ALPHA
League of Women Voters of Minneapolis.
20.0 cu. ft. (24 boxes, including 18 v.).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The League of Women Voters of Minneapolis was organized in 1922 as the Fifth District League of Women Voters, in conformity with other local Minnesota leagues organized by congressional district. Its name was changed to the present form in 1947. Its governing structure was modeled closely after those of the national and state leagues, and it pursued on a local level the fundamental mission of the national organization: the political education and motivation of the newly enfranchised women voters.

The Minneapolis league was organized into a number (30-55) of small "discussion units," each of them representing a ward or neighborhood area, and ranging in size from ten to twenty-five members. These groups, after 1921, tended to meet monthly to carry on the basic educational program of the Minneapolis league.

This sketch was taken from historical data filed at the beginning of box 1. Of particular note is a 52-page manuscript (1951) by John Tsuderos on the administrative structure of the Minneapolis league during its first twenty-five years. This narrative was a case study extracted from his larger PhD dissertation.

Kathryn Johnson
July 1994
DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Administrative Files

The administration records are fairly complete, except for the board of directors' minutes, which cover only the years 1962-1967. However, the minutes are detailed and also include other records including minutes of committee meetings, membership information, lists of directors, and minutes of one annual meeting (1964). Annual reports (1967-1987) and annual meeting files (1922-1986) are present, along with smaller increments of records on goals and planning, personnel, committees, and the Hennepin County Council of the LWV (minutes 1947-1966). A number of records detail such league activities as foreign visitors to Minneapolis, League Day programs, tours, seminars, and workshops, all illustrating the scope and variety of activities promoted by the league.

Extensive financial records contain information on the league's drives to raise money (1960-1981), sales of a league calendar, benefit performances at the Guthrie and Cricket theaters, tax information, and budget data. They also include trial balances, treasurer's reports and statements, records of receipts and disbursements (1919-1968, 18 v.), cash books (1951-1970), and contributor lists (1953-1964).

Following are files containing data on membership, publications, and public relations. Included are membership lists and directories, catalogs of league publications, copies of Minneapolis league publications, mailing lists, information on the league's promotional work through the media, speakers' bureau information, news releases, and newspaper clippings.

Program Files

Program materials constitute the major portion of the collection. There are a few files with information on program planning and recommendations for national, state, and Minneapolis activities. There are many unit study briefing kits (1969-1986) consisting of printed materials, memoranda, and similar materials on a wide variety of topics including state and city governmental policies, civil rights, education, housing, Indians, juveniles, law enforcement, parks, politics, and many other subjects.

Similar in subject matter are the program subject files, which include correspondence,
newspaper clippings, reports, interview transcripts, and similar materials, and which are divided into domestic issue and foreign affair issue components. Educational policies receive the largest documentation and include files on collective bargaining and tenure for teachers, school aid programs, and the Minneapolis Public Schools, including school administration, alternative education, special education, and studies and surveys of school issues.

Other extensive program files relate to Hennepin County matters including courts, hospitals, public welfare, and tax structures; to housing, mainly low income housing; to city planning, including urban renewal and zoning, model city and pilot city programs, and neighborhood issues; and to water resources containing consensus reports from various league units and miscellaneous records.

Program files on foreign affairs issues contain information on post-World War II relief programs, foreign aid, immigration policies, and the United Nations.

**Special Project Files**

*Observer Reports.* Detailed reports made by league observers who attended many committee, commission, and city council meetings. They reveal information on a variety of topics including city planning, environmental issues, health, housing, human relations, libraries, and parks. Also included are some minutes and financial reports relating to individual subjects.

*Minneapolis City Charter Studies.* Details on the many attempts to amend and revise the charter with regard to rent control, bonding limits, appointment of a city manager, size of city council, city finances, and police and fire department issues. Of particular interest are two folders of information on the Charter Improvement Volunteer Information Committee and the Joint Committee for Charter Review.

*Political Activities.* Extensive files on the Election Returns Project (1965-1985), a league project to collect and tabulate election returns, first for Minneapolis and later for Hennepin County. The files include correspondence with the media, instructions to volunteers, cost information, lists of candidates, and a few election night tallies.
Other political files contain information on campaign spending and finance, candidate meetings arranged by the league, constitutional revision, election judge training programs, precinct caucuses, reapportionment, and voter registration.
CONTAINER LIST

Administrative Files

Box 1.  
151.I.12.10F
Background Materials:
- History of the League by L. Chalmers, [1935?].
- Historical Background and Notes, 1955-1971.
- "Let's Talk League" (undated), and "Career Development Portfolio" (1981).
Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws, 1920-1982.
(Includes some minutes of committee meetings (1964-1966), membership information (1964), annual meeting information (1964), and director lists (1969-1982).) (5 folders)
Board Retreats, 1974-1979.
Handbooks, 1948-1951.

Box 2.  
151.I.12.11B
Annual Reports to National LWV, 1967-1986. (6 folders)
Annual Meeting Files, 1922-1970. (4 folders)

Box 3.  
151.I.12.12F
Annual Meeting Files, 1971-1986. (6 folders)
Personnel Committee (including office staff), 1940-1971. (2 folders)
Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues:
- Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1962-1966. (2 folders)
Hope Washburn Award, 1957-1981.
League Day Programs, 1951-1979. (4 folders)

Box 4.  
Skits and Program Ideas, undated and 1969.
Tour: Legislator's Tour of Minneapolis, 1969.
Youth Day at Legislature, 1969.

Box 5.  
Correspondence files:
    With National LWV, 1919-1964. (12 folders)
    With State LWV, 1953-1964. (9 folders)
    General Correspondence, 1953-1973. (13 folders)

Box 6.  
General Correspondence, 1974-1984. (24 folders)

Box 7.  
Financial Records:
    Finance Drives, 1960-1981. (10 folders)
    Finance Advisory Committee. Lists, Correspondence, and Minutes, 1963-1982. (5 folders)
    Fund Raising:
        Calendar Project, 1968-2986.
    LWV Education Fund, 1969-1981. (4 folders)
    Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund, 1948-1957.
    Jane Grey Swisshelm Memorial Benefit, 1939.
    National LWV Expansion Program:
        Correspondence and Miscellaney, 1936-1949. (2 folders)
        Newspaper Clippings, 1939-1940.
    Tax Information, 1936-1968.
Box 8.  
Treasurer's Monthly Reports and Statements, 1937-1954. (4 folders)

Box 9.  148.C.18.5B (ov)
Receipts and Disbursements, 1919-April 1951. (8 v.)

Box 10.  148.C.18.6F (ov)
Receipts and Disbursements, May 1951-March 1968. (4 v.)
Contributors, 1953-1964). (2 v.)

Box 11.  151.I.13.4F
Membership Records:
Correspondence and Miscellany, 1925-1980. (4 folders)
Membership Promotion, 1963.
Publications:
Correspondence and Miscellany, 1927-1971. (2 folders)
"Minneapolis is your Business":
Mailing List, 1964.
Correspondence and Miscellany, 1955-1981. (6 folders)

Box 12.  151.I.13.5B
Public Relations Records:
Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1945-1985. (3 folders)
Radio Programs, 1952-1975. (2 folders)
Speaker's Bureau, 1953-1981/82.
News Releases, 1938-1985. (5 folders)
Newspaper Clippings, 1956-1978.

Program Files

Box 13.  151.I.13.6F
Program Planning:
State LWV, 1936-1981. (8 folders)
National, 1949-1980. (7 folders)
Box 14.  151.I.13.7B
Unit Studies Briefing Kits, 1969-1981. (49 folders)

Box 15.  151.I.13.8F
Unit Studies Briefing Kits, 1982-1986.

Box 16.  151.I.13.9B
Program Subject Files: Domestic Issues:
   Atomic Energy:
      Miscellany, 1940-1947.
   Children's Issues:
   Citizen Participation, 1968-1982. (2 folders)
   City Budget, 1972-1983.
   City Coordinator, 1972-1979.
   City Council Interviews, 1984.
   City Officials Study (interviews, including city council members), 1988-1989. (3 folders)
   Civil Service:
      Correspondence and Miscellany, 1936-1981. (3 folders)
      Minneapolis Civil Service Commission, 1944-1948.
   Collective Bargaining, 1937-1942.
   Consumer Interests, 1934-1939.
   Corrections (adult and juvenile), 1974-1975.
   Defense Production, 1941-1943.
   Economic Issues, 1931-1946.

Box 17.  143.B.19.5B
Education/Schools:
Box 17. (cont.)

Education/Schools: (cont.)

School Aid Formula, 1976.
State Aid to Schools, 1953-1967.

Minneapolis Public Schools:

Bond Program, 1962.

Education Studies:

1961.
1970.

Teacher's Salaries, 1962.
Miscellaneous Records, 1953-1985. (3 folders)


Box 18.

Family Violence (including handguns), 1978, 1983.
Food and Drug Legislation, 1936, 1938.
Full Employment, 1943-1946.

Hennepin County:

General Hospital, 1956-1971.
Box 18. (cont.)

Housing:
  Miscellany, 1938-1986. (3 folders)
Human Resources:
  Teen Pregnancy, 1984-1986. (3 folders)
Indian Affairs, 1951-1975. (5 folders)

Box 19.

Indians in Minneapolis, 1964-1971. (2 folders)
Initiative and Referendum, 1980.
Juvenile Delinquency, 1939-1942.
Land Use in Minnesota, 1974.
Libraries (including Minneapolis Public and Hennepin County libraries), 1956-1982.
  (3 folders)
Planning (including urban renewal, zoning, and related files):
  General Files, 1962-1982. (3 folders)
Price Controls, 1941-1947.
Box 20.  
Revenue Sharing, 1974-1975.  
State of Minnesota: "Know Your State." [Study], 1948.  
Taxes:  
   Tax Study Committee, 1956-1960.  
   Unemployment Compensation, 1932-1938.  
   Wartime Service, 1941-1943.  
Water Resources:  
   Miscellany, 1932-1970. (10 folders)  
   Consensus Reports from Units, 1959.  
   Welfare, 1932-1982. (3 folders)  

Box 21.  
Women's Issues:  
Program Subject Files: Foreign Issues:  
   Bretton Woods Monetary Agreement, 1944-1945.  
   British Loan, 1946.  
   Food for Europe, 1945-1946.  
   Lend-Lease Act, 1941-1944.  
   Middle East Issues, 1948-1957.  
   Truman Doctrine (Aid to Greece and Turkey), 1947.  
   United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, 1943-1946.  
   Miscellaneous Foreign Issues, 1943-1968.
Box 21. (cont.) 143.B.19.9B

Special Project Files

Observer Reports:
- Cable Television Committee, 1975.
- City Council, 1967-1979. (3 folders)

Box 22. 143.B.19.10F

- Community Development Committee, 1975.
- Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, 1975-1979.
- Intergovernmental Relations Committee, 1976-1978.
- Park Board, 1965-1979. (2 folders)
- Pilot City Committee, 1969.
- Ways and Means, 1968-1979. (2 folders)

Minneapolis City Charter Studies:
- Miscellaneous Records, 1929-1979. (5 folders)
- League Publications on the Charter: (1 folder)
  "What is the Matter Minneapolis?," 1940.
  "In League with the Charter," 1965.
Box 23.

Amendments:
- General Files, 1930-1974. (3 folders)
- Rent Control, 1981.
- Thirteen-Man Council, 1951.
- Charter Convention (proposed), 1958.
- Charter Improvement Volunteer Information Committee and Joint Committee for Charter Review:
- City Manager Plan, 1952-1958.
- Police and Fire Department Amendment, 1962.

Hennepin County Governmental Study:
- Ad hoc and Other Committees.

Political Activities:
- Election Returns Project, 1965-1975. (10 folders)

Box 24.

Contracts between Hennepin County and the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis:

Subject Files:
- Candidates Meetings, 1963-1970. (3 folders)
- City Election, 1971.
- District of Columbia Statehood Petition Drive, 1970.
- Precinct Caucuses, 1950-1982. (2 folders)
Box 24. (cont.)  
Reapportionment, 1953-1965. (2 folders) 
Voter Registration (including Youth Project), 1946-1978. 
Voting Age, 1969. 