

Finding Aid

The NALC Auxiliary Collection

1905-1994

5 Linear Feet

Accession No. 1922

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The records of the National Ladies' Auxiliary, known today as the NALC Auxiliary, were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 2001 and opened for research in December of 2006.

In 1905, as delegates to the Fifth National Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers met in Portland, OR, a group of women—wives, daughters, mothers and sisters of letter carriers—also met in Portland with the intention of forming a national women's auxiliary. Seventy-two women from twenty-six states attended this founding meeting and, on September 5, 1905, the National Ladies' Auxiliary was established. Nellie Heffelfinger, of Los Angeles, was unanimously elected the first president. The objectives of the organization were to provide a social network for Auxiliary members and their families, collectively pursue charitable works and, with the strength of their numbers—despite the fact that they, as women, could not vote—assist in gaining favorable legislation to improve working conditions for letter carriers and improve the lives of both active and retired letter carriers and their families.

Throughout the years, members of the Ladies' Auxiliary have actively worked to effect legislative change through letter-writing campaigns, phone banks, fundraising for legislative and political activities, and campaign support for sympathetic legislators. Because early gag orders by Presidents Roosevelt and Taft and the later Hatch Act restricted political activities by letter carriers, the Auxiliary, free of those restrictions, became a strong partner in efforts to bring about political change.

Around 1970, the term "Ladies" was dropped from the title and the organization became known as the "NALC Auxiliary" to reflect a membership that began to include both female and male spouses and family members. Throughout the years Auxiliary members have held their biennial conventions in conjunction with those of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Today, in addition to their legislative activity, Auxiliary members remain active in community affairs and continue to support charitable programs, organize social events, and promote the interests and image of letter carriers.

The bulk of this collection consists of minutes and transcripts of meetings of the NALC Auxiliary, from its founding meeting in 1905 through its 44th Biennial Convention in 1994. Auxiliary conventions were held concurrent with the national NALC conventions. Minutes from 1905 through 1923 meetings, including photocopies of handwritten notes from 1907 through 1911, were affixed to a large scrapbook, along with articles and photographs of officers published and clipped from the *Postal Record*. These pages have been recopied for placement in the convention series, and the scrapbook retained separately in the collection. Original transcripts of biennial convention proceedings became available in 1958 and continued in print through 1994. With the exception of the 41st and 43rd biennial conventions, all minutes and/or proceedings from 1905 through 1994 are included in the collection. These records document the procedures and business conducted at convention meetings. Together, these records provide a comprehensive history of the NALC Auxiliary and insight into the activities, interests and accomplishments of this group.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Political participation
Political activists
Working environment
Political letter writing
Social networks
Food banks
Fund raising
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
Letter Carriers—working environment
Letter Carriers—families
Insurance, Health
Voter Registration
Community Services

Related Collections

NALC: Office of the President, James H. Rademacher
NALC: Office of the President, J. Joseph Vacca
NALC: Office of the Executive Vice President
NALC: Office of the Vice President
NALC: Office of the Secretary-Treasurer
NALC: Research and Education Department

Content

5 Storage Boxes

Series I, NALC Auxiliary Conventions, 1904-1994, Boxes 1-4:

This series contains minutes and transcripts of proceedings of the national conventions of the NALC Auxiliary, beginning with the founding meeting of the NALC Ladies' Auxiliary in 1905 and continuing through to the 44th Biennial Convention of the organization in 1994. Minutes of early meetings through 1923 were typed and/or published in the *Postal Record*, with the exception of those from 1907 through 1911, which were handwritten. Photocopies of these early records are included here. The series contains original transcripts of convention proceedings from 1958 to 1994, although records for the 41st and 43rd Biennial Conventions are missing. These records generally document the policies, programs and activities of the organization. Delegate lists and information relating to finances and membership are frequently included as well. Researchers will find that Auxiliary members often discussed social issues at their meetings, and their activities frequently focused on fundraising, member recruitment and charitable works. Of particular interest are discussions relating to legislation affecting letter carriers, and efforts by Auxiliary members to educate themselves on pertinent issues as well as influence congressional leaders through activities such as letter-writing campaigns, phone banks, and voter recruitment.

Series II, Miscellaneous Files, 1905-1968, Box 5:

This series contains correspondence to the membership from Nellie Heffelfinger, the first Auxiliary president, as well as a list of national officers who served from the founding of the organization until 1968. Also included is sheet music written by an Auxiliary member in 1957.

Series III, Oversize Material, 1905-1924, Box 5:

Oversize material consists of a large scrapbook used to hold copies of early minutes and clippings of Auxiliary news items, minutes and photographs published in the *Postal Record*.

Transfers

Two photographs have been removed from the records and placed in the Archives' Audiovisual collection.

Series I: NALC Auxiliary Conventions, 1905-1994

Box 1

1. Founding Meeting (Portland, OR), 4-9 Sep 1905
2. 1st Biennial Convention (Canton, OH), 2-7 Sep 1907
3. 2nd Biennial Convention (St. Paul, MN), 30 Aug-4 Sep 1909
4. 3rd Biennial Convention (Rochester, NY), 4-11 Sep 1911
5. 4th Biennial Convention (San Francisco, CA), 30 Aug-4 Sep 1913
6. 5th Biennial Convention (Omaha, NE), 5-11 Sep 1915
7. 6th Biennial Convention (Dallas, TX), 3-8 Sep 1917
8. 7th Biennial Convention (Philadelphia, PA), 1-6 Sep 1919
9. 8th Biennial Convention (St. Louis, MO), 5-10 Sep 1921
10. 9th Biennial Convention (Providence, RI), 3-8 Sep 1923
11. 10th Biennial Convention (Detroit, MI), 7-12 Sep 1925
12. 11th Biennial Convention (El Paso, TX), 5-9 Sep 1927
13. 12th Biennial Convention (Minneapolis, MN), 26-31 Aug 1929
14. 13th Biennial Convention (Oakland, CA), 7-12 Sep 1931
15. 14th Biennial Convention (Atlantic City, NJ), 4-9 Sep 1933
16. 15th Biennial Convention (Cleveland, OH), 2-7 Sep 1935
17. 16th Biennial Convention (Kansas City, MO), 6-11 Sep 1937
18. 17th Biennial Convention (Milwaukee, WI), 4-9 Sep 1939
19. 18th Biennial Convention (Los Angeles, CA), 1-6 Sep 1941
20. 19th Biennial Convention (Denver, CO), 6-9 Sep 1943
21. 20th Biennial Convention (Detroit, MI), 2-7 Sep 1946
22. 21st Biennial Convention (Miami, FL), 11-15 Oct 1948
23. 22nd Biennial Convention (Seattle, WA), 4-8 Sep 1950
24. 23rd Biennial Convention (New York, NY), 1-6 Sep 1952
25. 24th Biennial Convention (Cleveland, OH), 30 Aug-3 Sep 1954
26. 25th Biennial Convention (Minneapolis, MN), 24-28 Aug 1956

- 26th Biennial Convention (San Francisco, CA), 25-29 Aug 1958;
 27. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 28-29. Original Transcript, Day Two
 - 30-31. Original Transcript, Day Three
 32. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 33-34. Original Transcript, Day Five

- 27th Biennial Convention (Cincinnati, OH), 22-26 Aug 1960;
 35. Original Transcript, Day One
 36. Original Transcript, Day Two
 - 37-38. Original Transcript, Day Three
 39. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 40-41. Original Transcript, Day Five

Box 2

- 28th Biennial Convention (Denver, CO), 3-7 Sep 1962;
1. Original Transcript, Day One
 2. Original Transcript, Day Two
 3. Original Transcript, Day Three
 4. Original Transcript, Day Four
 5. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 29th Biennial Convention (Miami Beach, FL), 17-21 Aug 1964;
- 6-7. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 8-10. Original Transcript, Day Two
 11. Original Transcript, Day Three
 12. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 13-16. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 30th Biennial Convention (Detroit, MI), 15-19 Aug 1966;
- 17-18. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 19-20. Original Transcript, Day Two
 21. Original Transcript, Day Three
 22. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 23-24. Original Transcript, Day Five
 25. *Proceedings* [Published version]
- 31st Biennial Convention (Boston, MA), 19-23 Aug 1968;
- 26-27. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 28-29. Original Transcript, Day Two
 30. Original Transcript, Day Three
 31. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 32-33. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 32nd Biennial Convention (Honolulu, HI), 17-21 Aug 1970;
- 34-35. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 36-37. Original Transcript, Day Two

Box 3

- 32nd Biennial Convention (Continued)
- 1-2. Original Transcript, Day Three
 3. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 4-5. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 33rd Biennial Convention (New Orleans, LA), 10-14 Jul 1972;
6. Original Transcript, Day One
 7. Original Transcript, Day Two
 8. Original Transcript, Day Three
 9. Original Transcript, Day Four
 10. Original Transcript, Day Five

Box 3

- 34th Biennial Convention (Seattle, WA), 12-16 Aug 1974;
11. Original Transcript, Day One
 12. Original Transcript, Day Two
 13. Original Transcript, Day Three
 14. Original Transcript, Day Four
 15. Original Transcript, Day Five
 16. *Proceedings* [Published version]
- 35th Biennial Convention (Houston, TX), 9-13 Aug 1976;
- 17-18. Original Transcript, Day One
 19. Original Transcript, Day Two
 - 20-21. Original Transcript, Day Three
 22. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 23-24. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 36th Biennial Convention (Chicago, IL), 31 Jul-4 Aug 1978;
- 25-26. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 27-28. Original Transcript, Day Two
 29. Original Transcript, Day Three
 30. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 31-32. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 37th Biennial Convention (Atlanta, GA), 11-15 Aug 1980;
33. Original Transcript, Day One
 34. Original Transcript, Day Two
 35. Original Transcript, Day Three

Box 4

- 37th Biennial Convention (Continued)
1. Original Transcript, Day Four
 2. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 38th Biennial Convention (San Francisco, CA), 16-20 Aug 1982;
3. Original Transcript, Day One
 4. Original Transcript, Day Two
 5. Original Transcript, Day Three
 6. Original Transcript, Day Four
 7. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 39th Biennial Convention (Las Vegas, NV), 20-24 Aug 1984;
8. Original Transcript, Day One
 9. Original Transcript, Day Two
 10. Original Transcript, Day Three
 11. Original Transcript, Day Four
 - 12-13. Original Transcript, Day Five

Box 4

- 40th Biennial Convention (St. Paul, MN), 21-25 Jul 1986;
14. Original Transcript, Day One
 15. Original Transcript, Day Two
 16. Original Transcript, Day Three
 17. Original Transcript, Day Four
 18. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 41st Biennial Convention [Missing]
- 42nd Biennial Convention (New Orleans, LA), 20-24 Aug 1990;
- 19-20. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 21-22. Original Transcript, Day Two
 23. Original Transcript, Day Three
 24. Original Transcript, Day Four
 25. Original Transcript, Day Five
- 43rd Biennial Convention [Missing]
- 44th Biennial Convention (Atlantic City, NJ), 22-26 Aug 1994;
- 26-27. Original Transcript, Day One
 - 28-29. Original Transcript, Day Two
 30. Original Transcript, Day Three
 31. Original Transcript, Day Four (1 of 2)

Box 5

- 44th Biennial Convention (Continued)
1. Original Transcript, Day Four (2 of 2)
 2. Original Transcript, Day Five

Series II: Miscellaneous Files, 1905-1968

Box 5

3. Correspondence to Members from Nellie Heffelfinger (1st Auxiliary President), 6 Dec 1906
4. National Officers (1905-1968); Roster, correspondence, 1967
5. *On Auxiliary Night* (Song written by Jay Mallon, Auxiliary Branch #1, 1952); Sheet music
6. NALC Auxiliary Constitution, as amended, Aug 1990

Series III: Oversize Material, 1905-1924

Box 5

- 7-8. Scrapbook