

# THE CAUCUS

---

The F.M.C.S. Retiree Newsletter  
By Friends of FMCS History Foundation

Volume 23, Issue 2

Fall 2012

## FMCS History Archive Story

**Jerome T Barrett, EdD**  
**Founder of the Friends of FMCS History**

Nov. 5, 2012

(An earlier draft of this paper was used for my remarks on October 25, 2012 at a GWU Library gathering, where some of the Friends collection was displayed, as we noted the transfer of the collection to GWU.)

While I have lived the story of the Friends of FMCS History Archive, until now I have not tried to tell the story. So here is the story based on my best recollection and some record checking:

I earned a BA and an MA while working full time as a stationary operating engineer following four years in the Navy. I also did unpaid work as a steward for IUOE and an organizer for AFSCME. After earning my MA, I worked as an NLRB Field Examiner in Detroit and State labor conciliator in Minnesota. In April 1964, I was hired by FMCS as a mediator intern (489) in the Washington D.C. headquarters, where I stayed for just over a year. At the time, FMCS was located in the Department of Labor Building. Finding the intern job not very demanding of my time, I spent hours in the Department of Labor Library reading everything I could find on FMCS, USCS, NMB and early government actions to resolve labor dispute, such as war-time boards and other emergency dispute boards. I discovered speeches and writings of John Steelman, Cyrus Ching, Edgar Warren, Charles Estes, Irving Bernstein, Hilda Kessler Gilbert, W. Ellison Chambers, Rev. Vincent Breen, Edwin E. Witte, Joshua Bernhardt, and Johathan Gossman. I also found works of other NAA and ALMA members and academics. I made copies of the most interesting documents, before I was assigned as a mediator in Milwaukee in Summer 1965.

During my four years mediating in Milwaukee, I continued to gather FMCS materials that interested me, and I began writing about FMCS. Twice during the late 60s, Milwaukee was shutdown as a result of racial riots. In response to those dramatic events, I wrote two published articles suggesting how civil rights and community disputes could be addressed better using collective bargaining and mediation. As a result, I was offered a position by Bill Abner to join him in D.C. with the National Center for Dispute Settlement, testing my idea. After eighteen months

---

## THE CAUCUS

200 N. Maple Ave. No. 212  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
e-mail: winjerwin@aol.com  
website <http://mediationhistory.org>

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