

Collection #  
M1036  
OM0512

## YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF INDIANA COLLECTION, 1934–1948

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketches](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Dorothy A. Nicholson  
April 2012

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

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

<b>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</b>	Manuscripts: 1 half size document case, 1 OM folder Visuals: 1 OVB photograph Printed: 3 pamphlets
<b>COLLECTION DATES:</b>	1934–1948
<b>PROVENANCE:</b>	Dianne J. Cartmel, Indiana: 2001, 2011
<b>RESTRICTIONS:</b>	None
<b>COPYRIGHT:</b>	
<b>REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:</b>	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
<b>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</b>	
<b>RELATED HOLDINGS:</b>	
<b>ACCESSION NUMBERS:</b>	2001.0836, 2011.0324
<b>NOTES:</b>	

## HISTORICAL SKETCHES

The Democratic Party has been in existence in Indiana since Indiana became a state in 1816. The Indiana and Marion County Democratic organizations are part of the national Democratic Party. During the Great Depression Indiana's economy was in trouble and there were impoverished conditions nationwide. Republicans were slow to take action and the Democratic Party became the dominant local party during the 1932 presidential election.

Paul V. McNutt (1891–1955) was born in Franklin, Indiana and grew up in Martinsville. He graduated from Indiana University and received his law degree from Harvard University. In 1925 he became Indiana University's youngest Dean. Economic issues during the Great Depression prompted voters to vote Democratic and he was elected governor in 1932, the same year Franklin D. Roosevelt was first elected president. McNutt reorganized state government and moved the state economy from a deficit to a surplus restoring the state's solvency. While he was governor he also planned his run for the presidency after Roosevelt's second term. Roosevelt ran for a third term and McNutt's plan was never realized.

The Young Democratic Clubs of America (YDCA) was formally organized in March 1932 in Washington, D.C. Later that year the first formal national meeting was held at the DNC National Convention in Chicago. The DNC adopted the Young Democratic Clubs of America as the official youth organization of the Democratic Party. The organization is now known as Young Democrats of America. The Young Democrats of Indiana has been a part of that organization since its inception. Today, known as Indiana Young Democrats, it mobilizes young people to participate in the electoral process and develop skills to serve as leaders on the local, state, and national level.

Alvin C. Johnson was an attorney and member of the Young Democrats of Indiana. In the 1930s he worked at Lutz & Johnson law firm in the Circle Tower Building in Indianapolis. He lived at 1322 north Alabama Street with his wife Dolores.

### Sources:

*Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1994.  
General Collection: F534.I55 E4 1994

*Indianapolis city directory*. Taylor, Mich.:R.L. Polk & Co.  
General Collection: F534.I55 A18.

*The Governors of Indiana*. Indianapolis : Indiana Historical Society Press in cooperation with the Indiana Historical Bureau, 2006. General Collection: F525 .G69 2006

[www.indems.org/index.php/pages/history](http://www.indems.org/index.php/pages/history)

[www.indems.org/page/group/IndianaYoungDemocrats](http://www.indems.org/page/group/IndianaYoungDemocrats)

[www.yda.org/about/history/](http://www.yda.org/about/history/)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The materials in the collection belonged to local attorney, Alvin C. Johnson, Sr., and concern his involvement with the Young Democrats of Indiana during the 1930s and 40s.

The manuscript materials include a financial report, speeches, outlines and notes, an officer list, and documents from the "Paul V. McNutt for President in 1940 Club, Inc." Printed materials include pamphlets on political topics and an issue of *The Young Democrat*, a newspaper published by the Young Democratic Clubs of Missouri. The visual material consists of one OVB size photograph showing a group of Young Democrats of Indiana attending a banquet in Wayne County in 1936.

The collection is organized by material type then chronological within. Descriptions in the Contents section with quotation marks are taken from the materials. Information in square brackets [ ] are the comments and descriptions of the processor.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Manuscript Materials, 1934–1948**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
“Hoosier Democratic Club, Paul V. McNutt for President Committee”	Box 1, Folder 1
“Paul V. McNutt for President Club” [non-profit statements for the Gross Income Tax Division for State of Indiana, 1934, 1940]	
“Address delivered at the testimonial dinner of the Young Democratic Clubs of Michigan on Thursday evening, July 23, 1936” [9 pages, typed]	Box 1, Folder 2
“Residents, Ex-Residents and Guests of Cloverdale at this Annual Home-Coming.” [speech, 8 pages, typed, ca. 1936]	Box 1, Folder 3
“Mr. Chairman and Young Democrats of Indiana” [speech by spokesman of Young Democratic Clubs of American concerning current election, 6 pages, typed, ca. 1936]	Box 1, Folder 4
[outline (7 pages) and speech (16 pages) concerning progress of Democratic Party in Indiana, typed, ca. 1936]	Box 1, Folder 5
“Insignia Committee, Young Democrats of Indiana, Alvin C. Johnson, Vice President of committee” [audit of books and records, April 3, 1937]	Box 1, Folder 6
“Young Democratic Clubs of America, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., Remarks of Frank Wickham, President of Young Democratic Clubs of America, at the Jefferson Day Banquet, Athletic Club, Philadelphia, Pa. Tuesday Evening, April 13, 1937” [4 pages, typed]	Box 1, Folder 7
[address to Young Democratic Club of East Chicago concerning past and 1938 campaign, Feb. 13, 1938, typed, 11 pages]	Box 1, Folder 8

[address to Young Democrats of Southern Illinois, appreciation expressed to Chuck Bliss the Illinois state president and remarks on past and future of Democratic party, typed, 16 pages, ca. 1939]	Box 1, Folder 9
“Paul V. McNutt for President in 1940 Club, Inc.” [articles of incorporation, meeting minutes, by-laws, depository authority, board of directors meeting minutes, reorganization, annual meeting minutes, member list, 1936–1939]	Box 1, Folder 10
“T.V. Smith on the Democratic Way, Gossip and Statesmanship (Broadcast October 2, for National Democratic Committee” [comments on Roosevelt’s passing and presidential election for 1948, typed]	Box 1, Folder 11
“Voices and the Votes: Advice for Orators from Dr. Smith ... advice from Dr. Henry Lee Smith, the speech expert who conducts WOR-Mutual’s “Where Are You From?” Program. ...” [typed, 1 page, n.d.]	Box 1, Folder 12
“District Officers” [typed, 2 pages, with handwritten notes, n.d.]	Box 1, Folder 12
[handwritten notes found with collection, n.d.]	Box 1, Folder 12
 <b>Series 2: Printed Materials, 1935–1948</b>	
CONTENTS	CONTAINER
<i>Selling the Democratic Party to the People of Indiana</i> , Remarks of Pleas E. Greenlee, executive secretary to Governor Paul V. McNutt, to the Women’s State House Democratic Club, Sept. 10, 1935	Pamphlet Collection
<i>The Truth about the American Liberty League</i> , published by M.D. Myers, Hotel English, Indianapolis, Ind. Copyright 1936	Pamphlet Collection
<i>The Young Democrat</i> , Official Organ of and Published by the Young Democratic Clubs of Missouri, Inc., Jefferson City, Missouri, Volume 3–Number 6, December, 1937	OM0512 Folder 1

*Let's Talk Politics, Primary 1948 Edition, A Pocket-Size Folder of Facts Every Citizen Should Know in 1948.....An Election Year.....* Published by the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce...April 1948

OM0512  
Folder 1

*Guidebook Designed for Democratic Organization in the County and Precinct Dedicated to All Party Workers, Women's Division, Democratic National Committee, Ring Building, Washington 6, D.C.*  
Published April 1948

Pamphlet Collection

### **Series 3: Visual Materials, 1936**

#### CONTENTS

“Young Democratic Clubs of Wayne County, Masonic Temple, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1936”  
[Wayne County, Ind. banquet with people seated at dining tables, Franklin Roosevelt portrait on display]

#### CONTAINER

OVB Photographs:  
Folder 1



## 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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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, M1036).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.