

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Albany City and County War Council Records

Summary Information

Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator

unidentified

Title

Albany City and County War Council Records

Identifier

MG 111

Date

1940-1946

Physical Description

9 boxes

Physical Location

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material

English

Abstract

New York organized a war council in 1940 to coordinate war-related efforts for local, state, and national defense during World War II. Beginning initially as a women's organization, the Albany City and County War Council was formed in 1941 to coordinate efforts for the towns within Albany County.

This collection contains administrative records, campaigns and projects efforts, publicity records, and index cards containing information on servicemen and women.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Albany City and County War Council Records, 1940-1946, MSS 111. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: unidentified

Processing Information

Processed by H. Cox, May 2021. Finding aid created by H. Cox, July 2021.

Biographical/Historical

The Albany City and County War Council was an outgrowth of the New York State War Council, created as part of a nationwide effort to coordinate local and state defense efforts and contributions with those at the national level. Initially, Albany's council began as a women's organization, as women at the time often did not work outside of the home, and were available for volunteer work.

The Council began in 1941, and although men were often the named heads of the committee, women frequently were responsible for running the activities of the organization. The Council worked with the New York State Office of Civilian Mobilization and coordinated homefront activities such as job training, child care (as many women entered the workforce during this time), emergency welfare, housing, nutrition, salvage, war funds, and much more. Newsletters spotlighting efforts and providing useful information were printed weekly, and campaigns of various kinds focused on information security, increasing funds for the war effort, and ways to ensure victory on a local level.

As the war ended in 1945, the need for the Albany City and County War Council diminished and the group was disbanded in 1946.

Scope and Contents

The Albany City and County War Council Records date from 1940-1946. Much of the original organization of the collection was retained during processing, and the collection has been divided into six series:

Administrative, 1940-1946, contains general council organizational information, information regarding various committees and personnel, correspondence to and from council members, group activities, precinct informational packets, and reports.

Cities and Towns, 1941-1944, holds early information on activities in the various towns in Albany County.

Clubs and Groups, 1942-1944, encompasses information regarding a few of the war-related efforts made by other organizations in Albany County.

Programs, Projects, and Campaigns, 1941-1945, comprises materials on Block plans, ceremonies, child care, education, emergency welfare, housing, nutrition, salvage, war funds, and other activities.

Publicity, 1941-1945, is composed of general publicity information, copies of the Defense News bulletin, campaigns, moving pictures, plays and puppet shows, radio, and speakers.

Soldiers' Cards, undated, consists of numerous cards containing names, service dates, home addresses, and sporadic additional information regarding men in service and women serving as nurses. It is unclear whether these cards reference those serving during World War I or World War II, and further research would need to be conducted for a definitive answer.

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