Guide to the Records of

The Governor’s Commission
on the
Status of Women
1963-1970

Washington State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Archives and Records Management
Olympia, Washington
Guide to the Records of

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Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Archives and Records Management
1129 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98504-0238
(360) 586-1492
Email: research@secstate.wa.gov
http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives

Finding aid written by Kathleen Waugh, 2006
WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES

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OVERVIEW OF COLLECTION

Access Number: AR 250-F-2

Repository: Office of the Secretary of State
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1129 Washington Street SE
P. O. Box 40238
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Creator: Washington State Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women

Title: Guide to the Records of the Washington State Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women

Dates: 1963-1970

Extent: 1 cubic foot

Summary: The Washington State Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1963 by Governor Albert D. Rosellini and asked to investigate and report on the legal, social, economic and political status of women in Washington State. Its records consist mostly of correspondence, committee records, legislation, minutes, and reports, and are arranged alphabetically.

Language: Collection materials are in English.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open and available for research

Restrictions on Use: No restrictions

Preferred Citation: Washington State Archives, State Government Archives, Guide to the Records of the Washington State Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women

Custodial History: These records were created by the Washington State Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women.

Acquisition: The records appear to have been transferred from the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women, which created them, to the two successor agencies, the Interagency Committee on the Status of Women and the Women’s Council, and were received by the Washington State Archives in three accessions from the two successor agencies in 1977, 1978, and 1995. The records for the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women were removed from the records for the two successor agencies and treated as a separate collection, thereby restoring their original provenance.

Processing: In 2006, the records were inventoried and appraised. Duplicates, magazine articles, and printed materials from other state and organizations were discarded. The records which were retained were placed in acid-free folders and in an acid-free box.
DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Historical Note

The Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women was created in February 1963 by Governor Albert D. Rosellini. In a February 20 letter the Governor asked the members of the Commission to review “the current status of women in the State of Washington – legal, social, economic and political, with particular attention to the role of women in industry and the professions, in both state and private employment.” He asked for recommendations for both legislative and executive action in regard to employment practices, political and civil rights, property rights, and new services that should be provided to women “as wives, mothers and jobholders.”

The Commission was chaired by Mildred Dunn and consisted of twenty-nine male and female “business and community leaders.” It divided itself into committees dealing with employment policies and practices; labor laws; legal rights; social security and income tax; employed women and their families; more programs for women as wives, mothers and workers; voluntarism; and education. Public meetings were held in Bellingham, Kennewick, Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver and Yakima to survey problems and needs of women in each area.

The Commission met throughout 1963 and in December published the “Report of the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women.” The report pointed out that women constitute an important part of the workforce, and made more than forty recommendations urging new legislation, new services, and further study. Some of the recommended legislation was passed, but most died in committee.

Governor Daniel J. Evans continued the Commission on the Status of Women, and in 1970 created the Interagency Committee on the Status of Women. The Interagency Committee evaluated the State’s response to the recommendations in the 1963 Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women report, and made further recommendations for change. It also recommended the establishment of a Women’s Council, which was done in 1971. At this time, the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women was dissolved.
Scope and Content:

This collection documents the activities of the Washington State Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women, which was created by Governor Albert D. Rosellini in February 1963 to investigate and report on the legal, social, economic and political status of women in Washington State. The Commission issued a report and recommendations in December 1963. It was continued by Governor Daniel J. Evans in 1968, and was dissolved in 1970 when the Interagency Committee on the Status of Women and the Women’s Council were created.

Records include Commission minutes, correspondence, legislation and reports.

System of Arrangement:

The files are arranged alphabetically.
Folder List

Box 1 Agricultural Workers and Migrants, Heller report 1963 1966
Citizenship Committee 1965 1965
Committee assignments 1964 1964
Community Service Committee 1965 1966
Correspondence 1963 1966
Correspondence 1967 1969
Correspondence 1970 1970
Education Committee 1963 1966
Employment Policies and Practices Committee 1963 1965
Equal Rights Amendment 1968 1968
Evans, Daniel J., Governor, correspondence 1964 1965
Evans, Daniel J., Governor, correspondence 1965 1965
Expanded Services for Women, Wives, Mothers, Workers 1963 1963
Family and the Employed Women Committee 1963 1968
Governor’s Executive Order Pertaining to Fair Practices 1963 1963
Governor’s Resolution, National Governor’s Conference 1963 1963
Legal Rights Committee, report by Judge Evangeline Starr 1963 1963
Legislation, community property 1968 1968
Legislation, personal injury 1970 1970
Members, list of 1963 1970
Minutes 1963 1963
Minutes 1964 1964
Minutes 1965 1965
Minutes 1966 1966
Minutes 1967 1967
Minutes 1968 1968
News releases 1963 1970
Newspaper clippings 1960’s 1960’s
Open meeting agendas 1963 1963
Reconstitution of the Commission on the Status of Women 1965 1965
Report, Governor’s Commission, Status of Women 1963 1963
Report, Governor’s Commission, Status of Women, action 1970 1970
Report, Governor’s Commission, Status of Women, interim 1963 1963
Rosellini, Albert D., Governor, photograph
Rosellini, Albert D., Governor, steps taken on employment
State Laws Affecting the Employment of Women Comm. 1963 1963
Women in Government Committee 1964 1964
Women as Citizen Volunteers Committee 1963 1963