



Urbana Woman's Club  
Records, 1914-2001

Collection 292

**Compiled by:** Maggie Weimer, June 2023

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Urbana Woman's Club

**Inclusive Dates:** 1914-2001, bulk 1955-2001

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes, (1.58 linear ft.)

**Provenance:**

The Urbana Woman's Club collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Urbana Woman's Club was founded in 1914 and disbanded in late 2001. Estella Busey and Lucia Stevenson were the two women who were instrumental in calling for the organization of the Urbana Woman's Club, and the first meeting was held on May 28, 1914 at Varsity Hall. At that first meeting, the 27 attending women called to form a civic club and elected the first officers. The objective of the newly formed club was to promote civic, social, and educational betterment in the city of Urbana. The club provided monetary and volunteer support to many community projects and institutions. Some examples of their philanthropy and charity include but are not limited to helping mark the streets of Urbana with street signs, furnishing the Cooperative House at the University of Illinois when the women's dormitory was used for the School of Military Aeronautics during World War I, donating to the Red Cross, donating to veterans, volunteering for the American Cancer Society, sponsoring academic scholarships, aiding the Champaign County Mental Health Clinic, donating a Meadowbrook Park bench to the Urbana Park District, etc.

In addition to its philanthropy, the Urbana Woman's Club was also a social club. The club organized an annual Spring Luncheon which was always beautifully and thoughtfully decorated. Meetings would include program topics such as education, health, home life, fashion, community affairs, travel, and the arts. A scrapbook of newspaper clippings from 1955-1957 shows that guest speakers presented information about world trade, mental health, current motion pictures, Navajo mission schools, engineering, Abraham Lincoln in Champaign County, the country of Peru, and more. Meetings also usually included musical performances by club and community members.

A motion at the September 10, 2001 meeting was approved to discuss the disbandment of the Urbana Woman's Club, and a vote to leave the Federation of Women's Clubs was passed.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains meeting minutes, yearbooks, Spring Luncheon invitations, and a large scrapbook of newspaper clippings. The records provide information about membership, officers, committees, meeting notes, treasury reports, philanthropic projects, social events, and memoriam of past members.



The Urbana Free Library

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**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged alphabetically at the folder level.

**Subject Terms:**

Clubs

Women – Societies and clubs

**Name Terms:**

Busey, Estella

Stevenson, Lucia

Urbana Woman's Club

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Meeting Minutes, 1914-1917

Folder 2: Meeting Minutes, 1985-1997

Folder 3: Meeting Minutes, 1997-2001

Folder 4: Spring Luncheon Programs, 1946, 1990, 1993-1994

Folder 5: Yearbooks, 1945-1947, 1955-1957, 1962-1963, 1985-1986, 2000-2001

**Box 2**

Item 1: Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings, 1955-1957