

Lights, Camera, Action!

Bouey Gayton Day

Bouey Gayton Day is held on the second Saturday of November. This day is dedicated to ministers' wives and ministers' widows coming together to celebrate sisterhood. It offers an opportunity to share about our great organization, who we are, what we do, and why we exist. Initiated during President Janie Charles Holmes' tenure, this day encourages sisters to gather in recognition of Founder Dr. Elizabeth Coles Bouey and the second president, Dr. Rendella Lucas Gayton.

Founding Vision

Our founder, Dr. Elizabeth Coles Bouey, was passionate about the need for ministers' wives to organize and meet annually. Guided by the hand of God on April 8, 1941, she issued a call to ministers' wives to unite into one Christian fellowship across various religious denominations for greater and more effective service in kingdom building.

Recruitment Efforts

Dr. Bouey first demonstrated the model of recruitment by visiting and talking with the wives of clergymen in many sections of Virginia. Mrs. Ellen Thompson, a founding member, fondly recalled the countless hours spent traveling with Dr. Bouey by foot and car to reach prospective members, often accompanied by their husbands. Letters were also sent to ministers' wives throughout the United States. Through house-to-house meetings, personal contacts, and correspondence, the National Association of Ministers' Wives was born.



Leadership Legacy

Upon the passing of Dr. Bouey, Dr. Rendella Lucas Gayton assumed leadership and recruitment responsibilities, serving as the second president from 1957 to 1970. She demonstrated exceptional leadership and work ethic, effectively continuing Dr. Bouey's legacy. Dr. Gayton focused on:

- Growing the organization as a sisterhood
- Building on the founder's legacy
- Becoming a voice related to social concerns
- Enhancing the organization's viability
- Building the Education Department (Educating the Ministers' Wife)
- Increasing membership
- Promoting prayer
- Promoting interracial marriage and interdenominational fellowship

A notable achievement during her tenure was the successful liquidation of the mortgage on our home in Richmond.

We are fortunate to have had Dr. Gayton, a woman of faith who closely collaborated with our founder. Her legacy remains an integral part of the International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc. Her exemplary conduct serves as an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of interacting with her. Her contributions continue to have a lasting impact on IAMWMW, Inc., ensuring the preservation of our founder's vision.

Lights, Camera, Action!..... IAMWMW Let's Celebrate



IAMWMW Marketing & PR Team