

St. Paul Federation of Teachers Collection

Papers, 1898-1970

6 linear feet

Accession No. 417

The papers of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers were deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs on November 4, 1970, by James D. Robinson.

The St. Paul Federation of Teachers, Local 28, received its charter from the American Federation of Teachers on September 30, 1957. Its origins, however, date back to the formation of the Grade Teachers Federation in 1898. This organization received a charter from the American Federation of Teachers, AF of L, on June 18, 1913, and was designated the St. Paul Federation of Women Teachers, Local 23. The St. Paul Federation of Men Teachers was chartered on February 19 of the following year, as Local 43. The two locals worked closely together through the Joint Council of Teachers and were eventually merged in 1957 into the present federation.

It is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the American Federation of Teachers, the Minnesota AFL-CIO Federation of Labor, the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers. The Federation is the fifth oldest local in continual existence in the United States, was the first teachers' union in Minnesota, declared the first organized teachers' strike in the country, and organized the first group insurance for teachers and the first teachers' credit union. A number of its programs had national influence and it was instrumental in changing local government as related to education.

The period covered by the collection is 1898 to 1970, with emphasis on the strike period of 1946-47 and relatively little on the years 1966-70.

Important subjects in the collection:

Salary	Political tactics
Tenure	Local government
Loyalty	Merit raises
Strikes	

Important correspondents in the collection:

Mollie Geary	Paul Meier
Lettisha Henderson	Florence Rood
Michael McDonough	Flora Smalley
Mary McGough	

Contents

10 manuscript boxes

1 storage box

Series I, Grade Teachers Federation, 1898-1920, Box 1

These records include minutes, correspondence, printed pamphlets and bulletins, yearbooks, and a written history of the two-year period from 1916 to 1918. The major concerns are amendments to the city charter, the fight for salary increases, resistance to the "merit" pay system instituted by Commissioner of Education William Wunderlich as well as dismissal cases, the Palmer Drills, and "Loyalty Clubs" formed by the superintendent.

Series II, St. Paul Federation of Women Teachers, 1918-1953, Box 2

Included are a written history, correspondence, publications, mimeographed reports, pamphlets of the Federation and other associations. They are primarily concerned with salary fights, legal rights and research on tenure cases, including rights of academic freedom.

Series III, St. Paul Federation of Men Teachers, 1918-1956, Box 3

These records are made up primarily of correspondence, mimeographed reports and notices, publications, memos, clippings, and typed lists. They cover charter amendment struggles, membership drives, Minneapolis Locals 238 and 59 strike efforts, salaries, and the 1946 "St. Paul Story" of the strike.

Series IV, Teachers Joint Council, 1935-1955, Boxes 4-7

This is the largest of the series and includes correspondence, memoranda, radio addresses, bulletins, publications of the Federation and other related organizations, strike publicity, newspaper clippings of the strike, reports, and minutes of meetings. The material covers policies of the Council, the dismissal of State Commissioner of Education Rockwell with its political implications and "Red" smear tactics, charter amendment campaigns, and the financial situation of the St. Paul Schools. The major part of the series, however, consists of documentation of the 1946 strike: how it came about; activities and tactics; and support, both local and national. The Teachers Joint Council was made up of the Executive Board members of the Women's and Men's Locals 28 and 43, who worked in concert from 1935 until the merger of the two unions in 1957.

Series V, St. Paul Federation of Teachers Local 28, 1957-1970, Box 8

This record group includes a written history, minutes, lists, and miscellaneous correspondence, booklets, and pamphlets. The minutes of meetings from 1957 through 1965 make up the largest part of the records, but membership recruitment, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary, and a tribute to one of the founders of the local, Mary McGough, are also documented. 1957 - 1970, 1 box.

Series VI, Books, Boxes 9-10

This series consists of minute books, directories, and news clippings. The minutes of the Grade Teachers Federation cover the period of May 18, 1898 through April 5, 1915; the minutes of the Federation of Women Teachers range from March 11, 1929 through March 3, 1946; minutes of the Joint Salary Committee of the FWT, FMT, Principal's Club and PTA cover December 1, 1927 through January 31, 1928; and minutes of the Committee of One Hundred, an informal organization of teachers and principals formed to study relief financing policies in 1939, cover the period of December 20, 1939 through May 6, 1941. The final items in this series are the St. Paul

School Directories of personnel for the years 1909 through 1930 and miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

Series VII, Scrapbooks, storage box

There are 16 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings dated irregularly from March 19, 1917 through April of 1947. The clippings cover most of the important union encounters and the strike is fully covered in five scrapbooks. A 17th scrapbook of the Association for Childhood Education contains a few ACE printed newsletters and some trivia.

Series I

Box 1

1. History - 1916-1918; President's Reports, 1909, 1910;
Mayor's Reports; American Teacher
2. Minutes (January 14, 1910-October 30, 1916) - Notebook
- 3-5. "The Bulletin," February 1913-December 1915
January 1916-December 1918
January-April 1919; October 1919-May 1920
6. Dismissal Cases (1917-1918) - Correspondence
7. Yearbooks (1905-1912) - 6 books, contain membership lists,
constitution, by-laws
8. Correspondence (1900) - Letter to P.J. Smalley from C.B.
Gilbert

Series II

Box 2

1. History
2. Charter Application (June 18, 1918) - Original and copy
3. Joint Salary Committee (January 23, 1920) -Complaint on salary schedule to Commissioner of Education Wunderlich
4. Salaries (1927-1935)
5. Chamber of Commerce Proposal (1932)
6. Legal Correspondence (1932-1944)
7. Tenure Court Cases (1935-1938)
8. Court Decisions (1936-1942)
9. Legal Cases - Publications - Dismissals, Krause Case, Keeney Case
10. Supreme Court - Publications (1938, 1942)
11. Rood Memorial (1944) Florence Rood, President, (1910-1913)
12. Membership (1953)
13. Pamphlets (1923-1946) WFT, AFT, City of St. Paul, etc.

Series III

Box 3

1. Charter Canvas (1947)
2. City Code - Salaries (1944, 1946)
3. Correspondence - Eugene McCarthy letter to Michael McDonough
re: Salaries, included
4. Council Ordinance on Education (May 10, 1947)
5. Membership (1946, 1948) - Lists, instructions on new members
6. Men Teachers List (December 1946)
7. Minneapolis Labor Review, clippings (1961)
8. Minneapolis Locals 238 and 59 (1946-1951) - Mimeographed
calendar of events on strike vote; intercession of H.H.
Humphrey
9. Minneapolis Strike Bulletins (February-March 1948)
10. Miscellaneous (1945?-1949?) - Snapshots, postcards,
unidentified lists, notices, Charter Commission members, etc.
- 11-12. Miscellaneous Pamphlets (2 folders) - AFT, WFT, LATT, TCJ,
etc.
13. Newspaper Pictures, M.J. McDonough
14. "St. Paul Story" - 1946 Strike release
15. Survey Report - St. Paul Schools (1944) - Book
16. Teachers Joint Council (1942-1956) - Notices, bulletins,
correspondence, etc.
17. Teachers Salaries (1942-11053) - Literature
18. Tri-City MEA Legislative Committee (1949-1950) - Memos

Series IV

Box 4

1. School Situation (1935-1939) - Memos, radio addresses, etc.
2. School Bonds Report (1937-1961)
- 3-4. Minutes (2 folders) - November 1937-December 1938
January 1939-December 1939
5. Rockwell Case Papers (1940-1941)
- 6-8. Rockwell Case Clippings - December 6, 1940-January 12, 1941
January 13, 1941-January 16, 1941
January 17, 1941-January 23, 1941
9. Sick Leave Report (May 1941)
10. Policies Literature (1944-1948)
11. Charter Amendment Proposal (1950)
12. Policies (1950-1951) - Leaves, School Board, etc.
13. miscellaneous (1944-1955) - Announcements, memos, bulletins, lists of teachers with Master's degree, correspondence, etc.
14. Publications (March 3, 1928-January 1954)
15. Miscellaneous Bulletins (1935-1954)
16. St. Paul Schools - Financial (1955)

Box 5

1. Minutes, Closed Meeting (November 9, 1946) - City and Teachers; strike
2. Correspondence, City of St. Paul (1946-1947)
3. Mass Meeting Agenda (November 19, 1946)
4. AFT No-Strike Policy (1946)
5. Ordinance Proposal (1946)
6. Miscellaneous Strike Material (October 1946-February 1947)
7. Strike Breakers
8. Strike Helpers
9. Memos (November 1946)
10. Working Schedules (November 22, 1946)

Series V

Box 8

1. History (1918-1968) - Booklet and manuscript; also AFT, Minn. FT
2. McGough Tribute (1958) - Mary McGough, charter member
3. Charter Commission (1959)
4. Miscellaneous (1959-1970) - Letters, pamphlets, salary comparisons
5. Membership (1965) - Recruitment
6. 50th Anniversary (1968)
- 7-14. Minutes, Executive Board and General Membership Meetings (1957-1965)

Series VI

Box 9

Minutes, GFT (2 books) - May 18, 1898-December 12, 1901
May 5, 1903-April 5, 1915
Minutes, FWT (3 books) - March 11, 1929-January 26, 1935
January 28, 1935-September 19, 1938
October 14, 1938-March 3, 1946

Box 10

Minutes, Joint Salary Committee - (1 book) (December 1, 1927-
January 31, 191-3)
Minutes, Committee of One Hundred - (1 book) (December 20, 1939- May
6, 1941)
Directories, St. Paul Public Schools - (22 books) (1909-1930)
1-8. Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1937-1963

Series VII (1 storage box of scrapbooks)

Volume 1 - March 19, 1917-August 19, 1918 GFT
2- August 17, 1917-March 1918 GFT
3-March 1918-August 1918 GFT
4-August 1918-July 1919 WFT
5- May 1919-July 1919 WFT
6 - December 1, 1927-May 1929 WFT
7 - October 1938-October 1941 WFT
8 - October 1941-June 1941 WFT
9 - October 1941-April 1943 WFT
10 - May 1943-June 1944 WFT
11 - March 1946-July 1946 Charter Amendment
12 - November 1946-December 1946 Strike
13 - November 1946-January 1946 Out-of-Town Strike
14 - July 1946-January 1947 Strike
15 - January 1947-April 1947 Strike
16 - 1944 Teachers Retirement Fund
17 - Scrapbook, Association for Childhood Education

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