

Business Forum Collection
M/A 2012.12.01-07

Finding aid prepared by Edward W. Hathaway

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

May 26, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

July 2012

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Business Forum (Minneapolis, Minn.).
Title	Business Forum Collection
Date	1900-2008
Extent	7.5 Linear feet
Language	English

Business Forum History

The Business Forum traces its origins to 1872 when a group of young office workers started meeting informally over lunch at the old Nicollet Hotel. The original gatherings had no real structure, met irregularly and kept no records. The group continued meeting, however, and eventually adopted a formal structure under the name "The Minneapolis Association of Accountants and Bookkeepers." The association was not formally incorporated, however, until 1912, when it adopted the name "Minneapolis Association of Office Men" to broaden its appeal to all male office workers.

The content of the group's meetings also changed, and began to include guest speakers and debates of current topics among members. In recognition of this development, the organization changed its name again in 1922 to "the Business Forum." Over the years, the Business Forum has featured hundreds of speakers including local and national business leaders, politicians, educators, government officials, and representative of foreign governments.

In addition to its role as a social and intellectual outlet for city businessmen, the Business Forum has also been a service organization, promoting and funding a wide variety of social and educational causes. Among them, persuading the State Legislature to establish the CPA degree in 1904, promoting the establishment of the University of Minnesota's Business School, encouraging the transformation of the Parade Grounds into a recreational area in the 1920s, promoting the sale of bonds during the two World Wars, and contributing thousands of dollars to charitable organizations, such as the Parent & Teachers Association and the Louise Whitbeck Fraser School (now Fraser).

Description of Collection

The Business Forum Collection consists of 7 boxes and 17 scrapbooks.

Scrapbooks

The "Meeting Minutes and Programs" scrapbooks are distinguished by their years covered, indicated on the cover of each volume.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library July 2012

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Business Forum (Minneapolis, Minn.).
- Dutro's Sea Food Restaurant (Minneapolis, Minn.).
- Dykman Hotel (Minneapolis, Minn.).
- Minneapolis Association of Office Men.
- Normandy Hotel (Minneapolis, Minn.).
- West Hotel (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Personal Name(s)

- Anderson, Harold L. "Soapy"
- Wichman, Edward "Ed"

Subject(s)

- Business enterprises -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Clubs -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

Membership and Membership Rosters

Collection Inventory

Membership and Membership Rosters 1951-2003		
Rosters 1951-1974 1.0 boxes		Box 1
Rosters 1975-2003 1.0 boxes		Box 2
Attendance Records		Box 5
Scope and Contents note		
Scattered member attendance records from the 1920s through the 1980s.		
Newsletters 1917-2008		
	Box	Folder
<i>The Minneapolis Office Man</i> 1917-1919	3	1
<i>Business Forum</i> 1989-1990	3	3
<i>Quorum Report</i> 1991-1992	3	4
<i>Quorum Report</i> 1993-1994	3	5
<i>Quorum Report</i> 1995-1996	3	6

Financial Reports and Charitable Contributions

<i>Quorum Report</i> 1997-1998	3	7
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<i>Quorum Report</i> 1999-2000	3	8
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<i>Quorum</i> 2001-2003	3	9
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<i>Quorum</i> 2004-2008	3	10
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Financial Reports and Charitable Contributions

Scope and Contents note

Scattered ledgers from the 1920s to the 1970s.

	Box	Folder
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Financial Reports 1955-1993	4	1
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Scope and Contents note

Scattered financial reports

Charitable donations 1966-1984	4	2
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Scope and Contents note

Scattered reports

Communications, History and Past Presidents

	Box	Folder
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Communications, History and Past Presidents

Correspondence 1960-1979	7	1
Business Forum history	7	2
Scope and Contents note		
Includes pamphlets, brochures, memos, testimonials and newsclipping describing the history of the organization		
	Box	Folder
<i>Business Forum Diamond Jubilee: 1872-1947</i> 24 page booklet. 2 copies.	7	7
<i>The Minneapolis Association of Office Men: The Need of It - Its Objects</i> n.d. (probably 1920s) 18 page booklet. 2 copies.	7	2
<i>Business Forum, Inc. - Centennial Ball, Saturday, June 10th, 1972.</i> 1972	7	2
Scope and Contents note		
Program for the Centennial Ball - includes brief history of the organization		
'See a Bit of History of Business Forum' by Harold L. Anderson July 1985	7	2
Scope and Contents note		
Consists of Anderson's reminiscences of the organization from 1945 into the 1970s.		

Meeting Minutes and Programs

Bylaws and descriptions of officer duties	7	3
Scope and Contents note		
Bylaws are undated.		

Meeting minutes and reports 1955-1962	7	4
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Events, Contests, Fundraisers 1917-2005	7	5
Scope and Contents note		
Flyers, announcements and brochures.		

	Box	Volume
Essay Contest	7	1
Scope and Contents note		
Rules, correspondence and essays for a Business Forum-sponsored contest, answering the question "What the Railroads Mean to the Northwest."		

	Box	Folder
Past Presidents	7	6
Scope and Contents note		
Meeting Notices & Correspondence		

Meeting Minutes and Programs

Meeting Minutes and Programs

Volume

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1900-1913 Scrapbook

1900-13

Scope and Contents note

Includes clippings, programs, and organizational by-laws and descriptions.

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1912-1935 Scrapbook

1912-35

Scope and Contents noteIncludes hand-written and typed minutes, clippings, financial reports and correspondence.
Not arranged in chronological order.

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1915-1945 Scrapbook

1915-45

Scope and Contents note

Includes issues of the "Office Man" (the Business Forum's newsletter), programs, clippings, and photographs.

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1944-1950 Scrapbook

1944-50

Scope and Contents note

Includes photographs, programs, and clippings

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1944-1950 Scrapbook

1944-50

Scope and Contents note

Meeting Minutes and Programs

Includes clipping and by-laws		
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1950-1954	Scrapbook	1950-54
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1953-1956	Scrapbook	1953-56
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1956-1960	Scrapbook	1956-60
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1960-1966	Scrapbook	1960-66
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1965-1968	Scrapbook	1965-68
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1968-1972	Scrapbook	1968-72
Scope and Contents note		
Includes photos and clippings		
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1973-1980	Scrapbook	1973-80
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1982-1984	Scrapbook	1982-84
Scope and Contents note		
Includes photographs, clippings, programs, rosters, and organization communications.		
Meeting Minutes and Programs 1984-1985	Scrapbook	1984-85
Scope and Contents note		

Meeting Minutes and Programs

Consists of mostly photographs, clippings, programs, rosters, and organization communications. Volume titled "Business Forum History - 1984-85."

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1983-1987 Scrapbook

1983-87

Separated Materials note

Includes photographs, clippings, programs, rosters, and organization communications.

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1985-1986 Scrapbook

1985-86

Scope and Contents note

Consists of mostly photographs, clippings, programs, rosters, and organization communications. Volume titled "Business Forum History - 1985-."

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1987-1988 Scrapbook

1987-88

Scope and Contents note

Consists of mostly photographs, clippings, programs, rosters, and organization communications. Volume titled "Business Forum History - 1987-88."

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1988-1989 Scrapbook

1988-89

Scope and Contents note

Consists of mostly photographs, clippings, programs, rosters, and organization communications. Volume titled "Business Forum History - 1988-89."

Box

Folder

Meeting Minutes and Programs 1951-1952

3

2

Photographs

Scope and Contents note

Includes scattered issues up to 1969

Photographs

Scope and Contents note

Includes a large, rolled photograph of a Business Forum picnic from 1927, a collection of photographs, originally part of a photo album of the 100th year Installation Party at the Calhoun Beach Club in 1972, and an envelope with photos from an air show (1990s?). Photos were removed from photo album for preservation purposes.

Box

Business Forum Picnic April, 1927 Large rolled-up black & white photograph.

6

Small photographs 1960-2000

7

Scope and Contents note

Contains about 100 color photographs from the Business Forum's 100th Anniversary Installation Party at the Calhoun Beach Club, plus about a dozen black and white photos from Business Forum meetings during the 1960s, fewer than 10 photos from picnics during the 1960s, and another dozen from events during the 1990s.