

Women's Civil Defense Council

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: B503, Accession #: 2021.405.0001-2021.405.0003

Collection Repository: Hennepin History Museum
2303 Third Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Collection title: Women's Civil Defense Council

Dates: 1950-1974 (Bulk 1966-1974)

Extent: 3 boxes (1 records carton, 1 Hollinger, 1 half Hollinger (redacted material))

Creator: Unknown

Language of the material: English

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

The Women's Civil Defense Council was started as the Hennepin County Women's Council for Defense. The title was changed to the Women's Civil Defense Council in the fall of 1966. Since this collection focuses on women's lives in a pre-second wave of feminism, most of the women signed letters as Mrs. using their husband's first and last name (e.g. Mrs. Edgar Rosenberg). The archivist tried to get first names when possible. Mrs. A.N. (Frances M) Satterlee advocated for civil defense from World War II to 1966. She was the president of the Hennepin County Women's Council of Defense and resigned due to poor health prior to the renaming of the organization in January of 1966.

The purpose of this council was to educate the public on civil defense which on the surface looked like pamphlet distribution and educating families and schools on civil defense with films and tours of facilities that provided emergency services for the public.

The council was a collaboration of many local non-profits (Churches, VFW, veteran's organization, etc.). The council dues were two dollars per year. which some organizations covered for their representatives.

Mrs. Margaret Skoog was president from 1966 to 1967, however, Dorothy Corl, who presided from 1967-1968, donated most of the material. Mrs. W.C. Byrd was president from 1968-1969 and 1971-1972. Mrs. William Bliss was President from 1969-70. Though sparsely documented, Mrs. Evelyn Howland was president from 1970-71. As a result, there is a document gap from 1970-1971. Mrs. Thelma Julius was president from 1972-1973. The last president was Mrs. Mercedine Hallman, 1973-1974.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection contains civil defense pamphlets, historical documents, and presidential files.

The civil defense pamphlets series contains the earliest documents in the collection. The pamphlets focus on how to survive in Hennepin County following a natural disaster or atomic

bomb. They delve into issues of shelter construction, fallout shelter locations, food, exercises, medical care and policy. Digitized newspapers are interspersed in these pamphlet folders.

Should this collection become heavily utilized, the processing archivist recommends revisiting its condition and digitizing the most popular pamphlets.

The history series contains two items: a 1961-1970 scrapbook with newspaper clippings & a digitized 1971-1974 guestbook. The guest book contains meeting attendance history. The original guestbook is located in the unredacted information box (2021.405.0003). The archivist must grant permission to access this document.

The presidential files contain a complete history of the Women's Civil defense council with two exceptions pre-1966 (located elsewhere) and 1970-1971 (sparse). This collection contains everything from meeting minutes, finances, programs, and correspondence.

List of presidents:

Pre-1966: Mrs. Francis M. Satterlee
1966-1967: Margaret Skoog
1967-1968: Dorothy Corl
1968-1969: Mrs. W.C. Byrd
1969-1970: Mrs. William Bliss
1970-1971: Mrs. Evelyn Howland
1971-1972: Mrs. W.C. Byrd
1972-1973: Thelma Julius
1973-1974: Mercedine Hallman

The three series are:

1. Civil defense pamphlets
2. History
3. Presidential files

ACCESS:

The unredacted papers are restricted. To access these papers, you must get the archivist's consent.

COPYRIGHT:

The researcher assumes the responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

RELATED MATERIALS:

B87.4A&B (MPLS & Hennepin county): requires the archivist permission to use.

B138 (Civil Defense & cold war paranoia) has more civil defense pamphlets

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	1	Archivist's Notes
1	2	Original folders: 1968-9, 1971-2

Series: Civil defense pamphlet

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	3	1960's Skits for emergency actions

1965 Fallout Shelter kits

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	4	Community Action for civil defense
1	5	Meetings that move
1	6	Basic course in emergency feeding
1	7	Corporate management

1968

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	8	Community Action in Civil Defense F.1
1	9	Community Action in Civil Defense F.2
1	10	Community Action in Civil Defense F.3
1	11	Community Action in Civil Defense F.4

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	12	1969 Civil defense org pamphlets

1974

1	13	Community Action in Civil Defense F.1
1	14	Community Action in Civil Defense F.2
1	15	Operation You F.1
1	16	Operation You F.2

Series: History

<u>Box. No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	17	1961-1970 Scrapbook
1	18	1971-194 Guestbook

Series: Presidential files

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	19	9/1967-5/1973 Checkbook
1	20	1966-Frances M. Satterlee

1966-1967 Margaret Skoog

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	21	1966-1967 Margaret Skoog
1	22	1966-1967 Margaret Skoog
1	23	4/20/1967 lecture

1967-1968 Dorothy Corl

1	24	1/1967 Dorothy Corl
1	25	5/1967 Dorothy Corl
1	26	Basic Info
1	27	July 1967
1	28	September 1967
1	29	October 1967
1	30	November 1967
1	31	1968

<u>Box. No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	32	Mrs. W.C. Byrd
1	33	Mrs. William Bliss
1	34	2/1971-4/1971 Evelyn Howard
2	35	1971-1972 Mrs. W.C. Byrd

1972-1973 Thelma Julius

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
2	36	1972-1973 Thelma Julius
2	37	Correspondence
2	38	Rooster
2	39	Constitution & finances

1973-1974 Mercedine Hallman

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
2	40	Minutes F. 1
2	41	Minutes F. 2

Box 3 contains unredacted files that are not accessible without the permission of the archivist.



"This publication was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Any views, findings, opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Minnesota Historic Resources Advisory Committee."