

Collection #
M 1367
OM 0670

**ERA INDIANA CAMPAIGN
ORAL HISTORIES AND RESEARCH, 1950-2003**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Series Contents	4

Processed by

Courtney Rookard
April 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1950-2003

PROVENANCE: Eloise Scroggins, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana / Jeannie Regan-Dinius, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: ERA Indiana Materials M 1208; Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment Records M 0636; Joline Moore Ohmart Papers M 0610; Indiana NOW Collection M 0583; Indiana Women's Political Caucus Records M 0709; International Women's Year Records M 0545; Virginia Dill McCarty Papers M 1316

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0065

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The collection focuses on women's history in Indiana, mostly in the 1970s. Main topics covered in the interviews include the Equal Rights Amendment campaign, the National Organization for Women, International Women's Year, the League of Women Voters, women in politics, and general discrimination against women and women of color.

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): Although the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and subsequent years, both houses of Congress did not pass the ERA until 1972. When the amendment was sent out to the states with a ratification deadline of 22 March 1979, thirty states ratified within the first year. However, opposition to the amendment also began to organize and solidify, most notably from Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum/STOP ERA. Eight more ratifications were needed to adopt the ERA, and because of the opposition, few trickled in.

In August 1973, Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment (HERA) was established to stir up public support and lobby lawmakers to pass the amendment after the Equal Rights Amendment was not ratified by the 1973 Indiana General Assembly. The organization disbanded in 1976, as publicity and advocacy efforts were taken over by operatives for the National Organization for Women. The campaign was successful, and the ERA was ratified by the state of Indiana on 24 January 1977, bringing the count to thirty-five states. Chances of getting three more states by the deadline looked grim as conservative opposition gained more popularity, so NOW and other pro-ERA groups asked Congress for an extension. Congress granted the extension until 30 June 1982 and pro-ERA groups re-focused on targeting three more states for ratification.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 in an effort to combat discrimination against women and to promote equality for women in all aspects of American society. Composed of both men and women, NOW took active stands on legislation prohibiting gender-based discrimination in politics and the work place, promoting child-care centers, and increasing reproductive freedom. NOW unsuccessfully fought for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. NOW also supported the 1973 Supreme Court decision on *Roe v. Wade* to legalize abortion. The Indianapolis NOW chapter was formed in 1972 and fought for the aforementioned issues at the state level in conjunction with the national organization

The International Women's Year was created by the United Nations and private organizations to call attention to women's issues. The national organization that oversaw the year's activities was the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. Each state had its own Coordinating Committee which raised funds and served as an outreach point to the community.

Sources:

Collection guide for ERA Indiana Materials (M 1208)

Collection guide for Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment Records (M 0636)

Collection guide for Indiana NOW Collection (M 0583)

Collection guide for International Women's Year Records (M 0545)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In 2003, Eloise Scroggins completed her master's thesis, "Organizing on Their Own Terms: Women and the Equal Rights Amendment in Indiana," for the history department at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. This collection contains transcripts of women's history oral histories conducted by Jeannie Regan-Dinius and research material Scroggins used in writing her thesis.

Series 1: Oral History Transcripts

The oral history interviews were conducted by Jeannie Regan-Dinius in Indiana between 1993 and 1995. The 1993 (and 1994) interviews were conducted in preparation for Volume 6 of *The History of Indiana: Before 1945* planned by the Indiana Historical Society and Dr. John M. Glen; the volume was never published. The 1995 interviews were conducted for Jeannie Regan-Dinius's master's thesis to supplement the 1993 interviews.

Series 2: Research Material

This series includes pamphlets, magazines, correspondence, newspapers, and articles related to the ERA campaign and women's movement in Indiana.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Oral History Transcripts

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Norma Ethel Bradway Interview Transcripts, 1993, 1995	Box 1, Folder 1
Buelah Coughenour Interview Transcript, 9 November 1995	Box 1, Folder 2
Joan Gubbins Interview Transcript, 26 July 1995	Box 1, Folder 3
Barbara Gunn Interview Transcript, 6 October 1993	Box 1, Folder 4
Gloria Joan Francis Kaufman and Sam Shapiro Interview Transcript, 17 September 1995	Box 1, Folder 5
Melinda Jones Interview Transcript, 8 July 1995	Box 1, Folder 6
Rosalie Kelly Interview Transcript, 27 October 1993	Box 1, Folder 7
Carrie Kemp Interview Transcript, 17 November 1993	Box 1, Folder 8
Judith LaFourest and Beth Ann Gruber Interview Transcript, 30 June 1995	Box 1, Folder 9
Virginia Dill McCarty Interview Transcript, 3 November 1993	Box 1, Folder 10
Muncie NOW Chapter Interview Transcript, 1 November 1993	Box 1, Folder 11
Joline Ohmart Interview Transcript, 27 October 1993	Box 1, Folder 12
Frances Dodson Rhome Interview Transcripts, 1993, 1995	Box 1, Folder 13
Roselyn Richardson Interview Transcripts, 1993, 1994	Box 1, Folder 14
Patricia Tollens Interview Transcript, 17 September 1995	Box 1, Folder 15
Joan Daly Uebelhoer Interview Transcript, 8 November 1995	Box 1, Folder 16
Marion Wagner Interview Transcript, 19 September 1995	Box 1, Folder 17

Barbara Zimmer Interview Transcript, 30 November 1993

Box 1, Folder 18

Series 2: Research Material

CONTENTS

ERA Research, 1950-2003

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 1

“A History of the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis, 1920-1970” Master’s thesis by Barbara Zimmer, 1970

Box 2, Folder 2

Indiana Unity Coalition, 1977-1978

Box 2, Folder 3

International Women’s Year Research, 1977 (1 of 2)

Box 2, Folder 4

International Women’s Year Research, 1977 (2 of 2)

Box 2, Folder 5

Newspapers, 1977-1995

OM 0670 Folder 1 of 1

NOW Material, 1980s

Box 2, Folder 6

Women’s History Research and Notes, ca. 2003 (1 of 2)

Box 2, Folder 7

Women’s History Research and Notes, ca. 2003 (2 of 2)

Box 2, Folder 8