K0619
National Panel of American Women Records
1957-1986
three cubic feet, one oversize scrapbook

Organizational records of the national office of the Panel of American Women, an organization dedicated to thoughtful examination and discussion of social issues. Includes correspondence, financial and legal records, newsletters and printed material, minutes, and scrapbooks.

HISTORY:

The Panel of American Women was first established in Kansas City, Missouri in 1957. It was based on the model of the Panel of Americans which operated on college campuses at that time. Student participants of various racial, ethnic and religious groups told their story in a manner designed to create discussion with the audience. Several members of the Jewish community in Kansas City decided to form an adult panel. This panel made up of six women panelists moderated by Esther Brown gave a very well-received presentation in February 1957. Soon the panel expanded to forty participants, including several men. Requests came in from many cities for help establishing other panels. By 1960, Panels had been established in twenty-two cities.

To help meet the needs of the sudden expansion and growth, the Panel of American Women (the “National Panel”) was incorporated and chartered as a tax-exempt educational organization on September 14, 1964. The purposes of the organization were; “to devise, develop and promote programs of youth and adult education to counteract prejudice and discrimination based on racial, religious, nationality or ethnic group membership; to stimulate individuals and local community groups to constructive and democratic attitudes toward problems of intergroup relations; and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.”

In 1971, the first official National Convention of the Panel of American Women was held in Kansas City. A new Board of Trustees was elected by the
membership, a set of bylaws was adopted, and five Regional Coordinators were elected to be responsible for work in their geographical areas. Dues were collected from the local panels based upon the number of active members.

The National Office of the Panel of American Women, located in Kansas City, Missouri collected and distributed educational materials relevant to Panel activities. They provided consultants, publicity, copies of successful speeches by panelists, lists of frequently asked questions, and general support to local Panels.

See also: Panel of American Women - Kansas City Branch Records K0618
Shirley and Stanley Morantz Papers KA1747

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from the Panel of American Women as accession KA0834 on October 10, 1994. An addition was received as KA1811 on June 28, 2010.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; National Panel of American Women Records (K0619); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection consists of correspondence, meeting minutes, public relations materials, and financial and legal records of the Panel of American Women. The oversize scrapbook suffered from some water damage, but all the items were removed and are in fair to good condition.
INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Folder 1:1. Correspondence, invitations - White House reception, 1979
Other national correspondence, 1977-1979
Folder 1:3. Minutes of board meeting - Kansas City, 1982
Folder 1:5. Minutes of board meeting - Memphis, 1980
Folder 1:7. Minutes of board meeting - Indianapolis, 1977
Folder 1:8. Minutes of board meeting - Kansas City, 1976
Folder 1:9. Minutes of board meeting, 1975
Folder 1:10. Minutes of board meeting, 1974
Folder 1:11. Board meetings, 1974-1975
Folder 1:15. National board mailings, 1979
Folder 1:17. Secretary’s file (chiefly correspondence), 1978-1979
Folder 1:18. Vice President’s file, 1977-1979
Folder 1:20. Correspondence, 1977-1978
Folder 1:22. Nominations, 1977
Folder 1:23. YWCA, 1977-1979
Folder 1:24. Correspondence - board meeting, 1976
Folder 1:25. Correspondence, 1976
Folder 1:27. Correspondence, 1975-1976
Folder 1:28. Correspondence - Executive Secretary, 1975-1976
Folder 1:30. Nominating Committee, 1978-1979
Folder 1:32. Nominating Committee, 1974
Folder 1:33. Correspondence - Coordinator, 1972-1975
Folder 1:34. Regional correspondence - Northern Region, 1977-1981
Folder 1:35. Regional correspondence - Southern Region, 1978-1980
Folder 1:36. Regional correspondence - Eastern Region, 1979-1981
Folder 1:37. Regional correspondence - Midwestern Region, 1977-1979
Folder 1:38. Regional correspondence - Central Region, 1977-1980
Folder 1:39. Regional correspondence - Upper South Region, 1977-1979
Folder 1:40 Correspondence - Windsor, Canada, 1968-1971
Folder 1:41. Correspondence - Glade Spring, VA, 1968-1969
Folder 1:42. Publicity - Wilmington, DE, 1969
Folder 1:43. Correspondence - Wilmington, DE, 1969-1971
Folder 1:44. Correspondence - Toronto, 1969-1972
Folder 1:45. Correspondence - Pittsburgh, 1972-1976
Folder 1:46. Correspondence - Secretary, 1979-1980

BOX 002
Folder 2:1. Brochures - Program Development, ca. 1980s
Folder 2:2. Panel Program Development (information for Coordinators, etc.), 1969-1983
Folder 2:3. Roles and Responsibilities of Panelists, Coordinator, etc. (job description), 1969-1973
Folder 2:4. Ethnic studies and articles, 1978-1979
Folder 2:6. Most Asked Questions (and questions from Women’s Day article), 1967-1972
Folder 2:8. Fundraising
Folder 2:9. Correspondence - Foundations, 1974-1976
Folder 2:10. Correspondence, brochures - Vice President, Public Relations, 1979-1981
Folder 2:12. Rosters of local chapters, 1977-1979
Folder 2:13. Rosters of Board of Directors, undated
Folder 2:15. Evaluation reports and questionnaires, 1970-1971
Folder 2:17. Regional conference, 1976

BOX 003
Folder 3:1. Payroll taxes, 1974-1976
Folder 3:2. Treasurer’s file - reports, notes, check registers, correspondence, 1977-1982
Folder 3:3. Tax forms, 1973-1975
Folder 3:4. Tax exempt documentation, including donors, 1971-1979
Folder 3:5. Articles of Incorporation, 1964-1972
Folder 3:7. Legal correspondence, 1964-1971
Folder 3:8. Finance agreements and correspondence, 1974-1975
Folder 3:11. National Treasurer’s file (Geneva Barrax) - ledger sheets for local chapters, bank statements, correspondence, 1977-1979
Folder 3:13. Stationery, blank certificates
Folder 3:15. Newsletters, 1972-1977
Canceled checks, bank statements, membership correspondence, 1980 (Eloise Wade, Treasurer)
Canceled checks, bank statements, 1976-1977

OVERSIZE
Scrapbook items removed - photographs, clippings, ca. 1965-1974