

State Workers Organizing Committee Records

1.75 linear feet (1 SB, 2 MB)

1973-1985

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

Finding aid written by Dallas Pillen on September 26, 2013.

Accession Number: LR001948

Creator: State Workers Organizing Committee and Richard Gibson

Acquisition: Materials deposited at the Reuther on June 4, 2007.

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: “State Workers Organizing Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Reuther collections: Welfare Employees Union Records, MSEA News.

Photographic slides (Box 3) were transferred to the Reuther’s Audiovisual Collection.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Abstract

The State Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) was a semi-caucus and political movement that worked within several unions, including the Welfare Employees Union (WUE), the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the Michigan State Employees Association (MSEA), and the United Auto Workers (UAW) in the late 1970s and early 1980s. SWOC was born from within the WUE and served as an activist organization that played a key role in establishing local union chapters, including the UAW Local 6000 and the AFSCME 1880. Additionally, SWOC took part in rallies, job actions, and legal endeavors on issues related to worker concessions, bargaining rights, layoffs, reassignments, grievances, and welfare rights.

The State Workers Organizing Committee Records contains material related to SWOC and affiliated labor groups, such as the Welfare Employees Union and the Michigan State Employees Association. Material included in the collection consists mostly of paper records documenting the efforts of SWOC and the MSEA to establish local union chapters and to agitate for workers rights, including meeting and convention information, legal proceedings, promotional materials, and correspondence with various labor groups and government agencies.

Important Subjects:

Collective bargaining – Government employees
Labor movement
Labor unions - Mergers
Labor unions – Organizing.
Welfare rights movement

Important Names

AFSCME
Dempsey, John
Gibson, Richard
Michigan. Department of Social Services
Michigan State Employees Association
United Automobile Workers
Welfare Employees Union

Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

Box 1

- 1 Michigan State Employees Association (MSEA) History
- 2 MSEA Human Services Unit
- 3 MSEA Convention, 1980
- 4 MSEA Convention, 1981
- 5 MSEA General Assembly, 1982
- 6 MSEA Convention, 1983
- 7 MSEA Assembly Delegates, 1983
- 8 MSEA Correspondence, 1976-1985
- 9 MSEA Correspondence, c. 1980
- 10 MSEA Meeting Minutes, Memos, 1982-1985
- 11 State Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) Correspondence, c. 1980
- 12 SWOC Mailing Lists
- 13 SWOC Minutes
- 14 SWOC News, 1980-1984
- 15 SWOC Stewards
- 16 SWOC Conventions
- 17 Leaflets
- 18 SWOC Constitution
- 19 Welfare Employees Union (WUE), 1970s
- 20 Concessions 1982
- 21 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Press Conference, 1976
- 22 John Dempsey/Department of Education, 1975-1977
- 23 Tommie Suber v. Department of Social Services (DSS), 1982

Box 2

- 1 Clippings, 1976-1982
- 2 Legal case, 1977
Contains sensitive materials - please refer to Use restrictions on page one.
- 3 Legal Proceedings, 1980-1982
Contains sensitive materials - please refer to Use restrictions on page one.
- 4 Leaflets/Flyers/Promotional Materials, c. 1980
- 5 Leaflets/Flyers/Promotional Materials, c. 1980
- 6 Leaflets/Flyers/Promotional Materials, c. 1980

Box 3

Photographic slides, 1973-1977