

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

This collection consists of correspondence between individuals and committee members to the state chair of the Woman's Committee of the Kansas Council of National Defense. The Council of National Defense was established at the federal level in 1916 as an emergency agency under the Army Appropriation Act and abolished in 1921. It was created in reaction to World War I to coordinate resources and industries for national defense and improve civilian morale. The Woman's Committee of the Kansas Council of National Defense performed the same functions at the state and local levels, coordinating women's activities for national defense. The materials are organized alphabetically by county. The digitization of this collection was paid for through the Margot R. Swovelan Endowment Fund.

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 24, 1918.

Mrs. Maude Francisco,
612 E. 1st St.,
Concordia, Kansas.

My Dear Mrs. Francisco:-

Mrs. Saxon has asked us to write to you concerning your request for information about the U.S. Student Nurse Reserve. I am enclosing you herewith some bulletins which will inform you concerning the purpose of the campaign. For civilian training young women between 19 and 35 are accepted and for military training between 21 and 35. For military training the applicant must have a high school education and it is preferred for the civilian training also.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

V.

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Cloud

September 24, 1918.

Miss Antoinette Lague,
P.O. Box #127,
Concordia, Kansas.

Dear Miss Lague:-

Your letter in regard to the need for hospital aids is received. Courses in first aid work are given by the Red Cross chapters in most towns, perhaps in yours, and the training covers about five weeks' time. I think you probably refer to the article regarding hospital assistants but you are too young for this work as unmarried women under thirty-five are not accepted. This work is designed especially for the wives of soldiers overseas.

It occurs to me that with your knowledge of French and English you would be well qualified for service overseas in some government work.

Very sincerely,

VR

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

H. R. ST. JOHN, M.D.
SURGEON TO ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
RESIDENT SURGEON MO. PAC. R.R.
SURGEON SANTA FE R.R.
CONCORDIA, KANSAS Sept. 23, 1918.

Mrs. Mulvane.
Headquarters of Womens Committee.
Memorial Bldg.
Topeka, Kansas.
Dear Madame:

Am interested in the item printed in the Topeka
Journal, concerning the need of Hospital Aids.

Have had no experience whatever in the line of
Nursing, excepting that I am now in a Surgeon's office,
of course helping in every way with patients here.
Unmarried, twenty-two years of age, Canadian French,
American born, talk, read and write the french language.
Was educated in Convent, three years in convent in this
city, (Concordia, Kans) Nazareth Academy, also one year
with Presentation of Mary Sisters, in Montreal, Canada.

Kindly let me hear from you as soon as possible
concerning the requirements, expenses etc., would be ready
most any time to fill in application, for immediate
service.

Yours very truly,

(Miss) Antoinette Laque
Concordia, Ks.
Box # 127.



Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 10, 1918.

Mrs. R.P. McCulloch,

County Chairman Woman's Committee,

Anthony, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. McCulloch:-

I have written to Miss Marjorie Campbell of Harper, whose letter I enclose, and referred her to you. I have told her that unless she has signed and sent in her application to Washington she should enroll with you.

Owing to the enthusiastic response of the young women of the country to this call to their patriotism our Washington headquarters were forced to say to us that their supply of blanks was exhausted. The materials were sent direct from Washington to the chairmen and in some cases the supply has proven inadequate as the chairmen are writing me. I regret this more than I can say because the ready response of both chairmen and young women in Kansas has been very gratifying to me. I hope sincerely that you received blanks sufficient for your use and that you are being successful in your campaign.

With kindest regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

Enc.

V.

State Chairman.



Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 5, 1918.

Mrs. Lela Miller,
903 Broadway,
Concordia, Kansas.

My Dear Mrs. Miller:-

Study well the enclosed circular and if you cannot return to Topeka before August 15th, I would suggest you write us stating your qualifications so we will know what sort of an application blank to send you. If you were to be in Topeka, it would be far better to call at the recruiting station. Otherwise write me after reading the circular.

Sincerely yours,

Enc.

V.

State Chairman
Memorial Bldg.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Cloud

September 24, 1918.

Miss Lucile Swenson,

P.O. Box 83,

Concordia, Kansas.

Dear Miss Swenson:-

In reply to your question concerning nurse aid work, permit me to say that most Red Cross Chapters give a course in this work covering a period of about five weeks. This entitles the one who has finished the training to be called as nurses' aid. However, I doubt if one so young as you are would be considered for overseas service as in most cases the applicant must be at least twenty-five years of age. And since you must have a salary you probably would not care for this branch of service as the nurses aids must be prepared in most cases to furnish a part of their expenses. However, if you care for exact information apply to the Red Cross chapter in your home town. Hospital assistants will be called in this country in convalescent wards in army hospitals but there again you are too young for the service.

Very sincerely,

V.

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Concordia
Kansas
9-23-1918

Mrs David Mulvane
Topeka Kansas.

Dear Mrs Mulvane:-

Am writing you
for full information in re -
gard to the Nurse Aid work.
I am Twenty Three years
old. Have had up to two years
of high school. and wish now
to do something for my country.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

let me know about money matters
as of course my being a working
girl. they will be of import. also will
this work permit me to go for our
sea work.

awaiting your reply
Yours sincerely

Miss Lucile Swenson
Concordia
Kansas

Box 83

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

September 18, 1918.

Miss Bellia Wilkins,

1019 State St.,

Concordia, Kansas.

Dear Miss Wilkins:-

It is true that in some of the large cities the Woman's Committee maintains an employment bureau for those women who desire to do war work and with ample working facilities are able to do this. However, in Kansas we have no paid workers and I manage my headquarters with only volunteer assistance. We are glad whenever possible to assist women in finding the right sort of work and are now recruiting nurses for civilian and military hospital service. But as to other branches of work I am afraid I cannot give you any more definite information than you can secure by reading the book which was sent to you. Even if it were possible for me to make appointments direct I would not be able to do so in your case from the little information you give me in your letter. If you spoke French your knowledge of the telephone work would enable you to get into this branch of the service. Yesterday I heard a speaker at the conference who has been in France for three years and she mentioned the telephone operators, some of whom had been accepted for service overseas without a technical knowledge of the telephone work simply because they spoke French fluently. I suggest that you write to the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., and the Red Cross headquarters for the Southwestern Division at St. Louis and perhaps one of these organizations might suggest some way in which you might be of service.

I fully appreciate your patriotic offer but am sorry I have nothing in mind at this time that would serve your purpose.

Very sincerely,

V.

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Concordia, Kans
Sept. 14, 1918

Mrs D. W. Mulvane
Topeka, Kans

Dear Friend;

I have written to
Washington D. C. and they
suggested that I write to you
I have been trying to enlist
in some kind of government
service.

I recieved a book of the
different branches of service
I could enlist in from Washington
D. C.

Here are some I have picked
out:

Would prefer canteen mount
work or clerk. Or. chauffeur.
I am a first class telephone

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

operator But can only speak
the American language.

I would sure like to get into
some kind of service. The
reason I want to get into this
work I have no home ties and
have made my living since I
was 16 years of age am now 25.

Will close hoping to hear
from you soon and of some
appointment.

Thanking you very kindly
I remain yours truly

Add Miss Dellia Wilkins
1019 State St.
Concordia
Mo.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

September 20, 1918.

Miss Anna L. Rea,
R.F.D. No. 1,
Miltonvale, Kansas.

Dear Miss Rea:-

Mrs. Cody, your county recruiting officer, has sent me your enrollment card and asks that I send you the necessary blanks. You are eligible she tells me to either the army or the civilian training and I am enclosing both sets of blanks. If, however, you prefer the army training I suggest that you fill out only the army blanks and return them to me, also the civilian blanks if you do not use them. We have only a limited supply and must make use of all of them. I hope you will send these to me as soon as you can. The Committee on Assignment in Washington will advise you quickly as to the action taken there.

Very sincerely,

Enc.

V.

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

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Miltonvale, Kansas.
August 1, 1918.

The Women's State Council of Defense,
Topeka, Kansas.

Will you please send enrollment blanks and information concerning the Student Nurse Reserve? How soon may those who enroll be called for training and are they sure of being assigned to war service at the end of two or three years training? Is there any particular difference between thus enrolling and independently taking the training at some good hospital? Are the expenses of the training met by some remuneration? Will you please send some printed information if any is furnished you.

Respectfully,
Ressie Whitman

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

*Aug. 31 wrote and sent
blanks.*

Burlington Kansas

Aug. 26th 1918

Mrs D.W. Mulvane

Topeka Kansas.

Dear Mrs Mulvane:-

I have three enrollment cards signed up (I have no application cards)
they have not returned their certificates, think they are all O.K.
as follows:-

Aug. 1st 1918

Alta B. Jesse Burlington Kansas

Preferred Class

Aug 6th. 1918

Myrtle Watts

"

"

"

"

"

"

Aug 13th 1918

Lorena Anderson Burlington Kansas

R.R. # 6

"

"

Shall I send all papers to you ?

Have not heard from my other Chairmen

We are very busy preparing for the Fair with our Red Cross, National
Defense with the child welfare work. We are very short of material
and ideas, have you any suggestions or attractions we can procure?
We must have it good or not at all, we can not afford to cheapen any
thing the above stands for.

I find that most of our girls who are eligible to the student nurses
reserve are teaching school.

Literature for the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign arrived today, I dread it
for the reason that we are sure to be short of the most necessary
blanks, The Township Chairmen declare they will not work if they are
not supplied on time.

Very Sincerely Yours

Mrs. J. P. Hanna.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

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Burlington Kansas
August 5th 1918

Mrs D.W.Mulvane
Topeka Kansas

Dear Mrs Mulvane
My Township recruiting officers for student nurses reserve campaign
are very much exercised over the delay in receiving application
blanks and enrollment cards.
I have received two sets not enough for the townsofficers as a sample
Four headquarters are without any.
Miss Edna Wells field secretary of the A.R.C. was here ~~the~~ and says
it is criminal, as that is about the worst that can be said "I
will let it suffice.
hoping that there has been no mistake in my not receiving it
will try to handle the complaints patiently.
Very sincerely yours

(Mrs J.H.)

Chairman Council National Defense
Womens Committee, Coffey County



Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 13, 1918.

Miss Cora C. Hepworth,
Burlingame, Kansas.

Dear Miss Hepworth:-

Answering your question concerning the army
training schools, permit me to say that they are as follows:

Camp Wadsworth,	Spartanburg, S.C.,
Camp Devens,	Ayer, Mass.,
Camp Sherman,	Chillicothe, O.,
Walter Reed,	Washington, D.C.,
Camp Wheeler,	Macon, Ga.,
Camp Grant,	Rockford, Ills.,
Camp Dodge,	Des Moines, Ia.

Please send in your application blanks at the earliest opportunity
so that they may be forwarded to Washington.

Sincerely yours,

V.

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Burlingame, Ks
Aug 10/18
Mrs David W. Mulvane
Topeka Kan.
Dear Mrs. Mulvane:-
In the Application
Blank for nurses resume
It asks which is preferred
Army or Civilian Schools
and to definitely state the
State - Could you please
tell me where the Army
hospitals are located, so I
can answer this question
I am very anxious to
get my application in and

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Would be glad to get this
as soon as possible.
Thanking you, I am
Sincerely,
Corn C. Hapworth
Burlington
Kansas

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

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Lebo, Kansas
July 23, 1918.

Mrs. David W. Mulvane,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Mulvane:

Am very anxious to enroll in the student nurses reserve.

Have a question however. In some of the announcements the age limit has been 19 to 35 years, others 21 to 35.

Here lies the trouble if 21 to 35 I am not eligible.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

But if 19 to 35 then I
may be able to enroll.
Hoping it can be
in my favor and thank-
ing you for a reply.
I am

Yours truly
Hazel Lewis,
Lebo, Kansas.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

copy

July 24, 1918.

Miss Hazel Lewis,
Lebo, Kansas.

Dear Miss Lewis:-

I have your letter inquiring about the enrollment for the U.S. Student Nurse Reserve and am enclosing to you here with government bulletin which will answer your questions concerning it. Mrs. J.R. Hanna of Burlington, Kansas, is chairman of our county organization for the Woman's Committee and if you will write to her she will give you information concerning the times and places for registration. If, however, for any reason whatever you have not an opportunity to enroll in person and will apply to me here next week I will send application blanks to you to fill out. However, we much prefer to have this taken care of in each of the counties where it is possible to do so.

Very cordially yours,

V.

State Chairman Woman's Committee
Memorial Bldg.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

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Burlington Kansas

August 6th 1918

Mrs D.W. Mulvano

Topeka , Kansas

Dear Mrs Mulvano

Have received no supplies as yet, nothing but literature
Would like a ~~set~~ set for each town to send the recruiting officers,
I have five towns with headquarters open , they report inquiries but
the work is seriously handicapped, and the time is growing so short
Please send me five sets if possible.

Anticipating your early response I remain most sincerely yours

(Mrs J.H.)

Student Nurses reserve campaign

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 3, 1918.

Miss Anna Pratt,
Burlingame, Kansas.

Dear Miss Pratt:-

I have your card asking me to send you blank for army school of nursing service and presume by this that you will not have an opportunity to enroll in person in your own county. We prefer to have this done wherever possible but no patriotic young woman should be deprived of the opportunity to enlist because she cannot reach a recruiting station. Mrs. J.M. Jones of Osage City is county chairman of your county and I presume will have a recruiting station at Osage City. Our blanks were delayed in Washington and we will have them within a few days and I will send you one at that time. The young woman who can pass the qualifications for the army school training is asked also to sign the civilian blank so that she may have an opportunity to take the training in either hospital in case the army school does not call her for service.

Sincerely yours,

V.

State Chairman
Memorial Bldg.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

Burlingame, Kansas
July 24, 1918

Mrs. David W. Mulvane
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

I am interested in the Army
School of Nursing being organized and
wish to enroll as a student nurse
if possible. Can you send me an
enrollment blank for is it necessary
that I enroll personally?

Thanking you for your trouble,
I am

Respectfully
Erna L. Pratt.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 2, 1918.

Mrs. Chas. W. Roberts,
Winfield, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Roberts:-

The last word from Washington is to the effect that the application cards and blanks will be sent direct to the county chairmen to save time. I hope so.

In answer to your question in regard to registering girls in the deferred class who are making applications to training schools permit me to say that enrollment in the U.S. Student Nurse Reserve means that the candidate will hold herself ready until April 1, 1919, to take training when she is offered an assignment in a training school, unless she has in the meantime entered other government war service. So I would enroll young women who have made application to training schools.

I am much pleased that you are proceeding so nicely with the student nurse campaign in your county. Your quota will be thirty-two student nurses allowing one for each one thousand population.

Very cordially yours,

V.

State Chairman Memorial Bldg.



Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
COWLEY COUNTY CHAPTER
WINFIELD, KANSAS

Mrs D. H. Mulvane ✓
Topeka, Kansas

501. E. 10th Ave.
July 30/18.

My dear Mrs Mulvane: -

We have opened a student-nurse recruiting office in the County Superintendents' office at the Court House and we have several prospective recruits but we have no blanks except so me we have had type-written. Will you please have some sent to us? May we register girls in the deferred class who are making personal applications to training schools, also? Thanking you for your assistance I am

Very Sincerely

Mabel H Roberts.

(Mrs. Charles W Roberts)

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 12, 1918.

Mrs. C.W. Roberts,

County Chairman Woman's Committee,

Winfield, Kansas.

My Dear Mrs. Roberts:-

Let me congratulate you upon the good work you are doing. I am glad to hear that you have so many enrolled in your county. We are instructed at Washington headquarters to send in our filled applications as soon as possible as they are already beginning to assign nurses for training and those whose applications are received early will have the best chance of speedy assignment. They also suggest that we keep names and addresses of applicants after our blanks are exhausted as they will be called later if the need for additional nurses arises after the blanks are filed and that number cared for. However, I do not believe it will be worth while to keep the recruiting stations open much longer but take names and addresses at any time of applicants who express a willingness to enroll. The railroad expenses must be cared for by the candidates themselves as no provision has been made for taking care of that matter.

I am sorry I cannot send you the blanks you desire as I do not have them myself. We have been handicapped for lack of material from the first and the best we can do is to care for those we have blanks to accommodate and to take the names and addresses of others, as we are instructed. We are not to blame if we do not double our quota because the enthusiastic response of chairmen and the young women has been most gratifying to me.

I suggest that the applicant indicate the camp or training school she desires to enter in her personal letter which she writes to accompany the application. This same suggestion will apply to the two who desire to take the training in the same school.

With best wishes, I am,

Very cordially yours,

V.

State Chairman.

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
COWLEY COUNTY CHAPTER
WINFIELD, KANSAS

Mrs D M Mulvane
Topeka, Kans

My dear Mrs Mulvane:-

The intense heat of the past week has made communication with out-of-town prospects so nearly impossible, we can only make a partial report on the progress of our campaign for student nurses.

By agreement with Arkansas City we divided the county quota giving them fourteen to enlist in the south half of the county leaving us eighteen in the north half. Mrs Hunt tells me they are working at a great disadvantage, the Chairman of their Red Cross being a doctor who owns a private hospital and who is very much out of sympathy with this campaign.

We have already enrolled fourteen girls and have four or five more who will decide today. How long may we hold the enlistments open?

Has any arrangement ever been suggested for

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

paying the railroad expenses of girls who might be sent to far-away army training camps? Some of the girls here have been afraid to sign up to go "wherever sent" for fear of the great expense that might be involved.

We did not receive the blanks for dental exam in army school nor any enrollment blanks for civilian hospitals. May we have some? ^(I haven't any) Where do we indicate the camp or training school the student desires to attend if they have a preference in either preferred or deferred class? We have two girls who wish to take their training in the Army School together. Can you suggest how such a request should be made? Both request same school.

Thanking you very much for any information you can give me I remain

Most Sincerely Yours
(Mrs C.W.) Mabel H. Roberts.

Question?

Designate
in personal letter

Council of National Defense Woman's Committee correspondence

August 21, 1918.

Mrs. C.W. Roberts,
Winfield, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Roberts:-

I have received your fine list of enrollment cards and am sending them to Washington to-day. Noting that you are preparing typewritten cards I am enclosing you some additional enrollment cards just received by me from Washington as you may need them for other applicants. I shall be pleased to have a full report from your county when you can make it. Kansas will make a good showing and your county promises to be one of the factors in securing this result.

Very sincerely yours,

Enc.

V.

State Chairman.