

LOUISIANA WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS RECORDS
Mss. 4580
Inventory

Compiled by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2024

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SUMMARY

Size	1 linear foot
Geographic Locations	Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1975–1990, undated
Bulk Dates	1977–1984
Languages	English
Summary	The Louisiana Women's Political Caucus Records contain correspondence, reports, bylaws, meetings minutes, printed materials, and other documents related to the activities and political positions of the caucus on issues such as women's rights, abortion, and the Equal Rights Amendment.
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	Roberta M. Madden Papers
Citation	Louisiana Women's Political Caucus Records, Mss. 4580, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	77:68, OS:L

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Louisiana Women's Political Caucus [LWPC] was founded in 1973, two years after the formation of the National Women's Political Caucus [NWPC] following the failed attempt to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed in 1970. The Louisiana chapter focused on increasing women's participation in politics, both through the polls and by actively seeking public office. The Louisiana Women's Political Caucus also engaged in lobbying politicians, endorsing candidates for various political offices, fundraising, holding conventions and events, and informing the public about women's rights and legislation. Although the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus chapter shuttered in the early 2000s, the NWPC still has 12 active state chapters as of 2024.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Louisiana Women's Political Caucus Records contain records and documents kept by the organization concerning the caucus's daily functions and pro-women politics. This is comprised of general correspondence; organizational records such as meetings minutes, reports, and bylaws/resolutions; and materials related to annual conventions and events. Printed materials in this collection include newspaper clippings; press releases; flyers, pamphlets, and brochures; guides and manuals; position papers; and other documents all related to the caucus's mission of empowering women in politics and providing information to women about their rights and resources in the United States. Materials are mostly from the Louisiana chapter caucus, although there are also National Women's Political Caucus items as well.

[Content Warning: Some materials in this collection deal with sensitive issues such as abortion and rape.]

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1977–1984, undated

Series II. Organizational Records, 1977–1984, undated

Series III. Conventions and Events, 1976–1984, undated

Series IV. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1975–1990, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1977–1984, undated

This series contains correspondence from and to Louisiana Women's Political Caucus members concerning various subjects related to the management and running of the caucus. Topics include inviting speakers and politicians to events; nominations for positions; fundraising; discussions about revisions to bylaws; stances on women's issues such as abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment; and support for LGBTQ communities. Special interest is paid to the Equal Rights Amendment as the failure for the amendment to pass was one of the main reasons for the formation of the National Women's Political Caucus and the Louisiana chapter. Correspondence is not only intra-caucus, but also with political parties, politicians, and various other individuals/entities aligned with the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus's mission. Some correspondence from the National Women's Political Caucus is also in this series.

Series II. Organizational Records, 1977–1984, undated

This series is comprised of records related to the daily running of the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus. Items pertaining to steering committee meetings include minutes, attendance, and proposals. Alongside that, there are general reports compiled by leadership; financial reports containing budgets, expenses, and invoices; legislative issues of importance to the caucus; and records of rosters and yearly attendance. Also included are bylaws and resolutions.

Series III. Conventions and Events, 1976–1984, undated

Conventions and Events covers the annual conventions held by the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus and the National Women's Political Caucus as well as other one-time events. Items from the conventions include press releases, announcements, agendas, invitations, rules for the convention, information on convention speakers, bylaws or resolutions passed at the convention, and other promotional materials. Events include drafts for workshops such the "Future Directions of LWPC," and "Working Together as Women"; flyers, brochures, and promotional materials for events promoting women's participation in politics, women's issues, and larger political party events; and materials related to a jazz funeral and celebration event for the Equal Rights Amendment in New Orleans in 1982.

Series IV. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1975–1990, undated

This series contains various printed materials collected by and produced by the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus. Included are newspaper clippings of women in politics and Louisiana politics; press releases for Louisiana Women's Political Caucus events, support or rejection of resolutions and legislation, and caucus accomplishments; and flyers, pamphlets, and brochures on topics such as women's rights, abortion, and lesbian and gay rights. Guides and manuals from both the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus and the National Women's Political Caucus cover topics such as press and public relations, how to run the steering committee, and

how to handle membership renewal. Position papers from the National Women's Political Caucus and other unnamed entities address issues for women such as work hours, childcare, credit, social security, healthcare, pensions, rape, and LGBTQ rights. Other items in this series include biographies and resumes for caucus speakers, guests, and nominees; questionnaires and forms for caucus members; documents such as statements of purpose, fact sheets, and calls to action; and photographs, two from an undated convention and two portraits of a Dr. Marty Beasley.

Single issues of the New Orleans feminist newspaper *Distaff* from January 1981, *Service Employee* from July/August 1982, and the National Women's Political Caucus publication *Women's Political Times* from November/December 1983 are housed separately in an oversized folder.

Of special note are copies of the 1989 manual, *Facts on Reproductive Rights: A Resource Manual* by the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and the 1990 follow up, *Protecting Young Women's Right to Abortion: A Guide to Parental Notification and Consent Laws*.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

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CONTAINER LIST

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		2	Correspondence, Nov. 3, 1977–Dec. 2, 1977
		3	Correspondence, Dec. 2, 1977–Dec. 28, 1977
		4	Correspondence, Jan. 1, 1978–Dec. 1979
		5	Correspondence, Feb. 13, 1980–June 5, 1980
		6	Correspondence, July 2, 1980–Nov. 13, 1980
		7	Correspondence, Mar. 6, 1981–Oct. 16, 1981
		8	Correspondence, Nov. 13, 1981–Dec. 31, 1981
		9	Correspondence, Jan. 6, 1982–Mar. 23, 1982
		10	Correspondence, Apr. 16, 1982–May 7, 1982
		11	Correspondence, May 15, 1982–Aug. 30, 1982
		12	Correspondence, Sept. 9, 1982–Oct. 29, 1982
		13	Correspondence, Jan. 4, 1983–July 27, 1983
		14	Correspondence, Sept 6, 1983–Feb. 3, 1984, undated
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		15	Meetings, Jan. 7, 1978–Jan. 6, 1979
		16	Meetings, Jan. 3, 1980–Mar. 8, 1980
		17	Meetings, Apr. 3, 1980–Sept. 20, 1980
		18	Meetings, June 13, 1981–Jan. 9, 1982
		19	Meetings, Jan. 22, 1982–May 22, 1982
		20	Meetings, June 5, 1982–Jan. 22, 1983
		21	Meetings, May 7, 1983–Nov. 12, 1983
		22	Meetings, undated
		23	Reports, Fall 1977–May 7, 1983
		24	Financial Reports and Budgets, 1977–1985, undated
		25	Organizational Records, Jan 27, 1979–May 3, 1983, undated
		26	Bylaws/Resolutions, 1977–Jan. 7, 1978
		27	Bylaws/Resolutions, Oct. 1978–July 1981
		28	Bylaws/Resolutions, July 1981–Oct. 1981
		29	Bylaws/Resolutions, Oct. 1981–Oct. 1982
		30	Bylaws/Resolutions, Oct. 23, 1982–Feb. 24, 1984
		31	Bylaws/Resolutions, undated
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Series III. Conventions and Events, 1976–1984, undated			
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		34	NWPC Convention, July 1981

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
77:68	1	35	LWPC Convention, Oct. 1981
		36	LWPC Conventions, Oct. 1982, Feb. 1984, undated
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		38	Events, July 15, 1983, Mar. 24, 1984, undated
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		40	Newspaper Clippings, Apr. 9, 1982–Jan. 13, 1985
		41	Newspaper Clippings, undated
		42	Press Releases, Feb. 4, 1975–July 8, 1981, undated
		43	Newsletters, 1978–Fall 1983, undated
OS:L		OS 1	Newspapers, Jan. 1981, July/August 1982, November/December, 1983
77:68	1	44	Flyers, Pamphlets, and Brochures, June 1981, undated
		45	Guides/Manuals, Jan. 1976–Mar. 1983
		46	Guides/Manuals, undated
		47	Position Papers, undated
		48	“Facts on Reproductive Rights: A Resource Manual,” pt. 1, Dec. 1989
		49	“Facts on Reproductive Rights: A Resource Manual,” pt. 2, Dec. 1989
		50	“Facts on Reproductive Rights: Protecting Young Women’s Right to Abortion,” Oct. 5, 1990
		51	Biographies, Resumes, and Introductions, undated
		52	Questionnaires, Apr. 6, 1981–Jan. 13, 1983, undated
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