
IN MEMORIAM

DOROTHY M. HOFFMAN

Fellow and Life Member

Dorothy M. Hoffman was a pioneer member of SWE (FL560035) and a strong supporter of both the Philadelphia and New Jersey Sections for many decades. She attended City University of New York, received a BS in Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1947, and an MS in Chemical Engineering from Bucknell University in 1948. Dorothy was an active Life Member of SWE at both the local and national levels. She served on the Board of Trustees from 1980 to 1989 and was elected a SWE Fellow in 1984. Dorothy was instrumental in having RCA become an early corporate member of SWE and providing the RCA scholarships for electrical engineering students that were awarded through the SWE scholarship program. In her will she has provided funding for several SWE scholarships and the development of new career guidance programs. Dottie was named to the Philadelphia Section Hall of Fame in 1989 to honor her for her many contributions to the Section.

Dorothy was also very active in the American Vacuum Society (AVS). She was a founding member and one of the first officers of the Delaware Valley Chapter. At the national level, she served on the Program Committee, was Society Clerk, the first woman President of AVS, and Chairman and member of the AVS Board of Trustees. She was elected AVS Honorary Member in 1982, the same year she was also elected Central New Jersey "Engineer of the Year" by the Central New Jersey Engineering Council.

Dorothy had a long-standing interest in education and career guidance. As an active participant on the Engineering and Technical Societies Council (ETSCO) of the Delaware Valley, she was a perennial delegate from AVS and SWE, serving as ETSCO President, Treasurer, and speaker at Engineers' Week programs for students, parents, teachers, and guidance counselors.

Dorothy's area of technical expertise lay in thin-film technology. Her technical career started at General Electric, where her first job was to find out what was causing spots on dishes cleaned in Hotpoint dishwashers. Shortly thereafter, she and her husband Earl moved to Philadelphia where she worked over a decade for the International Resistance Co., first as a Research Engineer and later as Head of Process Development. During this time she played a major role in the development of evaporated-metal-film resistors. Dorothy joined the RCA David Sarnoff Research Laboratory in 1962 as a Member of the Technical Staff and remained there until her retirement in 1994. At Sarnoff Labs, she was in charge of the Thin Film Technology Service Group that was responsible for developing evaporative coatings used on products such as solar cells, optical video discs, kinescope parts, and optical wave guides. She was the recipient of the prestigious RCA Laboratories Outstanding Achievement Award in 1968 and the Video Disc Achievement Award in 1973. Her personally organized "state-of-the-art" teaching seminars and her publications and patents have made lasting contributions to advancing the development and implementation of thin film technology.