The papers of the National Organization for Women Downriver Chapter were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in March of 1985 by Louise Heck-Rabi and were opened for research in June of 1986. Additional papers were deposited in August of 1988 and were opened for research in August of 1991.

The Downriver Chapter of the National Organization for Women was founded in February, 1974 by Loretta Moore, who served as its first president. The Downriver chapter replaced the Taylor chapter, which had become inactive. The chapter is still active, meeting every month and publishing a monthly newsletter.

Chapter activities include supporting state and national legislation concerning education, homemakers, and pro-choice rights. The members have participated in a walk-a-thon and several rallies advocating the Equal Rights Amendment.

The papers of Downriver NOW reflect the ideology and activities of feminists in the Downriver area and the United States.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Abortion
Displaced Homemakers
Education
Employment
Health

Among the important correspondents are:

Hon. John Dingell
Louise Heck-Rabi Carl
Levin Loretta Moore
Hon. Jeffrey Padden

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on page 24.
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Part 1

Series I
General Files, 1973-83
Boxes 1-2

Agendas, board meeting minutes, budgets, by-laws, correspondence, mailings, membership lists, and other items concerning Downriver NOW, from 1973-1983.

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Files relating to the activities of the Downriver NOW organization. This series is divided into two subseries, as described below.

Subseries A. Boxes 2-25

Agenda, board meeting minutes, budgets, by-laws, correspondence, mailings, membership lists, and speeches relating to the chapter on a local and Michigan level. The materials cover the political and social activities of the chapter, including many conferences on various topics, fundraising, and the picketing of Sears Department Stores. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically where applicable.

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4. Health; mental, mailings
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11-12. Law; local activities, mailings, pamphlets, 1977-81

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1. Library project; correspondence, minutes, petitions, 1975
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9. Literature; education
10. Literature; Equal Right Amendment
11. Literature; general
12. Literature; herstory
13. Literature; leadership principles
14. Literature; Task Force on the Male Mystique
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17. Heck-Rabi, Louise; notebook, 1986
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30. Politics; Democratic Citizens Caucus, 1979-80
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*Riegle, Donald W. Jr. Hon., 3:1, 4:15, 14:13, 29:15, 30:4, 31:29
Sojourner Truth project, 24:3
Sports, 8:14, 24:5, 34:15
NOW Downriver Chapter Records, Part II
7 linear feet

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Accession Number: 1227

Creator: NOW Downriver Chapter

Acquisition: Records were deposited at the Reuther Library in 1992 and 1994.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “NOW Downriver Chapter Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Photographs, buttons, stickers and awards have been transferred to the Reuther’s Audio-Visual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Material in this collection has been arranged by series ONLY. Folders are not arranged within each series – we have provided an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout several boxes within any given series.
Abstract
The Downriver chapter of NOW was formed in 1974 by Loretta Moore, a Wayne State University professor, who was elected the chapter’s first president. The chapter was active in supporting local, state and national policy concerning women’s rights, participated in marches, rallies and walkathons and also endorsed pro-women’s rights candidates. They hosted and participated in numerous programs for local women, set up networks and resources for the community, established a library for members and published in newspapers as well as their own newsletter. Their membership peaked in the ERA era with about 100, with their average membership being about 50.

This collection was assembled by Louise Heck-Rabi, the chapter’s librarian and archivist. Included are chapter meeting minutes, publicity and press releases, newsletters, correspondence and mailings, as well as Michigan and National NOW mailings and programs. Also included are newspaper and magazine clippings relative to the women’s movement, resources for members and local women, research done by the group and programs they hosted or participated in.

Important Subjects:
Abortion
Abused Women
Child Abuse
Divorce
Education
Equal Rights Amendment
Feminism
Feminist Majority
Memorial Convalescent Fund (MCF)
Reproductive Rights
Sexual Assault
Women’s Rights

Important Individuals:
Connell, Lisa
Dingell, John
Dobronski, Agnes
Hall, Catalina
Hasserodt, Margarete
Hayes, Marie
Heck-Rabi, Louise
Hunter, Lyna
Klotzek, Ute
Moore, Loretta
Nesbitt, Anna
Robinson, Anke
Welsh, Marvic
Wilson, Virginia

Wimpy, Sharon
Arrangement
Part II of the collection is arranged into two series.

Series VIII: Administration: Minutes, Correspondence, Publicity, Press Releases (Box 39)

Series IX: Activities: Programs, Mailings, Publications, Newspaper Clippings, Research (Boxes 39-45)

Folders in each series are simply listed by their location within each box. They are not arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout several boxes within each series.

Series VIII
Box 39
1. Correspondence/Mailings In, No Date, 1 of 3
2. Correspondence/Mailings In, No Date, 2 of 3
3. Correspondence/Mailings In, No Date, 3 of 3
4. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1977-1987
5. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1988
6. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1989
7. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1990
8. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1991
9. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1992
10. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1993
11. Correspondence/Mailings In, 1994
12. Correspondence To/From Legislators, June 1991-May 1993
13. Mailings Out
14. Downriver NOW, Press Releases and Publicity
15. 1987 Conference, Publicity and Press Releases
16. Membership
17. Membership Cards
18. Downriver NOW, Board of Directors and Minutes, 1970s and 1980s
19. Downriver NOW, Board of Directors and Minutes, 1980s
20. Downriver NOW, Board of Directors and Minutes, 1990s, 1 of 2
21. Downriver NOW, Board of Directors and Minutes, 1990s, 2 of 2

Series IX
22. Newsletters, 1 of 3
23. Newsletters, 2 of 3
24. Newsletters, 3 of 3
25. Programs and Activities
27. D.C./Lansing Rally, 1989
28. D.C. Trip, 11-12-1989
29. Becky Bell, 9-1990
30. Political Campaigns Supported by NOW
31. Area Women’s Programs and Events, 1 of 2
32. Area Women’s Programs and Events, 2 of 2
33. Loretta Moore Campaign, 1978
34. Loretta Moore, Campaign Letters
35. Loretta Moore, Campaign Newsletter
36. Loretta Moore, Newspaper Clippings and Memorial

Box 40
1. Related Publications
4. New Directions for Women, 1992
7. Newspaper Clippings on National NOW Conference, 1977
10. Newspaper Clippings, 1989, 1 of 6
11. Newspaper Clippings, 1989, 2 of 6
12. Newspaper Clippings, 1989, 3 of 6
13. Newspaper Clippings, 1989, 4 of 6
15. Newspaper Clippings, 1989, 6 of 6
16. Newspaper Clippings, 1990, 1 of 6
17. Newspaper Clippings, 1990, 2 of 6

Box 41
1. Newspaper Clippings, 1990, 3 of 6
2. Newspaper Clippings, 1990, 4 of 6
3. Newspaper Clippings, 1990, 5 of 6
4. Newspaper Clippings, 1990, 6 of 6
5. Newspaper Clippings, 1991, 1 of 4
7. Newspaper Clippings, 1991, 3 of 4
8. Newspaper Clippings, 1991, 4 of 4
9. Newspaper Clippings, 1992, 1 of 3
10. Newspaper Clippings, 1992, 2 of 3
11. Newspaper Clippings, 1992, 3 of 3
12. Newspaper Clippings, 1993
13. Newspaper Clippings, 1994
14. Do It NOW, 1975-1977

Box 42
2. National NOW Times, 1979
8. Children’s Booklets
9. *Which Shall I Choose?*
10. Select Bibliography, Resource for Downriver NOW Members
11. Women’s Resources, 1 of 3
12. Women’s Resources, 2 of 3
13. Women’s Resources, 3 of 3
14. Women’s Catalogs and Resource Guides, 1 of 4
15. Women’s Catalogs and Resource Guides, 2 of 4
16. Women’s Catalogs and Resource Guides, 3 of 4
17. Women’s Catalogs and Resource Guides, 4 of 4

**Box 43**
1. National NOW, ERA Materials, 1 of 2
2. National NOW, ERA Materials, 2 of 2
3. Downriver NOW, ERA Materials, 1 of 2
4. Downriver NOW, ERA Materials, 2 of 2
5. Yes ERA America, Coalition Update, 1 of 2
6. Yes ERA America, Coalition Update, 2 of 2
7. ERA Newspaper Clippings, 1 of 4
8. ERA Newspaper Clippings, 2 of 4
9. ERA Newspaper Clippings, 3 of 4
10. ERA Newspaper Clippings, 4 of 4
11. Newspaper Clippings, ERA, 1979
12. ERA, Publications, 1 of 2
13. ERA, Publications, 2 of 2

**Box 44**
1. ERA Handouts
2. ERA Pamphlets and Cards
3. ERA Correspondence
4. ERA Extension
5. ERA Workshop, Loretta Moore
6. Anderson, ERA Effort
7. ERA Walkathon, August 1978
8. ERA Role Call
9. Outreach, ERA Response
10. ERA, Research, 1 of 2
11. ERA, Research, 2 of 2
12. H. O. W. (Happiness of Women) Opponents of ERA Material
13. Florida ERA Boycott
14. Memorial Convalescent Fund, Board of Directors and Minutes
15. Memorial Convalescent Fund
16. Memorial Convalescent Fund, Correspondence, 1 of 2
17. Memorial Convalescent Fund, Correspondence, 2 of 2
18. Cooperative League, 1 of 2
19. Cooperative League, 2 of 2
20. NOW Non-Violent Action Handbook
21. General Research, 1 of 2
22. General Research, 2 of 2
23. Women’s History Month Materials
24. Abortion Research
25. Political Research
26. Michigan Women Research, 1 of 2
27. Michigan Women Research, 2 of 2

**Box 45**
1. Loretta Moore, Research on Personality
2. Loretta Moore, Research on Foremen
3. National NOW, Sustaining Members Mailings
4. National NOW, Mailings, 1 of 2
5. National NOW, Mailings, 2 of 2
6. National NOW Materials
7. NOW Feminist Information and Statistics, 1988-6-1
8. Michigan NOW, Mailings
9. Michigan NOW Materials, 1 of 2
10. Michigan NOW Materials, 2 of 2
12. NOW Michigan State Conference, 1994
13. Michigan NOW, Action Now and Newsletters
14. Feminist Majority, 1 of 2
15. Feminist Majority, 2 of 2