

# Guide to the Records of the Central Labor Union of Bridgeport, Conn. BHC-MSS 0114

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on December 23, 2020.

Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Bridgeport History Center  
Bridgeport Public Library  
925 Broad Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
[hclibrarian@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org](mailto:hclibrarian@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org)  
URL: <https://bportlibrary.org/hc/>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5
Series I – Union administration .....	5
Series II - Finances .....	5
Series III – Additional material .....	6

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Central Labor Union of Bridgeport, Conn.
<b>Title:</b>	Records of the Central Labor Union of Bridgeport, Conn.
<b>ID:</b>	BHC-MSS 0114
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1910-1952
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.2 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Acting as a central hub for the numerous unions in Bridgeport, the Central Labor Union of Bridgeport sought to assist the workers in the city however it could, eventually becoming a political force that politicians had to work with or else lose votes. This collection represents the group's financial work, correspondence with members, and those it worked with over the years.

### Preferred Citation

Records of the Central Labor Union of Bridgeport, Conn. (BHC-MSS 0114) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Formed at the turn of the 1900s, the Central Labor Union of Bridgeport, Conn. was organized to help start new unions and to aid those in tight spots. As such, it worked to become a hub where all of the other city's various unions could meet, organize, and have greater strength together as a whole than they would as individual unions. The need for a union like this demonstrates the vastness of Bridgeport's manufacturing industry and the poor conditions that existed at the time.

They were chartered in 1903 by the American Federation of Labor, and through networking and sheer determination, the Central Labor Union became a force to be reckoned with. This parleyed into political power with politicians soon learning that in order to get votes, they had to cooperate with the Central Labor Union. Their work helped to make the city's Labor Day Parade a massive event as well.

Research is currently being conducted with regard to when the Central Labor Union was phased out, as it is unclear at the moment.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

The collection contains primarily minutes, correspondence, reports, and financial information. Of particular note are the dues collected from local unions, offering insight into Bridgeport's various unions and the reach that the Central Labor Union had at the time.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Series I focuses on union administration and includes constitutions, by-laws, minutes, and reports. Series II contains financial information both in the form of bank papers, ledgers, and dues collected from local unions. The final series of additional material includes some organizing information and newspaper clippings.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Bridgeport History Center  
Bridgeport Public Library  
925 Broad Street

Bridgeport, CT 06604

[hclibrarian@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org](mailto:hclibrarian@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org)

URL: <https://bportlibrary.org/hc/>

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

1978.54, gift of Elliot Koeing of Koenig Art Shop. Material was found on the 4th floor of 172 Elm Street in Bridgeport, the former hall of the Carpenters union. Material was stored high over the east stairway on wooden shelves. 1978.89, Donation of Constantino Pietrini

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Central labor councils
- Labor unions.
- Electric industry workers--Labor unions
- Carpenters--Labor unions
- Iron and steel workers--Labor unions

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series I – Union administration

Title/Description	Instances
Constitution and by-laws,, c. 1910, 1917	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 1 folder 1-2
Minutes, 1939-1945	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 1 folder 3-4
correspondence and reports, 1940-1952, undated	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 1 folder 5-7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II - Finances

Title/Description	Instances
Financial papers, 1946-1952, undated	

	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 1	folder 8-9
Lists of affiliated unions, 1945	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 1	folder 10
Ledger, 1927-1937	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 1	folder 11
Ledger, 1937-1954	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 2	folder 1-4
Dues collected from local unions, , 1914-1949	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 3	folder 1-3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series III – Additional material

Title/Description	Instances	
Monster Mass Meeting Card, 1918	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 3	folder 4
Organizing leaflets for Remington Arms. Co Workers, 1942	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 3	folder 5
Clippings, 1946-1950	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 3	folder 6
60th anniversary dinner in tribute to peter Bernard, 1949	BHC-MSS 0114 Box 3	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)