

Mary Ann Spellman
2003 Outstanding Alumnus

Outstanding Alumni Mary Ann Spellman is an 1882 graduate of Beaver Dam High School. Miss Spellman started her career as a teacher in Trenton with only 2 students in her classroom. After a short time, she was hired to teach in the Beaver Dam public schools. She taught in various elementary schools and at almost all grade levels. Miss Spellman taught for 51 years in which she devoted the final 20 years teaching arithmetic at the junior high level.

Miss Spellman's life-long learning continued as she attended many summer sessions at the UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Whitewater.

In 1933, Miss Spellman retired from teaching and within a year was a mayoral candidate for the city of Beaver Dam. Past students had persuaded her to consider and eventually run for mayor. She was mayor for 2 terms in Beaver Dam. She said there would be "no speeches, campaigning, or politicking." Miss Spellman was elected mayor without any personal campaigning, winning a majority of the votes in 13 out of the 14 wards.

Miss Spellman was elected mayor during the toughest times of the depression. During her terms as mayor, many projects were accomplished including: public schools painted, sidewalks added, a new band concert shell installed at Swan City Park, a more modern and larger water tank built, and the sanitary storm sewer system undertaken.

Miss Spellman was the co-founder of the Beaver Dam Women's Club, an honorary member of the Daughters of Isabella, and the financial secretary of the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters.