



Chronicle Monthly

VOLUME 16, EDITION 14

AUGUST 23, 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

AAWD
celebrates 100
years of women
in dentistry!



PERSISTENT. RESILIENT. EMPOWERED.
A workshop for women

**Saturday, Sept. 18th
& Saturday, Oct. 23rd | 10am-2pm EST**

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

Attend the Virtual Workshop for Women! FAQ 2.0:

Q: Do I have to be a member?

A: No, all dentists are welcome!

Q: Is there a student rate?

A: We encourage students to register as a group for a discount and host a watch party!

Q: How long will the presentations be?

A: All presentations will be 45 minutes long beginning at 10am and ending at 2pm EST.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Register Now!	I
Steps for Smiles	I
75th Anniversary	2-3
Archives	4
Contact	4

Announcing The First "STEPS FOR SMILES" Virtual 5k Run



Join the Smiles for Success Foundation and the American Association of Women Dentists as we walk, jog and run to raise money to help women in need! Proceeds from the first Annual "Steps for Smiles" race will benefit the deserving patients of the Smiles for Success Foundation to receive dental care and improve their futures!

The race begins on September 18th in collaboration with the 2021 AAWD Workshop for Women and will be a month-long event. Everyone that completes their registration before September 13th will receive a free race t-shirt and welcome package!

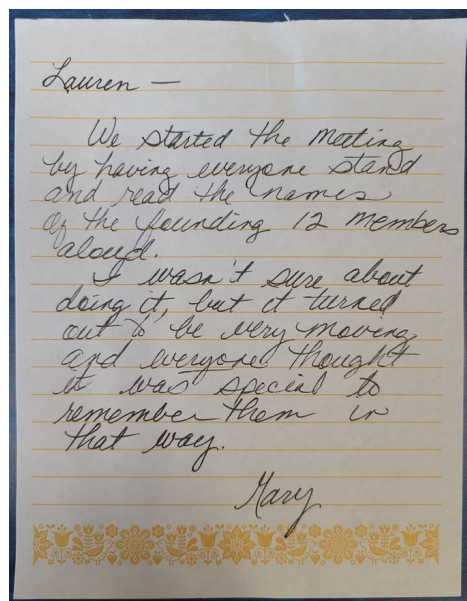
[I want to participate!](#)

<https://smilesforsuccess.org/campaigns/2021-stepsforsmiles/>

In her address to the organization in April 1996, Dr. Mary E. Martin, presents her thoughts for the 75th anniversary of the American Association of Women Dentists.

AAWD will maintain a hard copy for the archives.

Please read the entire speech below, as transcribed by Dr. Aguilar.



1921 Charter Members

Dr. Helen Addenbrook	Milwaukee, WI
Dr. Anna Burmeister	Milwaukee, WI
Dr. Kate A. Doherty	Milwaukee, WI
Dr. Mary Halsey	Amana, Iowa
Dr. Mary Hastings	Oshkosh, WI
Dr. Vida Latham	Chicago, IL
Dr. Josephine Pfeifer	Chicago, IL
Dr. Katherine Prothero	Chicago, IL
Dr. Celia Rich	Nashville, TN
Dr. Mae Fontaine	Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Minnie Proctor	Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Minnie Evangeline Jordan	Los Angeles, CA

“Strength from the past... Vision for the future.” When I first read the theme of our 75th Anniversary year, my thoughts were “oh, that’s nice and what a terrific slogan!” However, in delving through our history to present a few of the more memorable moments to you, I have truly gained *“Strength from the Past.”*

1995-1996 has been a very difficult year for me personally as many of you know. The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building on April 19, 1995, occurred two days before the Interim Board Meeting in Chicago over which I was to preside. Although my body was there, I am quite sure my mind was not totally there as I can now only remember fragments of that meeting. In fact, Board meetings of several years prior are much clearer in my mind than the one in which I was President! In addition to the tragedy of the bombing, my professional career has also been undergoing a major change. If you top all of that with the burn out which naturally follows being President of AAWD and serving ten years on the Board of Trustees, you can certainly see I needed strength from somewhere!

And the strength was there. Just as for other leaders before me, past presidents of AAWD sent me notes of encouragement and phoned me to give me advice and direction when I thought it was impossible to go on. I feel I must take this time to personally thank those past presidents who indeed gave me strength: Dr. Goldana Cramer, Dr. Jane Selbe, Dr. Barbara Mousel, Dr. Gerry Napierski. Without those four calm, soft voices of encouragement, I might not be able to complete this last and very important task which I have undertaken for AAWD’s 75th Anniversary.

As I did not have time to complete formal writing of our history, I compiled a few of the more inclusive articles for your reading pleasure. Enclosed in this packet are the following: 1) A speech given by Dr. Mildred Dickerson at the 1971 AAWD 50th Anniversary Banquet. 2) An article from the *International Dental Journal* of 1991 entitled “Founders of the American Association of Women Dentists: their legacy lingers on by Hannelore T. Loevy and Alther Kowitz. 3) An article from the *Journal of the Michigan Dental Association*, January, 1991, Women in Dentistry—Past, Present and Future by Dr. June Warren Lee. 4) Women Impact Dentistry from the *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society* by Dr. June Warren Lee. 5) A President’s address from the September-October, 1992, AAWD *Chronicle* entitled A most Important Weekend: Past, Present and Future. The article by Dr. Kennedy outlines the strategic planning meeting held in Chicago in August of 1994. Again my thanks to Drs. Goldana Cramer and June Warren Lee for sharing their archival material with me for this endeavor.

As you read the 50th Anniversary speech given in 1971, I hope you experience the same feelings which I experience each time I read it. I found Dr. Dickerson's speech to be inspirational and moving. The article entitled Founders of the American Association of Women Dentists: their legacy lingers on, gives an excellent summary regarding the initial years of AAWD, then called the Federation of American Women Dentists along with brief biographies of the charter members. I felt a sense of unity with these women of the early 20th century.

They were a diverse group of women with completely different interests and different activities in dentistry, however, they bonded together due to their love of their chosen profession. It is not any different in today's AAWD. Your Board of Trustees comes from areas throughout the United States and have a very diverse background. They do however, share a common love for this organization and for dentistry.

The two articles by Dr. June Warren Lee were the most complete and inclusive reports on our history which were presented in a brief enough format to include in this packet. Dr. Lee has spent many hours gathering information for our archives following serving in each officer's post and as editor of the *Chronicle*. We are indebted to her for her many hours spent promoting women dentists and AAWD. I am sure you will enjoy the articles.

When I first read Dr. Siver's Presidential Address in the *Chronicle* dated September-October, 1992, I was touched by how vividly the one page article portrayed our association and really spoke to its heart. I would like to quote Dr. Sivers in that address when she speaks to the intangible benefits of our organization.

"We cannot fool ourselves into thinking that AAWD has existed for seventy plus years because of tangible gains, although these are important. It has survived and flourished because of the intangibles...the legacy of our founders. When an organization ceases to maintain its legacy, it has nothing to set it apart, no identity. We must reach out to new members and educate them about the intangibles. We must pause and reflect on what our founders might think about our organization today."

And finally in the spirit of moving forward, please spend a few moments to review the report by Dr. Betsy Kennedy regarding our Strategic Plan in August of 1994. The officers who participated in that strategic planning process sincerely believe we were inspired to come to those decisions. Everyone who participated in the Strategic Plan feels quite strongly about moving that plan forward.

While reading through over thirty years of newsletters in an attempt to assimilate some of our history, two significant findings appeared repeatedly. First, it seems that those students who appeared in the Student Chapter News later became active members and continued to be involved. The second discovery when reading the old *Chronicles* was that of noticing certain member's names occurring year after year as being active in our association. We have much more than seventy-five years of experience in this organization if you, in fact, add those years served by many of our foremothers. Names which continue to surface year after year are those such as: Helyn Luechauer, Jane Selbe, Goldana Cramer, Kaye Thompson, Barbara Kay, June Lee, Gerry Napierski Mary Hayes, Kathy Kell, Aida Chohayeb, and many, many others. The list goes on and on. By seeing these names and faces of dental students who then develop into our leaders, it is obvious that the motto for this meeting and our 75th Anniversary year is indeed the perfect statement regarding AAWD. We definitely are here to gain *Strength from the Past ... Vision for the Future*. Our foremothers provide us the wisdom and the strength we need to advise us on decisions whether they be on a personal basis, regarding starting our new practice, or a change in the direction of AAWD. On the other hand, our students are the life-blood of our organization. Without their increased involvement, we will certainly die. I would like to encourage each of you to take the time to both thank one of the more experienced members of our organization and to also lead one of the student members in a mentoring process. Our organization has survived seventy-five wonderful years simply by following that guideline.

In closing, I would like to say Happy Anniversary to all of us in AAWD, to our foremothers and to our student members. And as Dr. Dickerson said in closing her 50th year speech, "and Happy Anniversary to all the little girls who wish to grow up and be a dentist!"

Mary E. Martin, DDS

April 26, 1996

Founders of the American Association of Women Dentists: their legacy lingers on

Hannelore T. Loevy
Illinois, USA
Aletha A. Kowitz
American Dental Association, USA

SUMMARY

Lucy Hobbs was the first woman to graduate as a dentist from Ohio Dental College in 1866. By the turn of the century a sufficient number of women had graduated to create a need for the establishment of groups specifically for women in dentistry. The Women's Dental Association of the United States was incorporated in 1892 with 12 founding members, although the name was changed to American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) in 1928. This paper traces the history of the AAWD and provides some biographical details about the 12 founders.

The better operators are most careful of detail and sequence. Much of good dentistry is made up of connected series of small things done well.

At the turn of the 20th century few women entered the independent professions, including dentistry, even though women had been graduating in dentistry since Lucy Hobbs became the first, from Ohio Dental College, in 1866. Her graduation was made possible by the now famous resolution passed in 1865 by the Iowa State Dental Society to the effect that, 'The profession of dentistry, involving, as it does the vital interest of humanity, in the relief of human suffering, and the perpetuation of the comforts and enjoyments of life in civilized and refined society, has nothing in its pursuits foreign to the instincts of women'.

According to Talbot¹, there were about 1829 women dentists in 1920, but this number had declined to 1254 by 1950. While these findings have been questioned by Tillman², who found 3.5 per cent of American dentists to be women in 1950, unquestionably their number was rather small at the turn of the century and many schools took a long time to admit women.

By the beginning of the 20th century, however, enough women had graduated to create a need for the establishment of groups to allow them continuing

education and information on modern dentistry. The Women's Dental Association of the United States was incorporated on 8 July 1892 with 12 charter members. At one time the membership numbered as many as 42. The Association was still in existence in 1911 and met at stated intervals in Philadelphia. The Southern California Dental Association organized and held special scientific sections for women dentists only. In 1909, seven women presented papers on different subjects, including crown and bridge, orthodontics and operative dentistry. In 1910, the Southern California Dental Association Women Dentists' Section was given a special part of the Association's programme of 17 June, and eight women presented papers on topics that included paediatric dentistry, inlays, restorative dentistry and oral pathology.

While groups such as this were apparently answering needs in some areas of the USA, a larger national organization was needed and by 1921 a small group of women dentists made the decision to found a new organization called the National Dental Sorority. This name was changed within a year to Federation of American Women Dentists, and was changed again in 1928 to American Association of Women Dentists. The aim of this organization, as stated in their directory of 1925, was to promote the interests of the women dentists of the United States of America and

The article referenced by Dr. Mary Martin in her 75th Anniversary speech detailing the life of the charter members of AAWD. This article will be transcribed in a later issue.

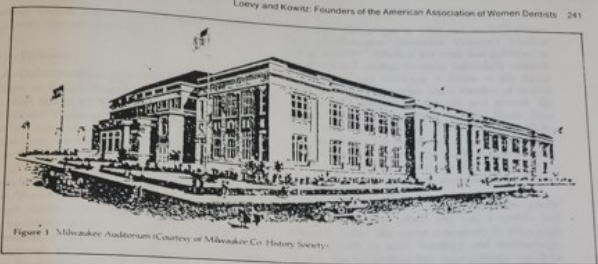


Figure 1 Milwaukee Auditorium (Courtesy of Milwaukee Co. History Society)

bring them into closer touch with each other. The original group of 12 met and organized during the 1921 meeting of the American Dental Association (ADA) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The precise date and time of the first get together is not recorded, but it occurred during the ADA meeting, which took place 15-19 August 1921 at the Milwaukee Auditorium (Figure 1). A tea for visiting ladies was scheduled for Thursday, 18 August in the Fern Room of the Hotel Pfister, and it is possible that this was the meeting place for the 12 charter members of the National Dental Sorority. They then elected officers, M. Evangeline Jordan as President and Mae Fontaine as Secretary. Both had their offices in the Los Angeles area, which could have been of great help since the 1922 meeting was scheduled to take place there the day before the opening of the Annual Meeting of the ADA. That first Annual Meeting took place under the presidency of Dr Jordan and the organization numbered 95 members. Several notices for the meeting were published in dental journals as part of the publicity for the ADA Annual Meeting. The organization continues to be active, and has met regularly over the 70 intervening years, which have seen a major change in the number and activities of women dentists in the USA.



Figure 2 Dr Vida A. Latham

Proctor and M. Evangeline Jordan on the programme in 1922 in Los Angeles, only one, Vida A. Latham, was on the programme to present a clinic, 'The Use of the Microscope in Dentistry, illustrating Embryology, Histology, Pathology, Bacteriology, Photomicrography, Microchemistry and Metallurgy' to the ADA meeting in 1921. Dr Latham, DDS, MD, was considered by some to be the most prominent woman in dentistry at the time (Figure 2).

Who were these 12 pioneers, what were their backgrounds, and what were their contributions to dentistry?

Helen Adenbrook

Helen Adenbrook (1865-1953) practised in Milwaukee. She graduated in 1895 as part of the 13th graduating class from the State University of Iowa College of Dentistry, where she studied dentistry along with her husband, W. L. Adenbrook. Both were from Wisconsin, and returned to Milwaukee to practise dentistry after graduation.

Anna Burmeister

Anna Burmeister (1882-1959) was also from Milwaukee. She graduated in 1912 from Marquette

The charter members

The charter members of the association came from different parts of the USA and economic groups, and had different early life experiences and specialties: some were active in organized dentistry, some were not, some were general practitioners, some specialists. Since the first meeting took place in Milwaukee, there were several who came from the midwest, some of whom were still practising there, but there were also representatives from other parts of the country. While there were three women (Helen Porter, Minnie S.

Celebrating 100 Years

AAWD

American Association of Women Dentists

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