

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Delinda A. Chapman

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Oral History project

Interview # ISE-A-L-2018-030

Dr. Delinda Chapman, former administrator for the State of Illinois, educator, artist and activist for women's equality, was interviewed on the date below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *ERA Fight in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 13, 2018

Location: Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Church,
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Janis Droegkamp, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:29 / 1.48 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 13,
2019.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,
Illinois.

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Abstract

Delinda A. Chapman, *ERA Fight in Illinois*, ISE-A-L-2018-030

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Delinda A. Chapman was born in Decatur, Il., in 1947 to parents Roy and Margere (Daunt) Chapman. Her father was a banker and her mother a community volunteer. Delinda graduated from high school in 1965 and earned her BA at Illinois College in 1969. She was an administrator and teacher in the Springfield Public Schools from 1969-1976 and earned her MA at Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois Springfield) in 1974, specializing in Educational Administration. From 1976-1979 she earned her Ed.D. at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (UIUC). Delinda met her husband John Erickson, who taught at UIUC, and they married in 1979. A job as elementary supervisor took her to Charles County, Maryland from 1978-1980. John and Delinda lived in Guam from 1980-1982; while there she took an appointment as visiting professor at the University of Guam. She returned to Illinois to take a job as an administrator for the state from 1982-2002. She served as chair of the 'celebration of women's right to vote,' commissioned by Governor Jim Edgar. She retired in 2002. She has five step children and several grandchildren.

Delinda was active with the American Association of University Women, and served as President of AAUW-Illinois, Inc. She was also a national board member of AAUW as the Great Lakes Regional Director. The AAUW was a major backer of the efforts to pass the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) as was the League of Women Voters. Delinda was very much a part of those efforts. For ten years beginning in 2001, Delinda produced and hosted the Springfield Access 4 cable television programs "Equity for Women" and "The Learning Curve." Chapman was active on the board of the World Affairs Council of Illinois as registrar for eight years and is active in her Unitarian Universalist church congregation as a service leader, committee chair and wedding officiant. In 2017 she participated in the Women's March on Washington.

Since 2006 Delinda has painted acrylic and mixed media abstracts and figures on canvas, Masonite and recycled paper bags. She shows her paintings at the Springfield Art Association (SAA) gallery, as well as at the Hoogland Center for the Arts and the Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space. She has won awards at juried arts festivals. Delinda has been active on the Prairie Art Alliance board of directors and acted as co-chair during the merger negotiations with the SAA.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Equal Rights Amendment; equity for women; Springfield Art Association; American Association of University Women; Pharmacy Gallery; University of Illinois Urbana Champaign; Sangamon State University; Illinois College; University of Guam; 2018 Women's March; John Erickson;

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