

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
WASHINGTON

ORGANIZATION SERVICE  
COLVIN B. BROWN

April 8, 1927

Miss I. M. Tarbell,  
120 East Nineteenth Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

This will reply to your request of March 31 for information concerning women in chamber of commerce work.


In this day, when women in increasing numbers are engaging in business, chambers of commerce have found it advisable to so word their by-laws as to admit women members on a parity with men, although in many cases women form but a very small part of the membership of such organizations. They serve on committees engaged in civic work, such as sanitation, pure food, proper educational facilities, clean streets, recreations, welfare, child welfare, good housing, etc., and where they are active they usually make real contributions to the work of the organization.

I am enclosing a statement which will give you, I believe, a very good idea of the way in which chambers of commerce handle their women members. We have made no investigations and cannot give you the total number of women holding memberships in local chambers of commerce.

We know of two cities where the women have a chamber of commerce of their own. Both of these organizations are affiliated with us, and, needless to say, they are admitted to membership on the same basis as any other organization, and have the same privileges and prerogatives. These organizations are the Woman's Association of Commerce in Chicago, 58 West Washington Street, Miss E. B. Messey, Secretary, and the Woman's Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, Missouri, 1005 Grand Avenue, Miss Mary Dougherty, Secretary. It is possible that these organizations have compiled some statistics about the women in chamber of commerce work and I would suggest that you write them.

Neither have we gathered any statistics relating to the number of women that are conducting independent businesses in this country or women who are active heads of active partners in businesses. This would be interesting information, however, and if you are able to obtain any figures, or should you prepare a statement of any kind on this subject, we would appreciate it very much if you would let us have a copy.

Very truly yours,

  
COLVIN B. BROWN  
Manager.

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