

Walter P. Reuther Library
Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs
Wayne State University Archives

Collections Manual: Finding Aids
DACS TEMPLATE: LEVEL II

Gerry Meister Papers
4 linear feet (4 SB)
1971 - 1995, bulk 1971-1988

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

Finding aid written by Derrick Burton on November 2, 2011. Edited by Dan Golodner on January 11, 2012 .

Accession Number: LP002233

Creator: Gerry Meister and San Francisco Federation of Teachers Local 61

Acquisition: The collection was donated by Gerry Meister in 2001.

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: “Gerry Meister Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs [or] University Archives, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Copies of the AFT Reporter and SFFT Teacher Newsletters have been relocated to the Archive Library. AFT Local 61: San Francisco Federation of Teachers Records.

Abstract

The American Federation of Teachers is a labor union founded in 1916 that represents teachers, paraprofessionals, higher education staff, health care professionals, public employees and other groups. The organization strives to protect and better the lives of and institutions employing their members while representing their voice on important issues.

Gerry Meister joined the San Francisco Federation of Teachers (SFFT) Local 61 in 1963 and became a Building Rep in George Washington High School where she remained until retirement in 2001. During her time with the SFFT, she participated heavily in activism and the organization of several major strikes during the late 1960s and 1970s. During her time as building rep for her school, SFFT membership grew. The longest strike was for six weeks that was costly in the end to the local, which lost two consecutive bargaining elections to the San Francisco association. It was not until 1989 that the SFFT regained the right to represent teachers in San Francisco. Gerry played a role in the bargaining wars until the two unions merged November 6, 1989 to create the United Educators of San Francisco.

The Meister's papers are comprised primarily of records detailing two decades worth of union activity including flyers, surveys, meeting minutes, correspondence and other documents relevant to the on-going events. Materials related to Gerry's participation within various AFT groups are also included.

Important Subjects:

Caucus for Democratic Unity
Collective Bargaining--Teachers--California
Progressive Action Caucus
San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association
San Francisco Federation of Teachers
Strikes and Lockouts
Teachers' Action Caucus
United Teachers Council

Important Names:

Robert Alioto
James Ballard
Jerry DeRyan
Patrick King
Nancy Pelosi
Joan-Marie Shelley
Raoul Teilhet

Arrangement

The collection is organized alphabetically.

Box 1

1. 1968 Strike
2. A Nation Prepared
3. Action Newsletters 1975 - 1976
4. AFT - General Business 1971 - 1972
5. AFT - General Business 1972 - 1973
6. AFT - General Business 1973 - 1974
7. AFT - General Business 1974 - 1975

- 8-11. AFT - General Business 1975 – 1976
- 12-13 AFT - General Business 1976 – 1977
14. AFT - General Business 1977 – 1978
15. AFT - General Business 1978 - 1979
16. AFT - General Business 1979 - 1980

Box 2

1. AFT - General Business 1980 - 1981
2. AFT - General Business 1981 - 1982
3. AFT - General Business 1982 – 1983
4. AFT - General Business 1983 – 1984 1 of 3
5. AFT - General Business 1983 – 1984 2 of 3
6. AFT – General Business 1983 – 1984 3 of 3
7. AFT - General Business; election 1983
8. AFT - General Business 1984 - 1985
9. AFT – General Business 1985 – 1986 1 of 2
10. AFT – General Business 1985 – 1986 2 of 2
11. AFT - General Business 1986 - 1987
12. AFT - General Business 1987 - 1988
13. AFT – General - Elections
14. AFT Leadership Conference 1986
15. AFT Leadership Handbook

Box 3

1. AFT – Miscellaneous
2. AFT - Scholarship
3. Area 1 School Surveying
4. Area 1 - Washington
5. Area 8
6. CDU Spring 1975
7. City Employees Strike 1970
8. Collective Bargaining 1976
9. Conferences – Community Leadership 1972
10. Courses 1976
11. CTA to Spring 1976 1 of 2
12. CTA to Spring 1976 2 of 2
13. CTA Spring 1976 – Spring 1980
14. CTA Election May 1981 1 of 3
15. CTA Election May 1981 2 of 3
16. CTA Election May 1981 3 of 3
17. Election and PAC 1988
18. Leadership Workshop 1995
19. NEA Reporter Newsletters
20. PAC Material – Spring 1974
21. PAC Fall 1974 – Spring 1976
22. PAC Fall 1976

23. PAC – Pre Delegate Assembly
24. SFCTA Merger
25. Strike 1979
26. Stull Bill

Box 4

1. TAC Material – Spring 1975 1 of 2
2. TAC Material – Spring 1975 2 of 2
3. TAC – Fall 75
4. Tactics Newsletters 1974 – 1975
5. Urban View Newsletters 1975-1980
6. UTC 1972 – 1973
7. Workshop – Issues for Winning 1977