

MS-129: Dayton Women Working Records

Collection Number: MS-129

Title: Dayton Women Working Records

Dates: 1974-1983

Creator: Dayton Women Working

Summary/Abstract: Organized in 1975, Dayton Women Working was a feminist organization concerned with insuring equal employment opportunities locally for women and minorities. The records consist of meeting minutes, by-laws, membership records, progress reports, newsletters, broadsides, and files documenting DWW's public programs and projects including a study of discrimination in three Dayton banks. There is also material pertaining to DWW's affiliation with other working women's organizations and the transcript of an interview with one of the organization's founders.

Quantity/Physical Description: 2 linear feet and 583 Megabytes

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no donor-imposed restrictions on accessing material in this collection; however, due to preservation concerns, only reference copies of original audio recordings can be accessed in the reading room. Items without reference copies can be digitized at the request of a patron for the cost of creating a digital copy. Please provide us **at least two weeks advance notice** if you would like to request an audio reference copy. Call (937) 775-2092 or email us at archives@www.libraries.wright.edu. Use of digitized content is subject to conditions governing use.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-129, Dayton Women Working Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition: Records of Dayton Women Working were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections on two different occasions. Barbara

Hill and Suby Seay donated materials in September, 1982, and Noreen Wilhelm, one of the organization's directors, donated her records in February of 1983.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at

http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms129.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: A computer is needed to hear the digital reference copy of an audiocassette in Box 4 (ms129_e0001).

Revisions: Finding aid revised according to DACS standards by Toni Vanden Bos, 2018 September.

Processed by: Dorothy Smith, Spring 1983

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into five series as follows:

- Series I: Administrative and Financial Papers, 1974-1980
- Series II: Publicity and Publications, 1975-1980
- Series III: Programs and Projects, 1977-1980
- Series IV: Affiliate Organizations, 1976-1980
- Series V: Audio Materials, 1980, 1983

Historical Note:

Dayton Women Working (DWW) was founded in April, 1975 by a small group of Dayton-area office workers concerned with insuring equal employment opportunities for both women and minorities, and with raising women's consciousness about their importance in the workplace.

During its six years in Dayton, DWW grew to over 200 active members, held regular membership meetings, maintained an office and a small paid staff, published a newsletter, and engaged in a wide range of public activities. Among its activities were advocacy for women filing discrimination suits against their employers, individual and group job counseling, monitoring and publishing reports of discriminatory employment practices of selected Dayton businesses, and the generation of many educational and social activities for working women.

Dayton Working Women was also affiliated with two national network organizations of women office workers, the National Women's Employment Project and Working Women.

DWW closed its office and ceased operations in late 1980.

Scope and Content Note:

The records in the Dayton Women Working Collection provide an excellent source of materials for research relating to working women, sex and race discrimination in employment, women's political organizing, and the women's movement in Dayton during the late 1970s.

The papers in the collection are arranged into five record groups or series. Series I, Administrative and Financial Papers, contains executive committee and general membership meeting minutes (1979-1980), meeting agendas (1979-1980), a copy of the bylaws and articles of incorporation, a membership log-in book (1980), and organizational papers outlining tasks for various members and officers. A file of progress reports provides a monthly narrative, for 1976-1978, of Dayton Women Working (DWW) activities, projected plans, and programs. These reports were prepared by Sherrie Holmes, one of DWW's founders and its first director. The files of Noreen Wilhelm, who also served as director, and Suby Seay who served as recorder, contain various working papers, correspondence, and memos relating to their tenure in office.

Financial records include reports and balance sheets for 1977-1980, and fundraising files consist of various grant proposals prepared by DWW as well as information on funding sources. The final item in Series 1 is an extensive mailing list card file (box 2) which contains over 600 names of members, organizations, and individuals interested in DWW's activities.

Series II. Publicity and Publications, contains a file of flyers, broadsides, and announcements sent to members and the press. "Dayton Women Working Newsletter", published from 1976-1980, gives information on activities and membership as well as reporting news pertinent to working women. A file of news clippings shows the extent of local newspaper coverage generated by DWW from 1977-1980. The "Working Women's Shopping Guide to Dayton" was published in 1979 by DWW and sold as a fundraiser.

The files in series III. Programs and Projects, document several of DWW's public programs and projects. Included are materials pertaining to legal rights, wages, age discrimination, Jane Fonda's visit to Dayton, women in construction, and a complaint charging Dayton Power and Light Company with discrimination. The most important papers in this series deal with DWW's 2-year study of race and sex discrimination in the hiring and promotion practiced of three of Dayton's largest commercial banks. Materials include correspondence, research papers, survey forms, and a report of findings published in 1978.

Series IV. Affiliate Organizations, contains material related to DWW's membership in the National Women's Employment Project (1976-1979) and Women Working, National Association of Office Workers (1979-1980). Both these groups were national coalitions of organizations like DWW who joined together to share resources, attract funding, and lobby for the enforcement and enactment of better equal employment opportunity legislation. Included in this series are minutes, correspondence, memos, joint fundraising proposals, and policy papers. Some subjects covered are affirmative action, networking, legislative research, lobbying efforts, federal and state agency monitoring, fundraising, and internal organization.

The audio materials in Series V. consist of tape recordings of two public hearings: one, conducted by Dayton Women Working and concerning a new directive that federal and state agencies cooperate in the filing of discrimination complaints, and the other, conducted by Cleveland Women Working and concerning age discrimination in employment. Both hearings were held in February 1980. The final item in this series is the typed transcript of an interview with Sherrie Holmes which took place in June of 1983. This interview is informative about the

impetus for founding DWW, its early organization and membership, the banking study, and fundraising activities. The interview also contains Ms. Holmes' insights about Dayton Women Working's successes, failures, and the reasons for its demise.

All the materials in this collection are arranged chronologically within each file folder.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Holmes, Sherri
Wilhelm, Noreen
Seay, Suby

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton Women Working

Places

Dayton (Ohio) -- History

Subjects (General)

Women – Political activity – Ohio – Dayton – History
Feminism – Ohio -- Dayton
Women – Social conditions
Women employees
Sex discrimination against women – Ohio – Dayton
Age discrimination in employment – Ohio -- Dayton

Material Types

Minutes (administrative records)
Newsletters
Audiocassettes

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
Series I:		Administrative and Financial Papers, 1974-1980	
1	1	Executive Committee Meetings	1979-1980
1	2	General Membership Meetings	1979-1980
1	3	Meeting Agendas	1979-1980
1	4	Bylaws	1979
1	5	Organizational Papers	1979
1	6	Articles of Incorporation	1979
1	7	Membership Log-in Book	1980
1	8	Progress Report	1976-1978
1	9	Anti-discrimination Agencies	undated
1	10	Community Resources File	undated
1	11	Noreen Wilhelm File	1974-1980
1	12	Suby Seay File	undated
1	13	Financial Records	1977-1980
1	14	Fundraising Sources	1978-1979
1	15	Archdiocese of Cincinnati	1979
1	16	Miami Presbytery	1977-1979
1	17	The Youth Project	1976-1980
1	18	Dayton and Cleveland Women Working	1975-1977
1	19	Vista	1977-1979
2	1	Mailing list card file	1976-1980
Series II:		Publicity and Publication, 1975-1980	
3	1	Announcements and Broadsides	1977-1980
3	2	“Dayton Women Working Newsletter”	1976-1980
3	3	Newspaper Clippings	1977-1980
3	4	“Working Women’s Shoppers Guide to Dayton”	1979
3	5	“Temple of the Holy Typewriter” by Wencke Bild	1975
Series III:		Programs and Projects, 1977-1980	
3	6	“Know Your Legal Rights” Workshop	1979
3	7	“Getting a Raise” Workshop	1979
3	8	“How to Start a Group in Your City” Resource Kit	undated
3	9	Department of Labor Consultation	1979
3	10	Age Discrimination	1979-1980
3	11	Jane Fonda Event	1979
3	12	Dayton Power and Light Complaint	1979-1980

Box	File	Description	Date
3	13	“Employment Discrimination in Dayton’s Three Largest Banks: A Dayton Women Working Study”	1978
3	14	Correspondence, Banking Study	1977-1980
3	15	Banking Industry Research	undated
3	16	Women in Construction	1977-1979
Series IV: Affiliate Organization National Women’s Employment Project, 1976-1980			
4	1	Minutes	1977-1979
4	2	Correspondence and Memos	1976-1978
4	3	Policy Comments	1977-1978
4	4	Funding Proposals	1977-1979
4	5	Working Women Bylaws	1979
4	6	Working Women Correspondence and Memos	1979-1980
4	7	Working Women EEOC/Age Program	1979-1980
Series V: Audio Materials, 1980, 1983			
4	8	Audiocassette of Public Hearing by DWW: EEOC/OCRC Cooperation on the Filing of Discrimination (digital copy in E-Archives ms129_e0001)	1980 February 27
4	9	3 audiocassettes of Public Hearing by Cleveland Women Working: Age Discrimination	1980 February 19
4	10	Transcript of Oral History Interview with Sherri Holmes	1983 June