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## ASWA Grows -- Rockford Becomes Chapter 51

American Society of Women Accountants

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# ASWA Grows —

## Rockford Becomes Chapter 51



*Zosia Edwards Stege, National President, ASWA, (at right) presents charter to Irene White, President of Rockford Chapter, while Loretta Creagan, Vice-President of Rockford Chapter, looks proudly on.*

On October 13, 1956, Rockford Chapter was officially welcomed into ASWA by Zosia Stege at a charter dinner. It became the 51st chapter in an organization of more than 2500 members. Less than 19 years ago the first chapter, comprised of 3 members, was formed in Indianapolis in May of 1938. Today, our 51 chapters geographically cover twenty-five states and the District of Columbia.

Why was ASWA started? In the words of Ida Broo, CPA, ASWA founder, "The members of the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants felt that it was not because of a lack of ability but more because of lack of opportunity that women were so poorly (numerically) represented in the profession, and it was with the hope of increasing the opportunities for women that the American Society of Women Accountants was formed under the sponsorship of AWSCPA."

Why does ASWA grow? A need, a spark, and the continuous efforts of interested women accountants. In Rockford the need and interests were passive until a business man phoned Dorothy Colton, CPA, to inquire what organization his accountant might belong to which would give her the opportunities, advantages, and stimulus which he felt everyone needed and could get in no other way. Dorothy's inquiry about a membership at large in ASWA for this accountant brought an invitation from the Chicago chapter to bring her and any other interested women accountants to attend a meeting of the Chicago chapter. From this and subsequent visits along with the interested advice and help of both the Chicago chapter and the national officers of ASWA grew our newest chapter.

In similar ways our other chapters have originated. We are looking forward to more members and more chapters in the years to come. We feel that ASWA can fulfill the needs and interests of women accountants. Again in the words of Ida Broo, "Through the years the Society has held steadily to its purpose—to increase the interest of women in the profession, to increase the opportunities for women, and to inform the public of the place women hold in the field.

"Recognized as the Voice of the Woman Accountants, ASWA is a professional society whose ranks are open to women actively engaged in the profession of accounting, to teachers of the subject, and to advanced accounting students.

"The ASWA impresses its membership with the privilege and the corresponding responsibilities which are theirs to uphold the high standards of accountancy, to the end that the woman accountant may remain a valued member of an honored profession, worthy of the confidence of the public, and dedicated to its service."