

Collection #  
M 1363  
OM 0669

**ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS  
INDIANANPOLIS CHAPTER  
RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1959–1999 (BULK 1988–1999)**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1959–1999 (Bulk 1988–1999)

**PROVENANCE:** Rhonda H. Smith, Indianapolis, IN; February 2001

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Women in Communications, Inc., Indianapolis Chapter Records and Files M 0375

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2001.0297

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

On December 10, 1928, the Indianapolis Chapter of Women in Communications, formerly known as Theta Sigma Phi, came into being under the sponsorship of student members from Butler, Indiana, and DePauw Universities. This local chapter was just one of hundreds which comprised an international organization.

Women in Communications, Inc. (WICI) was founded in 1909 at the University of Washington, Seattle, as Theta Sigma Phi, a college honorary organization for women in journalism. In 1972, the name Theta Sigma Phi was changed to Women in Communications. Also in 1972, men were accepted as members. National headquarters for the organization were established in Austin, Texas, in the 1930s. In October 1996, delegates at the WICI conference in Portland, Oregon, voted to dissolve WICI and formed the Association for Women in Communications (AWC) as its successor.

Members of the organization come from all fields of the communication industry including newspapers, magazine, radio, television, communications teaching, public relations, photo journalism, advertising, and free-lancing. The organization is dedicated to current issues in communications such as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), defending First Amendment guarantees and rights, promoting professional recognition and membership to women and racial minorities, and promoting the role women play and the image they project. They stress that they are "a continuing force that strives to serve our career women everywhere" and not just a sorority or honorary left behind in school.

Since its inception, the Indianapolis Chapter has been an active group on both the local and national level. Several members from the Indianapolis chapter have served as national officers and as editor of the national magazine, *Matrix*. Central Indiana has been the site of five regional or national conferences. There have been four in Indianapolis, in 1934, 1953, 1979 and 1985 and two in Bloomington, in 1941 and 1976.

On the local level, the Indianapolis Chapter has provided communications education on the secondary and college levels, as well as continued education by offering manuals, workshops, conferences, internships and management seminars. The Indianapolis chapter also offered an annual scholarship and gave several awards to community civic groups, corporations or individuals. This included a High School Journalism Award; the Frances Wright Award for distinguished service in journalism by a Hoosier woman; Those Special People "TSP" awards for outstanding civic duty; a Worthwhile Industry Award for outstanding corporate civic duty; a college Campus Communication Award for outstanding college journalism in Indiana; and a Woman of the Year Award.

During the 1940s, the Indianapolis Chapter adopted a French girl and her family and helped them out by sending them food and clothing. The correspondence, several photographs, and postcards from the French girl are included in the collection.

The Indianapolis Chapter was also politically active by providing Annual Legislative Awareness Seminars and by supporting legislation on several key issues. They provided information and backing to support freedom of information legislation and for legislation benefiting the communications industry and guaranteeing equal rights for women.

On 19 May 1999, the Indianapolis Chapter's Board of Directors voted to dissolve the chapter. This was "[d]ue to declining numbers of members who are willing/able to

volunteer their time." The board also had an agreement with the Network of Women in Business (NOWIB). NOWIB would add a communications special interest group and offer AWC members special rates on membership.

Sources:

Association for Women in Communications. "AWC Timeline: 1990s." Accessed April 10, 2018.

[http://www.womcom.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=903060&module\\_id=193715](http://www.womcom.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=903060&module_id=193715)

Collection materials.

McBirney, Connie, Paul Brockman, Hilary Adams, and Karen Larson. Collection guide. M 0375 Women in Communications, Inc., Indianapolis Chapter Records and Files, 1915-. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide updated December 2004)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection addition contains records of the Indianapolis chapter of the Association of Women in Communications. Included are the following materials: articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, meeting attendance lists, lists of committee and Board of Directors members, Board of Directors meeting minutes and reports, board and committee job descriptions, correspondence, directory advertising materials, goals and strategic plans, membership directories, meeting information, "Insight" newsletters, national newsletters and publications, survey results, advancement records, budget requests and proposals, yearly and monthly income and expense reports, yearly operating records which contain reimbursement requests, expenses and budget materials, and materials related to local AWC seminars.

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Committee responsibilities and job descriptions, n.d.

Correspondence, 1991–1999

Directory advertising, 1994

Goals and strategic plans, 1990–1996; n.d.

Membership directories, 1996–1997; n.d.

Meeting information and "Insight" newsletter, 1990–1999

Miscellaneous organization information, 1992–1999; n.d.

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Advancement records, 1992–1993; n.d.

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