

Inventory of the

**DeKalb County Building and  
Construction Trades Council**  
DeKalb, IL

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 314**

## INTRODUCTION

Dana Yarak, Vice President of Board of Directors of Conexión Comunidad donated the DeKalb County Building and Construction Trades Council Records to the Regional History Center on May 25, 2011. Conexión Comunidad occupied the building in which the records had been abandoned by previous tenants.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.25  
Number of containers: 5  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 314

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of the records of the DeKalb County Building and Construction Trades Council from 1950 to 2001. The records include administrative files, minutes, correspondence, printed materials, legal documentation, and audio-visual materials. The records reflect the organization's activities as a labor union. The correspondence includes letters from individuals, labor organizations, private companies, and public organisms. The minutes have many gaps, especially before 1980.

The materials are organized into five series: (I) Administrative Records, (II) Correspondence, (III) Subject Files, (IV) Financial Records, and (V) Ephemera. The materials are arranged by record type, and then chronologically.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Although individual building trade local unions in DeKalb County trace their history to the late nineteenth century, it was not until 1938 these locals united into the DeKalb County Building and Construction Trades Council. The various unions in the construction industry came together to address needs within DeKalb County and vicinity. Through the years the Council's members have represented such labor groups as: Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Cement Masons, Ceramic Tile & Terrazzo workers, Electricians, Heat and Frost Insulators, Asbestos Workers, Iron Workers, Millwrights, Operators, Painters, Plasters, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Roofers, Sheet Metal Workers, and Teamsters.

The Council's basic tasks were to promote cooperation between local unions, to present a united front to management, and to expand the role of organized labor in the DeKalb construction industry. To accomplish these goals the Council oversaw and coordinated the enforcement of building trades union contracts, promoted organized labor through special events, maintained an "unfair" list of non-union contractors, and issued cards and buttons to members of affiliated local unions.

The Council continues to perform several functions including overseeing picket lines, settling jurisdiction disputes between unions, lobbying for labor legislation, contractor/customer satisfaction; budget concerns; safety and training; and labor-management relations. It is affiliated with the AFL-CIO's Building & Construction Trades Department in Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Davis-Bacon Act  
DeKalb, Politics  
DeKalb County  
DeKalb County Courthouse  
Democratic Party  
Elections  
Labor  
Labor Unions  
N.I.U.  
Ogle County  
Politicians

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
Series I. Administrative Records			
1	1	Affiliates - Delegates to the DeKalb County Building Trades documentation (1963-1991, no date)	
	2-3	Affiliates - Per Capita Contributions and Documentation (1976-1996, no date)	
	4	Bylaws 1981-1991, no date	
	5	Directories (1984-1993, no date)	
	6-9	Minutes (1950-2001)	
	10-11	Minutes notepads (1985-1993)	
	2	1-2	Minutes notepads (1996, no date)
	Series II. Correspondence		
		3	Correspondence - Labor Organizations (1979-2000, no date)
		4	Correspondence - Private Companies (1982-1996, no date)
	5	Correspondence - Public Organisms (1978-1988, no date)	
	6	Correspondence - Sponsorships (1983-1995)	
Series III. Subject Files			
	7	Congress of Illinois Building Trades 1981	
	8-9	Davis-Bacon Act - American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) circulars (1976-1993)	
	10	Davis-Bacon Act - Contractor's report of construction wage rates (1978-1981)	
	11	Davis-Bacon Act - Legal opinions/Legislation (1965-2000)	
	12	Davis-Bacon Act - Local Prevailing Rate of Wages (1975-1987)	
	13	Davis-Bacon Act - Newspapers clippings (1987-1990, no date)	
3	1	Davis-Bacon Act - Notices/Publications (1979-1987)	
	2	Davis-Bacon Act - Ogle County Dispute (1982-1984)	
	3	Davis-Bacon Act - Prevailing Wage Committee Minutes and Documentation (1974-1986)	
	4	DeKalb County Board (1988-1993)	
	5	Jurisdictional Dispute Board (1949-1995)	
	6	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 1979-1985	
	7	Political Action (1977-1998, no date)	
	8	Pre-Jobs Interviews and Documentation (1981-1991)	
	9	Pre-Jobs Interviews and Documentation - DeKalb County Court House 1983	
	10	Legislation/Court Decisions/Legal Opinions (1965-1996)	
	11	Union Campaigns (1985-1993, no date)	

3            12            Working Agreements and Documentation (1970-2001)

Series IV. Financial Records

4            1-4            Financial Secretary's Receipt Book (1981-1995)  
               5            LM3/LM4 Forms and Documentation (1977-1994)  
               6            Receipt Book 1988-1989  
               7            Receipts (1976-1996)  
               8            Received of Petty Cash Booklet, no date  
               9            Treasurer's Cash Book 1975-1980  
               10           Treasurer's Report 1949, 1956

Series V. Ephemera

5            1            2 Envelops  
               5 sheets of "This Payment Made Possible by UNION  
                   LABOR" stickers  
               10 Business cards  
               100th Year Celebration Booklet (International Union of  
                   Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #27)  
               A Night at the Old Finn Hall V 1998  
               Careers Partnership Career Fair 1998  
               DeKalb County Building and Construction Trades Council  
                   stationery  
               DeKalb County Building and Construction Trade rubber  
                   stamp  
               Dupage Federation of Labor sticker  
               Fox Valley Building Trades Council propaganda  
               "Official Application for Residency in Arkansas" (political  
                   humor 1992)  
               "Project First Rate" sticker  
               "Support Back to Work Candidates. Vote Democrat" political  
                   button  
               U.S. Committee Against Nuclear War mailing  
               What a Life: That of a Union Officer (labor humor)  
               2            Pictures and Slides, no date  
                   4 Pictures  
                   3 Slides