Finding aid for the California Board of Social Work Examiners and California Conference of Social Work State Committee on Social Work Education records

0404

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Abstract: The California Board of Social Work Examiners and California Conference of Social Work Education Committee records consist primarily of correspondence and board meeting minutes, 1937-1961, that documents the activities of these two related entities. The records describe Board meetings, California legislation regarding the licensing of social workers, statistics on and evaluations of the social work licensing examination and state licensing codes. The latter part of the records contains information on the founding and activities of the California Conference of Social Work State Committee on Education, founded in 1951 with the goal of developing appropriate programs of education for future social workers.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], California Board of Social Work Examiners and California Conference of Social Work Education Committee records, Collection no. 0404, California Social Welfare Archives, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

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Acquisition
Donated by Maurice Ostomel.

Historical note
In 1950 California was the only state with voluntary registration of social workers. The collection reflects the work of the small, unpaid, and geographically scattered Board of Examiners as it set, tested and graded twice yearly examinations, struggled to hold frequent meetings despite skimpy travel allowances, and to run an effective advocacy and promotional program from its San Francisco office staffed by one executive secretary with, initially, only part-time clerical assistance. The executive secretary, when not personally packing examination booklets into wooden boxes for delivery by Railway Express to sites around the state, managed to get access to "the new IBM machines" at the Department of Health, where he undertook statistical analyses. Beyond such detail, the correspondence of the Board in the early 1950s reflects constant attempts to secure backing from leaders in the social work profession. Records for 1952-53 reflect not only the anxieties and objections raised by the attempt to restrict the use of the term "social worker", but also problems faced by the Board of
Examiners and leaders in the profession when they attempted to write the restrictive bill, which would clearly require definitions of the terms "social work" and "social worker". With these papers, which reflect a significant phase in the development of social work as a profession, are also collected records of the Committee on Social Work Education of the California Conference of Social Work for the same period. The correspondence, work and described activities of the members of the same small group of social work leaders, educators, and legislators, are to be found in both collections. Maurice Ostomel, the donor of these papers, had an extraordinary dual role in the proceedings as chairman of both the Board of Social Work Examiners, from 1949-53, and of the Committee on Social Work Education, from its inception in 1951 until 1954.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Arne, Runo -- Archives
- California Conference of Social Work. State Committee on Social Work Education. -- Archives
- California. Board of Social Work Examiners. -- Archives
- Ostomel, Maurice J., 1911-1998 -- Archives
- Correspondence
- Minutes
- Reports
- Social work education--California--Archival resources
- Social workers--Examinations--Archival resources
- Social workers--Legal status, laws, etc.--California--Archival resources

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**California Board of Social Work Examiners**

- Box 1, Folder 1: Minutes, correspondence, reports 1949-1950
- Box 1, Folder 2: Correspondence and minutes 1950
- Box 1, Folder 3: Correspondence 1950-1951
- Box 1, Folder 4: Correspondence 1952
- Box 1, Folder 5: Correspondence, reports, minutes 1952-1953
- Box 1, Folder 6: Correspondence, minutes 1953-1954
- Box 1, Folder 7: Correspondence, reports, minutes 1955-1956
- Box 1, Folder 8: Directories, journal, newsletters 1949, 1950, 1961

**California Conference of Social Work State Committee on Social Work Education**

- Box 1, Folder 9: Correspondence 1951
- Box 2, Folder 1: Correspondence 1952
- Box 2, Folder 2: Correspondence 1953-1954
- Box 2, Folder 3: Pamphlets 1937-1938