

Inventory of the

Rockford United Labor, AFL-CIO
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC145

INTRODUCTION

Amedeo Giorgi, President of the Rockford United Labor AFL-CIO, deposited the organization's records in the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 11, 1982.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Rockford United Labor AFL-CIO; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are some restrictions on access to the collection due to preservation purposes. Photocopies of these documents have been made and are open to the public.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4.25
Number of containers: 6
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 145

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Rockford United Labor AFL-CIO records are arranged in four series: administrative records, committee records, subject files, and publications and printed materials. The collection traces the history of the organization from its founding in 1957. Records dating from 1977 to the present remain with the organization, but will be transferred to the Center when they become inactive.

The first series contains by-laws, minutes, correspondence, membership information, and financial records. Although minutes from the first two meetings (July-August 1957) are missing, there are no other gaps. The minutes contain committee reports, financial reports, and membership and election records. Additional financial information is available in the auditor's reports (1963-1969), the treasurer's cash book (1957-1958), and the dues book (1957-1958). Materials from Central Labor Union Conferences complete the series with information on topics such as labor and politics, inflation, and union strikes.

Series two contains records of five committees: community services, credentials, education and farm labor, union label, and the Committee on Political Education (COPE). The COPE records comprise the largest subseries consisting of correspondence, legislation reports, voter registration information, and pamphlets and newsletters. The third series of subject files covers topics ranging from energy to labor laws to workmen's compensation and occupational safety. Series four comprises additional pamphlets, handbooks and manuals, news releases and photographs. Also included in this series are incomplete runs of several Rockford labor newspapers, such as the Rockford Labor News, Rockford Trade Unions, and the Advocator, some national union publications are also in this series. Photocopies have been made of these documents and are available for reproduction. The original newspapers are restricted and not

open to the public.

This collection primarily documents legislation affecting labor unions and the organization's contributions to the community of Rockford. Researchers may wish to consult the

Rockford Building and Construction Trades Council Records (RC 138) for more information on labor in Winnebago County. Other related holdings can be found in the Center's Guide.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Winnebago County's first central labor party, the Rockford Central Labor Union, formed in July 1895. The union remained very active until the Rockford Federation of Labor organized on September 1, 1943, as its successor. By 1953 the Federation served 52 separate local unions with a total membership of over 8,000 men and women. Rapid growth of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO, formed in 1937) also prompted the formation of a local Rockford Industrial Council in 1940.

Forward progress of the labor movement throughout the country impelled the national unions to complete a long-discussed merger--in the fall, 1955 the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. consolidated into one organization. Similarly, the two Rockford organizations merged in 1957 to form Rockford United Labor AFL-CIO (R.U.L.). The newly formed organization elected Emmett Poyer president, Joe Vittore vice-president, and Anthony Mazzola recording secretary. By 1967 R.U.L. included 63 affiliated local unions with a membership of more than 25,000.

The union “. . . existed for the purpose of coordinating the various activities of the community that labor unions are interested in doing for the comfort and prosperity of the community.” To fulfill this purpose the members worked for education, the elimination of slum areas, improved recreation facilities, better police and fire protection, better lighted and improved streets, and a city government that works for all people. The members also became active in the Committee for Political Education (COPE) and provided financial support for political programs sponsored at local, state, and national levels.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Labor
 Labor Unions
 Newspapers
 Politics
 Rockford
 Rockford United Labor, AFL-CIO
 Winnebago County

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Administrative Records		
1	1	By-Laws, 1957-1961
	2	Resolutions, Proclamations, and Certificates, 1963-1976
	3-9	Minutes, 1957-1977
	10	Annual Reports, 1961-1963
	11-13	Correspondence, 1957-1977
	14	Newsletter, <u>IMPACT</u> , 1974-1975
	15	Auditor's Reports, (1963-1969)
	16	Treasurer's Cash Book, July 1957-June 1958
	17	Dues Record, July 1957-June 1958
	18	Membership Rosters and Directories
	19	Election of Officers, 1960-1964
	20	Local Union Delegates, 1957-1960
	21	Annual Central Labor Union Conferences, (1969-1976)
Series II. Committee Records		
	22	Membership Information, 1960-1977
	23	Reports, 1957-1959
	24-25	Community Services (United Way), 1957-1977, 1979, 1986
	26	Credentials, 1961-1964
	27	Education and Farm Labor, 1957-1961
	28	Union Label, 1959-1968
Subseries A. Committee on Political Education		
	29	Organization Information
	30	Correspondence, 1957-1974
2	1	Legislation Reports, (1957-1973)
	2	Campaign Disclosure Information, 1974
	3	Leadership and Manpower Program, CETA, 1977
	4	Voter Registration, (1967-1972)
	5	Rockford Community Schools Caucus Candidate Questionnaires, 1970
	6-8	<u>COPE Newsletter</u> , 1967-1978
	9	<u>Collective Bargaining Report</u> , 1959-1960

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	10	Legislative Fact Sheets, (1965-1973)
	11	<u>Federation News</u> , 1961-1964
	12	<u>First Monday</u> , 1972-1973
	13	<u>Legal-Legislative Reporter News Bulletin</u> , 1975-1976
	14	<u>Work to Win</u> , 1972
	15	I.A.M. and U.A.W. Legislative Goals, 1976
	16	Political Pamphlets, n.d.
Series III. Subject Files		
	17	Economic Stabilization Program, 1972
	18	<u>The Energy Emergency</u> , 1974
	19	Foreign Delegations-India, 1964
	20	Illinois Dept. of Personnel, Bulletins, 1970-1976
	21	Illinois State Employment Service-Youths, 1960's
	22	<u>On the Job</u> , Illinois Labor History Society, 1977
	23	Labor Laws, 1959-1964
	24	Labor Law Reform, 1977
	25	Right to Work Labor Laws, 1965-1971
	26	Social Security Guide, n.d.
	27	<u>Structure of a Strike</u> , National Boycott Team, 1969
	28	Workmen's Compensation and Occupational Safety, 1970-1975
Series IV. Publications and Printed Materials		
	29	<u>The Worker</u> , Newsletter of the Labor Party League, 1975
	30	Illinois State AFL-CIO Weekly Newsletter, 1973-1974
	31	<u>Union of the Big Shoulder</u> , 1972
3	1	AFL-CIO Pamphlets, 1972-1974
	2	News Releases, 1975-1977
	3	Union Handbooks and Manuals, (1948-1964)
	4	Agreement Forms, (1952-1973)
	5	Photographs, n.d. (19)
	6	Apportionment Maps and Descriptions for Illinois, 1971
4	1-6	<u>Rockford Labor News</u> , Vol. 45, 50, 52, 55-58, 65, 72-73 (1957, 1959, 1962-1964, 1966, 1969-1972, 1986-1987)
	7	<u>Rockford Trade Unions</u> , Vol. 1 No. 5 (1949)
	8	FDR, Vol. 1 No. 5 (1947)
	9-10	Rockford UAW-CIO <u>Advocator</u> , Vol. 3 - 10 (1948-1955)

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
5	1-2	Rockford UAW-CIO <u>Advocator</u> , Vol. 10 - 12 (1956-1958)	
	3	UAW-CIO Locals 378, 387, 449, 528, 1941-1943 <u>Teamster News Local 325</u> , Vol. 2 No. 1 (1979)	
	4	UAW-CIO Publications, 1942, 1948, 1950, 1958	
	5-6	<u>CIO News</u> , Vol. 3 No. 48 (1940) <u>AFL-CIO News</u> , Vol. 15, 16 (1970, 1971)	
	7-9	<u>United Automobile Worker</u> , Vol. 6, 16-19 (1942, 1952-1956)	
	10-11	<u>Illinois Labor</u> , Vol. 3, 4 (1950, 1951)	
	12	<u>Cry for Justice</u> , 1972	
	13	Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee, Lecture Flyer, n.d.	
	14	Rockford's Union Label Buyer's Guide, n.d.	

Not Open to the Public

6	Originals	<u>Rockford Labor News</u> , Vol. 45, 50, 52, 55-58, 65, 72-73 (1957, 1959, 1962-1964, 1966, 1969-1972, 1986-1987) <u>Rockford Trade Unions</u> , Vol. 1 No. 5 (1949) FDR, Vol. 1 No. 5 (1947) Rockford UAW-CIO <u>Advocator</u> , Vol. 3 - 12 (1948-1955) UAW-CIO Locals 378, 387, 449, 528, 1941-1943 <u>Teamster News Local 325</u> , Vol. 2 No. 1 (1979) UAW-CIO Publications, 1942, 1948, 1950, 1958 <u>CIO News</u> , Vol. 3 No. 48 (1940) <u>AFL-CIO News</u> , Vol. 15, 16 (1970, 1971) <u>United Automobile Worker</u> , Vol. 6, 16-19 (1942, 1952-1956) <u>Illinois Labor</u> , Vol. 3, 4 (1950, 1951) <u>Cry for Justice</u> , 1972
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