Women’s Division of the Electric Association

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS!
In 1926, Miss Sophia Malicki of the Middle West Utilities Company conceived the idea of establishing a Women’s Division within the Electric Association.

Their mission:

“to forward the torch of progress lighted by electricity”
THE EARLY YEARS...

*Founding Board of Directors:*

Helen M. Danker, Pierce Electric
Ila Douglass, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co.
May S. Fletemeyer, Northern Indiana Public Service Co.
Mabel O’Hara, Illinois Bell Telephone Co.
Luella H. Lawrence, Radio Corporation of America
Sophia Malicki, Middle West Utilities Co.
Katherine Strickland, Waters Genter Co.
Wilma M. Venk, Midland Lamp Division, National Lamp Works, General Electric
Florence Webster, Chicago Rapid Transit Co.
Olive A. Wells, Graybar Electric Co.
Lydia Zummerman, Curtis Lighting Co.
THE EARLY YEARS...

- They held their first meeting in April, 1927
- Speakers included EA President, John F. Gilchrist, (Commonwealth Edison), whom encouraged women to “further the use of electricity in the home” to other “housewives”.

Other Meeting Topics Included:
- Home Management
- Intelligent use of Energy
- Proper Care of Food Preparation
- Artistic use of Light
No, this is not an early ballet class—it’s a group of Chicago telephone operators exercising on top of the Company’s “Main” exchange building at Washington and Franklin Streets back in 1912. They’re playing the old-fashioned game of “bean-bag.”

The employees of Illinois Bell Telephone Company getting ready for a day’s work
THE EARLY YEARS...

Early Women's Division members were telephone switchboard operators and administrative staff.

The Appleton Electric office staff.

*Early Women’s Division members were telephone switchboard operators and administrative staff.*
The Electric Association’s first offices in the Civic Opera Building at 20 North Wacker Drive. The association’s Office occupied the entire 38th floor.
Women’s Division members helped the EA create these early Advertisements to appeal to the use of electricity in the home.
We’ve come a long way! Today, our members are: Company Owners & Presidents, Sales Professionals, Managers, Marketers, Customer Service Representatives, Purchasing Agents, Administrative Professionals, Trainers, and More!

Our Members represent each segment of the industry: Contractors, Engineers, Distribution, Manufacturing, and Manufacturer’s Representatives.
Our Mission:

- To bring together women in all branches of the electrical industry for the advancement and better understanding of the service rendered by electricity.

Our primary goals:

- Networking, Education & Information
THE WOMEN’S DIVISION TODAY...

Our Events

- Jobsite Tours: Soldier Field, McCormick Place, Panduit International Headquarters, Art Institute Modern Wing, and many more.
- Manufacturing /Facility Tours: Juno Lighting, Cooper Lighting, Eaton Corporation, KSA Lighting
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS
OUR MEMBERS & EVENTS