INDIANA WOMEN’S POLITICAL CAUCUS RECORDS, 1967–1983

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Chris Harter
7 May 1998
Revised 23 January 2002
Updated 9 March 2004

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: 9 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized manuscript box, 4 artifacts

COLLECTION 1967–83
HISTORICAL SKETCH

The national women's movement that began in the 1960s was well represented in Indianapolis, where participants pursued legal, political, and social changes in the status of women. The decade of the 1970s saw the most action and influence by women's advocacy groups. Both the Indiana Women's Political Caucus and the Greater Indianapolis caucus were formed in October 1971 as affiliates of the National Women's Political Caucus, a multi-partisan organization. The organizational meeting of the IWPC was chaired by prominent Indianapolis attorney, Virginia Dill McCarty (b. 1924) and Rae Ginger, temporary state coordinators appointed by the national caucus. The goal of each caucus was to advance the status of women through political action. Major issues pursued by the organizations were passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), equal pay and job opportunities for women, and more women in policy-making positions in politics and government.

The focus of the state and Indianapolis caucuses during the campaign year of 1972 was on the ERA. Indianapolis native and NWPC spokesperson Jill Ruckelshaus was instrumental in getting the national Republican Party to include the ERA as part of its platform. The first attempt to ratify the amendment was unsuccessful, due in part to Senators Joan Gubbins and Angeline P. Astatt, who led ERA opposition in the State Senate. However, Indiana eventually ratified the amendment on 18 January 1977.

The caucuses also addressed the issues of abortion, woman's health, discriminatory practices in the areas of housing and credit, and rape. The caucuses were active into the 1980s.

The Julian Center (formerly the Julian Mission), a human services organization for women, was founded in 1975 by the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis. It became an affiliate of the United Way in 1981. The center began as a counseling center for women in crisis, but expanded its services into other areas. The Sojourner Shelter was opened in 1977 as a shelter for battered women. Due to a continually growing demand for services, the Julian Center moved twice between 1984 and 1989. Since 1990 the agency has increased its emphasis on the prevention of violence against women. By 1992, the Sojourner Shelter was providing services to over 700 women and children annually.

Sources: Material in the collection.
The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis, pp. 856, 1442-1444.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of the records (1971–83) of the Indiana Women's Political Caucus created or collected by president Molly P. Rucker (b. 1941). Included are records relating to the Greater Indianapolis Women's Political Caucus (ca. 1971–78) and the National Women's Political Caucus (1971–83). Also present are subject files on the Equal Rights Amendment, International Women's Year, records relating to the Julian Center (1979–83), and a folder of miscellaneous correspondence (1967–83).

The records have been maintained, for the most part, in the arrangement in which they were received. Many of the folder headings have been preserved, while the material in each folder may have been placed in chronological order. Because of the inter-related nature, members and activities of the three organizations (local, state, and national), an analysis of one level requires a survey of the entire collection.

Material relating to the Greater Indianapolis caucus includes correspondence, minutes, reports, membership and contact lists, subject files, newsletters, and a 1976 yearbook. The records of the Indiana state caucus are comprised of constitutions and by-laws, minutes and agendas of the state policy council, financial records, materials concerning the caucus' annual convention, correspondence, membership and contact lists, newsletters and other printed matter, subject files, information on other women's organizations in Indiana, and a banner. The national caucus records include by-laws, correspondence, minutes, steering committee files, printed material, and buttons.

Correspondents in the collection include: Bella Abzug (1920–98), Birch Bayh (b. 1928), Dell Morgan Chumley (fl. 1969–83), Virginia Dill McCarty, James Danforth Quayle (b. 1947), and Molly Patricia Rucker. The collection also contains material that provides a look at the political careers of Abzug and Bayh, particularly their support of the ERA.

The subject files on the Equal Rights Amendment and the International Women's Year contain material relating to the caucuses' involvement with those activities. The records of the Julian Center include correspondence, minutes and reports, and relate to Molly Rucker's involvement with that organization.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Greater Indianapolis Women’s Political Caucus Records, ca. 1971–78

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence and Papers, 1971–73</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence and Papers, 1974</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence and Papers, 1975</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence and Papers, 1976–78, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting and Committee Notes, ca. 1973</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Records, 1974–76</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Forms (1 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Forms (2 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Lists, Dec. 1971–Feb. 1972</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Lists, Apr.–May 1972</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Lists, June–Dec. 1972 Box 1, Folder 11
Membership Lists, 1973–76 Box 1, Folder 12
State Membership Lists Box 1, Folder 13
Local Contact Lists Box 1, Folder 14
Invitation Lists Box 1, Folder 15
Miscellaneous and Unknown Lists Box 1, Folder 16
Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, 1972 Box 1, Folder 17
Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, Printed Material Box 1, Folder 18
Fund Raising Proposal, ca. 1972 Box 1, Folder 19
Criminal Justice Study Committee, 1972–73 Box 1, Folder 20
Indiana State Fair Booth, 1973 Box 1, Folder 21
Political Action File, ca. 1973–75 Box 1, Folder 22
Political Candidates, 1974 Box 1, Folder 23
Central Indiana Health Fair, 1975 Box 1, Folder 24
GIWPC Newsletter, Mar. 1973–Dec. 1976 (incomplete) Box 1, Folder 25
GIWPC Yearbook, 1976 Box 1, Folder 26

**Series 2: IWPC Records: Minutes of Organizational Meeting, 1971**

**CONTENTS**

Minutes of Organizational Meeting of IWPC, 1971 Box 2, Folder 1

**Series 3: Constitutions and By-Laws**

**CONTENTS**

Constitutions Box 2, Folder 2
Proposed By-Law Changes, 1973 Box 2, Folder 3
Proposed By-Law Changes, 1974 Box 2, Folder 4

**Series 4: State Policy Council, 1972–1983**

**CONTENTS**

State Policy Council, 1972 Box 2, Folder 5
State Policy Council, Jan.–Apr. 1973 Box 2, Folder 6
State Policy Council, May 1973 Box 2, Folder 7
State Policy Council, June–Oct. 1973 Box 2, Folder 8
State Policy Council, Nov.–Dec. 1973 Box 2, Folder 9
State Policy Council, 1974–1975 Box 2, Folder 10
State Policy Council, 1976 Box 2, Folder 11
State Policy Council, Jan.–Apr. 1979 Box 2, Folder 12
State Policy Council, May–Dec. 1979 Box 2, Folder 13
State Policy Council, 1982 Box 2, Folder 14

**Series 5: State Conventions, 1972–1976**

CONTENTS CONTAINER
State Convention, 1972 (1 of 2) Box 2, Folder 15
State Convention, 1972 (2 of 2) Box 2, Folder 16
State Convention, 1972, Registration Forms Box 2, Folder 17
State Convention, 1973 (1 of 3) Box 2, Folder 18
State Convention, 1973 (2 of 3) Box 2, Folder 19
State Convention, 1973 (3 of 3) Box 2, Folder 20
NWPC Convention, 1973 (1 of 2) Box 2, Folder 21
NWPC Convention, 1973 (2 of 2) Box 2, Folder 22
NWPC Convention, 1973, Registration Forms Box 2, Folder 23
State Convention, 1974 Box 2, Folder 24
State Convention, 1975 Box 2, Folder 25
State Convention, 1976 Box 2, Folder 26
State Convention, 1976, Registration Forms Box 2, Folder 27


CONTENTS CONTAINER
Treasurer's Reports and Financial Records, ca. 1971– Box 2, Folder 28

CONTENTS
Correspondence with Potential Members, 1971–72
Correspondence, 1971
Correspondence, Jan.–Mar. 1972
Correspondence, Apr.–June 1972
Correspondence, July–Oct. 1972
Correspondence, Nov.–Dec. 1972
Correspondence, 1973–74
Correspondence, 1975–80
Correspondence, n.d.

Series 8: Membership and Contact Lists

CONTENTS
Membership List, 1972
Women in 8th District and Contact Lists
Contact Lists (Other States)
Membership Lists (Local Caucuses)
Local Caucuses' Material
Miscellaneous Lists

Series 9: Delegate Selection Files

CONTENTS
Delegate Selection Files, Correspondence 1972
Delegate Selection Files, Correspondence 1973
Delegate Selection Files (1 of 4)
Delegate Selection Files (2 of 4)
Series 10: Subject Files

CONTENTS
Re: Lobbying, 1971–72 (1 of 2) Box 3, Folder 22
Re: Lobbying, 1971–72 (2 of 2) Box 3, Folder 23
Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, 1973–75 Box 3, Folder 24
Re: Not For Profit Status, ca. 1972 Box 3, Folder 25
Full Employment Task Force, 1975 Box 3, Folder 26

Series 11: Newsletter, 1982–1983

CONTENTS
IWPC Newsletter, 1982–83 (Incomplete) Box 3, Folder 27

Series 12: Banner

CONTENTS
Banner Artifacts: R 1992


CONTENTS
Newspaper Clippings, 1970–Jan. 1972 Box 4, Folder 1
Newspaper Clippings, Feb.–May 1972 Box 4, Folder 2
Newspaper Clippings, June 1972–79, 1983 Box 4, Folder 3

Series 14: Other Women's Organizations

CONTENTS
Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment (HERA), Box 4, Folder 4
Intrastate Consortium of City Commissions on Women, NOW
League of Women Voters, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Box 4, Folder 5
Series 15: Printed Material, Miscellaneous

CONTENTS

*An American Manifesto: America's Continuing Revolution*  
Box 4, Folder 6

*Women: Working it Out*  
Box 4, Folder 7

Miscellaneous Notes  
Box 4, Folder 8

Miscellaneous  
Box 4, Folder 9

Series 16: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1967–1983

CONTENTS

Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1967, 1969, 1983  
Box 4, Folder 10

Series 17: NWPC Records: By-Laws

CONTENTS

NWPC By-Laws and Proposed Changes, 1977–79  
Box 4, Folder 11

Series 18: Correspondence and Papers, 1971–1983

CONTENTS

Papers and Correspondence, Apr.–Oct. 1971  
Box 4, Folder 12

Papers and Correspondence, Nov.–Dec. 1971  
Box 4, Folder 13

Papers and Correspondence, Jan.–Apr. 1972  
Box 4, Folder 14

Papers and Correspondence, May–Dec. 1972  
Box 4, Folder 15

Papers and Correspondence, 1973–74  
Box 4, Folder 16

Win With Women, 1974 (1 of 2)  
Box 4, Folder 17

Win With Women, 1974 (2 of 2)  
Box 4, Folder 18

Papers and Correspondence, Jan.–May 1975  
Box 4, Folder 19

Papers and Correspondence, June 1975 (National Convention)  
Box 4, Folder 20

National Convention Program  
Box 4, Folder 21

Papers and Correspondence, July–Dec. 1975  
Box 4, Folder 22

Papers and Correspondence, ca. 1975–76  
Box 5, Folder 1
Papers and Correspondence, 1977–78
Papers and Correspondence, Jan.–Mar. 1979
Papers and Correspondence, Apr.–May 1979
Papers and Correspondence, June–July 1979
Papers and Correspondence, Aug.–Dec. 1979
Papers and Correspondence, ca. 1979
National Convention, 1979
Papers and Correspondence, Jan.–June 1980
Papers and Correspondence, July–Dec. 1980
Papers and Correspondence, 1981

Series 19: Steering Committee Files, 1981–1983

CONTENTS
Steering Committee File, 1981
Papers and Correspondence, 1982
Steering Committee File, Jan. 1982
Steering Committee File, May 1982 (1 of 3)
Steering Committee File, May 1982 (2 of 3)
Steering Committee File, May 1982 (3 of 3)
Steering Committee File, ca. June–July 1982
Steering Committee File, Oct. 1982
Papers and Correspondence, Jan.–14 Feb. 1983
Papers and Correspondence, 15–23 Feb. 1983
Papers and Correspondence, 24–29 Feb. 1983
Papers and Correspondence, Mar.–Apr. 1983
Papers and Correspondence, May–Dec. 1983
Papers and Correspondence, ca. 1982–83
Steering Committee File, Jan. 1983 (1 of 2)
Steering Committee File, Jan. 1983 (2 of 2)
Series 20: Other State Caucus Newsletters

CONTENTS
Other State Caucus Newsletters
Box 6, Folder 3
Other State Caucus Newsletters
OMB 0072, Folder 2

Series 21: Printed Material

CONTENTS
NWPC Newsletter
Box 6, Folder 4
Women’s Political Times, 1976, 1982, 1983
OMB 0072, Folder 2
Printed Material (Pamphlets)
Box 6, Folder 5

Series 22: Artifacts and ERA Subject File

CONTENTS
Buttons
ERA Legislation
Box 6, Folder 6
ERA, 1973–Nov. 1976
Box 6, Folder 7
ERA, Dec. 1976
Box 6, Folder 8
ERA, Jan. 1977
Box 6, Folder 9
ERA, Feb. 1977-78
Box 6, Folder 10
ERA, ca. 1970s (1 of 2)
Box 6, Folder 11
ERA, ca. 1970s (2 of 2)
Box 6, Folder 12
ERA, 1981–82
Box 6, Folder 13
ERA, "The Equal Rights Amendment" by Norma Card
Box 6, Folder 14
ERA, Printed Material (1 of 2)
Box 6, Folder 15
ERA, Printed Material (2 of 2)
Box 6, Folder 16
ERA, Promotional Stickers
Box 6, Folder 17

Series 23: International Women’s Year

CONTENTS
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  [http://157.91.92.2/](http://157.91.92.2/)

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0709).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.