Women in Pharmacy

Upon her election in 1895 as APHA third vice president, she became the first woman to serve as an APHA officer.

5. Zada Mary Cooper (1875–1961)
In 1872, Zada Cooper graduated from the University of Iowa and continued there as a faculty member until retiring in 1942. She was secretary of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy from 1922 to 1942. She was one of the founders of the Women’s Section of APHA and founder of Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and the Rho Chi Society. She was an advocate of women in pharmacy and became known as the “grand and glorious lady of pharmacy.”

6. Anna Gertrude Bagley
An 1894 graduate of Ohio State University, Anna Bagley authored numerous articles and was a frequent presenter on pharmacy issues during her career. Among her various activities with APHA, she was one of the founders of the Women’s Section and was the first female pharmacist on staff assisting the editor of JAPhA in the 1920s.

7. Margaret Cornelius “Cora” Dow (1868–1915)
Cora Dow started her career in pharmacy by assuming responsibility for her father’s store before she graduated from the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy in 1888. She became the architect for a successful chain of pharmacies, eventually owning 11 stores, a warehouse, and an ice cream factory.

8. Nellie Wakeman (1883–1952)
In 1913, Nellie Wakeman received a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, thus becoming the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in a pharmacy discipline. She continued at the university as a faculty member from 1913 until her retirement in 1946. She was active in Kappa Epsilon, encouraging women to pursue graduate education, and is celebrated by the fraternity’s Nellie Wakeman Fellowship.

B. Olive Cole served as a mentor and role model for women in pharmacy. She was a faculty member at the University of Maryland from 1920 to 1953 and active in APHA, Maryland Pharmacists Association, and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Lambda Kappa Sigma established the Dr. B. Olive Cole Graduate Educational Grant in her honor.

10. Edna E. Capurra Gleason (1886–1963)
Edna Gleason was the first female pharmacist elected president of the California Pharmaceutical Association and was active in the National Association of Retail Druggists (now the National Community Pharmacists Association). She became a leader, both in California and nationally, in the fight for fair trade pricing. As the owner of a community pharmacy, she promoted patient-oriented practice.

After serving as a nurse in France during World War I, Sister Mary John entered the Order of the Sisters of Mercy in 1922. She became a prominent hospital pharmacist at Mercy Hospital in Toledo, Ohio. A charter member of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, she served as treasurer from 1943 to 1946. She was a prolific writer and lecturer. A military service was conducted at her funeral.

A Sister of Mercy, Sister Mary Gonzales served as director of pharmacy at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was the mentor and role model for numerous hospital pharmacists. She was a strong advocate of pharmacy education. She became the first woman and first religious sister to serve as president of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists in 1978.

After graduating from Purdue University School of Pharmacy, Gloria Francke started her career in associations, including joining the staff of APHA and becoming the first secretary of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists. She was named Honorary President of APHA in 1986 and was the first woman to receive the Remington Honor Medal in 1987. In 1995, APHA established the Gloria Niemeyer Francke Mentor Leadership Award in her honor.

After serving as a WAVES radio operator during World War II, Kay Keating completed her pharmacy degree at the University of Colorado in 1948. She returned to active duty, was the first woman to rise from Seaman Recruit to Captain, and became the first female pharmacist to attain the rank of Captain in the Navy Medical Corps. She retired after a distinguished career of service and was well known for mentoring other pharmacists.

15. Mary Louise Tigue Andersen
Mary Louise Andersen graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Active in numerous pharmacy associations, she served as the APHA second vice president in 1967, and in 1968 was the first woman selected as speaker of the APHA House of Delegates. She was named the APHA Honorary President in 1997 and was the recipient of the Remington Honor Medal in 2003.

16. Joy Holloman Donelson
A graduate of the University of New Mexico, Joy Donelson moved to Alaska and became a leader in pharmacy with innovative practices and organizations. She was responsible for establishing a series of “The Good Ole Girls” dinners at APHA Annual Meetings. In 2005, she was named the APHA Honorary President.

17. Mary Munson Runge
Following her graduation from Xavier University, Mary Runge became active in community pharmacy and pharmacy organizations. She was the first woman and first African American to become president of APHA in 1979. Her activities included establishing a Task Force on Women in Pharmacy and an Office of Women’s Affairs within APHA. In 1996, she received the APHA Hugo H. Schafer Award.

18. Women’s Section of APHA (1912–1923)
Founded by six female pharmacists and the wives of six male pharmacists, this group supported women in the pharmacy profession. Pharmacists serving as president of the Women’s Section were Cecilia Timmons, Zada Mary Cooper, and Anna Gertrude Bagley.

19. Lambda Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Founded in 1913 at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy by women pharmacy students, the fraternity expanded to become a national organization in 1917 and welcomed its first international chapter in 1956.

20. Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
The fraternity was founded in 1921 by women representatives of the colleges of pharmacy at the University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska, and University of Iowa. Kappa Epsilon’s goal: promoting women in pharmacy.