



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the AFSCME Local 1259: Detroit Public Library Records LR002374

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	AFSCME. Local 1259
Title:	AFSCME Local 1259: Detroit Public Library Records
ID:	LR002374
Date [inclusive]:	1920-1981
Date [bulk]:	1950-1972
Physical Description:	4.25 Linear Feet (4 SB, 1 reel)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	Local 1259, representing Detroit Public Library (DPL) employees, affiliated in 1949 with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Michigan Council 77. It represented professional librarians, as well as clerical and maintenance employees. A staff association existed for some years before union certification, and failed attempts to unionize were made before 1949. In 1970, the Association of Professional Librarians won the right to represent the professional librarians within the union. Local 1259 continued to be the bargaining unit for the DPL's maintenance and clerical workers. The collection documents the activities of Local 1259 and of the Detroit Public Library during the 1950s and 1960s. Additional information is included on broader topics like Detroit city employees; Michigan AFSCME organizations and events, especially Michigan Council 77; and unionism in libraries. Records include contracts and negotiation material; budgets, proposals, and financial statements; correspondence; meeting minutes; publications; constitutions; salary information; clippings; convention materials; and fliers.

Citation Style

"AFSCME Local 1259: Detroit Public Library Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

Local 1259, representing Detroit Public Library (DPL) employees, affiliated in 1949 with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Michigan Council 77. It represented professional librarians, as well as clerical and maintenance employees. A staff association existed for some years before union certification, and failed attempts to unionize were made before 1949.

In 1966, the Association of Professional Librarians challenged Local 1259 for rights to represent professional librarians. The case before the State Mediation Board centered on the definition of supervision, with the Association of Professional Librarians arguing that all professionals, from Division Chiefs to Librarian I's had supervisory duties and thus belonged in the same bargaining unit: theirs. Local 1259 argued that only Division Chiefs were supervisors, and Librarian I, II, and III's should remain in their bargaining unit, along with paraprofessionals. The Mediation Board ordered an election, where staff members could vote among three options for representation: Local 1259, Association of Professional Librarians, or neither. The election took place on December 12, 1966, and results were finalized in January 1967. Local 1259 would continue to represent Librarians I, II, and III, as well as paraprofessionals. The Association of Professional Librarians would represent Division Chiefs.

In 1970, at the end of the contract period, the Association of Professional Librarians again challenged for an election. This time around, they won the right to represent all librarians. Local 1259 continued to be the bargaining unit for the DPL's maintenance and clerical workers.

Helga Herz began working at the Detroit Public Library in 1945 as a secretary. She loved the work and returned to school at the University of Michigan to earn her library science degree. She continued working at the DPL until 1978 when she was forced to retire by law at the age of 65. Beginning in 1957, Herz served in leadership positions in Local 1259 including Professional Section Representative, Legislative and Lobbying Committee Chair, Policy Committee member, Bargaining Committee Chair, President (1963-1965), and Vice President (1968-1969).

Herz had immigrated to Michigan with her mother Alice in 1942, escaping Europe and her native Germany during Hitler's rise to power. She and her mother were both lifelong activists for peace. In 1965, at the age of 82, Alice Herz immolated herself in a downtown Detroit plaza in protest of the Vietnam War, the first person in the United States to do so. After her retirement from the DPL, Helga devoted her time fully to peace activism, including volunteering with the Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and continued active membership in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She donated the Local 1259 records to the Reuther Library in 2000 and 2003. Helga Herz died in 2010 at the age of 97.

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Scope and Content

The collection documents the activities of Local 1259 and of the Detroit Public Library during the 1950s and 1960s. Additional information is included on broader topics like Detroit city employees; Michigan AFSCME organizations and events, especially Michigan Council 77; and unionism in libraries. Records include contracts and negotiation material; budgets, proposals, and financial statements; correspondence; meeting minutes; publications; constitutions; salary information; clippings; convention materials; and fliers. Many handwritten notes are also included. Though it is not known for certain, it is believed these notes were created by Helga Herz, the collection's donor and an officer in Local 1259. One audio reel to reel is included. It is a recording of an interview with founding members of Local 1259, and it is believed that one of the interviewers is Helga Herz.

Important Subjects : Collective bargaining--Librarians Collective bargaining--Library employees
Collective bargaining--Professions Women in the labor movement

Important Names: Detroit Public Library Herz, Helga Ulveling, Ralph A.

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Arrangement

Files are arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

Revision Description

AV description added and finding aid updated by Deborah Rice. 2107-12-06

Acquisition

These materials were donated by Helga Herz, a long time librarian at the Detroit Public Library, and an officer in Local 1259. The majority of the records were donated in 2000, with a small addition in 2003. Both accessions were processed together.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Johanna Russ on June 6, 2013. Processing Assistance from April Conant.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

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Related Materials

Transfers

One audio recording (reel) was transferred to the AV Department. A certificate of affiliation with the Michigan AFL-CIO from this collection is stored in the general ALUA Oversized box.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Collective bargaining
- Collective bargaining -- Librarians
- Women in the labor movement
- Detroit Public Library
- Herz, Helga, 1912-2010

Collection Inventory

Series I: AFSCME Local 1259: Detroit Public Library Records, 1920-1981, bulk 1950-1972

Title/Description	Instances	
AFSCME International brochures and pamphlets	Box 1	Folder 1
AFSCME International communications	Box 1	Folder 2
AFSCME International financial reports, 1965-1966	Box 1	Folder 3
AFSCME International financial statements, 1961; 1964; 1970	Box 1	Folder 4
AFSCME International Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI)	Box 1	Folder 5
AFSCME Library Unions	Box 1	Folder 6
AFSCME Local 1215 Chicago Public Library Employees Union	Box 1	Folder 7
AFSCME fliers – Michigan, Local 1259, International	Box 1	Folder 8
AFSCME Michigan conventions and events, 1968-1971	Box 1	Folder 9
AFSCME Michigan Councils 7 and 55 Project Michigan (publication)	Box 1	Folder 10
AFSCME Michigan Council 68, 1964-1965	Box 1	Folder 11
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 budget requests, 1951-1965	Box 1	Folder 12
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 clippings	Box 1	Folder 13
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Committee on Political Education (COPE)	Box 1	Folder 14
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Constitutions	Box 1	Folder 15
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Conventions	Box 1	Folder 16
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Conventions and Events	Box 1	Folder 17
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Correspondence, 1950-1973	Box 1	Folder 18
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Fliers	Box 1	Folder 19
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Legal arbitration opinion on agency shop, 1968-1969	Box 1	Folder 20
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Locals, board member, classification listings	Box 1	Folder 21
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Meeting minutes, 1957-1962	Box 1	Folder 22
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Meeting minutes, 1963-1971	Box 1	Folder 23

AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Mirror (publication), 1967 September	Box 1	Folder 24
AFSCME Michigan Council 77 Reports to Executive Board	Box 1	Folder 25
AFSCME Michigan Locals 140, 732, and 1640	Box 1	Folder 26
American Library Association (ALA) collective bargaining, 1968	Box 1	Folder 27
Building Service Employees International Union (BSEIU) Council M, 1959-1960	Box 1	Folder 28
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Contract and budgeting miscellaneous	Box 1	Folder 32
Contract negotiations	Box 1	Folder 33
Contract negotiations, 1967 November-1968 June	Box 1	Folder 34
Contract negotiations notes, 1968	Box 1	Folder 35
Contract negotiations, 1970-1971	Box 1	Folder 36
Contract negotiations, 1971	Box 1	Folder 37
Contract negotiations, 1971-1972	Box 1	Folder 38
Contracts Notes	Box 2	Folder 1
Contract: AFSCME Report on Legality of Agreements, 1964 March 11	Box 2	Folder 2
Contract: Local 1259, 1968; 1971	Box 2	Folder 3
Contract: Clerical and Maintenance Agreement working copy	Box 2	Folder 4
Contract: Memorandum of Agreement for Clerical and Maintenance, 1968	Box 2	Folder 5
Contract for Local 1259 Clerical and Maintenance, 1967-1974	Box 2	Folder 6
Contract: Memorandum of Agreement for Clerical and Maintenance, 1970-1974	Box 2	Folder 7
Contract: Local 1259 Pre-Professional, 1968	Box 2	Folder 8
Contract: Local 1259 Pre-Professional, 1968-1969	Box 2	Folder 9
Contract: Professional Organization of Librarians, 1970-1974	Box 2	Folder 10
Contract: Memorandum of Understanding for Professional Organization of Librarians, 1971	Box 2	Folder 11
Contract and organizing negotiations for AFSCME Michigan Council 77	Box 2	Folder 12

Contract: Vacations, Sabbaticals information	Box 2	Folder 13
Detroit City Employees	Box 2	Folder 14
Detroit Civil Rights, 1961-1964	Box 2	Folder 15
Detroit Library Commission Proceedings, 1957-1962	Box 2	Folder 16
Detroit Library Commission Proceedings, 1963-1965 March	Box 2	Folder 17
Detroit Library Commission Proceedings, 1965 April-1967; 1969-1973	Box 2	Folder 18
Detroit Public Library	Box 2	Folder 19
Detroit Public Library Recommended Budget, 1956-1957	Box 2	Folder 20
Detroit Public Library Recommended Budget, 1957-1958	Box 2	Folder 21
Detroit Public Library Recommended Budget, 1958-1959	Box 2	Folder 22
Detroit Public Library Recommended Budget, 1959-1960	Box 2	Folder 23
Detroit Public Library Recommended Budget, 1961-1962	Box 2	Folder 24
Detroit Public Library Budget Summary, 1963-1964	Box 2	Folder 25
Detroit Public Library Budget Request, 1968-1969	Box 2	Folder 26
Detroit Public Library Directories, 1965-1973	Box 2	Folder 27
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Detroit Public Library Register, 1957; 1960-1965	Box 3	Folder 1
Detroit Public Library Register, 1966	Box 3	Folder 2
Detroit Public Library Register, 1967	Box 3	Folder 3
Detroit Public Library Register, 1968-1975	Box 3	Folder 4
Detroit Urban League Library Survey, 1967	Box 3	Folder 5
Education Conference by Michigan AFSCME and Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations of University of Michigan and Wayne State University, 1964	Box 3	Folder 6
FDR-CIO Labor Camp library, 1950	Box 3	Folder 7
Libraries and unions: newsletters, brochures, and articles	Box 3	Folder 8
Local 1259	Box 3	Folder 9
Local 1259	Box 3	Folder 10
Local 1259 at American Library Associations (ALA), 1965	Box 3	Folder 11
Local 1259 vs. Association of Professional Librarians of the Detroit Public Library - Elections, 1967; 1970	Box 3	Folder 12
Local 1259	Box 3	Folder 13

Local 1259 becoming agency shop	Box 3	Folder 14
Local 1259 Detroit Public Library Annual Budgets, 1950; 1954-1966	Box 3	Folder 15
Local 1259 Detroit Public Library Budget Negotiations, 1968-1969	Box 3	Folder 16
Local 1259 Detroit Public Library Budget Proposal, 1969-1970 Local 1259	Box 3	Folder 17
Detroit Public Library Budget information, 1968-1970 (1 of 2)	Box 3	Folder 18
Local 1259 Detroit Public Library Budget information, 1968-1970 (2 of 2)	Box 3	Folder 19
Local 1259 Constitutions, 1952-1967; undated	Box 3	Folder 20
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1951-1959	Box 3	Folder 21
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1960	Box 3	Folder 22
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1961	Box 3	Folder 23
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Local 1259 Correspondence, 1963	Box 3	Folder 25
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1964	Box 3	Folder 26
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1965	Box 3	Folder 27
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1966	Box 3	Folder 28
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1967	Box 3	Folder 29
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1968	Box 3	Folder 30
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1969	Box 3	Folder 31
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1970	Box 3	Folder 32
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1971	Box 4	Folder 1
Local 1259 Correspondence, 1972-1981	Box 4	Folder 2
Local 1259 early years, 1920; 1949-1952	Box 4	Folder 3
Local 1259 Grievance Files	Box 4	Folder 4
Local 1259 Ideas, Projects	Box 4	Folder 5
Local 1259 Meeting Notes	Box 4	Folder 6
Local 1259 Membership lists, 1968-1969	Box 4	Folder 7
Local 1259 News (publication), 1950-1957	Box 4	Folder 8
Local 1259 News (publication), 1958-1972	Box 4	Folder 9
Local 1259 opposition to contract cleaning	Box 4	Folder 10
Local 1259 response to AFSCME survey, 1966	Box 4	Folder 11

Local 1259 Working material for letter campaign, 1969-1970	Box 4	Folder 12
Local 1259 Working notes and correspondence	Box 4	Folder 13
Local 1259 Working notes	Box 4	Folder 14
Local 1259 Working papers, 1968	Box 4	Folder 15
Local 1259 Working papers	Box 4	Folder 16
Local Union Administration course from Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations of University of Michigan and Wayne State 17 University, 1972	Box 4	Folder 17
Management of Change: Some Skills and Techniques for DPL Middle 18 Managers, 1975	Box 4	Folder 18
Michigan AFSCME manuals	Box 4	Folder 19
Michigan Council 55 Special Bulletin (publication), 1970 February 11	Box 4	Folder 20
Michigan Labor Conference Newsletter, "Camp Shee-Yah-Shee 21 Chips," 1971 May	Box 4	Folder 21
Michigan Public Employees Council 68 Reporting (publication), 1964-1965	Box 4	Folder 22
Michigan... Organizing and Collective Bargaining Technical Bulletin (publication), 1966-1969	Box 4	Folder 23
Michigan Organizing and Representation Memo (publication), 1965-1966	Box 4	Folder 24
The Michigan Public Employee (publication), 1966	Box 4	Folder 25
Michigan public employee labor law	Box 4	Folder 26
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Michigan State AFL-CIO Leadership Training Institute, 1961	Box 4	Folder 28
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