

# Women's Division Supplements Chamber of

Greater Muskegon's women were officially integrated into the civic life of the community in 1951 when long-simmering plans came to a boil in January. The much-discussed Women's Division was shaped to the point that it received the Chamber's blessings in April.

With official recognition, the unit drew a tentative program which in the brief span of six years has already become reality or been incorporated into a permanent goal.

One of the first was an education program for school children by which members, in co-oper-

ation with the County School Boards, conducted eighth graders through historical and civic centers.

The group adopted as objectives the creation of civic consciousness through unity and coordination of activities; the en-

couragement of and aid in development of the community; exchange of ideas; lending of support to other women's organizations in achievement of their objectives; and fostering of intelligent participation in community, state and national affairs.

Some of its larger undertakings include sponsorship of an area-wide Home Decorating contest at Christmastime; beautification of an area along Harvey street; sponsoring a Rural-City luncheon annually; and promoting a Get-Ac-

quainted Dance for the Chamber of Commerce. Geraldine B. Sheldon was the group's first president. Her officers were Mrs. Gordon Gelton, vice-president; Mrs. MacWoodard, secretary; and Mrs. Mary E. Christie, treasurer. Board members were Mrs. Basil L



1957

**DIVISION BOARD . . .** With the exception of three, members of the board of the Women's Division, Chamber of Commerce, assembled at the YWCA for their picture. Not present were Mrs. H. H. Chambers, Mrs. Guy Garinton, and Mrs. J. O. Ostergren. Standing are Mrs. A. S. Bolthouse and Miss Byrndene H. Fredrickson. Seated are the Mesdames Edward DeGraff, A. B. Willi, Harold R. Hansen, Richard H. Reed, president, H. Hollowell, Gordon Belton, L. C. DenHollander, C. J. Reese and E. R. Swett, Jr. (Chronicle Staff Photo).