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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

The collection includes one folder of records, 1922-1932, of the Business and Professional Women's club located in Lynchburg, Virginia, and includes correspondence and newsletters. Also included is the program for the fifth annual convention of the Virginia Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs, held in Lynchburg in May, 1924.

LYNCHBURG BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

While mobilizing for World War I, the U.S. Government recognized the need for a cohesive group to coordinate identification of women's available skills and experience. A Women's War Council, financed through a federal grant, was established by the War Department to organize the resources of professional women. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (BPW) was founded on July 15, 1919.

An organizational meeting that led to the formation of the Virginia Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was held in Richmond, Virginia, in June 1919, from which four charter clubs – Danville, Lynchburg, Richmond, and Roanoke – were formed.

“Each club affiliated with the Virginia Federation is a self-governing, non-partisan, non-sectarian group of business and professional women banded together to set and maintain a higher standard for women in the business and professional world.

“Through the Education Committee the Club endeavors to impress upon the school girl the necessity for, at least, a High School Education before entering a business school.

“The Scholarship and Loan fund of the Club provides the means for ambitious girls to secure the necessary preparation for a successful business or professional career.”

Throughout the years, three major issues shaped BPW's legislative agenda: elimination of sex discrimination in employment, the principle of equal pay, and the need for a comprehensive equal rights amendment.

[Business and Professional Women's Club, Lynchburg, Va., MS1025, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Va.]