

Lynn Heglund (1952-)
ERA Papers, 1983-1993
MSA 331

Introduction

This collection contains the personal files of Lynn Heglund (1952-), the fourth executive director of the Governor's Commission on Women and an active participant in the movement to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in Vermont. This collection consists of Heglund's personal speech notes, newspaper clippings, newsletters, GCW general papers, and papers relating to an award she won from the Montpelier Business and Professional Women organization. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society in 2002 by Marilyn Blackwell (ms. acc. no. 2002.15); it occupies .5 linear feet of shelf space.

Institutional History

The Governor's Commission on the Status of Women was created by an executive order of Governor Phillip Hoff in 1964. The mission of the commission is defined as creating an environment in Vermont in which Vermont women and girls are able to achieve full citizenship rights, privileges and responsibilities. The commission has three main roles: public policy advisor, planner, and information clearinghouse for the Governor and the Legislature on issues pertaining to Vermont women. The Commission was redefined and renamed by Governor Madeleine Kunin in 1986.

Alice Paul wrote the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923 and its contents are as follows:

- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
 - Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
 - Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.
- The ERA had been introduced in every session of congress from 1923 up until 1972, when it was passed and sent to the states for ratification. The ERA reached its seven-year time limit and its time was extended until June 30, 1982. The amendment was three states short of the necessary 38 and was not and still has not been added to the US Constitution.

The Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in the state of Vermont in 1985 and after one year of campaigning for the amendment, it was defeated in 1986 by 6,100 votes.

Biographical Note

Lynn Heglund was born on August 22, 1952, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She grew up in Minnetonka, Minnesota. She received a Bachelor of Arts at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont, in Political Science and Fine Arts and graduated in 1975. She received graduate and paralegal training from Woodbury Associates in Montpelier,

Vermont, in 1975 and went on to earn her Masters in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She worked as the Executive Director at the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont from 1976-1979, as the Civil Rights Specialist at the Office of the Attorney General in Montpelier, Vermont, from 1979-1980. Heglund then worked as a development consultant and writer in residence at the Colony House and Dorset Theater in Dorset, Vermont, from 1982-1984. In 1984 she was appointed Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Women and served until resigning in 1989.

Scope & Content

The personal files of Lynn Heglund, Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Women (1984-89), date from January 1983 through March 10, 1993.

This collection consists mainly of Lynn Heglund's personal collection of newspaper clippings, newspapers, newsletters pertaining to the ERA or women in general and her speech following the defeat of the ERA. In this collection there are materials from the planning of the 1987 Vermont Women's State Fair, Heglund's notes on and her completed "after ERA" speech, articles from Vermont newspapers, and newsletters from women's foundations across the country. Also, there are newspaper clippings and programs on Heglund's and Amy Davenport's recognition as Montpelier BPW's Career Woman of the Year (1987 and 1988, respectively).

Related Collections

The collections of the Vermont Historical Society library also include broadsides from the campaign to adopt the ERA in Vermont and the records of the Vermont Coalition for the Equal Rights Amendment (Doc 429), which includes videotapes of prominent Vermonters voicing their support for the ERA. The broadside collection includes:

- 4 pro-ERA (small)
- 4 anti-ERA (small)
- 5 ERA (Size D)
- 2 ERA (Size C)

The Vermont State Archives holds the records of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, 1964-1985.

Inventory

- MSA 331:1 Governor's Commission on Women, General
Includes
- Note from Sen. Peter Welch regarding the Commission Gag Bill, 1985
 - Program from 25th Anniversary of Governor's Commission on Women, includes brief history of commission

- List of the 1986-1987 Governor's Commission on Women Commissioners
 - Minutes from the Vermont Coalition for the Equal Rights Amendment December 13, 1986
 - "History and Mission of the Governor's Commission on Women"
- 2 Governor's Commission on Women, 1987 State Fair
- 3 ERA Analysis File
- 4 Heglund's "After ERA" Speech
- 5 Woman of the Year, Montpelier BPW
- Lynn Heglund
 - Amy Davenport
- 6 Newspaper Clippings
- 7 Newsletters, Outside Vermont
- Women's Way Foundation
 - Astraea Foundation: Bulletin and Grants List 1988
 - Women's Community Fund, OH
 - National Network of Women's Funds
 - The Spring Foundation
 - Far From Done: Survey of Needs and Resources 1980-1990
 - Dallas Women's Foundation
 - Women's Foundation of Colorado
 - Minnesota Women's Fund
 - Chicago Foundation For Women
 - Sojourner Foundation
 - Network: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- 8 Newsletters, Socially Concerned Investing
- Netback 1988
 - Good Money 1988-89
- Size D Newspapers
- Vermont Sunday Magazine November 1986
 - News from the Vermont Governor's Commission on Women
 - Spring/Summer 1986
 - Autumn 1986
 - Summer 1987
 - Spring/Summer 1988
 - Winter/Spring 1990
 - Women's Organization Directory 1988
 - Vermont Woman
 - Volume 2, No. 3 January 1987
 - Volume 5, No. 4 February 1990
 - New Directions for Women
 - Volume 18, No. 2 March/April 1989

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