

CMD UUWF NEWSETTER

December 1973

CMD UUWF PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Betty King has had to resign as President of the Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation because of health. Betty is resting at home and has to take life easy. She has served her own local unit and the U.U.W.F. so well for so long, that it will be difficult to carry on without her quiet but strong leadership. There was always a warm sense of security in knowing that things would be done as long as Betty was at the helm. Her leadership will be sadly missed throughout the U.U.W.F.

Betty is resting from a heart ailment at home and is still very much interested in hearing all the news of the UUWF - both from individuals separately, or collectively as to what the units are doing in the district.

We all send her our best wishes for a complete rest, and hope she thoroughly enjoys life at the slower pace.

BOARD MEETING

The CMDUUWF Board meeting was called by the Secretary, Hester Huff, October 6 in LaSalle.

Betty King's resignation as Chairman was accepted with regrets. Board member, Betsy Davis was appointed Vice Chairman to serve in place of the CUairman until the Annual meeting at Allerton in June 1974. The other Board members are: Robin Sprietsma, Maves Bell, Phyllis Brenning, and Rosann White.

Rosann White will take over as communication chairman. Maves Bell is Chicago Area Chairman.

The 1974 Allerton program will be co-chaired by Maves Bell & Phyllis Brenning. They have already begun making plans for another great program at Allerton next June.

The most important concern now is the search for a Chairman to fill Betty King's unexpired term. The nominating committee is asking for suggestions for whomever you think would be qualified to assume the leadership. Robin Sprietsma, Naperville; Mildred Richards, Madison; Rachael Johnson, Kirkwood, Mo.; and Sherry Zoars, Hinsdale are on the nominating committee.

Please give this matter serious consideration. Contact the committee member in your area and submit your suggestion. We need a strong and capable leader. All suggestions should be in by January 15 before the next Board meeting.

Another area to be studied is that of reviewing the present district By-laws. They were adopted after merger in 1964 and seem to be weak in several areas for meeting our needs today. We are requesting all members to read over the By-laws and send all suggestions to Hester Huff. Copies of the Bylaws can be obtained from Hkster, if you do not have access to one. All suggestions must be in to Hbster in time to notify the membership 30 days before the Annual meeting in June.

Remember -- our group's success and existence is due to individual input.

We need YOUR ideas!

CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

Vice Chairman Ms. Betsy Davis
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 Ms. Maves Bell
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ALLERTON - 1973

"Marriage is no way of life for the weak the selfish and the insecure."

In a varied introduction shared by Kay Weller and Robin Sprietsma, examples were given of how the marriage institution is viewed today by big business, by statisticians, by journalists, by the O'Neills in Open Marriage, and how it is lived by the Loud Family on TV's American Family.

Lively discussion groups followed in four areas of family and single living. The three day program added to the theme: Marriage and/or alternatives with an excellent play-reading by Marian Baker, a personal life experiment in giving, and a discussion on marriage counseling by Jean and Russell Bletzer, our Deerfield minister and his wife.

The program was varied by workshops on UUWF units, crafts and sexual identity; by slides and the story of Allerton by The Allerton staff; and a quiet worship service of slides and thoughtful readings.

We had musical evenings of folk dancing, singing, and a dulcimer concert. There was a dress-up reception and late night talks with our interim UUWF Executive Director, Libby Scarlatos. There was an early morning bird walk and a late night Owl Hoot.

A very timely resolution was passed at the Annual Business meeting:

"Because a woman is entitled to limit her own reproductive processes, and because every child born should be a wanted child and because a woman choosing an abortion is entitled to a medically safe procedure at a reasonable fee located so as to eliminate excessive transportation costs;

Be it so resolved that the women of the Central Midwest District of the UUWF work in their various states to make available facilities which will carry out the intent of the January 22, 1973 Supreme Court Decision on Abortion."

Other Business at the meeting concerned the adoption of an amendment to the By-Laws. This deletes the set charge of 50¢ per member for annual dues, and provides that the dues rate per member be designated by the Board and approved by the membership at an annual business meeting. In line with this amendment the membership voted to raise the dues to \$1.00 per local member and/or individual members.

Another amendment states that Board members must attend at least 50% of the Board meetings, and must notify the secretary if she is unable to attend.

One dominant criticism of Allerton was that of the non-smokers objection to smoking during the meetings, workshops, and most strongly during dinner. Perhaps if the smokers were more aware of how disagreeable it is to others, they would be willing to limit their smoking to specific areas and times other than general gatherings.

Our group functions at its best in direct proportion to the in-put of individual members. Many ideas and criticisms are culled from the Allerton evaluation sheets. If you have any ideas and/or suggestions, write the Allerton Co-chairmen for 1974, Maves Bell and Phyllis Brenning.

ALLERTON - 1974

Maves and Phyllis and Pat Scanlon of St. Louis are working on the Allerton program for 1974 to be held June 18, 19, and 20. Considering it is still early, which leaves time for changes, additions, and cancellations, they have drawn up a tentative plan.

"CLOSE THE CIRCUIT, COMMUNICATE!"

Joyce Holmberg will be the keynote speaker. She is a parent-community coordinator for the Rockford Public Schools. She is a former director of League of women voters of Illinois, and a former member of the State Education Committee for the A.A.U.W.

The program will include a bit of history on the UU women ministers of the past given by Lucille Kazmark, and Lee Makeever will present the history of forming Allerton, all of which is meaningful and important to us as UU women.

We will have a worship service at the Sun Singer. This is one of the ideas suggested by members several times before. Implementing it will be tricky considering weather, insects, etc. But knowing the creative powers of our leaders and the adaptability of our members, it will be a great new experience!

An extra added attraction will be slides entitled: "Flicks of Flowers - the Wild Ones."

With this general theme in mind, the committee is asking for suggestions from unit members for themes on various workshops. Please write to Maves or Phyllis in Rockford (addresses in letterhead), or to Pat Scanlon, 9220 Crawford, St. Louis, Mo., 63144.

You will be hearing from the Allerton committee again.

We want to thank Robin Sprietsma Kay Weller for putting together and presenting a great program. It was a timely and thought provoking subject. Whereas we could go home with no definite answers to the general subject, we were stimulated into awareness of the many possible solutions to various situations.

We are looking ahead to the 1974 Allerton Institute on June 18 - 20.

Phyllis Brenning is working on the cookbook compiled of recipes by UU women. She still needs more recipes. Send her your favorite recipe - TODAY!

CHICAGO AREA CLUSTER MEETING

Some fifty Chicago Area UUWF members from about ten alliances met November 3 as the guests of the Evening and Afternoon Alliances of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale.

The minister of that church, John Nichols, presented beautiful, various, and fascinating pictures of exteriors and interiors of Unitarian Universalist churches in the United States. His theme was that our church buildings are significant statements of our religious positions and traditions-- from New England meeting houses to near- twenty-first century architecture.

The Chicago Area cluster a year or so dissolved its formal organization but continues its twice-a-year get-togethers, guided by a coordinator who is also a CMD board trustee, currently Mavis Bell of Rockford. This November meeting was experimentally held on a Saturday rather than a week day, and the experiment did bring out many women who could not otherwise have attended.

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11-17 West Maple
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CMD UUWF
NEWSLETTER

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