

**Pennsylvania Nurses' Association, District 1
Records, 1921-1973
MC 99**

Extent: 11.25 linear feet

Provenance: Pennsylvania Nurses' Association, District 1

Access: This collection is unrestricted.

Citation: Pennsylvania Nurses' Association, District 1 Records, Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania.

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Historical Sketch. The Pennsylvania Nurses' Association was founded in 1903, by nurses "feeling the need of organization, legislation and registration in the state of Pennsylvania." The immediate objective was for a registration law to control education and entry into the nursing profession, but the specific orientation of regional groups and specialized nurses soon caused the association to branch out in a variety of directions. By 1919, the state association had become unwieldy and districts were formed to better respond to the needs of individual nurses and regional interests within the state. On April 30, 1919, the Philadelphia District Number 1, along with several others, was admitted to membership.

The concerns of District 1, from its inception, revolved around the establishment of a central headquarters with an official registry of nurses. Lack of interest, however, prevented effective action until the Nurses' Official Directory was established in 1929 to facilitate employment. Shortly after, both interest and membership rose dramatically. The Philadelphia district developed into one of the most active sections, involved in legislative actions in all areas of health care, in professional promotion, publicity and education, in addition to many community activities.

Summary. The records of District 1 cover nearly the organization's entire history.

Series Description. This collection has been arranged into six series:

- Series I. Minutes, Proceedings and Reports, 1923-1970
- Series II. Committee and Section Papers, 1923-1973
- Series III. Subject File, 1935-1972
- Series IV. Correspondence, 1963-1972
- Series V. Nurses' Official Directory, 1928-1972

Series VI. Publications, Manuals and Finances, 1921-1972

Series VII. Photographs, 1963-1969

Series I. Minutes, Proceedings and Reports, 1923-1970. The first series contains the minutes of the board of directors, the typewritten reports of the proceedings of the annual conventions and various reports of officers. Comprising the dominant series in the collection, the minutes and proceedings chronicle the influence and activities of the Philadelphia district on the nursing profession almost from the organization's inception.

Series II. Committee and Section Papers, 1923-1973. The papers of the various committees and sections within District 1 provide information regarding the interests of specialized nursing groups in addition to insight into the administrative functioning of the organization. The series includes correspondence, minutes and some printed material, and the files are arranged alphabetically by section or committee.

Series III. Subject File, 1935-1972. This is an alphabetically arranged file representing District 1's civic and professional interest activities, including relations with other organizations, legislative goals, health care issues, education and social meetings.

Series IV. Correspondence, 1963-1972. This series consists of incoming and outgoing letters of officers and the office secretary, primarily covering the 1960s. Among the major topics are District 1's administration and relations with other organizations and groups.

Series V. Nurses' Official Directory, 1928-1972. This series includes information detailing the functions and development of the Nurses' Official Directory, which served to put registered nurses in contact with employers. Minutes, correspondence, registrants' meeting proceedings and a history of the N.O.D. chronicle the important role that this section played in the growth of District 1.

Series VI. Publications, Manuals, and Finances, 1921-1972. Contained here are the newsletters, legislative bulletins, clippings, administrative manuals and other printed material of the PNA. In addition, there are dues ledgers and some financial correspondence.

Series VII. Photographs, 1963-1969. This series contains photos of individual PNA members and photos of the Mass Polio Immunization Campaign in 1963. Captions and newsletter clippings are attached.

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Series II. Committee and Section Papers, 1932-1973

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- f.3 Bylaws and Rules, 1958, 1960
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