

Washington Area Women's Center

Newsletter

Monday

September 11, 1972

1736 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

"IF I WERE A CARPENTER AND YOU WERE A LADY?"

Weekends are Work and Learn times! The next four weekends (and probably every weekend thereafter until we are done) will be an ongoing course in Home Repairs. In response to our last newsletter (at least we know someone reads it), we have a carpenter who has volunteered to share his time and skills with us. Liz Crain (home: 265-2273; Center: 232-5145) is the person to contact if you're interested in working on a carpentry, painting, plumbing, or electrical crew. We still need a plumber and an electrician to share skills and time with crews, so if you know of anyone give Liz a call.

The crews will be ongoing groups who will arrange their own schedule (both work and time) and be responsible for their own respective jobs.

NOTE: We still really could use an electric sander--so, if you could loan one to the Center for a couple of weeks, it would be greatly appreciated.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Sue Hopkins has offered to work on letter writing and contacting suppliers and wholesalers for donations of supplies. She would use help in this project, so if you can help in typing, telephoning, etc., call Sue at 362-7629 (home).

ANNOUNCEMENT!!! The next General Assembly meets on Thursday, September 28, at 8 p.m. sharp.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!! The next three Coordinating Council meetings are scheduled on Thursdays September 14 and 21 and on October 5, at 7:30 p.m.

HOW TO LOSE \$50,000 IN ONE EASY LESSON

After four months of calling managers, booking agents and stars, we have one tentative promise and nothing definite. We've decided to give up on a concert for October 6. The situation has been bleak for the last month, and we were reluctant to give the final axe to the concert, but we seem to have no other recourse. Roberta Flack was our last hope--and she isn't available for October 6.

Mary Clayton is tentative (without confirmation from her manager) and what we would like to do is arrange for a smaller concert at another place at a later date. The problem (and we hate to be repetitive) is that we need more people to work on making the arrangements. Vance and Kathie are going to have less time now, and we won't be able to do any concert, however small, without more women to do phone calling and letter writing (that's mostly what it involves). There will be another meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Center to discuss what we should do now.

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LIVE-IN GUIDELINES

The proposed guidelines for the live-ins at the Women's Center were accepted by the Coordinating Council and the General Assembly. They are as follows:

They will not pay rent.

Men will not be allowed to visit inside the Women's Center.

Women with children will not live there.

No full-time students.

They will have private access to the 3rd floor bathroom.

They will have their private phone.

The Women's Center will be responsible for fixing up the live-in rooms.

Responsibilities

-To attend coordinating council meetings as a non-voting member (to keep up communications about the house to representatives)

-To open up and close the women's center

-To be responsible for the keys (who has them, for how long)

-Help to coordinate the work schedule, on physical labor for the house-what needs to be done, who else is working on a crew

-To have general maintenance knowledge (where are the fuses, garbage procedures, etc.)

-To have or obtain organizing skills of some sort to be able

To work at least 30 hours a week at the women's center

To help coordinate phone/office duty for women coming in to work (filing system, women's center resource book)

To participate in training for emergency crisis phone calls and dealing with office procedures

-To sort mail in the morning according to projects or general

-To keep bulletin boards in order and up to date

-To be responsible for petty cash

Methods of Choosing

In a personal interview the woman applicant will be asked-

-about her past relationship with the women's center (general knowledge)

-what her personal needs are

-what commitment means to her

Also, we are hoping that if she is working with a project that she isn't overly committed to the point where she doesn't have a sense of the women's center as an overall structure.

The Coordinating Council has the right to review any live-in and her fulfillment of responsibilities.

There is a screening committee of five women and there are a few more openings if anyone is interested in interviewing the applicants. Call Ellen Blaik after 6:00 at 966-3729.

If you are thinking about applying to live in the women's center, please put in writing your reasons for wanting to live there and what you think of the guidelines. Put this in an envelope and tack it on the bulletin board addressed "Live-In Committee" no later than September 18(morning). We have to start making dates for interviews, especially because the live-ins are to move in by Oct. 1.

Interviewing will be held the 18th through the 20th. Announcements and approvals to the Coordinating Council will be at the meeting on the 21st and by the General Assembly on the 28th.

August 31 General Assembly

At the August 31 meeting of the General Assembly the room allocations proposed in the last newsletter were approved with a minor change. It was suggested that N.O.W. be offered room #2 instead of #4 and that room #4 be reserved solely for Child Care. There was discussion about the basement being used entirely as a social area. It was felt that perhaps the coffeehouse be reserved one night a month for General Assembly meetings as there is no other large area to use for GA meetings. This suggestion will be discussed by the Coffeehouse group and brought back to the Coordinating Council for further discussion.

The Live-In Guidelines were presented to the C.C. and GA and were approved.

A discussion of whether men should be allowed in the Center led to a consensus that with the exception of the Abortion Counselors there would be no cause for men in the Center. It was decided to consult with the Abortion Counselors as to whether they would make other arrangements for counseling outside of the Center if there were men involved. Much of the discussion originally focussed on N.O.W. and the fact that they had male members. One woman then stated that N.O.W. had said some time ago that they would accept a Center policy of no men and that it would accept a Center policy of no men and that it would not present a problem for them, in that they only had two male members.

This discussion made it clear that we should keep records of our meetings and they be available to everyone. It was decided that we will have a permanent record keeper for minutes of all GA and CC meetings and that they will be kept in the Center and be available to all women.

Lynda Weston then presented a proposal for a publicity campaign which included a press conference and open house for early in October. After a very lengthy discussion it was decided to have a press conference at a location other than the Center. The publicity and press

4.

conference will focus on the opening week of the Center and its services. No open house will be held. It was felt that an opening week of services was much more meaningful than an open house and would prevent the problem of men being in the Center.

Publicity will begin now on our finding a building and that work is being done to repair and renovate it. This publicity will be geared to getting donations for doing the repairs and work that needs to be done before we can open for service. We tentatively scheduled the second phase of publicity for early in October dependent on whether we are ready to formally open.

Many items on the agenda were not covered including electing two more at-large representatives and a Treasurer. The proposal for Affiliate Members was not ready for presentation and was referred back to the Sub-Committee for further development.

The next General Assembly meeting will be on Thursday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center. Please be on time!!

Complete minutes of the August 31 meeting are available at the Center.

COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT - RIGHT NOW

Publicity Committee

There will be an emergency committee meeting Thursday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. at the Women's Center to plan policy and strategy for a publicity campaign for the overall Women's Center. There are probably lots and lots of women that would be interested in the Women's Center - if they only knew about it! Help make this happen by extending the Committee beyond one or two women. The meeting will be quick. Contact Lynda Weston: 833-1200 Ext. 302 (w), 362-7629(h).

Newsletter Committee

Well, well, well. Everybody always wants to know when the next newsletter is coming out, but nobody wants to do anything about it. This may be the last newsletter as far as the two of us who are putting it out feel. We had a newsletter meeting and nobody came. It seems obvious that right now without the newsletter we won't have much of a Women's Center. Call Bev Fisher at 522-3497(h) or the Center(232-5145) or Karen Kollias at 333-3085.

Also from now on if your project group wants anything printed in the newsletter(meetings, news, etc.) leave the article or item in the envelope on the bulletin board in the Center. The next newsletter will be put together the week of October 2.

EAGLES NEEDED

Two out of three calls to the Women's Phone are concerning legal issues that women are having. There is no question that the need for the Legal Counseling Project is great. The Project has divided into three small groups who are specializing in employment, domestic relations, and credit/consumer problems. Each group has been meeting through the summer defining their goals and educating themselves about the law in each of these areas. Now Fall is here and we an office and can begin offer counseling! But something has happened! The Domestic Relations group is hurting! We are losing three of the attorneys who have been working with the group, and we desperately need more women who are committed to this area. But, please, we're not only interested in lawyers- we need any woman who has a commitment to learn domestic relations law and counseling techniques. We have the materials for you to study and have done an initial outline of an interview form.

Originally, we had hoped to be able to start counseling by October 1 or 15. We still would like to do that. But we need more women interested in being trained to be counselors. We haven't worked out our format yet but it will probably be one night a week of offering domestic relations counseling, one night of employment counseling, etc.

The Legal Project (all three groups included) is meeting on Monday, September 18 at 7:30 at the Women's Center in our office. (Which is another thing we have to get together--fixing up our office). We would really like to have you join us at this meeting. If you would like to work on the Project, call Faith Attaguile at 671-7889.

LESBIAN OFFICE MEETING - IMPORTANT - URGENT

Wednesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Center. Please come as we have much to get together.

Sojourner Truth School for Women - CLASSES START OCTOBER 16

15 courses are tentatively scheduled to be offered this fall. They include skills such as auto mechanics and self-defense, introductions to subjects as the women's movement, and education such as speaking. Registration will be by mail October 1-8. The school could use help in publicity and making posters. Contact Ellen Blaik 966-3729 if you can help in any way or want more information on courses.

COFFEE HOUSE MEETING - Friday, September 15, 7:30 p.m., Women's Center

FLASH FLASH FLASH

We desperately need an electric typewriter. Call the Center if you have one to donate or know of one we could get, 232-5145.

D.C. RADICAL FEMINISTS

A group of women got together for the first time on September 3 to discuss radical feminism. We agreed to meet every Sunday from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. These meetings are open to women through the beginning of October at which point we have a structure and direction to work with. Then we will close the meetings, but encourage more groups to get started.

Women interested in Drug Education and Treatment for Women

Barbara Hart (265-8692) is interested in developing programs for women with drug problems and teaching an overdose crisis course. If you have interest in this, please contact Barbara. She would like to talk with other women about this.

ROBIN MORGAN COMING TO D.C.

Robin Morgan, a radical feminist from New York, who edited Sisterhood is Powerful, will be speaking Friday, September 22 at 8:00 at American University in the Woods-Brown amphitheatre (outside).

Also, she would like to do a benefit poetry reading for the Women's Center on Thursday, Sept. 21 or Saturday, Sept. 23. We are now trying to find a place to have the poetry reading and will send out a flyer to announce the exact date, time, and place.



Washington Area
Women's Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 13098
T Street Station
Washington, D.C. 20009

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Washington, D.C. 20011