

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Williamson Road Woman's Club Collection**

Collection Description: Information created and collected by the Williamson Road Woman's Club over the course of the group's existence, from its founding in 1952 through its dissolution in 2005

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2005.01.11

Title: Williamson Road Woman's Club Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 record storage box, 3 flat storage boxes

Donated by: Peggy Sowers, Williamson Road Woman's Club President

Arrangement: Documents arranged generally chronologically.

Creator: Williamson Road Woman's Club

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, March 14, 2024

Historical Note:

The Williamson Road Woman's Club was founded in 1952 and enrolled 97 members that year. The organization was affiliated with the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, Blue Ridge (First) District. As a nonpartisan, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization, the Williamson Road Woman's Club provided opportunities for fellowship and education to its members and, as a group, provided support to a wide range of local causes. One of the club's early projects was to lobby and fundraise for the establishment of a Williamson Road Community Center—the Preston Park Recreation Center—and then continue to support its needs for furnishings and landscaping.

Educational programs for members were on topics including: local government, politics, personal finance, public health, the arts, international travel, public education, local history, special needs populations, and many others. The Williamson Road Woman's Club sent representatives to annual meetings of the Blue Ridge district and state organization and occasionally helped host those meetings in Roanoke.

Members generally lived in the northern neighborhoods of Roanoke—Williamson Road, Roundhill, and Preston Park. Many had been members of other Roanoke city and county women's clubs prior to the founding of the Williamson Road Woman's Club and were active in other community organizations. They were generally well educated and many held jobs outside the home. One early club leader, Hazel Doss Barger (1911-1973), was very active in the Republican Party and ran, unsuccessfully, for the Virginia House of Delegates in 1955 and 1957. In 1961 she was the first woman nominated by a major party as candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.

In 1982, at the time of the Williamson Road Woman's Club's thirtieth anniversary, it counted 59 members, 15 of whom had belonged to the club at its founding. In 1989, club

members reported 28,000 total volunteer hours for the prior year, an average of 10 hours per week per member. By 1993, club membership had declined to 39, but club members were still actively volunteering and made over \$1,000 in donations to causes. By 2004, membership had declined to fewer than 20, and the decision was made to end the club's charter.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of one record storage box and three flat storage boxes. It is located in the Special Collections of the Virginia Room.

The collection includes club-related documents from its founding in 1952 through its dissolution in 2005. It consists primarily of the Williamson Road Woman's Club historian's scrapbooks from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1990s, and information collected by club officers in the 1980s and 2000s, received in binders and folders. Club Yearbooks are included for most years from 1952-53 through 1975-76; each of these includes a brief summary of the club's activities of the prior year and a listing of officers and members. Aside from those reports, there is little coverage of the 1970s or the early 1980s.

Scrapbooks include newspaper clippings about the club and its activities, documents related to club activities, correspondence received by the club, and photographs of club members and activities. Later scrapbooks included obituaries and funeral programs for former members of the organization.

Scrapbooks from the 1950s and 1960s are in very fragile condition. One scrapbook that contained copies of the annual yearbooks was disassembled; its covers with writing were copied and retained, and the yearbooks and two photos from the scrapbook placed in file folders. For the remainder of these scrapbooks, all pages were scanned to digital format. Photographs were removed from the albums and placed in file folders. The scrapbooks have been retained in storage boxes, but researchers should primarily consult the digital versions of these items.

Material from three-ring binders and "magnetic" photo albums from the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s was removed and placed in file folders. When arrangement on a page with identifying information was important, a photocopy was made of the page and included in the file. Newspaper clippings were replaced by photocopies of the clippings. Items were kept together in the order they were removed from the binders or albums, which was generally chronological, though photographs were assembled in photo storage pages and placed at the end of the file.

Container List:

Box 1 of 4

Folder 1: Certificates, Removed from Frames (1952, 1962)

Folder 2: Yearbook Scrapbook, Original Covers – with handwritten notes, including list of historians through 1976 (1952-1976)

Folder 3: Yearbook Scrapbook, Photographs, Photocopies of Covers – photographs of club founders, April 1952

Folder 4: Yearbooks 1952-53 to 1959-60

Folder 5: Yearbooks 1960-61 to 1962-63 and 1964-65 to 1967-68

Folder 6: Yearbooks 1968-69 to 1970-71 and 1972-73 to 1975-76

Folder 7: Photograph from 1954-55 Scrapbook – Mrs. Hazel Barger

Folder 8: Photographs from 1957-60 Scrapbook

Folder 9: Photograph from 1959-61 Scrapbook

Folder 10: Photographs from 1963-68 Scrapbook

Folder 11: Photographs from 1968-71 Scrapbook

Folder 12: Minutes Notebook, pt. 1 – Miscellaneous items in pockets at front of book: correspondence received, budget information, newspaper articles, ephemera (n.d., 1985-1992)

Folder 13: Minutes Notebook pt. 2 – Photographs from 1990 Annual Luncheon

Folder 14: Minutes Notebook, pt. 3 – Board and general meeting minutes, 1982-1985

Folder 15: Minutes Notebook, pt. 4 – Board and general meeting minutes, 1986-1988

Folder 16: Minutes Notebook, pt. 5 – Board and general meeting minutes, 1989-1992

Folder 17: Annual Club Records, 1990-1992, Williamson Road Woman's Club

Folder 18: Sample Reporting Forms, n.d. (ca. 1990s)

Folder 19: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs 1992-1994 Yearbook

Folder 20: Blue Ridge District 1992-94 Handbook & 1993-94 Supplement

Folder 21: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, Report Forms 1993, blank

Folder 22: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs Report Forms for 1993 completed by Williamson Road Woman's Club

Folder 23: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs 1994-96 Yearbook, pt. 1 – cover-page 90

Folder 24: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs 1994-96 Yearbook, pt. 2 – pages 91-180

- Folder 25: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs 1994-96 Yearbook, pt. 3 – pages 181-247, and 279 (district map)
- Folder 26: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs 1994-96 Yearbook, supplement pages
- Folder 27: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs Report Forms for 1994-95 completed by Williamson Road Woman's Club
- Folder 28: Historian's Book 1994-98, pt. 1 – Miscellaneous items placed in front of book: newspaper clippings, ephemera, n.d.
- Folder 29: Historian's Book 1994-98, pt. 2 – Newspaper clippings, correspondence received, ephemera (1994-96)
- Folder 30: Historian's Book 1994-98, pt. 3 – Newspaper clippings, correspondence received, ephemera, (1997-98)
- Folder 31: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs 1994
- Folder 32: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs 1995
- Folder 33: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs, 1995 District Meeting, pt. 1 – includes negatives
- Folder 34: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs, 1995 District Meeting, pt. 2 – includes negatives
- Folder 35: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs 1996
- Folder 36: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs 1997
- Folder 37: Historian's Book 1994-98, Photographs 1998
- Folder 38: Notebook 1995-96 – Report forms for the club for 1995 and 1996; correspondence received; notes; newspaper clippings; meeting agendas with notations
- Folder 39: Historian's Book 1998-2003, pt. 1 –Newspaper clippings, correspondence received, ephemera, 1998-99
- Folder 40: Historian's Book 1998-2003, pt. 2 – Newspaper clippings, correspondence received, ephemera, 2000-2001 Yearbook, 2000-02 Blue Ridge District Yearbook
- Folder 41: Historian's Book 1998-2003, pt. 3 – Newspaper clippings, correspondence received, ephemera, 2001-02 Yearbook
- Folder 42: Historian's Book 1998-2003, Photographs 1999
- Folder 43: Historian's Book 1998-2003, Photographs 2000
- Folder 44: Historian's Book 1998-2003, Photographs 2001
- Folder 45: Historian's Book 1998-2003, Photographs 2002
- Folder 46: Historian's Book 1998-2003, Photographs 2003
- Folder 47: Historian's Book 2003-2004, pt. 1 – Newspaper clippings, correspondence received, ephemera, 2004 Club Reports, (2003-04)
- Folder 48: Historian's Book 2003-2004, pt. 2 – Award listings and award certificates presented to the club (1990-2005)

Folder 49: Historian's Book 2003-2004, Photographs 2003

Folder 50: Historian's Book 2003-2004, Photographs 2004

Folder 51: Financial Ledger Book, 1998-2005

Folder 52: Financial Correspondence, Receipts, 2000-2005 – includes check and deposit stubs from Sept 2000 to Jan 2005 with annotations as to source or expense.

Folder 53: Documents, 2004-05 – 2004-05 Yearbook, treasurer's report notes, meeting minutes, letter to Blue Ridge District documenting dissolution of Williamson Road Woman's Club

Folder 54: General Federation of Women's Clubs Leadership Handbooks (1994-1998)

Folder 55: General Federation of Women's Clubs Legislative Manual, (1995)

Folder 56: *Wood's End Designers' Showhouse* publication (2003)

Folder 57: *Club Woman* magazine (Apr./May and Aug./Sept. 2003)

Folder 58: *The Virginia Clubwoman* newsletter (Aug. 2003)

Folder 59: GFWCVA Blue Ridge District 2004-06 Handbook

Folder 60: General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia 2004-06 Yearbook Supplement

Box 2 of 4

1953-54 Scrapbook

1954-55 Scrapbook

1957-60 Scrapbook

Box 3 of 4

1959-61 Scrapbook

1961-64 Scrapbook

Box 4 of 4

1963-68 Scrapbook

1968-71 Scrapbook