Introduction
Approximately 2.5 cubic feet

The Coalition of Labor Union Women, St. Louis Chapter records contain meeting minutes, correspondence, bylaws, press releases, membership lists, and photographs pertaining to the group’s mission to assist help union women in obtaining their rights as workers. Materials of interest include correspondence and resolutions chronicling the organization’s opposition to a “right-to-work” law in Missouri, the closing of Homer G. Phillips Hospital, and support for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The records also include flyers, pamphlets, and brochures reflecting the CLUW St. Louis’s activities in education union women through seminars, meetings, and conferences about sexual harassment, abortion, equal pay for equal work, job safety and health, and support for victims of abuse. Also included in the collection are photographs of CLUW St. Louis meetings.

The St. Louis Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) was a chapter of the National CLUW, which was founded in Chicago in March 1974. Its main purpose is to help union women attain their rights as workers. The National CLUW proposes a program that includes assisting women workers with labor organizing; lobbying for progressive legislation; supporting ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, educating women about their health, safety, and rights on the job. Membership is open to members and retirees of the bonafide collective bargaining organizations.

In October 1974, the St. Louis CLUW was founded. Betty Finneran, a teacher at Roosevelt High School, accepted the chapter's charter as its first president. The group adopted the objectives of the National Coalition and began actively supporting that organization on nationwide issues affecting women workers. However, the St. Louis CLUW has concentrated on state and local areas. The chapter supported the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Missouri, the right of collective bargaining for public employees, and the Adult Abuse Remedies Bill in the Missouri General Assembly. Local strikes such as the Quick Shop 1975 Strike, the 1979 St. Louis Teachers' Strike, and the 1980 Bus Drivers' Strike in the St. Louis Special School District received the full support of the group.

CLUW assisted families of air traffic controllers in the area during the 1981 nationwide PATCO strike. St. Louis CLUW opposed the closing of the Homer G. Phillips Hospital and supported the unsuccessful efforts to reopen it. Work by the organization helped defeat the "right to work" law in Missouri. The St. Louis CLUW has also sponsored seminars, workshops, and conferences to teach women about job safety and collective bargaining. In October 1985, the chapter had about 50 members from a broad section of labor unions in the area.
Donor Information
The records were donated to the University of Missouri by an unknown donor on July 25, 1974 (Accession No. SA0414). An addition was made on April 27, 1974 by Roz Sherman (Accession No. SA2617). An addition was made on January 3, 2005 by Martha Kline (Accession No. SA3589).

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Box List

Box 1
Administration
Correspondence, 1976-1983 (3 folders)
Constitution and bylaws, March 10, 1975-November 22, 1975
Meeting minutes and notes, 1977-1984, no date (2 folders)
Notice of meetings, 1975-1983
Press releases, resolutions, and a statement, 1975-1983
Membership lists, 1982
Newspaper clippings and Bread and Roses, 1974-1981
Correspondence, Missouri labor groups, 1980-1982
Photographs, 1981

Box 2
National CLUW
Correspondence and minutes of the national executive board, 1977-1983
(6 folders)
Correspondence
State and local chapters, 1977-1982
Conventions, 1980-1983
Resolutions and statements of purpose, 1974-1981
Constitution and bylaws, 1977-1982
Promotional material and fundraising, no date
Union pamphlets, 1980

Box 3
Administration
Award, 1997
Bylaws, 1975-1997
Correspondence, 1975-1996 (2 folders)
Dues, 1983-1996
Journal, 1985
Local membership, 1986-1991

Box 4
Meeting minutes, 1983-1991
Membership list, 1993-1995
Newspaper clippings, 1973-1991
Pamphlets, 1984-2001
Receipts, financial, 1988-1995