The Women’s Auxiliary to the American Medical Association
1960’s

- 1960: AMA Auxiliary president becomes a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. The first Auxiliary member was appointed to serve with AMPAC.
- 1961: A forty-year history project was authorized for the upcoming 40th celebration in 1962. Auxiliary members participated in “Operation Coffee Cup” where they invited groups into their homes to discuss the King-Anderson Bill. Ronald Reagan supported the operation and produced an LP record Ronald Reagan Speaks Out Against Socialized Medicine for the AMA that was played at the coffee meetings.
- 1962: Auxiliary members throughout the nation participate in the “Knock Out Polio Campaign.” “SANS CHAPEAU” (without a hat) was instituted for auxiliary events. Conferences and conventions would now be strictly working conferences and not style shows. The 40th Anniversary was celebrated at the Convention.
- 1964: There was a “new look” to the WAAMA’s publication the Bulletin. The AMA shared the expense of the magazine that was circulated to all 86,000 members of the Auxiliary. The publication became not only an aid to Auxiliary leaders but an attractive publication to interest and inform the average member. Dues were increased to $2.00 which included a subscription to the Bulletin. The GEMS (Good Emergency Mother Substitute) Courses were administered by many county auxiliaries to instruct baby-sitters to care for children safely in the absence of the parents.
- 1965: The membership focus that year was once again placed on the 100% Team Husband-Wife Membership Plan in an attempt to close the wide gap between AMA and Auxiliary membership. It had originally been presented in April 1926 by WAAMA President, Mrs. Seale Harris. The proposal was that dues be collected by the medical societies, thus making the wife of every doctor holding medical society membership an Auxiliary member. The AMA House of Delegates gave its approval of the plan. Some states and counties tried the plan, but membership figures show it was not accepted universally. The name of the official publication was changed from the Bulletin to MD’s Wife.
- 1967: Mrs. Ritter was the first auxiliary president invited to attend a meeting of the Woman’s Auxiliary to the National Medical Association, the national organization representing African American physician spouses.
- 1968: Membership went over 90,000 for the first time. Proposed dues increase to $4.00 was approved. Continued increases in donations to AMA-ERF by auxiliaries throughout the nation brought the total to over 3.25 million dollars in 17 years.
1969: President Mrs. C.C. Long of Arkansas died in office. Mrs. John M. Chenault assumed the presidency. The cover of the convention program that year depicted America's first moon landing. Astronauts were in orbit during the convention. A committee was appointed to plan a special observance of the 50th anniversary in 1972.
The 1960’s
Knock Out Polio

1962 Knock Out Polio Campaign

Immunizing Infants Against Poliomyelitis
The 1960’s
40th Celebration 1962

40 Year Celebration
Pick-Congress Hotel
Chicago, June 27, 1962

The AMA and AMA Auxiliary Leaders Discuss Legislative Procedures at the 1961 Legislative Conference

New Approaches to Old Objectives
“...In our present richness we are not forgetful of the day of small beginnings.” Our objectives are constant: “Built on a fundamental principle—man’s need of woman’s service.”

Mrs. Paul C. Craig, Historian