD AAUW: Projects	2000-2011
	DGTL-F29	SD-AAUW: SD Brainstorm	2010
	DGTL-F30	SD AAUW: Treasurer	1998-2012
	DGTL-F31	Silent Auction	2006
	DGTL-F32	Velure, Tricia, article	1999
	DGTL-F33	Women to Women	2007