

Inventory of the

**Woodstock Business and  
Professional Women's Club**  
Woodstock, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 121**

## INTRODUCTION

Ms. Judith Sell, President, donated the Woodstock Business and Professional Women's Club Records to the Northern Illinois History Center on December 17, 1980.

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: 1.5  
Number of containers: 2  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 121

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

A small collection, the Woodstock Business and Professional Women's Club Records have limited research value. The by-laws, minutes, correspondence, and annual reports are incomplete, covering only a few years between 1948 and 1979. There are no records for the early years of the organization's history. Nevertheless, the newsletters, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings reveal the nature of the programs and projects undertaken by the club since 1934. The remaining materials contain a small amount of information on other area clubs, the Illinois Federation of B.P.W. clubs, and the National B.P.W. Club organization.

Researchers should note the other B.P.W. club records held by the Regional History Center: the Sycamore (RC 97), Rochelle (RC 98); DeKalb (RC 99); Mendota (RC 120); and Belvidere (RC 122) Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Other women's organizational records, particularly the American Association for University Women (RC 56), the Jolly Neighbors Club (RC 112), and the DeKalb League of Women Voters (RC 118), also may be useful.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Woodstock Business and Professional Women's Club organized in 1931 as the McHenry County B.P.W. Club with 13 charter members. In July 1955 the members voted to change the club's name for three reasons: most of the members lived in Woodstock; the unpredictability of winter weather made it difficult for out-of-town members to attend the meetings; and a club was being organized in Harvard, Illinois. As membership increased, the club became more active in community affairs.

The group sponsored a benefit mink fashion show in 1965 to promote a nurse's scholarship. Another benefit fashion show in 1966 raised money to reconstruct the Spring

House, one of the local historical society's buildings, in the Woodstock Civic Square. Since the B.P.W. club sponsored the historical society's organization, they designed many of their projects to promote the society and insure its continuation. Other programs given by the club included a benefit bake sale for the Crystal Lake Tornado Fund (1966), a "Bosses" Night (first one in 1967), and the members supported a foster child in Viet Nam.

Today, the Woodstock B.P.W. Club continues to sponsor programs benefitting women and the Woodstock community.

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Business and Professional Women's Club  
Professions, Women  
Women  
Women's Organization  
Woodstock  
Woodstock Business and Professional Women's Club

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	By-Laws, 1948, 1978, n.d.
	2	Minutes, 1951, 1967
	3	Correspondence, (1964-1979)
	4	Annual Report, 1951-1952
	5	Budget Reports, 1974-1979
	6	Membership Lists and Program Plans, (1934-1979)
	7	Statements of Membership, 1950-1951
	8	Yearbooks, (1934-1969)
	9	“The Beep of Woodstock”, Newsletters, (1972-1980)
	10	Special Meeting Programs, (1965-1971)
	11	Newspaper Clippings, 1955-1968
	12	Photographs, Foster Children, 1965 (9)
	13	District VI Information, 1979
	14	District Meeting Programs, (1935-1979)
	15	Reports from Area Clubs, 1965
	16	Rockford Club Yearbooks and Bulletins, 1957-1960
	17	Other Club Programs, (1951-1974)
	18	Proposed Amendments, Illinois Federation of B.P.W. By-Laws, n.d.
	19	Proposed Budgets, I.F.B.P.W., (1958-1966)
	20	Membership Reports, I.F.B.P.W., (1949-1964)
	21	National By-Laws and Proposed Amendments, 1964-1965
2	4 volumes	Scrapbooks, (1966-1974)