The papers of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers were deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs on November 4, 1970, by James D. Robinson.

The St. Paul Federation of Teachers, Local 28, received its charter from the American Federation of Teachers on September 30, 1957. Its origins, however, date back to the formation of the Grade Teachers Federation in 1898. This organization received a charter from the American Federation of Teachers, AF of L, on June 18, 1913, and was designated the St. Paul Federation of Women Teachers, Local 23. The St. Paul Federation of Men Teachers was chartered on February 19 of the following year, as Local 43. The two locals worked closely together through the Joint Council of Teachers and were eventually merged in 1957 into the present federation.

It is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the American Federation of Teachers, the Minnesota AFL-CIO Federation of Labor, the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers. The Federation is the fifth oldest local in continual existence in the United States, was the first teachers' union in Minnesota, declared the first organized teachers' strike in the country, and organized the first group insurance for teachers and the first teachers' credit union. A number of its programs had national influence and it was instrumental in changing local government as related to education.

The period covered by the collection is 1898 to 1970, with emphasis on the strike period of 1946-47 and relatively little on the years 1966-70.

**Important subjects in the collection:**

- Salary
- Political tactics
- Tenure
- Local government
- Loyalty
- Merit raises
- Strikes

**Important correspondents in the collection:**

- Mollie Geary
- Paul Meier
- Lettisha Henderson
- Florence Rood
- Michael McDonough
- Flora Smalley
- Mary McGough

**Contents**

- 10 manuscript boxes
- 1 storage box

**Series I**, Grade Teachers Federation, 1898-1920, Box 1
These records include minutes, correspondence, printed pamphlets and bulletins, yearbooks, and a written history of the two-year period from 1916 to 1918. The major concerns are amendments to the city charter, the fight for salary increases, resistance to the "merit" pay system instituted by Commissioner of Education William Wunderlich as well as dismissal cases, the Palmer Drills, and "Loyalty Clubs" formed by the superintendent.

Series II, St. Paul Federation of Women Teachers, 1918-1953, Box 2

Included are a written history, correspondence, publications, mimeographed reports, pamphlets of the Federation and other associations. They are primarily concerned with salary fights, legal rights and research on tenure cases, including rights of academic freedom.

Series III, St. Paul Federation of Men Teachers, 1918-1956, Box 3

These records are made up primarily of correspondence, mimeographed reports and notices, publications, memos, clippings, and typed lists. They cover charter amendment struggles, membership drives, Minneapolis Locals 238 and 59 strike efforts, salaries, and the 1946 "St. Paul Story" of the strike.

Series IV, Teachers Joint Council, 1935-1955, Boxes 4-7

This is the largest of the series and includes correspondence, memoranda, radio addresses, bulletins, publications of the Federation and other related organizations, strike publicity, newspaper clippings of the strike, reports, and minutes of meetings. The material covers policies of the Council, the dismissal of State Commissioner of Education Rockwell with its political implications and "Red" smear tactics, charter amendment campaigns, and the financial situation of the St. Paul Schools. The major part of the series, however, consists of documentation of the 1946 strike: how it came about; activities and tactics; and support, both local and national. The Teachers Joint Council was made up of the Executive Board members of the Women's and Men's Locals 28 and 43, who worked in concert from 1935 until the merger of the two unions in 1957.

Series V, St. Paul Federation of Teachers Local 28, 1957-1970, Box 8

This record group includes a written history, minutes, lists, and miscellaneous correspondence, booklets, and pamphlets. The minutes of meetings from 1957 through 1965 make up the largest part of the records, but membership recruitment, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary, and a tribute to one of the founders of the local, Mary McGough, are also documented. 1957-1970, 1 box.

Series VI, Books, Boxes 9-10

This series consists of minute books, directories, and news clippings. The minutes of the Grade Teachers Federation cover the period of May 18, 1898 through April 5, 1915; the minutes of the Federation of Women Teachers range from March 11, 1929 through March 3, 1946; minutes of the Joint Salary Committee of the FWT, FMT, Principal's Club and PTA cover December 1, 1927 through January 31, 1928; and minutes of the Committee of One Hundred, an informal organization of teachers and principals formed to study relief financing policies in 1939, cover the period of December 20, 1939 through May 6, 1941. The final items in this series are the St. Paul
School Directories of personnel for the years 1909 through 1930 and miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

**Series VII, Scrapbooks, storage box**

There are 16 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings dated irregularly from March 19, 1917 through April of 1947. The clippings cover most of the important union encounters and the strike is fully covered in five scrapbooks. A 17th scrapbook of the Association for Childhood Education contains a few ACE printed newsletters and some trivia.
Series I

Box 1

1. History - 1916-1918; President's Reports, 1909, 1910; Mayor's Reports; American Teacher
   January 1916-December 1918
   January-April 1919; October 1919-May 1920
6. Dismissal Cases (1917-1918) - Correspondence
7. Yearbooks (1905-1912) - 6 books, contain membership lists, constitution, by-laws
8. Correspondence (1900) - Letter to P.J. Smalley from C.B. Gilbert
Series II

Box 2

1. History
2. Charter Application (June 18, 1918) - Original and copy
3. Joint Salary Committee (January 23, 1920) - Complaint on salary schedule to Commissioner of Education Wunderlich
4. Salaries (1927-1935)
5. Chamber of Commerce Proposal (1932)
6. Legal Correspondence (1932-1944)
7. Tenure Court Cases (1935-1938)
8. Court Decisions (1936-1942)
9. Legal Cases - Publications - Dismissals, Krause Case, Keeney Case
10. Supreme Court - Publications (1938, 1942)
11. Rood Memorial (1944) Florence Rood, President, (1910-1913)
12. Membership (1953)
13. Pamphlets (1923-1946) WFT, AFT, City of St. Paul, etc.
Series III

Box 3

1. Charter Canvas (1947)
2. City Code - Salaries (1944, 1946)
3. Correspondence - Eugene McCarthy letter to Michael McDonough re: Salaries, included
5. Membership (1946, 1948) - Lists, instructions on new members
6. Men Teachers List (December 1946)
8. Minneapolis Locals 238 and 59 (1946-1951) - Mimeographed calendar of events on strike vote; intercession of H.H. Humphrey
9. Minneapolis Strike Bulletins (February-March 1948)
10. Miscellaneous (1945?-1949?) - Snapshots, postcards, unidentified lists, notices, Charter Commission members, etc.
11-12. Miscellaneous Pamphlets (2 folders) - AFT, WFT, LATT, TCJ, etc.
13. Newspaper Pictures, M.J. McDonough
15. Survey Report - St. Paul Schools (1944) - Book
16. Teachers Joint Council (1942-1956) - Notices, bulletins, correspondence, etc.
17. Teachers Salaries (1942-11053) - Literature
18. Tri-City MEA Legislative Committee (1949-1950) - Memos
Series IV

Box 4

1. School Situation (1935-1939) - Memos, radio addresses, etc.
3-4. Minutes (2 folders) - November 1937-December 1938
   January 1939-December 1939
5. Rockwell Case Papers (1940-1941)
6-8. Rockwell Case Clippings - December 6, 1940-January 12, 1941
   January 13, 1941-January 16, 1941
   January 17, 1941-January 23, 1941
9. Sick Leave Report (May 1941)
12. Policies (1950-1951) - Leaves, School Board, etc.
13. Miscellaneous (1944-1955) - Announcements, memos, bulletins, lists
   of teachers with Master's degree, correspondence, etc.

Box 5

1. Minutes, Closed Meeting (November 9, 1946) - City and Teachers; strike
2. Correspondence, City of St. Paul (1946-1947)
3. Mass Meeting Agenda (November 19, 1946)
4. AFT No-Strike Policy (1946)
5. Ordinance Proposal (1946)
6. Miscellaneous Strike Material (October 1946-February 1947)
7. Strike Breakers
8. Strike Helpers
9. Memos (November 1946)
10. Working Schedules (November 22, 1946)
Box 6

1-3. Strike Support (1946-1947) Correspondence
4-8. Strike Donations (1946-1947) - Correspondence
9. Miscellaneous Correspondence (1946-1947)

Box 7

1-4. Strike Clippings -
   October 30, 1946–November 25, 1946
   November 26, 1946–November 30, 1946
   December 1, 1946–December 14, 1946
   December 15, 1946–December 31, 1946

5. Publicity, Original Copy (1946-1947)
6. Publicity, Other Strikes (1946-1947)
7. Charter Amendment Literature (1946-1947)
8-9. Clippings, Charter Amendment -
   February–March, 1947
   April–May, 1947
Series V

Box 8

1. History (1918-1968) - Booklet and manuscript; also AFT, Minn. FT
2. McGough Tribute (1958) - Mary McGough, charter member
5. Membership (1965) - Recruitment
6. 50th Anniversary (1968)
7-14. Minutes, Executive Board and General Membership Meetings (1957-1965)
Series VI

Box 9

Minutes, GFT (2 books) - May 18, 1898-December 12, 1901
May 5, 1903-April 5, 1915
Minutes, FWT (3 books) - March 11, 1929-January 26, 1935
January 28, 1935-September 19, 1938
October 14, 1938-March 3, 1946

Box 10

Minutes, Joint Salary Committee - (1 book) (December 1, 1927-
January 31, 1933)
Minutes, Committee of One Hundred - (1 book) (December 20, 1939-May
6, 1941)
Directories, St. Paul Public Schools - (22 books) (1909-1930)
1-8. Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1937-1963
**Series VII** (1 storage box of scrapbooks)

**Volume**

1 - March 19, 1917-August 19, 1918  GFT
2 - August 17, 1917-March 1918  GFT
3 - March 1918-August 1918  GFT
4 - August 1918-July 1919  WFT
5 - May 1919-July 1919 WFT
6 - December 1, 1927-May 1929  WFT
7 - October 1938-October 1941  WFT
8 - October 1941-June 1941 WFT
9 - October 1941-April 1943 WFT
10 - May 1943-June 1944  WFT
11 - March 1946-July 1946  Charter Amendment
12 - November 1946-December 1946  Strike
13 - November 1946-January 1946  Out-of-Town Strike
14 - July 1946-January 1947  Strike
15 - January 1947-April 1947  Strike
16 - 1944  Teachers Retirement Fund
17 - Scrapbook, Association for Childhood Education

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