

RECORDS OF THE CONNECTICUT

ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN

LEGISLATORS, 1927-1984

Introduction

In 1927 State Representative Julia Emery of Stamford formed the Connecticut Organization of Women Legislators (OWL), the first in the nation. The objectives of OWL were to "kindle and promote the spirit of friendliness among past, present and future women" of the Connecticut state legislature and "discuss and study legislation." OWL by-laws stipulated that meetings were to be held biennially in Hartford on the first Tuesday in March during sessions of the General Assembly. In April 1938, Ms. Emery and the Connecticut OWL successfully led a national movement to form a National Organization of Women Legislators to serve as a support group and interstate network, political activist group encouraging the election and appointment of women to government posts, and an informational clearinghouse. Today the Connecticut OWL serves not only as a support group but also promotes a legislative agenda for consideration by the General Assembly.

The records of the Connecticut OWL were donated by the current OWL President, Representative Dorothy Osler and Representative Alice Meyer. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings and other information about past members, memorabilia and clippings regarding OWL tea party receptions and other social activities, group photographs, and often candid remarks about male and female members of the General Assembly.

Care should be exercised in examining the earlier scrapbooks on account of their deteriorating condition.

List of Records

1. Miscellaneous:

Box 1

Guest Book, 1961,1963,1973;
List of Female Members of the Connecticut General Assembly, 1921-1945;
State and National By-Laws;
Group Photographs, ND, 1931, 1937, 1949.

2. Scrapbooks (6 volumes and one box):

1937-1939
1941-1957
1947-1948
1959-1973
1963-1971
1979-1984
1941; 1982-1984

Reference Restrictions

None

Related Materials

RG 101: Connecticut Women Suffrage Association, 1869-1921

324.3 Cassette Tape interview with Edna Purtell to discuss Connecticut Women
Pg. 75 Suffrage Association, 1973

Main Vault

379.73 Records of Connecticut Woman's Council of Education, 1903-1930
9C765w

Main Vault

974.62 Records of the Hartford Equal Rights Club, 1885-1919
9H258ea

Main Vault

974.62 Treasurer's Book, Hartford Equal Rights Club, 1910-1925
H258ea

Main Vault

RG 153: Records of the University of Connecticut: Center for Oral History,
1980-1981 "The Emergence of Political Women in Connecticut: 1928-1945"