

ERAmerica Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Prepared by William Parham

Collection Summary

Title: ERAmerica Records

Span Dates: 1974-1982

ID No.: MSS60475

Creator: ERAmerica (Organization)

Extent: 62,300 items ; 174 containers plus 3 oversize ; 70.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: A nationwide alliance of civic, labor, church, and women's organizations founded in 1976 to promote ratification of the amendment that had passed Congress in 1972. Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, bylaws, speeches, subject files, press files, state files, organization files, bibliographies, petitions, legal files, financial records, card files, photographs, and other records relating to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Carpenter, Liz.

Cotner, Suone.

Peterson, Elly Maude, 1914-2008.

Organizations

ERAmerica (Organization)

United States. Constitution.

Subjects

Constitutional amendments--United States.

Equal rights amendments--United States.

Sex discrimination--United States.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of ERAmerica were given to the Library of Congress by the organization in 1982.

Processing History

The records of ERAmerica were processed in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 1993 and 2011.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Audio and video records have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the ERAmerica Records.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of ERAmerica in this collection and in other collections in the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The Records of ERAmerica are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, ERAmerica Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of ERAmerica span the years 1974-1982. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, minutes, bylaws, speeches, subject files, press files, state files, organization files, bibliographies, petitions, legal files, financial records, card files, photographs, and other records relating to the Equal Rights Amendment. The records are arranged and described largely as received from the organization into the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Administrative File](#), [Field File](#), [State File](#), [Organizations File](#), [Subject File](#), [Speech File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

ERAmerica was a nationwide alliance of civic, labor, church, and women's organizations founded in 1976 to promote ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment that had passed Congress in 1972. Its role was to direct the final months of the ratification drive in the fifteen remaining unratified states. Throughout this ratification effort, ERAmerica worked with more than two hundred participating organizations. ERAmerica and allied groups became agents for the hands-on engagement of numerous activist women with the nuts and bolts of political campaigning and with the political process at the state and local level.

The collection features the organization's undertakings from the grassroots level to Congress and the national media. Included are extensive files on the group's fund-raising, public relations, and political networking. Individuals represented include the founders and co-chairs of the alliance, Liz Carpenter and Elly Peterson, its executive director, Suone Cotner, as well as prominent supporters in politics, religion, and popular culture who aided the drive for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in nine series:

- [General Correspondence, 1976-1982](#)
- [Administrative File, 1976-1982](#)
- [Field File, 1978-1982](#)
- [State File, 1976-1982](#)
- [Organizations File, 1974-1982](#)
- [Subject File, 1976-1982](#)
- [Speech File, 1976-1982](#)
- [Miscellany, 1976-1982](#)
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Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>General Correspondence, 1976-1982</u> Correspondence sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3-51	<u>Administrative File, 1976-1982</u> Correspondence, executive director's file, Suone Cotner file, fund-raising file, press file, Faith Taylor file, and general administrative file. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 52-90	<u>Field File, 1978-1982</u> Correspondence, financial material, printed matter, and other material relating to campaigns in individual states. Arranged by state and then by topic or type of material.
BOX 91-110	<u>State File, 1976-1982</u> Correspondence, fund-raising material, promotional material, voting results, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by state.
BOX 111-121	<u>Organizations File, 1974-1982</u> Correspondence, memoranda, newsletters, and near-printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization.
BOX 122-149	<u>Subject File, 1976-1982</u> Correspondence, reports, and near printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject, organization, name of person, or type of material.
BOX 150-155	<u>Speech File, 1976-1982</u> Speeches and related matter. Organized into a Speakers Bureau file and speech file and therein alphabetically by locality, topic, or type of subject.
BOX 156-174	<u>Miscellany, 1976-1982</u> Bibliographies, petitions, litigations, labels, card files, and photographs. Arranged by type of material. The petitions are organized by state.
BOX OV 1-OV 3	<u>Oversize, 1976-1982</u> Petitions. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was removed.

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Administrative File, 1976-1982

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Administrative File, 1976-1982

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	National Association of Social Workers
	National Council of Negro Women
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	Appalachian Regional Committee
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State File, 1976-1982

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Arranged alphabetically by state.

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Alaska

(8 folders)

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Arkansas

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California

(6 folders)

BOX 92

(5 folders)

Colorado

(9 folders)

Connecticut

(10 folders)

Delaware

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BOX 93

District of Columbia

(6 folders)

Florida

(20 folders)

BOX 94

(14 folders)

Georgia

(7 folders)

Hawaii

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BOX 95

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Illinois

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BOX 96

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Kansas

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(8 folders)

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BOX 100	Nebraska (9 folders)
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	New Mexico (4 folders)
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BOX 103	(5 folders)
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	Strategy sessions
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BOX 111	Alliance of Women in Architecture Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Allied Workers of North Carolina American Association of Retired Persons American Association of University Professors American Association of University Women (2 folders) American Baptist Churches American Bar Association American Cancer Association American Civil Liberties Union (3 folders) American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists American College of Nurse Midwives (2 folders) American Dental Hygienists' Association (2 folders) American Federation of Government Employees AFL-CIO American Federation of Teachers American Federation of TV and Radio Artists (3 folders) American Friends Service Committee American Home Economic Association (2 folders) American Home Economists Association American Indians and ERA American Institute of Architects American Jewish Committee American Jewish Congress American Library Association (2 folders)

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	American Society for Ethnohistory
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	Christian Right Wing
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	Close-Up
	Coalition of Labor Union Women (2 folders)
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	D.C. Area Feminist Alliance
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	Doctors for ERA
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	ERA and the military draft
	ERA Ratification Council
	Executive Women in Government
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	Federation of Organizations for Progressive Women
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	Kansas City, Mo., boycott
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Kennedy, John F., ERA position
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