

C Business and Professional Women's Club, Columbia, Missouri, Records, 1936-2010
2538 5.0 cubic feet, (209 folders), 5 oversize volumes, 2 audio cassettes, 1 DVD,
1 video cassette, 1 oversize item

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The records of the Columbia Business and Professional Women's Club contain presidents' and secretaries' files, minutes, histories, yearbooks, committee records, photographs, memorabilia, and scrapbooks of the Columbia Business and Professional Women's Club; as well as some scattered materials from regional, state, and national instances of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

DONOR INFORMATION

The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Marie Woods on 10 August 1970 (Accession No. 0704). Additions were made by multiple individuals between 1976 and 2014. See collection information folder for details.

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH

The Columbia Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) was formed in 1924 and was the tenth local club chartered in the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women, which organized in 1921. It was also a member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women, which had organized in 1919 in St. Louis, Missouri, for the purpose of advancing the rights of working women in the United States. The national organization's legislative agenda continues to include eliminating sex discrimination in employment, equal pay for women, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Locally, the Columbia BPW raised money to provide educational scholarships and loans to women, as well as contributing to other community and civic causes. The Lynde C. Barnett Educational Fund and the Christine Hauschild Business and Professional Women's Club Loan Fund were both named after former presidents. In 1951, the club established the Hauschild Roadside Park on I-70. The park has since been dismantled. The club published a newsletter called *The Tattler*; the name was changed to *The Advocate* in 2003.

Monthly meetings, as well as seminars and workshops, included programming to benefit members in their careers, and each year the club honored a Local Woman of the Year during National Business Women's Week. Columbia members were also active in the larger legislative efforts of the State and National organizations, including the push for a national Equal Rights Amendment, as well as Missouri's Equal Pay bill, signed into law in 1963.

By 2014, the Columbia BPW had disbanded. In 2010, the statewide organization changed its name to Business Women of Missouri, and it continues to operate under that title.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records have been arranged into the following four series:

**Columbia BPW
Regional, State, and National BPW
Audiovisual
Oversize**

The **Columbia BPW** series includes histories and anniversary materials; presidents' files; secretary's files; committee files; Individual Development Plan materials; certificates and awards; and photographs, memorabilia, and scrapbooks. History and anniversary materials include lists of past officers as well as narrative histories written at various times in the club's history. The 1949 pamphlet, "Remembrance of Things Past," is included. Presidents' files primarily include meeting materials such as agendas, notes, and some minutes, as well as some newsletters, reference files, and correspondence. Secretaries' files – which include an almost complete set of meeting minutes from 1941-1992 – are the most comprehensive. For the most part, annual reports and issues of the newsletter were included in the president's files and the secretaries' meeting minutes. Committee files are far from complete and primarily include recruitment and induction materials, reports, and other materials from the Membership Committee. The collections has a small sampling of coursework materials from the Individual Development Plan, a self-improvement course that was a benefit of BPW membership. The scrapbooks are an excellent source of information regarding the activities and accomplishments of individual members, as well as the legislative interests of the club. Early scrapbooks include numerous photographs as well as clippings; later scrapbooks are almost entirely clippings. Some ephemera is included as well.

The **Regional, State, and National BPW** series includes materials from other local BPW clubs in Missouri, as well as District 8 materials and materials from various Missouri BPW Regional Conferences. Statewide materials are almost entirely state conference materials, leadership conference materials, and state manuals. Materials from state board meetings can be found in the President's Files. There are very few files from the National BPW.

The **Audiovisual** series consists of four items: an audiocassette from the National Federation of Business and professional women regarding the BPW 2000 Commission plan; a promotional Lady Remington audiocassette; a DVD titled "Work it! Women in the Building Trades," which contains interviews with women working in the construction industry; and a videocassette containing footage of a Columbia BPW banquet in 1989.

The **Oversize** series consists of four scrapbooks documenting BPW club events and members from 1949-1978.

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