Sandra M. Bennett Papers

Collection Number: MSS 795

Size: 4.30 linear feet

Special Collections and University Archives
Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee
Sandra M. Bennett Papers

Biographical Sketch

Sandra McMillan Bennett was born and educated in Michigan. In 1988, she moved to Atlanta and in 1998 to Nashville. She joined the Greater Nashville Business and Professional Women/USA, serving two terms as President. During her tenure with this organization, she spearheaded a grassroots campaign for the passage of the Tennessee Equal Pay Remedies and Enforcement Act which was passed after two years of hard work.

She served three terms as Vice President of Legislation for the Nashville Women’s Political Caucus, lobbying for legislation affecting women and families of Tennessee. Ms. Bennett served two terms as President of the Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus and inaugurated the annual Yellow Roses Luncheon honoring women leaders in Tennessee. Beginning in 2004, she served on the Steering Committee for the Women’s Economic Summit and developed political participation workshops called “Everyday Politics for Everyday Women”. In 2004, also, she was presented with Tennessee State Resolution #955 recognizing her work on behalf of the women of the state of Tennessee.

In 2006, Governor Bredesen appointed Sandra Bennett to the Board of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, where she served six years. During her term she held the position of Secretary of the organization and its sister organization, the Women’s Economic Council Foundation, Inc. Sandra Bennett retired in 2008, and moved to Manchester, Tennessee, where she continues her interest in politics.

Scope and Content Note

Sandra M. Bennett’s papers are divided into five series, according to her work with various organizations: Business and Professional Women/USA; Tennessee Economic Council on Women; Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus; Nashville Women’s Political Caucus; and Personal Papers.

Her papers include reports, summaries of legislative actions, economic summits and political workshop materials, campaign materials, and newspaper clippings. Also included is an official Proclamation of the State of Tennessee, proclaiming August 26, 2010, “Women’s Equality Day.”

Ms. Bennett was very concerned with political issues affecting the welfare of women and children in Tennessee. She was a tireless leader through the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, the Tennessee Women’s Political and the Nashville Women’s Political Caucus in encouraging, supporting, and lobbying for legislation favorable to women and children, such as equal pay and child support. Her papers reflect the enormous amount of volunteer effort expended by women such as Ms. Bennett. They do not hold elective office but nevertheless accomplish much in the political arena.
Box Listing

Box 1

1. Business and Professional Women/USA---Membership cards, 1999-2008
2. Business and Professional Women/USA---Certificate of Achievement
3. Business and Professional Women/USA---Membership Recruitment and Retention

The remainder of Ms. Bennett’s materials pertaining to Business and Professional Women/USA are contained in scrapbook boxes Box 10 and 11 at the end of the collection.


19. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Research Materials---Articles about communicating with elected officials

20. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Research Materials---“Deb’s 15 Rules for the Road”


22. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Research Materials---Articles about women with disabilities, caregivers, and preventive health issues

23. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Research Materials---Articles about women and their financial fitness

24. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Research Materials---“Why Women Having a Seat at the Table Is Not Enough”


Box 2


BOX 3


4. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Staff

5. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Operations/Projects

6. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Operation/Projects

7. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Operation/Project

8. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Operation/Projects

9. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---By-laws, Member Reports

10. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Members


13. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Council Member Notebook, 2011---Finances


Box 4


13. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Economic Summit, 2013---Charting the Course


16. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Women’s Hall of Fame---Planning

17. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Women’s Hall of Fame---Event
Box 5

1. Tennessee Economic Council on Women---Women’s Economic Council Foundation, Inc.--- Foundation By-laws
8. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Organization Business---Policies and Procedures

Box 6

1. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Organization Business---Membership, 2009-2010

5. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Organization Business---Knoxville Women’s Political Caucus, 2008-2010


8. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Organization Business---Website, 2009


16. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Organization Business---Planning for Campaign School

17. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Organization Business---When Women Run, Women Win---Campaign School

**Box 7**

1. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Legislation of Interest to Women---Legislative Reports, 2003-2010

2. Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus---Legislation of Interest to Women---Correspondence (e-mails)

3. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Mandatory Joint Custody Legislation---Research Materials

4. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Mandatory Joint Custody Legislation---Issues, Updates

5. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Mandatory Joint Custody Legislation---Bill Information, Updates

6. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Mandatory Joint Custody Legislation---Petitions against the Bill

7. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Mandatory Joint Custody Legislation---Correspondence (e-mails)
10. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Women and Voting---Correspondence (e-mails)
12. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Pay Equity Legislation---Publicity
13. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Pay Equity Legislation---Legislative Reports and Summaries
14. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Pay Equity Legislation---Correspondence (e-mails)

Box 8

1. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Reports, Summaries, Correspondence, 2005
2. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Reports, Summaries, Correspondence, 2006
3. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Reports, Summaries, Correspondence, 2007
4. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Reports, Summaries, Correspondence, 2008
5. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Reports, Summaries, Correspondence, 2009
6. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Reports, Summaries, Correspondence, 2010
7. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Child Support Legislation
8. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Child Support Legislation
9. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Health Insurance Continuation Bill
10. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Pregnancy Resources Bill
11. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Women’s Day on the Hill
12. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Privacy Rights and Abortion
13. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Emergency Care for Rape Victims
14. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Pharmacist’s Bill
15. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Stalking
16. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Domestic Violence
17. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Rape of a Child
18. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Overtime
19. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Meth Bills
20. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Same Sex Marriage
21. Nashville Women’s Political Caucus---Legislative Committee---Voter Election of Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State

Box 9

4. Personal Papers---Correspondence---Incoming, Clinton-Wood
5. Personal Papers---Invitations---2008-2011
7. Personal Papers---Athena Awards---2005
8. Personal Awards---Athena Awards---2007, Sandra Bennett, a Nominee
12. Personal Papers---Political Campaigns---Bumper Stickers, Brochures, etc.


**Box 10**

Scrapbook, Business and Professional Women/USA
2002-2003

**Box 11**

Scrapbook, Business and Professional Women/USA
2003-2004