

WOMAN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE OF INDIANA RECORDS, 1914–1919

Collection #
SC 1761

[Collection Information](#)
[Historical Sketch](#)
[Scope and Content Note](#)
[Cataloging Information](#)

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12 March 1992
Updated 15 June 2004

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1914-1919

PROVENANCE: Robert Montgomery and W. E. Wilson, June 1967

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1967.0601

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Woman's Franchise League began in Indiana about 1911, as a successor to two other organizations, the

Indianapolis Franchise Society founded in 1873 by Mr. and Mrs. Horace McKay and Miss Laura Donman, and the Legislative Council of Indiana Women.

The League held its first convention in 1912, and emphasized "dignified conduct at all times" as its method and action at the state level to give women the vote as its goal. The state was divided into a number of districts corresponding to national congressional districts.

When its objectives had been achieved nationally by passage and ratification of the XIXth Amendment, the League reconvened as the League of Woman Voters.

Sources: *Indianapolis Star* 4-4-1912 (first convention), 4-5-1912 (first platform)
Indianapolis Times 8-21-1960 (history)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling three folders, consists of printed and mimeographed flyers and bulletins, and one book of minutes for a district chapter.

The flyers include suffrage planks, instructions and suggested speeches for chairmen and workers, form letters, and reference material. One financial report, for November 1918, gives membership numbers for units throughout the state (total 4960) and receipts and disbursements (total \$1781).

There is one notebook containing minutes of conventions of the organization for the 8th Congressional District, including Muncie, Anderson, and Pendleton. Agenda for the conventions was largely organizational, along with talks on subjects such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, social betterment, and "The Goddess of Liberty."

Operating as it did during World War I, the League had a highly patriotic tone in most of its pronouncements.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 1761).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.