



St. Louis Peace Information Center Records (S0136)

Collection Number: S0136

Collection Title: St. Louis Peace Information Center Records

Dates: 1963-1976

Creator: St. Louis Peace Information Council

Abstract: The records of the St. Louis Peace Information Center contain correspondence, meeting minutes, and peace literature written and published by St. Louis and national peace groups, pertaining to the Center's mission to facilitate communication and cooperation among St. Louis-area anti-war groups, as well as to inform the public about peace, activism, conscription, and the Vietnam War. The Center also provided draft counseling to conscientious objectors opposed to the war in Vietnam. Subjects of interest include anti-Vietnam protests in the St. Louis area, war tax resistance, and laws and regulations regarding draft counseling. The bulk of the materials date from the Center's founding in 1967 to its closing in 1974.

Collection Size: 3.2 cubic feet
(173 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis Peace Information Center Records* (S0136); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Yvonne Logan on February 18, 1981 (Accession No. A2373).

Separated Material: Five folders of unspecified material were removed from the collection and integrated with St. Louis Vietnam Committee, American Friends Service Committee Records (S0164). Meeting minutes from the World Federalist Organization were removed and placed in the World Federalist Association of Greater St. Louis, Missouri Records (S0041). Literature from Missouri Campaign Spending Reform was removed and placed in the Missouri Campaign Spending Reform Records (S0056). These separations occurred at unknown dates.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the St. Louis Peace Information Center can be found in the following collections:

St. Louis Vietnam Committee, American Friends Service Committee, Records (S0164)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, St. Louis Chapter, Records (S0214)
Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace, St. Louis Area Committee, Records (S0441)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Wilpf), St. Louis Branch, Records Addenda (S0690)

Processed by: Processed by Kenn Thomas, date unknown. Revised by Emery Cox, January 7, 2019.

Historical Note:

The St. Louis Peace Information Center (a.k.a St. Louis Peace Center) was founded by the St. Louis Vietnam Summer Project in September 1967. The St. Louis Vietnam Summer Project was a chapter of the Vietnam Summer Project, a national program to canvass the public on their views about the Vietnam War and organize opposition to the war. As the local chapter was concluding its activities, its advisory council decided to establish a new nonprofit organization, the St. Louis Peace Information Council. The Center's mission was to provide a meeting place for St. Louis-area anti-war activist groups, as well as facilitate communication and cooperation among these groups; inform the public about peace, activism, conscription, and the Vietnam War; and provide draft counseling for conscientious objectors, students, and other individuals involved in the draft.

Inaugural member organizations included the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, SANE (Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy), American Friends Service Committee, United World Federalists, Students for a Democratic Society, and Fellowship for Reconciliation. Originally located at 6217 Delmar Boulevard, the Center later moved operations to 6244 Delmar Boulevard, and then 606 Eastgate Boulevard. As America's involvement in Vietnam diminished, so too did financial support for the Center, leading to its closure in 1974. Many of the individuals involved with the Peace Information Center organized the World Community Center in January 1975, which continues to host peace and activist groups today.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Administration
Subject Files
Draft Counseling

Scope and Content Note:**Administration**

This series contains correspondence, memos, budgets, board meeting minutes, calendars of events, fundraising appeal letters, and program ideas. Peace Information Center employees and volunteers used the files to organize the operation and finances of the center, communicate with members and contacts, and plan events. Some items of interest are the Peace Information Center bylaws, mailing and phone chain lists, and photographs of anti-Vietnam War protests in St. Louis. The materials in this series date from 1966 to 1974, with folders dealing with the group's founding finances appearing first (folders 1-4), followed by events and contact information (folders 5-13), and then photographs (folder 14).

Subject Files

This series consists of correspondence and literature from St. Louis and national peace activist groups. It also contains materials about topics such as the bombing of Hiroshima, the military-industrial complex, and war tax resistance. Peace Information Center workers collected and disseminated these materials in order to fulfill the mission of informing the public about peace, Vietnam, and the draft. Some literature pre-dates the founding of the center. Items of interest include correspondence from local residents who were opposed to Peace Information Center activities (folder 156). Five issues of propaganda newspapers from the North Vietnamese government (*Vietnam Courier*) and People's Revolutionary Party (*South Viet Nam In struggle*) comprise folder 153. The materials in this series date from 1963 to 1976 and are arranged alphabetically.

Draft Counseling

This series contains training handbooks for draft counselors, information on obtaining conscientious objector status, and other literature pertaining to the draft during the Vietnam War. The training materials include summaries of laws and regulations, suggestions on how to interact with and help counselees, and practice scenarios for draft board examinations. Peace Information Center members used these materials to train draft counselors and aid draft resisters. Materials in this series date from 1966 to 1972, and are arranged with conscientious objector literature appearing first (folder 166), followed by a training manual (folder 167), some issues of *The Reporter For Conscience' Sake* (folder 168), legal and procedural reference for draft counselors (folders 169-172), and a directory (folder 173).

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 - f. 48 Conferences, 1966-1969, no date
 - f. 49 Congressional Action Fund, 1972-1974
 - f. 50 *Congressional Record*, 1969-1970
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 - f. 52 Conscientious objectors, Seeger Decision, 1965
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