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Pinellas County Chapter Papers, National Organization for Women (NOW) 1973-2004 : A Collection Guide

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

James Anthony Schnur

Barbara Maratos

Susan Hickok 1947-2008

Sandy Oestreich

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives., James Anthony Schnur, Barbara Maratos, Susan Hickok 1947-2008, Sandy Oestreich, and May Hainisch

**Pinellas County Chapter Papers,
National Organization for Women (NOW)
1973-2004
[Sandy Oestreich/May Hainisch Files]**



A Collection Guide by
Barbara Maratos, Susan Potter, and James Schnur
Archives Interns Assistant Librarian

Special Collections and Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Fall 2003 (first accession); November 2004 (second accession)

Introduction to the Collection

Sandy Oestreich and May Hainisch, two longstanding members of the Pinellas County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), donated a variety of research and subject files from their leadership of the Pinellas NOW chapter to the Special Collections and Archives of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. The general organizational records, advocacy files, and program files illustrate the local NOW chapter's involvement in a variety of issues, including advocacy for reproductive rights and criminal justice reform, preventing sexual harassment and violence towards women, and supporting the passage of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. *Nota bene:* This collection represents the records collected by Oestreich and Hainisch during their service to the Pinellas Chapter of the National Organization for Women, but these materials cannot be considered the complete institutional record of the Pinellas NOW chapter.

Preservation Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of such items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all fragile materials. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Pinellas NOW Papers

This collection falls under the Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy eight document boxes and one oversize newspaper box (approximately 8 linear feet). Items fall within five distinct series: General Organizational Records, Electoral Advocacy, Legal and Social Advocacy, Programs and Public Events, and Other NOW Chapters and Affiliates. Most materials in this collection date from the late 1970s through the late 1990s. Organization records, agendas, meeting minutes, clippings, and subject files constitute the bulk of the collection. The library received the original accession in 2003 and a subsequent accession in the fall of 2004.



Container Listing (First Accession)

SERIES: GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS

Series Scope and Contents:

Materials in this series include chapter bylaws, proclamations, articles of incorporation, membership lists, meeting minutes, agendas, membership alerts, and financial records. Coverage includes materials from the early 1970s through 2001, though some gaps do exist.

Box 1, Folder 1

Charters, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation

Box 1, Folders 2 and 3

Meeting Minutes and Notes

Box 1, Folders 4 and 5

Membership Lists

Folder 4: through 1999; Folder 5: 2000-2001

Box 1, Folders 6 and 7; Box 2, Folder 1

Newsletters, Membership Alerts, and Associated Materials

Box 2, Folder 2

Ledgers and Financial Records

Box 2, Folder 3

Ledgers and Financial Records—Chapter Budgets

Box 2, Folder 4

Ledgers and Financial Records—Miscellaneous Expenses

Box 7

Ledgers and Financial Records—Account Book

This oversize book covers the period from July 1987 to June 1995.

SERIES: ELECTORAL ADVOCACY

Series Scope and Contents:

Materials in this series document the Pinellas NOW chapter's involvement in local, state, and national political matters. In addition to general political advocacy materials, this series includes a file on the move to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and a number of clippings related to the controversy surrounding the Florida vote count during the 2000 Presidential Election.

Box 2, Folder 5
General Political Advocacy

Box 2, Folder 6
Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Box 2, Folder 7
Political Advocacy: 1992 Elections

Box 2, Folder 8; Box 3, Folder 1; Box 7
Political Advocacy: 2000 Elections
Oversize materials in box 7 include clippings and newspaper articles about the controversies surrounding the vote count in Florida during the 2000 Presidential Election. Political ephemera from the election reside in Box 3, Folder 1.

SERIES: LEGAL AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY

Series Scope and Contents:

Legal and Social Advocacy files illustrate important causes supported by Pinellas NOW and its members. Folders include memoranda, correspondence, clippings, photographs, and other primary sources.

Box 3, Folders 2 and 3
Abortion/Reproductive Rights

Box 3, Folders 4 and 5
Abortion/Reproduction Rights—BayCare and the Catholic Church
Materials in this file document how NOW members responded to a merger of Pinellas County hospitals under the BayCare Health Systems. Under this arrangement, secular hospitals (Bayfront Medical Center and Morton Plant Hospital) agreed to abide by Catholic religious and ethical directives on abortion and reproductive matters. Folder 5 includes fliers and information about the Coalition for Religious Freedom in Our Secular Hospitals, a grassroots coalition of many organizations—including NOW chapters—that challenged the Catholic directives in the BayCare agreement.

Box 3, Folder 6
African-American Women/Civil Rights

Box 3, Folder 7
Criminal Justice Reform—Aileen Carol Wuornos
Convicted of murdering many men she encountered along Florida's west coast, Wuornos received little sympathy for her actions. Some members of the Pinellas NOW chapter did monitor her treatment by state prison officials

during the early 1990s.

Box 3, Folder 8
Gay, Lesbian, and Transgendered Rights

Box 3, Folder 9
Police Harassment, Law Enforcement, and Civilian Oversight

Box 4, Folder 1
“Promise Keepers” Event, NOW Responds to
When the “Promise Keepers”—a controversial organization for Christian men—sponsored rallies in the Tampa Bay area, members of the Pinellas NOW chapter held protests at these gatherings.

Box 4, Folder 2
Sexual Harassment/Violence Directed at Women

Box 4, Folder 3
Sexual Harassment/Violence Directed at Women—St. Pete Beach Incidents
Jane Ellsworth, former City Clerk for St. Pete Beach, claimed that then-City Manager Danny Walker had sexually harassed her. Ellsworth was subsequently fired one day after beginning medical leave. Materials in this file trace the events surrounding the Ellsworth-Walker case, as well as controversy surrounding a planned “honor walk” in the city that would include Walker’s name.

SERIES: PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC EVENTS

Series Scope and Contents:

Events and programs sponsored by the Pinellas NOW chapter occupy folders in this series. Organizational records and planning documents for the “Take Back the Night” marches against spouse abuse and violence against families offer an excellent example of how many NOW members “took to the streets” to confront social problems.

Box 4, Folder 4
Miscellaneous Programs and Events

Box 4, Folder 5
Women’s Equality Day Celebration, USF St. Petersburg Activities Center
Brochures, clippings, photographs, and ephemera from a 26 August 1999 program held in the Campus Activities Center at USF St. Petersburg.

Box 4, Folder 6
Non-Violent Civil Disobedience Training

Box 5, Folder 1
Susan B. Anthony Celebrations

Box 5, Folders 2 through 7; Box 7
“Take Back the Night” Programs

Pinellas NOW members established the “Take Back the Night” non-profit corporation as an organization to sponsor and coordinate marches and other public programs that condemned spouse abuse and violence directed at women and children.

Folder 2: Bylaws and General Materials; Folder 3: 1983 Events;
Folders 4 and 5: 1985 Events; Folder 6: 1986 Events; Folder 7: 1990 Events;
Box 7: Oversize banners

SERIES: OTHER NOW CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES

Series Scope and Contents:

Materials in this series include correspondence from and documents created by other NOW chapters and the national headquarters.

Box 5, Folder 8
Other Local NOW Chapters

Box 6, Folder 1
Florida NOW Office

Box 6, Folders 2 and 3
National NOW Office—General Materials

Box 6, Folder 4
National NOW Office—Administrative Policy Manual (1990 edition)

Box 6, Folder 5
National NOW Office—Chapter Development Reports

Box 6, Folder 6
National NOW Office—Guidelines for Feminist Consciousness-Raising

Box 6, Folders 7 through 9
National NOW Office—Issues Policy Manual (1992 edition)
Issues are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container Listing (Second Accession)

SERIES: GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS

Series Scope and Contents:

Materials in this series include chapter meeting minutes, agendas, and newsletters. Coverage generally includes materials from 1999 through 2004.

Box 8, Folder 1

Background Information and Historical Chronology

Includes a summary of the history of Pinellas NOW from 1973 through 2004 written by Sandy Oestreich, as well as information about the national NOW and Tampa chapter.

Box 8, Folder 2

Meeting Minutes, Notes, and Agendas

Coverage is from 2000 forward, with substantial gaps after the fall of 2001.

Box 8, Folder 3

Chapter Newsletters

Box 8, Folder 4

Grievances/ Annette Martino Controversy

Materials in this file document a rift that developed within Pinellas NOW due to previous financial activities of an officer. See also audio/video list at the end of this finding aid for another source.

SERIES: ELECTORAL ADVOCACY

Series Scope and Contents:

Materials in this series document the Pinellas NOW chapter's involvement in local, state, and national political matters.

Box 8, Folder 5

Local and City Politics and Political Advocacy

SERIES: LEGAL AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY

Series Scope and Contents:

Legal and Social Advocacy files illustrate important causes supported by Pinellas NOW and its members. Folders include memoranda, correspondence, clippings, photographs, and other primary sources dealing with abortion, reproductive rights, lay midwifery, and similar issues, as well as articles and letters to the editor crafted by Sandy Oestreich during her tenure with the organization.

Box 8, Folder 6

Speeches and Publications by Sandy Oestreich

Includes letters to the editor written under pseudonyms.

Box 8, Folder 7

Abortion/Reproductive Rights

Box 8, Folder 8

Abortion/Reproductive Rights—Campaigns of Spring/Summer 1989

Clippings, photographs, and background information of NOW activities in light of the United States Supreme Court's hearing of the Webster case.

Box 8, Folder 9

Abortion/Reproductive Rights—Campaigns of Summer/Fall 1989

Clippings, photographs, and background information that largely documents the Pinellas NOW Chapter's response to the U. S. Supreme Court deliberations.

Box 9, Folders 1 through 3

Abortion/Reproductive Rights—BayCare and the Catholic Church

Materials in this file document how NOW members responded to a merger of Pinellas County hospitals under the BayCare Health Systems. Under this arrangement, secular hospitals (Bayfront Medical Center and Morton Plant Hospital) agreed to abide by Catholic religious and ethical directives on abortion and reproductive matters. Includes clippings, photographs, legal correspondence, and government documents that also illustrate relations between BayCare and the City of St. Petersburg.

Box 9, Folder 4

Abortion/Reproductive Rights—Lay Midwifery

Box 9

Assorted Audio Cassettes:

Hospital Workshop Meeting, 26 August 1997 (2 tapes); Annette Martino and Ruth Whitney, 23 May 2001; Recordings from shows broadcast on WMNF Radio (88.5 FM, Tampa).

Box 9

Assorted Video Cassettes (VHS format):

St. Petersburg City Council Meeting, 15 May 1997; 1989 news clips and abortion debates; *Fifth Estate* program, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) that describes earlier activities of Annette Martino.