

Republican National Convention (1976) Collection

This artificial collection contains various items pertaining to the 1976 Republican National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, at Kemper Arena. Items range from newspaper clippings to campaign buttons and souvenirs.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Missouri Valley Special Collections

Title: Republican National Convention (Kansas City, Mo.), 1976, Collection

Dates: 1976

Size: 6 boxes

Location: SC103

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Gifts, September 1976, Accession Numbers 76-1, 76-2, 76-3, 76-4, 76-5, 76-6, 76-7, Republican Host Committee, Helen Gray, Marge Kinney, Bobbi Goering, Donna McBride, Neil Berger, Kansas City Police Department, Gov. Kit Bond's office, Mary Alice Dolan, National Republican Headquarters.

Citation note: Republican National Convention (Kansas City, Mo.), 1976, collection (SC103), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/historical note

The 31st National Republican Convention was held August 16-19, 1976, in Kansas City, Missouri. The delegates and party officials met in Kemper Arena which had just opened in 1974. The arena was adorned with red, white, and blue decorations as delegates decided if President Gerald Ford or California Governor Ronald Reagan would be their presidential candidate.

The pardon of former Republican President Richard Nixon by Gerald Ford was still a fresh, divisive issue among those attending the gathering. The struggle between the moderates and those leaning more toward the right of the party was resolved when Ford and running mate Bob Dole were selected to run against Democrats Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale in November of 1976.

Ody J. Fish was the convention manager; Mary Louise Smith was Chairman of the Republican National Committee; Bob Dole was temporary chairman of the convention and John Rhodes was the permanent chairman.

Scope and content note

This collection appears to have been assembled by the staff of the Missouri Valley Room around the time of the convention. Apparently various sources were contacted and asked to contribute artifacts and published items. An inventory of material collected was made and is in the collection folder. At the time of processing, nine items listed on the initial 1976 inventory were found missing. These included a broom, some placards, a plastic horn, a frisbee, and drinking glasses.

The collection includes newspapers and newspaper clippings, artifacts, brochures, invitations, flyers, pamphlets, guides, maps, bumper stickers, postal cancellations, convention publications, charts, notebooks, manuals, badges, tickets, pennants, placards, and other miscellaneous items.

The items included help to show the temperament of the convention and the issues pertaining to the event as well as some of the basic elements needed to stage a national political convention.

Collection Inventory

Box 1 – 17 folders – Subjects A–N

- **Folder 1 – Artifacts**
Listing of artifacts, buttons, and subject folder list for boxes 1 and 2
- **Folder 2 – Brochures and Maps**
"Kansas City Bicentennial Commemorative Road Map"
"Kansas City Fun Calendar" (Summer 1976)
"45th & State Line Antique & Art Center" guide
"A Walking Tour of Plaza Art"
"The Nelson Art Gallery of Art and Atkins Museum"
- **Folder 3 – Bumper Stickers**
(1) "The squire – Welcome GOP"
(2) "President Ford '76"
(3) "'76 Reagan for President"
(4) "John J. Rhodes for Speaker of the House – Clean Up Congress"
(5) "Reagan, Schweiker – They'll Beat Carter"
- **Folder 4 – Calendar of Events**
August 17, 1976, 3 pages (2)
August 18, 1976, 1 page (2)
August 13 – 20, 4 pages
"Order of Business, 31st Republican National Convention, Kansas City, Missouri, August 16, 1976, Republican National Committee"
- **Folder 5 – Connally, John**
Brochure, "Meet John Connally!"
- **Folder 6 – Envelopes**
Two legal-size GOP logo envelopes with commemorative postal cancellation
(1) Plain, white dated Aug. 20, 1976, with the 4th of July commemorative stamps
(2) Missouri Republican Host Committee (return address), dated Aug. 13, 1976
- **Folder 7 – Ford, President Gerald**
Delegate Special, August 18, 1976
Delegate Special, August 19, 1976 (2)
Flyer, "President Ford, Small Business' Best Friend"
Paper tag, "Ford for President" with image of GOP elephant
- **Folder 8 – Homosexuals**
Flyer "For the Republican Delegates and Their Friends."
- **Folder 9 – Invitations**

Invitation to the Nelson Art Gallery reception on August 15, 1976, from Gov. Bond and the Missouri Host Committee (5); one accompanying letter from the Office of the Governor, Oct. 15, 1976; and one photocopied thank you reply letter from Marge Kinney, Oct. 25, 1976

- **Folder 10 – Kemper Arena**
Convention seating designation chart, Kemper Arena
- **Folder 11 – Metro Time Tables** (Metro Shuttle Bus Schedules)
Eight different color coded routes
- **Folder 12 – Miscellaneous**
Note pad and nine various flyers, notices, map, letter, etc.
- **Folder 13 – Missouri Host Committee**
Flyer about Gift Gallery (2)
"Committee Meeting Notice," 10 pages
Flyer with GOP logo (2)
"Background of Missouri Host Committee," 3 pages (2)
Newsletter, "Press Information," 17 pages
Convention information packet
Invitation for tour of Kemper Arena for volunteers
- **Folder 14 – Newspaper Clippings** (Photocopied)
The Kansas City Star and *The Kansas City Times*, August 11-15, 1976 (five days).
- **Folder 15 – Newspaper Clippings** (Photocopied)
The Kansas City Star and *The Kansas City Times*, August 15–20, 1976 (six days).
- **Folder 16 – Newspapers**
(1) *Yipster Times* (Special Dope & Comix Issue), May, 1976
(2) *Children's Express*, August 18, 1976 (2)
(3) *The Kansas City Star*, reprint page, Forum, Section B, March 28, 1976
(4) Special Edition, "125 Years of Presidential Elections as Reported in *The New York Times*"
(5) *Majority Report*, August 7-21, 1976, Vol. 6, No. 7
(6) *The Delegate*, Vol. 1, No. 101 (2)
- **Folder 17 – Notebook**
National Republican Convention, R. Crosby Kemper Memorial Arena, Kansas City, Missouri, August 16-19, 1976 (Appears to be delegate notebook for the convention. See also Box 4 for three additional copies.)

Box 2 – 13 folders – Subjects P–W

- **Folder 1 – Pamphlets/Directories/Guides**
Guide, "Republican National Convention Telephone Directory and Guide"
Guide, "1976 Republican National Convention Telephone Directory Supplement"
Pamphlet, "The Governor and First Lady of Missouri"
Pamphlet, "Seven Ways to Get Away in Missouri"
- **Folder 2 – Pamphlets/Directories/Guides**
Guide, "Airline Redi-reference, GOP 1976"
Guide, "Official 1976-1977 Kansas City Travel and Convention Guide"
Pamphlet, "Republican National Convention" (100 pages) 2 copies

Pamphlet, "Welcome to the Republican National Convention, Kansas City August, 1976"

- **Folder 3 – Pamphlets/Directories/Guides**
 Pamphlet, "Kansas City on Review"
 Directory, "Permanent Roll of Delegates and Alternate Delegates, 31st Republican National Convention"
 Directory, "Temporary Roll of Delegates and Alternate Delegates...."
 Pamphlet, "Platform" (Proposed)
 Pamphlet, "Platform" (Adopted)
- **Folder 4 – Parking Permit**
 Includes map of Kemper Arena area
- **Folder 5 – Police Department Security Manual**
 "Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Security Plan for the 1976 Republican National Convention, August 16-19, 1976, Chief Joseph D. McNamara"
- **Folder 6 – Poster**
 "Kansas City Salutes...." (8.5 in. x 11 in.)
- **Folder 7 – Reagan, Ronald**
 Includes six flyers about various activities; orange and yellow report called "The Right Report," August 6, 1976, Vol. 5, #15; "Convention News," August 15 and 16, 1976; table napkin with words "Reagan Schweiker They'll Beat Carter;" promotional folder, "Reasons for Reagan"
- **Folder 8 – Republican Women**
 Flyer, "Consider Yourself for Public and Party Office" (2)
- **Folder 9 – Schweiker, Richard**
 Flyer, "Statement of Senator Richard S. Schweiker to the Committee on Resolutions...." by William Buckley, Jr.
- **Folder 10 – Souvenirs**
 Brochure concerning the 1976 GOP convention plaque made from sections of the speakers' platform (2)
 Advertisement for the commemorative jewelry charm of the convention (see Box 3, Folder 1)
- **Folder 11 – Stassen, Harold**
 Advertising piece with "Stassen Can Defeat Carter" on one side and information about Stassen on the other side (2)
- **Folder 12 – Tickets**
 Over 25 admittance tickets ranging from August 9 to 19, 1976, includes tickets to platform hearings and convention and includes guest, photographer, and page designations.
- **Folder 13 – Watch Observer**
 Booklet, "Official Observer Manual"
 10 issues of the "Daily Watch Observer," August 10-20, 1976

Box 3 – 6 folders – Artifacts

- **Folder 1 – Key ring in plastic box, Host Committee badge, and a gold charm which was the official commemorative jewelry of the convention**

- **Folder 2** – Press badge
- **Folder 3** – Delegate badge
- **Folder 4** – Honored guest badge
- **Folder 5** – Plastic banner, “President Ford ’76;” plastic litter bag, “Keep It Clean With Jerry Ford” (2)
- **Folder 6** – Buttons (2)
“Welcome to Kansas City....”
“Experience Counts....” (includes Ford’s picture)
- **Folder 7** – Buttons (3)
“American Needs New Leadership” (picture of Reagan and Schweiker)
“Elect Reagan/Schweiker in ’76
“Kansas City Salutes....” (3)
- **Folder 8** – Buttons (3)
“In ’76 Ford/Connally”
“NYC July 11-14 Stop 1984 In 1976....”
“New York, July 11-16, Gay Rights ’76....”
- **Folder 9** – Buttons (4)
“Betty Ford for First Lady in ’76”
“Reagan,” white letters on black (3)
“Reagan,” white, blue
“President Ford,” both a button and a tear off sticker

Box 4 – Convention 3-Ring Notebook

“National Republican Convention, R. Crosby Kemper Memorial Arena, Kansas City, Missouri, August 16-19, 1976 (3)

Box 5 – Miscellaneous Items

- **Burlap tote bag** (2), 17 in. x 17 in., with handle and red, white, and blue lettering which reads, “Republican National Convention, Welcome to Kansas City, Missouri ‘Heart of America’ and Home of Wheatena.” Part of package given to delegates by Host Committee. One of the bags contains the following: delegate convention notebook; newspaper, “125 Years of Presidential Elections as reported in *The New York Times*,” convention telephone directory and guide; pamphlet, “Seven Ways to Get Away in Missouri;” advertisement and coupon for The Old Washington Street Station restaurant located at 9th and Washington; one writing pen; two short pencils from Yellow Cab; small life-saver package; and a piece of cord.
- **Placard** – 11 in. x 14 in., “Courtesy Car – GOP Host Committee” with KC GOP 76 logo, red, white, and blue colors
- **Placard** – 17 in. x 22 in., “President Ford ’76,” red with a listing of the President Ford Committee on the bottom
- **Placard** – 11 in. x 17 in., “Elephant Action! Get the Complete G.O.P. Convention Story, Kansas City Star & Times,” red, white, and blue colors
- **Placard** – 18 in. x 18 in., “Courtesy Transportation to Nelson Gallery Reception Sunday, August 15....,” white with blue lettering

- **Placard** – 14 in. x 22 in., “Republican National Convention Souvenirs on Sale Here,” white background with red and black colors
- **Placard** – 14 in. x 22 in., “President Reagan '77,” blue background with white letters and image of Reagan
- **Pennant** – 12 in. x 30 in., “1976 Republican National Convention, Kansas City, Mo.,” red, white, and blue colors with GOP elephant image

Box 6 – Plastic cowboy hat

Hat band reads, “G.O.P. Host Committee”

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, April 2008