

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA [formerly Women's Non-Party Political Association]

SRG 116
Series List

The Women's Non-Party Political Association was founded on 19 July, 1909 by a group of politically active women to work towards the "removal of all legal, economic and other inequalities between men and women".¹

The "Political" was dropped from the title and in 1924 the name was changed to "The League of Women Voters of South Australia", with the sub-title "Women's Non-Party Association". This was to emphasize the link with the newly formed Australian Federation of Women Voters, founded in 1921 by Bessie Rischbieth of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia.

The S.A. League disbanded on 27 July, 1979 at the close of its 70th annual meeting. In that time the League had a number of standing sub-committees and temporary committees on such matters as juvenile courts, aboriginals, proportional representation, disarmament, the marriage act, the adoption of children bill and women on juries. It had branches at Blackwood and Henley Beach.

The Australian Federation of Women Voters had one only affiliate from each state, a condition of affiliation being that the words 'League of Women Voters' appear in the title or sub-title. The headquarters of the Federation were located in the State of the elected President and Vice-President generally for a term of 3 years. Conferences were held every three years, usually in the headquarters state, until 1972 when a decision was made to hold them every four years.

Some of the records in this group were deposited in the Archives by Mrs. Bessie Mountford who was associated with the League from about 1914² until its demise. In that time Mrs. Mountford filled several offices both with the League and with the Federation including League Vice President, Federal Vice President and Federal Honorary Treasurer. A distinction has been made in the series list between records relating to the League and records relating to the Federation. Adelaide was the headquarters State from 1967-69 and 1973-76.

1. The Work and Achievements of the League of Women Voters of S.A. Paper presented by Ellinor Walker at the 70th Annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of S.A., 27 July, 1979. SRG 116/1/11.
2. Szekeres, Vivienne. *A History of the League of Women Voters in S.A. 1909-1976*. Thesis. 1976. p.49. D5948(T)

Minutes of general, business, educational and activities meetings 1909-79. 11v.	<u>1</u>
Minutes of Executive and Committee meetings. 1910-68. 6v.	<u>2</u>
Ledger of receipts. 1926-38, 1951-79. 4v.	<u>3</u>

Ledger of expenditure. 1928-79. 3v.	<u>4</u>
Miscellaneous financial records. 1952-78. 3 bundles. [See Special List.]	<u>5</u>
Membership and Subscription lists. 1959-79. 2v.	<u>6</u>
Correspondence. 1950-79. 3 folders.	<u>7</u>
Correspondence, notes and newspaper cuttings relating to the Campaign For More Women in Parliament. 1977-79. 1 folder.	<u>8</u>
Correspondence, notes and newspaper cuttings relating to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, June 1978 and general peace issues. 1977-78. 1 folder.	<u>9</u>
Correspondence and other papers kept by Reverend Winifred Kiek. 1960. 1 folder. [Includes notes, programs and reports of the I.A.W. meeting, Teheran and the British Commonwealth League Conference, London.]	<u>10</u>
Annual Reports. 1972-79. 1 folder. [Includes one for Victoria Branch 1977.]	<u>11</u>
Agendas. 1972-79. 1 folder.	<u>12</u>
Newsletters. 1975-79. 1 folder.	<u>13</u>
Miscellaneous printed items, notes, essays and newspaper cuttings relating to or kept by the League of Women Voters of S.A. 1928-1980. 4 folders.	<u>14</u>
Miscellaneous photographs. [Approximately 1900-1957]. 18 items. [Includes portrait photographs of past presidents of the League of Women Voters, a framed photograph of Catherin Helen Spence (also at B 9881), and a framed portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburg with an accompanying letter from Miss Messent.]	<u>15</u>

Scrapbook. 1968-72. iv.	<u>16</u>
Letter to Catherine Helen Spence from the National Council of Women of the United States. 1895. 1 item.	<u>17</u>
<u>Blackwood Branch</u>	
Records of the Blackwood Branch. 1924-34. 2 folders. [See Special List.]	<u>18</u>
<u>Australian Federation of Women Voters</u>	
Minutes and agenda of Executive and Board meetings. 1962-74. 3 folders. [Incomplete. Includes some relevant correspondence.]	<u>19</u>
Minutes and reports of State Boards. 1972. 3 items.	<u>20</u>
Triennial Board reports. 1951; 1971; 1974. 4 items.	<u>21</u>
Letters from the President and Presidents Circular Letters. Jan. 1910 - April 1971. [Incomplete.] 1 folder.	<u>22</u>
Reports, proceedings, etc. of various triennial conferences. 1936-76. 2 folders. [See also series 24, 25 and 37.]	<u>23</u>
Report, program, correspondence and newspaper cuttings of the 15th Triennial conference, Perth. 1969. 1 folder.	<u>24</u>
Correspondence. 1963-76. 2 folders. [Includes correspondence relating to 1963 and 1966 conferences.]	<u>25</u>
Correspondence relating to the A.F.W.U. candidate for Unesco Study Tour Grant to Pakistan, 1968. 1967-68. 1 folder. [Kept by Mrs. B. Mountford as Honorary Secretary.]	<u>26</u>

Correspondence, papers and pamphlets relating to the issue of equal pay. 1942-69. 2 folders and 5v. [Includes printed submissions, transcript of proceedings and report of Equal Pay Test Case, 1969.]	<u>27</u>
Papers of Mrs. B. Mountford. 1943-70. 1 folder. [Includes essays and reports written or kept by Mrs. Mountford on various women's issues.]	<u>28</u>
Papers relating to the will of Mrs. Bessie Rischbieth. 1967. 1 folder. [Mrs. Rischbeith was founder and President of Honour of the Australian Federation of Women Voters.]	<u>29</u>
Miscellaneous financial records. 1933-74. 2 folders. [Includes correspondence, commonwealth bonds, statements of receipts and payments and statements relating to the Dawn Publishing Foundation.]	<u>30</u>
Papers relating to the International Alliance of Women. 1952-74. 3 folders. [Includes printed items, reports, resolutions and correspondence of various congresses. See also series 37.]	<u>31</u>
Papers relating to the I.A.W. 18th Triennial Congress, Athens, 1958. 3 folders.	<u>32</u>
<u>International Womens News.</u> June 1958 - April 1977. 1 box. [Organ of the International Alliance of Women.]	<u>33</u>
<u>Dawn Newsletter.</u> 1959-70. [Published by the Women's Service Guilds of W.A. (Incorp.).]	<u>34</u>
Miscellaneous printed material on women's issues kept by the A.F.W.U. 1962-69. 1 folder.	<u>35</u>
Miscellaneous reports, mostly on women's issues. 6 folders.	<u>36</u>

Subject files kept by the A.F.W.U. 12 folders. [See special list.]	<u>37</u>
Address given to the League of Women Voters by Margaret Boyes. 6 July 1951. 3p. Typescript. [Formerly D4131].	<u>38</u>
History of the League of Women Voters 1976. 1cm. (1 volume). [‘A History of the League of Women Voters in South Australia. 1909-1976’ by Vivienne Szekeres.]	<u>39</u>
Miscellaneous papers relating to the Australian Federation of Women Voters 1979-1983 1cm	<u>40</u>