

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Archives Division

State Government Records

Register of the

Wisconsin. Board of Vocational, Technical & Adult Education:

Addresses of Clarence L. Griebler, 1944-1967

by

Daniel Hartwig

Series 2828

Summary Information

Title: Addresses of Clarence L. Griebler,

Inclusive Dates: 1944-1967

Creator: Wisconsin. Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education

Call No.: Series 2828

Extent: 0.6 c.f. (2 archives boxes).

Repository:

Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Abstract

Records, 1944-1967, of an accountant, member of the State Communications Board, Board of Trustees of Stout State College, and State Approval Board for Veterans Programs, as well as President of the American Vocational Association (1946) and National Association of State Directors of Vocational Education (1955), documenting his tenure as Director of the State Board of Vocational Education (later Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education) from 1944 to 1971. Adding further substance and historical context to an already sizeable body of WBVTAE series and publications, these records illuminate Griebler's transformative post-WWII executive direction and mission communication. Speaking to his philosophy of vocational education as a work-skill orientated activity, the files consist primarily of addresses to various conventions, groups, societies, boards and conferences; editorials; radio scripts; and op/ed pieces addressing broad challenges and outlooks for then current and future educational, vocational and training opportunities for youth, adults and veterans. Other subjects addressed include the responsibility and function of advisory committees, opportunities for returning veterans, apprenticeships, industrial opportunities, the growing field of practical nursing, his visit to Germany during 1953, the White House Conference on Education (1955), and a variety of state and federal legislative topics affecting vocational and adult education (e.g. George-Barden Act of 1947). Other items include commencement speeches and a moving tribute to his predecessor, late Director George P. Hambrecht (1871-1943).¹

Arrangement

Chronological by year and thereunder by date where applicable.

Introduction

The WBVTAE, the coordinating agency of the State VTAE system, is charged with the establishment and administration of policy for the direction of vocational, technical and adult education programs of the state. The Board administers all federal and state aid and coordinates curriculum standards and personnel qualifications for programs in post high school vocational and technical education, including adult basic, manpower training, job skill improvement, vocational rehabilitation, apprenticeship-related training, collegiate

¹ See Index below.

transfer, continuation programs, and allied educational activities. In Wisconsin State Archives' database entries, the above form of the name is used for all appropriate records dating 1965-1993.

The addresses described in this register are one of 16 WBVTAE series in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives' holdings. Users should consult this register along with inventories for the other series available in hard copy in the Archives' Reading Room.

The records are open for research without restrictions under the condition of the Archives' access policy. Records may be copied for use in individual scholarly or personal research.

History of the Board

The roots of the Board lie in state laws passed in 1907, which permitted cities to maintain trade schools as part of the public school system and allowed the establishment of technical schools or colleges under the control of either the school board or a special board. Building upon this foundation, in 1911, the Wisconsin Legislature established the first state-supported system for vocational, technical and adult education, named the State Board of Industrial Education (WIHV86-A1523). Its purpose was to provide support for vocational, technical and adult education, including part-time educational opportunities, for youth and adults who were not enrolled in regular schools, continuation, trade and evening schools.

Under Chapter 494, Laws of 1917, the name of State Board of Industrial Education was changed to the State Board of Vocational Education (WIHV86-A1522), reflecting the fact that more than industrial education was being taught in the continuation schools. The Legislature further changed the composition of the Board, allowing the hiring of a director and assistants to develop and supervise the board's work. Although the first person to head the Board was Warren Hicks (1912-1916), the first official Director was Frank Glynn (1917-1918). Subsequent directors included: John Callahan (1918-1921), George Hambrecht (1921-1944), Clarence L. Griebler (1944-1970), Eugene Lehrmann (1971-1979), Robert P. Sorensen (1979-1989), Dwight York (1989-1996), Edward Chin (1996-2002), and Richard Carpenter (2002--).

During the Depression, the student population of schools changed dramatically as more and more high school students and adults enrolled in vocational education classes. In 1937, under Chapter 349, enacted at a special session of the legislature, the Board was renamed the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education (WIHV86-A1521) to take account of these widespread social and cultural changes.

During the 1940s, influential federal legislation such as the Veterans' Bill of Rights and the George-Barden Act of 1947 rescued vocational education in Wisconsin by providing funding for higher education, especially vocational and adult education, for the thousands of returning GIs. Responding to these widespread opportunities, the Board made an effort to define vocational schools more sharply as occupational training institutions,

providing veterans with occupational training and/or the opportunity to finish high school.

Faced with rising costs and cuts in funding, the 1950s presented the Board with many new financial challenges, causing the Board to transform its image and mission, showing that there was more than millinery going on in vocational schools. Behind this transformation was the person of Clarence Griebler, Director of the State Board from 1944-1971, and his progressive personal and professional philosophy, which expertly communicated to business and industry the true value and need for vocational and technical training. Member of the State Communications Board, the Board of Trustees of Stout State College, and State Approval Board for Veterans Programs, as well as President of the American Vocational Association (1946) and National Association of State Directors of Vocational Education (1955), Clarence L. Griebler spent his entire career in the service of Wisconsin's Vocational, Technical and Adult Education system, becoming adept at manipulating the political system of his day. Close friends with many legislators and governors, Griebler was able to exert pressure on them to look favorably on the VTAE system.

Events of the 1960s transformed the Wisconsin vocational-technical system into the post-secondary model of today. Chapter 51, Laws of 1961, authorized the Board to offer associate degrees to students who successfully complete a 2-year technical course. The federal Vocational Education Act, passed in 1963, helped local VTAE boards build new facilities. Acting on this initiative, Griebler set a policy that was to have long-term benefits for the system, namely using the largest share of monies to build facilities. This approach transformed the system's ability to offer more and varied technical programs, attracted more students, and indirectly moved the system towards larger tax units and area districting. With regard to the latter, the most significant state legislation since 1911 was passed in 1965. That year, the State Legislature passed Chapter 292, which required a system of vocational, technical and adult education districts covering the entire state by 1970—bringing vocational education opportunities to all Wisconsin residents. The same legislation also changed the Board's name to the State Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education (WIHV86-A1520). In 1967, Chapter 327 dropped "State" from the Board's name and transferred administration of the Board to the newly created Department of Health and Social Services (WIHV85-A674).

The challenge of the WBVTAE during the 1970s was making the new districts workable. Important changes included unprecedented growth in enrollments and, for the first time in 1975, required tuition at VTAE institutions. The 1970s also saw significant increases in the number of associate degree programs and improved cooperation and coordination with the University of Wisconsin System. In the 1980s, faced with fiscal constraints and rapidly changing technology, efforts were made to build cooperative work experience components into programs to augment basic instruction, introducing students to the very latest equipment and technical developments.

In the past two decades, the Board has increased its focus on life-long learning, education for economic development, and services for groups that formerly had less access to

education, including people in rural areas, the disadvantaged, the disabled, women, dislocated workers, prisoners, minorities, and those with literacy problems. The Board was again renamed in 1993 under Wisconsin Act 399, taking on its current name as the Wisconsin Technical College System Board (WIHV01-A214). Designating the State Board as the Technical College System Board, district VTAE schools thus became “technical colleges.” In 1995, Wisconsin Act 27 transferred administration of the Board to the newly created Department of Workforce Development (WIHV96-A859).

For further information see also:

Paris, Kathleen A. *A Political History of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education, 1985.
Wisconsin *Blue Book*.

Collection Scope and Content Note

Adding further substance and historical context to an already sizable body of WBVTAE records and publications, the Addresses of Clarence L. Griebler document post WWII executive direction and mission communication during his tenure as Director from 1944-1971. These addresses, spanning the years 1944-1967, are arranged chronologically by year and thereunder by date (where applicable), with many including a title or audience or occasion. Although largely complete, years not represented in the series are 1962-1963 and 1966; only 1 address comes from 1967. The latter years of Griebler’s leadership, 1968-1971, are also absent. As a whole, the addresses document Griebler’s influential personal and professional philosophy, which transformed the board into the post-secondary model of today. Speaking to his philosophy of vocational education as a work-skill orientated activity, the files consist primarily of addresses to various conventions, groups, societies, boards and conferences; editorials; radio scripts; and op/ed pieces addressing broad challenges and outlooks for then current and future educational, vocational and training opportunities for youth, adults and veterans. Other subjects addressed include the responsibility and function of advisory committees, opportunities for returning veterans, apprenticeships, industrial opportunities, the growing field of practical nursing, his visit to Germany during 1953, the White House Conference on Education (1955), and a variety of state and federal legislative topics affecting vocational and adult education (e.g. George-Barden Act of 1947). Other items include commencement speeches and a moving tribute to his predecessor, late Director George P. Hambrecht (1871-1943).

Of particular interest here is how the addresses illuminate three of Griebler’s primary goals as Director: 1) to develop full-time day training programs; 2) to rejuvenate advisory committees; and 3) to develop a closer working relationship with organized labor and manufacturers. Thus documenting what Griebler and the Board considered important to address publicly, the records serve to identify executive mission formation and implementation, as well as efforts to effect educational policy, legislation and funding. Other topics well-represented in the addresses include the emerging importance of technology in education, the importance of apprenticeship training for trade and industry, and the ever-present need to meet the needs of veterans.

Consequently, understood more or less as popular or public addresses, most documents tend to lack sufficient detail or elaboration, although a minority of articles or speeches is quite developed. In any case, topics largely absent from the addresses are matters pertaining to teaching or curriculum development, science and engineering, staffing, regional interests, and, unfortunately given its importance to the system as a whole, the Reorganization Bill of 1965.

All of the addresses in this series are textual files. Most are typewritten paper documents, although a couple of speeches to convention audiences appear in published format from their respective convention issues.

Following reappraisal and processing of the papers in 2003, duplicate copies were destroyed and addresses were removed from 3-ring binders and placed in archival folders and boxes.

Additional Descriptive Information

Related Material:

Hambrecht, George P. [Papers, 1841-1943](#), (U.S. Mss 32A).

WBVTAE. [Business and Distributive Education Correspondence and Related Topics, 1950-1971](#), (Series 1588).

----- [Minutes of Board Meetings, 1911-1988](#), (Series 1577).

----- [State Director's Correspondence, 1916-1972](#), (Series 1579).

Administrative/Restriction Information

Acquisition Information:

Transferred to Wisconsin Historical Society according to RDA # 63/092-002. Accession number: 1974/040.

Processing Information:

Processed by Daniel Hartwig, May 2003.

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Executive Records
		Addresses of Clarence L. Griebler, 1944-1967
1	1-7	1944-1957
2	1-3	1958-1967

Index

Note: Numbers indicate Box/Folder. They do not refer to pages of the inventory.

Advisory committees	1/1, 1/3
Area vocation schools	2/1
Community facilities	1/3
Compulsory Student Attendance	2/2
Cosmetology	2/1
Distributive education	1/2
Driver's education	2/1
Education	
Adult	1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 2/2
Needs of youth	1/1, 2/1
Post-secondary	1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 2/3
Rural	1/4
Trade & industrial	1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 2/1, 2/2
Vocational	1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 2/1, 2/2, 2/3
Vocational & adult	1/1, 1/3, 1/2, 1/7, 2/1
Vocational & technical	1/7, 2/1, 2/2, 1/7
Federal supervised education plans	2/3
George-Barden Act of 1947	1/3
Germany	1/5, 1/6
Hambrecht, George	1/3
Housing	1/3
Industry	1/6, 1/7, 2/1
Industrial relations	1/3
Labor	1/6
Legislation	1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 2/1
Life adjustment	1/4
Local boards	2/1
National Defense Education Act	2/1, 2/2
Printing	1/5
Safety	1/5
Services for the mentally retarded	1/6
Standards	1/5
Technology	1/6, 1/7, 2/1, 2/2
Television and adult education	1/6
Training opportunities	1/1, 1/2
Apprenticeship training	1/2, 1/4, 1/5, 1/7, 2/1, 2/2,
Carpentry training	1/7, 2/2
Fire training	2/1
Office training	1/2
Practical nurse training	1/6, 1/7, 2/1
Veterans	1/1, 1/2
Vocational agriculture	1/3, 2/1
Vocational rehabilitation	1/5
White House Conference on Education	1/6
Wisconsin Conference on Education	1/6
Wisconsin Federation of Labor	1/5

Author/Creator: [Wisconsin. Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education.](#)

Title: Addresses of Clarence L. Griebler, 1944-1967.

Quantity: 0.6 c.f. (2 archives boxes)

Arrangement: In chronological segments by year and thereunder by date (where applicable).

Abstract:

Records, 1944-1967, of an accountant, member of the State Communications Board, Board of Trustees of Stout State College, and State Approval Board for Veterans Programs, as well as President of the American Vocational Association (1946) and National Association of State Directors of Vocational Education (1955), documenting his tenure as Director of the State Board of Vocational Education (later Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education) from 1944 to 1971. Adding further substance and historical context to an already sizeable body of WBVTAE series and publications, these records, reflecting his personal and professional philosophy, illuminate his transformative post WWII executive direction and mission communication. Speaking to his philosophy of vocational education as a work-skill orientated activity, the files consist primarily of addresses to various conventions, groups, societies, boards and conferences; editorials; radio scripts; and op/ed pieces addressing broad challenges and outlooks for then current and future educational, vocational and training opportunities for youth, adults and veterans. Other subjects addressed include the responsibility and function of advisory committees, opportunities for returning veterans, apprenticeships, industrial opportunities, the growing field of practical nursing, his visit to Germany during 1953, the White House Conference on Education (1955), and a variety of state and federal legislative topics affecting vocational and adult education (e.g. George-Barden Act of 1947). Other items include commencement speeches and a moving tribute to his predecessor, late Director George P. Hambrecht (1871-1943).

Finding aid: Register filed under Series 2828.

Subjects: [Griebler, Clarence L.](#)

[Wisconsin. State Board of Vocational Education.](#)

[Adult education--Wisconsin--Administration.](#)

[Vocational education--Wisconsin--Administration.](#)

[Technical education—Wisconsin--Administration.](#)

Form/Genre: [State government records.](#)

[Speeches.](#)

RLIN Number: WIHV88-A507

Processing/Weeding Note

During processing of my collection (i.e. WBVTAE: [Subject file, 1944-1961, 1963-1965, 1971-1973, 1989-1993](#)), I discovered that RDA #s for at least two pre-existing series were incorrect and that some materials should have originally been destroyed.

1. Federal Audit Materials, 1991-1993 (Accession # 1998/167; Series 2575 in Reading Room inventory—which now need to be pulled) are listed as falling under RDA # 292/0017. This should be 292/0008, which indicates that they should have originally been destroyed.

*The State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Archives Division*

SEPARATION RECORD

Accession/Call Number: Series 2828

Title of source collection: Addresses of Clarence L. Griebler, 1944-1967.

Donor: Wisconsin. Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education

- Separated during accessioning
 Separated during processing

The material described below has no substantive relationship to the source collection or is more appropriate to another collection and has been separated to:

- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

3 folders of WBVTAE subordinate board meeting minutes, agendas and handouts. Add to existing series of WBVTAE materials in state series of Non Record Minutes and Agendas of Wisconsin State Boards, Departments, Task Forces, Commissions, etc., 1973-- , call number 1988/215.

If this material is not wanted:

- Dispose of as you see fit.
 Return to staff member named below for: inclusion into existing series
 Other:

Staff member & Date: Daniel Hartwig, 5/2/03

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The material described below has no substantive relationship to the source collection or is more appropriate to another collection and has been separated to:

- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

1 folder of Budget Correspondence, 1963-1965. Add to existing series of WBVTAE State Director's Correspondence, 1916-1972, series 1579.

If this material is not wanted:

- Dispose of as you see fit.
 Return to staff member named below for: inclusion into existing series
 Other:

Staff member & Date: Daniel Hartwig, 4/2/03

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

1 folder of Governor's Commission for a Quality Workforce, 1989-1990, meeting minutes, agendas and handouts. Add to state series of Non Record Minutes and Agendas of Wisconsin State Boards, Departments, Task Forces, Commissions, etc., 1973--., call number 1988/215.

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

WBVTAE. *Pilot Study Summary: Performance Measures and Standards for the Wisconsin Technical College System, 1991-1992*, (WBVTAE: 1993). Add to WBVTAE publications in WHS Wisconsin Government Documents stacks.

If this material is not wanted:

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
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Description of material:

WBVTAE. *Client Reporting System Users' Guide, 1992*. Add to WVTAE publications in WHS Wisconsin Government Documents stacks.

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory, *Wisconsin's Businesses and the University of Wisconsin System*, (Madison: University of Wisconsin—Extension, 1988). Add to UW Library System.

If this material is not wanted:

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, *Wisconsin Occupational Projections to 2000*, (Madison: DILHR, 1989). Add to DILHR publications in Government Documents stacks.

If this material is not wanted:

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
 SHSW Museum Visual Materials Archive Other:

Description of material:

Wisconsin Depts. of Public Instruction and Vocational Rehabilitation. *FY 1993 Application for New Grants under State Systems for Transition Services for Youth with Disabilities: Wisconsin's Design for Transition Success*, (Madison: Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, 1993). Add to WVTAE publications in WHS Wisconsin Government Documents stacks.

If this material is not wanted:

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- SHSW Library UW Archives UW Library System
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Description of material:

1 folder of Wisconsin Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Committee Minutes, 1992. Add to existing series of DVR materials in state series of Non Record Minutes and Agendas of Wisconsin State Boards, Departments, Task Forces, Commissions, etc., 1973--, call number 1988/215.

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Description of material:

1 folder of Wisconsin State Board of Vocational Education/State Board of Vocational, Technical and Adult Education Budget Requests, 1963-1965. Separate to existing state series of [Wisconsin. State Executive Budget and Planning Division, Budget files, 1931-1995](#), series 2311.

If this material is not wanted:

- Dispose of as you see fit.
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 Other:

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