

Southwest Section History
By Shirley A Brown. Eleventh Sectional Director
Updated By Fannie Love

It was a tremulous era in our history. Lynching, racism and sexism were running rampant in the United States. There was a desire in the hearts of educated black college women to have an opportunity to fellowship and interchange ideas with Caucasian women who were members of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (now American Association of University Women). For three years a concerted effort was made to gain membership into this organization. Finally, in March 1910 Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Dr. Sara Brown, Dr. Nancy Fairfax Brown, and Miss Mary Cromwell conceived the idea of organizing an association of their own.



Out of this meeting came the organization of the College Alumnae Club of Washington, D.C. These women were interested in promoting professional excellence, personal influence for civic good; and forge the bonds of intellectual fellowship among college educated women.

This Organization continued to thrive; by 1922 there were seven additional branches. In 1924 these branches decided to expand and incorporate under the laws of the District of Columbia and became known as the National Association of College Women. Miss Lucy Diggs Slowe, Dean of Women at Howard University was the first national president.



In 1954, Adelaide Dunn, a young woman from Dayton, Ohio and a former member of the Dayton Branch of the National Association of College Women moved to Los Angeles. Longing for the fellowship of other college women, she organized the Los Angeles Branch in March 1954. This chartered the course for the Southwest with Alyce Robinson serving as the branch's first President and Adelaide Dunn serving as the first Sectional Director of the Southwest Section.

Ten years later in 1964, Adelaide with the assistance of Sectional Director R.C. Ola Brown organized the Compton Branch of the National Association of College Women. This was after the National President Lillian McDaniel (1961-1965) traveled to Los Angeles for a special meeting with Adelaide Dunn, R.C. Ola Brown and Gladys Haynie regarding starting new branches in the West. In 1974, the Compton Branch officially became known as the South Bay Branch the same year the National Association of College Women accepted its updated charter and became known as the National Association of University Women.



New branches were founded in the following order: Sectional Director R.C. Ola Brown organized two branches in the 1960's. The Ontario Branch with Jolene Bristow serving as branch president and the Las Vegas Branch organized in 1965. Sectional Director R.C. Ola Brown organized the Pomona Branch in the 1970's. Sectional Director Verna Warren organized the Pasadena – Altadena Branch in 1979 and the OR-LA-CO Branch in 1981. The Sacramento Branch was organized in 1981 by Dr. Carolyn Minor. Dr. Minor served as the first president. Also, in 1981 a San Bernardino Branch was organized by Carrie A Haynes.



Carrie A Haynes residing in the Southwest Section served as the Forever Emerald Seventeenth National President from 1986-1990 and would be instrumental in the formation of numerous Branches. As the Southwest Section continued to increase its numbers, the Culver City Branch with the encouragement of Carrie A Haynes was organized in 1985 with Annie Nell Hill serving as its first branch president during the term of Sectional Director Grace Robinson.

Growth continued to Northern California under Sectional Director Grace Robinson. The Citrus Height Branch was organized in 1986; Dr. Carolyn Minor was one of the organizers. Capital was organized in 1987, Mandy Piggee was one of the Founders with Lois Graham serving as president.

At the 19th Southwest Sectional Conference on February 5, 1988, two new Branches, Inglewood and West Coast Cities, were chartered by National President Carrie A Haynes and Sectional Director Beverly Jackson. Founding presidents were Sallye Chapple for Inglewood and Julia B. Williams for West Coast Cities.

Reaching outside the California area, in the 1990's Carrie A. Haynes organized the Tacoma Branch; and membership was reactivated in the Las Vegas area in August 1997 with Lydia Edwards serving as the branch's president. Again, responding to the call for increased membership, Carrie A Haynes organized the South Central Los Angeles Branch in July 1999 with Jean Lewis serving as president during the term of Sectional Director Shirley Brown.

Josephine Bolden organized a new Compton Branch in 2000 with Jacquelyn McGee serving as the branch's first president, Shirley Brown was Sectional Director. Josephine Bolden would follow to become the Twelfth Sectional Director. In the San Jose, CA area in May 2002, the Silicon Valley Branch was chartered with Helen L. Donald as organizer and first president. The Santa Monica Branch was chartered in June 2003 with Sallie Gibson, organizer, and first president. Both branches were chartered during the term of Sectional Director Josephine Bolden. Ms. Gibson subsequently became the Thirteenth Sectional Director of the Southwest Section



Rising to the challenge to increase membership, newly installed Sectional Director, Audrey Jordan immediately began work to bring in new branches. As a result of her hard work, the Inland Empire Branch was chartered in June 27, 2009, in Fontana, California. Deborah Davis serving as its first president. Audrey continued to foster growth with the chartering of the Beach Cities Branch at the 44th Southwest Sectional Conference February 2013 with Dr. Rhonda Jefferson serving as the first President.

The Southwest Section was proud to acknowledge that during the 69th National Convention in New Orleans, Sectional Director Evelyn Wright was elected National President and Christina Worthams was elected First Vice President. Lay member Zola Jones became the Sixteenth Southwest Sectional Director. Evelyn Wright served as the Forever Emerald Twenty-fourth National President from 2014-2018. National President Evelyn Wright chartered the Monrovia, Liberia Branch in July 2018.



The Tri Cities Branch was organized in September 2015 by Sectional Director Dr. Essie French Preston and chartered at Compton Community College District on October 25, 2015 with assistance by Lay Member Clara Frost. The first president was Felecia P. Hatten. Clara Frost became the Eighteenth Southwest Sectional Director in February 2019. Founded by Sectional Director Clara Frost, the Westside Heights Branch was organized with assistance by Lay Member Jennifer Walker. On January 7, 2023, the branch was chartered by National President Betty Wilkerson and Sectional Director Clara Frost aided by Lay Member Jennifer Walker with Diana Phillips serving as its first President.



















Under the leadership of Sectional Director Clara Frost, on May 26, 2022, the NAUW Southwest Section was incorporated in the State of California. Jennifer Walker became the Nineteenth Southwest Sectional Director in February 2023. In January of 2024 all ten branches (Beach Cities, Culver City, Inglewood, Inland Empire, Santa Monica South Bay, South Central LA, Tri Cities, West Coast Cities and Westside Heights) located in the State of California was incorporated. With the NAUW Southwest Section and its ten branches now incorporated, the Southwest Section is now filing for 501c3 status in the State of California.

Forever challenged by a commitment to excellence. a desire for service and a dedication to shape the course of history within the Southwest Section, we acknowledge and salute our past Sectional Directors: Adelaide Dunn (deceased), R.C. Ola Brown (deceased), Velma Diaz-Infante (deceased), Inez Wauls (deceased). Marian Phillips (deceased), Verna Warren (deceased), Grace Robinson (deceased), Beverly Jackson (deceased), Dr. Mary Ellen Maddox (deceased), Pauline McGriff-Smith, Shirley Brown, Josephine Bolden (deceased), Sallie Gibson (deceased), Audrey Jordan (deceased), Evelyn Wright, Zola Jones, Dr. Essie French Preston and Clara Frost

They were the guiding forces in promoting many outstanding branch programs and services to members of our communities.

Past Sectional Directors
1954 – 2022

*(deceased)

<p>Adelaide Dunn*</p>  <p>First Sectional Director</p>	<p>R.C. Ola Brown*</p>  <p>Second Sectional Director</p>	<p>Velma Diaz-Infante*</p>  <p>Third Sectional Director</p>	<p>Inez Wauls*</p>  <p>Fourth Sectional Director</p>
<p>Marion Phillips*</p>  <p>Fifth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Verna Warren*</p>  <p>Sixth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Grace Robinson*</p>  <p>Seventh Sectional Director</p>	<p>Beverly Jackson*</p>  <p>Eighth Sectional Director</p>
<p>Mary Ellen Maddox*</p>  <p>Ninth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Pauline McGriff-Smith</p>  <p>Tenth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Shirley Brown</p>  <p>Eleventh Sectional Director</p>	<p>Josephine Bolden*</p>  <p>Twelfth Sectional Director</p>
<p>Sallie Gibson*</p>  <p>Thirteenth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Audrey Jordan*</p>  <p>Fourteenth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Evelyn Wright</p>  <p>Fifteenth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Zola Jones</p>  <p>Sixteenth Sectional Director</p>
<p>Dr. Essie French Preston</p>  <p>Seventeenth Sectional Director</p>	<p>Clara Frost</p>  <p>Eighteenth Sectional Director</p>		

Southwest Section Branches:

Beach Cities

Culver City

Inglewood

Inland Empire

Monrovia Liberia

Santa Monica

South Bay

South Central LA

Tri-Cities

West Coast Cities

Westside Heights Branch