Descriptive Guide to

South Dakota Nurses Association records

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections
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Collection Summary

Identifier MA 30
Title South Dakota Nurses Association records
Creator South Dakota Nurses Association
Dates 1899-2000
Extent 35.26 linear feet -- 33 boxes, sound recordings, moving image materials, photographs
Language English
Repository South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.
Access note This collection is stored off-site. Requests to view this material must be made at least 24 hours in advance. This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.
Preferred Citation Name of item. South Dakota Nurses Association records. MA 30. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.
Abstract
The South Dakota Nurses’ Association is a professional organization for Registered Nurses in South Dakota. The collection is composed of records of the South Dakota Nurses’ Association. Records consist mainly of committee files, minutes, correspondence, reports, membership files, convention material, project files, lobby material, scrapbooks, publications, and material dealing with associated groups.

Historical Note
The South Dakota Nurses’ Association was formed on July 11, 1916 as the South Dakota State Association of Graduate Nurses. At this first meeting in Rapid City, only seventeen nurses were present. The SDNA became the forty-third constituent group of the American Nurses Association, which had been created in 1901. The new members selected Mrs. Elizabeth Dryborough to be the first President.

In 1929, the organization’s name was changed to its present one of the South Dakota Nurses’ Association. At this time, the district system of organization was also introduced. The state was divided into three districts, one west of the Missouri River and two east. The divisions would remain this way until 1957, when the state was reorganized into the thirteen districts that are used today.
The South Dakota Nurses’ Association has worked to improve the quality of nursing care in South Dakota since its creation in 1916. The first project the organization worked on was the creation of a Nurse Practice Act for South Dakota which would set educational standards for nursing schools and create a state examining board to oversee the licensure of nurses. This act was passed by the 1917 legislature and created what became the present day South Dakota Board of Nursing.

The SDNA has been involved in many other projects to improve nursing care. They have been very involved in the debates over what level of education should be required to become a nurse and over whether or not practicing nurses should be required to take continuing education classes. They have been very active in lobbying the legislature to try to get health care bills passed. Through the years they have given nurses in the state a chance to learn new techniques and share experiences through conventions, workshops, and classes. They also publish a periodical called the South Dakota Nurse, which provides another way for nurses to keep up with changes in the profession.

**Arrangement**
The collection is arranged into 27 series:

Series 1. Committees
Series 2. Task Forces
Series 3. Correspondence
Series 4. Forums
Series 5. Board of Directors
Series 6. Reports
Series 7. Membership
Series 8. Districts
Series 9. Nurses Day
Series 10. March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award
Series 11. Convention
Series 12. Projects
Series 13. American Nurses Association
Series 14. Lobbyist
Series 15. Allied Groups
Series 16. General
Series 17. Collected Publications
Series 18. Association Publications
Series 19. Scrapbooks
Series 20. South Dakota Board of Nursing
Series 21. League for Nursing
Series 22. Nursing Education and Schools
Series 23. Nursing history
Series 24. Audio-visual material
Series 25. Artifacts
Series 26. S.D.L.N.E.
Series 27. National-State Leaders
Folders are arranged alphabetically within each series.

**Contents Note**
This collection is composed of records of the South Dakota Nurses’ Association. Records consist mainly of committee files, minutes, correspondence, reports, membership files, convention material, project files, lobby material, scrapbooks, publications, and material dealing with associated groups.

Series 1. The Committees series is composed of material produced by the activities of the various SDNA committees. These items include minutes from the meetings of the committees, quarterly and annual reports sent back to the SDNA, and information about projects the committees worked on. There is also a great quantity of correspondence, including correspondence between committee members, between the committees and SDNA, and between the committees and the nurses associations of other states. Also included are forms and results sheets for many surveys that the committees conducted.

Series 2. The Task Forces series is composed of material produced by the various SDNA task forces. These items include minutes from the meetings of the task forces, quarterly and annual reports sent back to the SDNA, and information about the projects the task forces worked on. There is also a great quantity of correspondence including correspondence between task force members, between the task forces and SDNA, and between the task forces and nurses associations in other states. There are also forms and results sheets for the surveys that the task forces conducted.

Series 3. The Correspondence is composed of correspondence produced by the SDNA. This includes the correspondence of the board of directors, president, and district presidents. It also includes correspondence to specific groups or individuals, such as the SD governor and the Nutrition Council of South Dakota. There is also correspondence dealing with specific projects and events, such as a poster contest and correspondence to nurses in Operation Desert Storm.

Series 4. The Forums series is composed of materials produced by SDNA forums. Most of these items come from the forums held statewide in 1974-1975 to consider continuing education for nurses. This material mostly consists of evaluations of the questionnaire and comment sheets the participants filled out. Reports from small group discussions are also included. There is also one folder of material from the Human Services Forum meetings between 1974 and 1980. This material consists mostly of correspondence about the meetings, along with a few issues of their newsletter and reports sent back to the SDNA by people who attended.

Series 5. The Board of Directors series is composed almost entirely of agendas and minutes of the SDNA board of directors meetings from 1974 to 1994. It also includes the SDNA treasurer’s ledger from 1918 to 1950.

Series 6. The Reports are composed of reports produced by the SDNA. It includes the books of annual reports from 1948 to 1995. These books consist of the annual reports submitted by each committee, district, and several allied groups. These report books also include the standing rules for
the annual convention, a report from the president and executive director, and the financial report from the annual audit. This series also includes reports from projects the SDNA was involved with, such as Project Motion and the Economic Security Program. It also includes the auditor’s annual financial reports from 1972 to 1989, along with other financial reports from that time.

Series 7. The Membership series is composed of various letters and reports dealing with SDNA’s membership. These include monthly reports showing changes in each district’s membership and listing all new or deleted members. They also include lists of the membership of each district for some years and the results of the membership surveys that were sent out to all members of SDNA. The correspondence includes letters about new members and dues as well as the form letters that were sent to members when they joined or quit SDNA.

Series 8. The Districts series is composed of materials produced by the 13 SDNA Districts. These items mainly consist of correspondence between the districts and the SDNA and between the districts and their officers and members. It also includes annual and quarterly reports from each district to the SDNA main office and the by-laws of each district, as well as some lists of district officers. A few brochures and newspaper clippings about district-level activities are included as well.

Series 9. The Nurses Day series is composed of the materials produced by two days set aside by SDNA as nurses’ days. It is divided into two sub-series: National Nurses Day and Nurses Day at the Legislature. The former includes correspondence about the theme and activities of National Nurses Day, information about promotional posters and ribbons that were distributed to the districts, and newspaper clippings. It also includes materials sent from the American Nurses Association to the state associations for this event, such as sample press releases, governor/mayoral proclamations, and pamphlets. The Nurses Day at the Legislature material includes correspondence to SDNA members and legislators, agendas, programs and invitations to the event, and information about finances and pre-registration. It also includes information about the legislators and the bills affecting health care, along with information from SDNA’s lobbyist about the legislative process and how to contact legislators.

Series 10. The March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award series is composed of information about the award. It includes correspondence about the program and correspondence nominating people for the award. It also includes resumes for the nominees, ballots, correspondence with the judges, and press releases.

Series 11. The Convention series is composed of materials from the annual SDNA convention. This consists mainly of correspondence about the convention, registration, and booth rentals. It also includes programs and agendas for the meetings, banquets and luncheons held at the convention. There is also financial information, including lists of exhibitors, sponsors, and registrants and financial summaries and budgets. The series also includes information about the House of Delegates that meets during convention, including resolutions adopted by them and lists of each districts’ representatives. There are also many press releases, photographs and newspaper clippings from the convention. Finally, there are several folders of convention planning materials explaining how to prepare for the convention and a copy of most of the convention programs from 1918 to 1975.
Series 12. The Projects series is composed of materials from the various projects SDNA has been involved with. This includes both local projects, such as the health fair and pilot membership project, and national projects, such as the Year of the Nurse and the building of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. The materials consist mainly of correspondence about the projects, along with evaluations, summaries and reports of what the projects accomplished. There are also a few newspaper clippings about the projects.

Series 13. The American Nurses Association series is composed of materials from the national organization of which the SDNA is a branch, the American Nurses Association. The materials consist of correspondence about appointment to various ANA offices and about changes in the SDNA’s officers at the state and district levels. It also includes correspondence about the ANA House of Delegates and a summary book about the topics they discussed. Other materials related to nursing and nursing education are also included.

Series 14. The Lobbyist series is composed of materials relating to the lobbyist the SDNA hires for the South Dakota legislative season. This material includes correspondence with the lobbyist, the SDNA and the legislators. There are SDNA priorities, copies of bills, and legislative memos from the lobbyist to the SDNA that give information about any health care related issues being debated by the legislature. There is also information about the lobbyist position itself, including information about paying the lobbyist, and copies of the agreement that he/she signed. Copies of the Legislative Hotline newsletter sent out to SDNA members by the lobbyist during the legislative session are also included.

Series 15. The Allied Groups series is composed of materials from the health-care related organizations with which the SDNA is allied. Most of the material is from local groups, such as the SD Nursing Network and the SD Public Health Association, or from South Dakota chapters of national organizations such as ASHET and the Joint Practice Commission. The material consists mainly of correspondence with the organizations and reports from the delegates sent by the SDNA to attend joint meetings. There is also some other information about the various organizations, including a few pamphlets, copies of bylaws, and some position statements.

Series 16. The General series is composed of the material in the collection that did not fit into any other series. It includes correspondence about and entries for the annual American Journal of Nursing writing contest. Most of the remainder is correspondence about topics ranging from a creativity seminar to the Equal Rights Amendment. There are several past calendars, information on several individuals and their influence on nursing in South Dakota. There is also the manuscript for History of Nursing in South Dakota. There are also many newspaper clippings and photographs about the SDNA and about the State Hospital in Yankton.

Series 17. The Collected Publications are composed of material that was in the SDNA library. There are books about nursing and nursing history thought out history. There are several pamphlets on Nurses in the Navy and the American Red Cross Nursing Services. There are several pamphlets on the standards of a variety of nursing practices. The American Journal of Nursing from 1943 is included as well. As well there are several books that have nothing to do with nursing.
Series 18. The Association Publications are composed of the material produced by the South Dakota Nurses’ Association. This includes a convention poster, SDNA newsletter and the South Dakota Nurse.

Series 19. The Scrapbooks are composed of material about the SDNA/ANA and is arranged into parts cover the years from 1916 – 1987. There are photographs and newspaper clippings throughout the material.

Series 20. The South Dakota Board of Nursing series is composed of material produced by the SD Board of Nursing from 1950 – 1979. There are meeting minutes and other material used by the board.

Series 21. The League for Nursing series is composed of the material for the League for Nursing. There are membership lists, annual reports and bylaws. It also includes the cash book and money receipts.

Series 22. The Nursing Education and Schools series is composed of material about Nursing Education and Schools from 1900 – 1974.

Series 23. The Nursing history series is composed of material about nursing history. There is information on Florence Nightingale, General Early Nursing and Great Moments in Medicine. Folders in this series are arranged in alphabetical order and there under chronologically.

Series 24. The Audio-visual material is composed of material form the SDNA that is in video and audio cassette form. There are three videos; one contains the Pierre Centennial Parade with the SDNA’s float. The SDCNO Conference of June 5 – 7, 1990 and R.E.A.C.H. slides are on the other two. There are twelve audio cassettes; several from SDNA conferences and other events.

Series 25. The Artifacts are of material that has been either donated to or collected by the SDNA. Included is a nurse’s cap, uniform, watch, graduation speech, and injection kit donated by Mabel Belle Wilson. There is also a plaque from the American Journal of Nursing.

Series 26. The S.D.L.N.E. series is composed of material about the S.D.L.N.E. It is arranged into parts covering the years 1938 – 1971.

Series 27. The National-State Leaders series is composed of material about the National/State Leaders of Nursing. Arrangement: Folders are arranged in alphabetical order

**Related Resources**
Call number: SD Collection: RT5.S6 E7

The South Dakota nurse, South Dakota Nurses’ Association Sioux Falls, S.D., South Dakota Nurses’ Association, 1958-.
Call number: Periodicals/Lower Level: 610.7305 So87

**Key Words**
American Nurses Association
Nurse practitioners -- South Dakota
Nurses -- South Dakota
Nursing -- South Dakota
Nursing -- South Dakota -- Societies, etc.
Nursing -- Study and teaching
Nursing -- Study and teaching (Continuing education)

**Administrative Information**

**Conditions Governing Access**
This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Researchers conducting extensive research are asked to make an advance appointment to access archival material. Please call or e-mail prior to visiting the collection and indicate as much detail as possible about a particular topic and intended use.

South Dakota State University supports access to the materials, published and unpublished, in its collections. Nonetheless, access to some items may be restricted as a result of their fragile condition or by contractual agreements with donors.

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**Arranged and Described by**

**Container List**