

National Organization for Women, Savannah Chapter records

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	National Organization for Women. Savannah Chapter.
Title:	National Organization for Women, Savannah Chapter records
Dates:	1970-1984
Extent:	8.25 cubic feet (18 boxes)
Identification:	MS 2179

Biographical/Historical Note

On June 30, 1966, Betty Friedan, Kay Clarenbach, Pauli Murray, Caroline Davis, Richard Graham, and 28 other civil rights activists met in Washington, D.C., and founded the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.). Established as a private, non-profit organization, N.O.W.'s mission provided "action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men." The group would grow to be the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States, including 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Savannah's National Organization for Women comprises one of those 550 chapters. Established in May of 1972, the organization's members worked for women's equality locally. Led by Sandra Mitzel, U.S. Department of Labor Wage-Specialist, a Savannah NOW founding member, and the organization's first President, the group met bi-monthly at the Savannah science Museum on Paulsen Street and later at the YWCA located on Oglethorpe Avenue. Savannah NOW leadership rotated annually for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Public Relations, and Treasurer, and some leaders included chapter conveners Beth Kinsler, Judy Dubus, and Alice Durden, as well as Alice Bales and Jan Bohannon. Savannah NOW began publishing a newsletter, the *Savannah NOWsletter*, in April 1974. It highlighted recent legislation and news stories concerning women as well as Savannah NOW activities and upcoming events by topic. Although Savannah NOW members participated in and contributed to Georgia Chapter, Southeast-Region, and National Chapter NOW conferences and events, Savannah NOW traditionally focused its efforts on the Savannah area. Members formed task forces to identify challenges facing women and then worked in groups to target those challenges and end sex discrimination locally. Topics included a lack of female representation in politics, sex discrimination in education, the poor portrayal of women in the media, and many more. Although the Savannah NOW records document the years 1970-1984, the organization remains vital and continues in operation today.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the records of the Savannah chapter of the National Organization for Women. The records are organized into nine series: governance; membership; finance; legislative issues; task forces; publications; clippings; audio-visual materials; and visual materials.

The audio-visual materials and the visual materials were separated from the records and housed separately; their original series locations are noted in the collection inventory. The box containing these materials is noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the inventory.

Index Terms

Abortion--Government policy--Georgia--Citizen participation.
Administrative records.
Equal rights amendments--Georgia.
Feminism.

Ferraro, Geraldine.
Mitzel, Sandra.
National Organization for Women. Savannah Chapter.
Photographs.
Presidents--United States--Election.
Rape--Georgia.
Schlafly, Phyllis.
Sex discrimination against women--Law and legislation.
Sex discrimination in education--Law and legislation.
United States. Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX.
Women in mass media.
Women political activists--Georgia.
Women's rights.
Women--Employment-- Law and legislation--Georgia.
Women--Georgia--Societies and clubs.
Women--United States.

Technical Access Restrictions

A cassette player and a film projector are required to access portions of this collection.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from the creating organization.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], National Organization for Women, Savannah Chapter records, MS 2179, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Deposit, 1984, 1986. Gifted, 2003.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Series 2, Membership, is restricted from use until 2024.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

SERIES 1:: Governance records

This series consists of five subseries: 1.1, general; 1.2, Savannah Chapter; 1.3, Georgia Chapter; 1.4, Southeast Regional Chapter; and 1.5 National organizational records. The documents include by-laws, charters, correspondence, leadership lists, policy manuals, and minutes. The information is organized alphabetically, providing and operation history of the organization.

SUBSERIES 1.1:: General

Box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Actions; how-to material; and examples |
| | 2 | Miscellaneous information |
| | | Speaker's Bureau |
| | 3 | Resource material |
| | 4 | Sample speeches |
| | 5 | Start-up kit; leadership election ballots; material order forms; miscellaneous how-to manuals; policy manuals; stationery |

SUBSERIES 1.2:: Savannah Chapter

Box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|-------|--|
| 1 | 6 | By-laws and charter, 1974-1975 |
| | | Coalition building programs |
| | 7 | "Action Together Network" |
| | 8 | "Leadership Savannah", 1977-1979 |
| | 9 | Correspondence, 1974-1976 |
| | 10 | Meeting planning and goal setting |
| | 11-12 | Minutes and quarterly reports, 1974-1975 |

- 13 Minutes, 1976
- 14 Minutes, notes, and yearly report, 1981-1982
- 15 Minutes, 1982-1983
- 16 Telephone tree

SUBSERIES 1.3:: Georgia Chapter

Box Fldr

- 2 1 Budget, 1984
- 2 By-laws, 1974-1975
- 3 Correspondence from state officials to regional officials, 1978-1979

Leadership

- 4 1980-1983
- 5 Executive board meeting, 1983
- 6-12 State Conference, 1974-1979, 1981-1982, 1984

State Council Meeting

- 13 1974
- 14 1976-1977
- 15 1979-1981
- 16-18 1982-1984

SUBSERIES 1.4:: Southwest Regional Chapter

Conference

- 19 1974, 1976
- 20 1982-1983
- 21 Correspondence, 1976
- 22 Leadership roster, undated

- 23 Leadership conference, 1981
- 24 Regional and State Leaders meeting, 1981

SUBSERIES 1.5:: National organizational records

Box Fldr

- 3 1 By-laws, 1978
- 2 Legal policies of National NOW, 1975-1976
- 3 Policy manual, 1979
- 4 Statement of purpose, 1966
- 5 Board correspondence, 1976
- 6-10 Board meetings, 1975-1980, 1985
- 11-16 Conferences, 1973-1982
- 17 Correspondence to Credentials Committee, 1978
- Leadership
- 18 Board members and President, undated
- 19 Goldsmith, Judy, undated

SERIES 2:: Membership records

Restricted until 2024. This series contains correspondence, interested person lists, and contributing member files, organized chronologically.

Box Fldr

- 4 1 Correspondence, 1974-1975
- 2-12 1974-1984
- 13 Members, undated
- 14 Savannah NOW membership by General House and Senate districts

SERIES 3:: Finance records

This series consists of two subseries: 3.1, fundraising; and 3.2, budgets.

SUBSERIES 3.1:: Budgets

This subseries contains items such as check stubs, bank receipts, material receipts, formal budgets, and correspondence that provide an overall financial picture of the listed year. The materials are organized chronologically.

Box Fldr

5	1-13	1971-1983
	14	Undated
	15	Deposit book, 1979-1983

SUBSERIES 3.2:: Fundraising records

This subseries contains correspondence, how-to pamphlets, marketing strategies, and material order forms.

Box Fldr

5	16	Miscellaneous, 1973-1976
	17	Publications, miscellaneous dates
	18	Statewide Weekend Giveaway Contest, 1979
	19	Procedures, undated

SERIES 4:: Legislative issues

This series contains records concerning state and federal legislative issues that Savannah N.O.W. targeted for action. The information has been organized alphabetically by topic. A majority of the series relates to the Equal Rights Amendment; however, there are other records that concern issues such as abortion and equal employment.

Abortion and reproductive rights

Box Fldr

6	1	Clippings, 1975-1976
	2	Correspondence, 1974-1979

- 3 Human Life Amendment, 1982-1983
- 4 Lobbying, 1974-1979
- 5 Resource material, 1973-1979
- 6 Child care, 1979
- 7 Correspondence, 1976
- Equal employment

Box Fldr

- 6 8 C.E.T.A., 1973-1979
- 9 Correspondence, 1975-1983
- ERA

Box Fldr

- 6 10 Brochures and pamphlets, undated
- 11- Clippings, 1972-1982, undated
- 14

Box Fldr

- 7 1 Correspondence, 1973-1982
- 3 Election results, 1975-1982
- 4 ERA Deadline Extension Drive, 1977
- ERA Georgia, Inc.
- 5 Miscellaneous, 1980-1981
- 6 Newsletters, 1979-1982
- Fundraising
- 7 Miscellaneous, undated
- 8 Walk-A-Thon, 1979
- 9 Homemaker's status report, 1977
- 10 Leadership, 1979-1980
- Lobbying
- 11 How-to material, undated

- 12 Miscellaneous, 1973-1980
- 13 Miscellaneous, 1973-1979
- 14 *Now Legislative Update* newsletters, 1976

Opposition

- 15 Schlafly, Phyllis
- 16 Undated

Box Fldr

- 8 1 Political Action research records, 1974
- 2 Press releases, 1974-1975
- 3 Publicity events and rallies, 1973-1981
- 4-6 Reports, 1970-1978, undated
- 7 Speeches, 1973-1979

Supporters

- 8 Undated
- 9 Handbook, 1974
- 10 Legal Defense and Education Fund, 1976-1978
- 11 Lobbying, miscellaneous, undated
- 12 Savannah Legislative Coalition, 1975-1976

SERIES 5:: Task forces

This series contains records covering subjects such as women in education. Its focus was Title IX and a monitoring project that examined Savannah's public school system and the level to which girls received equal access to education. Another task force concerned women and the labor market. Records documents the treatment of female laborers within specific companies like General Miss, and J.P. Stevens, as well as correspondence, reports, and resource material on a diversity of labor issues, including affirmative action, the earning's gap, and pregnancy discrimination. Other task forces include the treatment of women in the media, politics, violence against women, and more. The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box Fldr

- 9 1 Child care, 1974-1976
- 2 Consciousness-raising, 1975
- 3 Consumer credit, 1974-1979

4 Criminal justice, 1975-1976

Education

Box Fldr

9 5 Acts and amendments, 1972-1976

6 Clippings, 1972-1976

7 Correspondence, 1975-1980

8 Memoranda, 1975, 1979-1980

9 Notes, undated

PEER Monitoring Project

10 Interviews and surveys, 1980

11 Leadership, 1976-1977

12 Start-up kit, undated

13 *PEER Perspective* newsletter, 1979-1981

Reports

14 1974-1979

Box Fldr

10 1 1980

2 Resource material, 1972-1979

3 Speeches, undated

4 Feminism and economics, 1975

Labor and employment

Box Fldr

10 5 *Action Alert* newsletters, 1976

6 Affirmative action plans, 1973-1976

7 Berry vs. University of Georgia case, 1976

8 "Careers for Women" reports, 1975-1978

9 Clippings, 1974-1976

Compliance enforcement

- 10 Handbook and how-to sheet, 1971
- 11 General Mills boycott, 1975
- 12 Handbook and how-to sheet, 1971
- 13 J.P. Stevens boycott, undated
- 14 Miscellaneous actions, 1975-1976
- 15 Sears, 1974
- 16 Southern Bell employment packet, 1974
- 17 *Compliance* newsletters, 1973-1975

Box Fldr

- 11 1 Conference flyer, undated
- 2 Correspondence, 1974-1976
- 3 Displaced homemakers, 1982
- 4 Earnings gap report, 1979
- 5 Labor unions: John McCown contract, 1976
- 6 Laws and legislative acts, 1969, 1971-1973
- 7 Maternity benefits; pregnancy discrimination, 1975-1976
- 8 Reports, 1973-1976
- 9 Resource material, 1970-1976
- 10 Revenue sharing complaint process, 1979
- 11 Marriage, divorce, family relations, 1972, 1976
- Medial reform

Box Fldr

- 11 12 Advertising, 1975
- 13 "A Matter of Sex" (television special), 1984
- 14 Correspondence, 1973-1976
- 15 "Perfect in Her Place" (media exhibit), 1983
- 16 Resource material, undated

Box Fldr

- 12 1 Savannah News Press Monitoring Project, 1974-1975
- 2 Women and minorities in the media, 1977
- 3 Minority women and women's rights, 1974-1975
- 4 Older women, 1973-1976
- Politics

Box Fldr

- 12 5 Gender gap report, 1982
- National
- 6 Correspondence, 1973-1975
- 7 Koop, C. Everett (Surgeon General nominee), 1981
- 8 Walter Mondale, Geraldine Ferraro campaign, 1984
- 9 Regional: segregation in Southern politics, undated
- Savannah, Chatham County
- 10 Clippings, 1975-1976
- 11 Correspondence, 1974-1976
- State
- 12 Candidate questionnaires, 1976
- 13 Georgia Democratic platform, 1982
- Rape

Box Fldr

- 13 1 Clippings, 1974-1976
- 2 Correspondence, 1973-1976
- 3 Georgia legislation, 1974-1976
- 4 Resource material, undated
- 5 Storaska, Frederic, 1975-1976
- 6 Reproduction and population, 1975-1977
- 7 Sexuality and lesbianism, 1975-1976, 1979
- Task forces

Box Fldr

- 13 8 Miscellaneous, 1976, 1979
- 9 WYCA project, 1976
- 10 Women and the arts, 1976
- 11 Women and health, 1974-1976
- 12 Women and poverty, 1974-1976
- 13 Women and religion, 1965, 1973-1976
- Violence against women

Box Fldr

- 13 14 Battered wives, undated
- 15 Take Back the Night, 1979-1983
- 16 Toward a Safe Savannah, 1984
- Volunteerism

Box Fldr

- 13 17 1971-1976
- 18 Georgia Advocacy Program, 1979

SERIES 6:: Publications

This series contains brochures, newsletters, pamphlets, and newspapers that the National, Southeast Regional, Georgia, or Savannah Chapter of N.O.W. published, produced, or utilized. They are organized alphabetically within each of the above mentioned categories.

Box Fldr

- 14 1-2 Brochures and pamphlets
- Newsletters

Box Fldr

- 14 3 Georgia Chapter, 1976-1982
- 4 National Chapter, miscellaneous dates

- 5 Other chapters, miscellaneous dates
- 6 Other organizations, miscellaneous dates
- 7-10 Savannah Chapter, 1974-1983, undated
- 11 Southeast Region Chapter, miscellaneous dates

Newspapers

Do It Now

Box Fldr

- 15 1 Advertising costs
- 2 1976
- 3 Miscellaneous newspapers, 1978, 1981

National NOW Times

- 4-7 1977-1980

Box Fldr

- 16 1-6 1981-1986
- 7-8 *Southern Feminist*, 1985-1986

SERIES 7:: Clippings

This series contains a small box of miscellaneous news articles related to women and women's issues. They are organized chronologically.

Box Fldr

- 17 1-3 News articles: miscellaneous women's issues, 1973-1984, undated

SERIES 8:: Audio-visual materials

This series contains two audio cassette tapes and two film reels. The first is a 1984 presidential campaign message on audio cassette tape. The other audio cassette tape and film reels pertain to a film entitled, "Woman NOW."

vm_box Fldr

- 1 1 Presidential Campaign Message, 1984.
Audio cassette tape (moved from Series 4, box 12, folder 8)

vm_box Fldr

- 1 2 "Woman NOW" (film)
 Audio cassette tape and two film strips (moved from Series 5, box 11). Film strips are in small box outside folder

SERIES 9:: Visual materials

This series contains two photographs. The first is from 1974, showing members tabling for the Equal Rights Amendment. The second is a 1984 photograph of the Savannah NOW members.

vm_box Fldr

- 1 3 Unmarked photograph
 Shows women standing behind a desk gathering support for the Equal Rights Amendment. Also shows to ERA posters (moved from Series 4, box 8, folder 8)

vm_box Fldr

- 1 4 Savannah NOW members, 1984.
 The photograph shows members from left: Ellie Lathrop, President; Debbie Kearney; Barbara Miller; Cheryl Brackin; Judy Weaver (hidden); Barbara Allen; Amy Allen (Barbara's daughter); Julia Staffor; and Sandy Mitzel. The photo also lists the photographer as Joy Heitmann (moved from Series 2, box 4, folder 12)