

THE CAUCUS

The F.M.C.S. Retiree Newsletter

By Friends of FMCS History Foundation Volume 27, Issue 1 Spring 2016

A Fund Raising Letter from the Friends of FMCS History Foundation

The Friends of FMCS History Foundation was founded by Jerry Barrett to gather, preserve and publicize the history of USCS and FMCS. Much of the gathering has been done, and is now preserved in two locations: www.Mediationhistory.org and <http://www.Library.gwu.edu/ead/lac0007.xml>

The first location is my website that contains: a number of articles and papers I've written on the topic, as well as, historic documents, photos, oral history interviews, speeches, The Caucus (Friends Newsletter) and some interesting memorabilia.

The second location contains the Finder for my collection at GWU. The collection is a 135 linear feet of material. I make no effort here to summarize the collection. I urge readers of this appeal to check-out both locations.

I have shifted most of my current effort to publicize the collection to get scholars, students and practitioners exposed to the 100 plus years record of mediating and arbitrating labor-management disputes.

This year I will exhibit and discuss the collection at these national conferences: LERA in Minneapolis, IRA in Canada, FMCS in Chicago, and ACR in Baltimore. I am also making contact with all universities with labor relations programs.

I have an opportunity now to significantly increase the size of my website with materials that were once part of my collection. About ten years ago, a representative of the National Archive and Record Administration (NARA) came to my archive in Falls Church and spent a day examining my collection.

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Subscription: Annual support for the Friends
Published twice yearly, Spring and Fall
Editor: Jerry Barrett (489) Friends Founder

As a result, a significant amount of material, enough to fill 15 boxes, was identified as material that FMCS should have provided to NARA. After some negotiations, I packed and delivered 15 boxes to NARA's facility in Maryland, based on their promise that I would be given a digital copy of the material. Recently I received the digital copies and GWU got the 15 boxes I had delivered to NARA. I would now like to place the digital copies on my website.¹ To do so is expensive.

Just to be clear, I did not steal anything. All of that material, plus a lot more, was rescued from being recycled. Some of it, I saved from the dumpster behind the FMCS building. Most of it was rescued by my colleague Jim Power, who saved it from disposal and kept it in his office until I could pick it up. For what I did, both NARA and FMCS should be grateful, and it cost them nothing for the storage.

Here is a little history on the funding of my collection, which started in 1964 when I was an intern in Washington. The collection remained in my house until 1993 when I moved out of my last house into a condo. At that point, I rented space in a nearby office for \$250. per month. By 2012 when the collection was moved to GWU, the rent had reached \$600. per month.

Some time in the 90s, I made an arrangement with FMCS that allowed mediators to donate money to the Friends from their travel reimbursement. Every few months, FMCS would aggregate those donations and send the Friends a check. That arrangement ended when George Cohen became Director in late 2009. He said he had been advised that that arrangement was illegal. Eighteen months after Director Cohen's action, I was forced to donate half of my collection to GWU in the summer of 2011, and the other half in summer 2012.

Over the years, many of you have demonstrated your interest and generosity, and for that I am very grateful. I hope to be able to put as much of the material, I discussed above, on my website.² Please send a check if you feel this effort is worthwhile. Check should be made out to Friends of FMCS History. All donations are tax deductible. The Friends Tax ID is 20-5851357

Thanks for your support,
Jerry Barrett

¹ The advantage of my website is that everything on it can be read, and downloaded. The material at GWU cannot be read or downloaded on line. To read you must go to GWU and order the material from storage. What is online at GWU is merely the listing of the titles and description of the materials.

² My web guy has broken down the entire job into small costs covering specific parts of material, which allows me to prioritize and select the most interesting items first. The total cost of the project is \$5,000.