



**TITLE:** Woman's Benefit Association of Tucson records

**DATE RANGE:** 1939-1968 (bulk 1958-1961)

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1527

**LOCATION:** Arizona History Museum, 949 E Second St, Tucson, AZ 85719

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.417 linear ft (1 box)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Janelle Howard, 2021.

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to Arizona Historical Society, Library & Archives.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Arizona Historical Society, Woman's Benefit Association of Tucson records, MS 1527.

**PROCESSED BY:** Lane Van Ham, 2023

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Woman's Benefit Association (WBA) began in 1892 as the Ladies of the Modern Maccabees, a nonprofit, women's fraternal organization that provided life insurance to members. Headquartered in Port Huron, Michigan, it established local chapters (or "reviews") in Canada and the United States that met regularly for charitable and educational projects. The parent organization adopted the WBA moniker in 1915. Chapters began to form in Arizona in the first decade of the twentieth century, and the Tucson chapter, state review #15, was created in 1916. The WBA changed its name to the North American Benefit Association in 1966 and the Woman's Life Insurance Society in 1996.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** The collection consists of material produced and received by the Tucson WBA chapter in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, with a high concentration of material from 1958-1961. Routine operations are documented through records on meeting attendance, officer elections, and finances, as well as general correspondence from local organizations, chapter members, and the organizational national headquarters. Two folders pertain to regional, multi-chapter gatherings, particularly the 1958 statewide WBA convention, which was held in Tucson and coordinated by the Tucson chapter. These folders include programs from several regional gatherings and correspondence from members regarding registration and logistics. Also present are a range of communications from the parent organization. These include materials devoted to the statewide convention, such as suggestions for recruiting participants and

guidelines for the agenda. The collection likewise holds WBA publications produced for local affiliates and general audiences, which variously promote the organization's insurance plans, suggest themes for special events, and tout the achievements of specific chapters. Of note are an issue of the WBA Review, which includes a short article on the Arizona state convention of 1958, and a short run of the association's semi-monthly field bulletin, The Log.

Collection materials were presumably collected by Roxie Osterholt, who was the WBA Tucson's recording secretary for most of the 1950s, co-chair of planning for the 1958 statewide convention, and chapter president in the early 1960s. The materials were later found by Jan Howard while remodeling the Osterholt's former home in 2021.

**SUBJECT TERMS:** Woman's Benefit Association; North American Benefit Association Fraternal organizations; Women-Societies and clubs

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	Conventions and other regional meetings: Programs and planning	1939-1962; undated
	2	Correspondence: Conventions and rallies	1952-1962 (bulk 1958)
	3	Correspondence: General	1944-1968 (bulk 1958-61)
	4	Finances	1960-1966
	5	Membership	1944-1960
	6	WBA publications (1 of 2)	1958-1968 (bulk 1960-61)
	7	WBA publications (2 of 2)	1958-1968 (bulk 1960-61)