

UUCWI Social Action Committee
Notes 9/10/2004

Attending: Patricia , Malcolm , Bill, Jack, Chair Nancy
Absent: Toyan

1. welcome Patricia

Nancy welcomed Patricia to the committee. She stated that she is pleased to be part of the group and shared flyers for the Peace Rally scheduled for tomorrow.

2. Financial Report

The report was accepted as written, and then Bill updated information from the Baskets for Books project:

- a. \$2200 was donated to the scholarship fund from proceeds of sales from the Eastshore congregation.
- b. About \$500 was used to purchase another shipment of baskets; these have been received. The prices of baskets has risen to increase income for the women who make them.
- c. The remaining roughly \$300 will be used to pay state sales tax on previous sales.

Bill then mentioned that he would like to sell baskets at our congregation one Sunday soon, then offer remaining baskets to other UU congregations who have expressed interest, including the Woodinville and Pt. Townsend congregations. Malcolm suggested taking baskets to Seabeck.

Bill has also contacted both the *UU World* and the *South Whidbey Record* about feature articles regarding this project. He is waiting to hear back from the *World*; the *Record* does not have room right now with the start of school sports.

3. Old Business:

- a. action items from August meeting
All items were completed. Jack has had difficulty finding a place that can make the county road safety video into a CD, but he's making progress. It appears that the first CD will cost about \$30. The county has expressed interest in purchasing CDs; Jack will see if they will purchase the CDs and we can make a copy from them at a much lower price.
- b. charity recipients through December
Nancy led a discussion of naming charities to receive our service collections. The following suggestions have been made:
 - i. October: Anne Heller's Churchworks Fund (Dave C. – agreed already)
 - ii. December: Good Cheer (Bill G.)
 - iii. Operation Sack Lunch (Rene S.)
 - iv. Back-to-School Project (Mavis C.)

The Back-to-School Project, while a worthy goal, purchases gift certificates at Wal-Mart for recipients. The committee was not favorably

inclined to support a program in which recipients had to shop only at one store, especially a store that is not locally owned. No one at the meeting had enough information about Operation Sack Lunch to determine whether to donate a service collection. After much discussion, we decided to determine which Sunday's collection should be donated each month, then see if the program coordinates with a charity. October's collection will be taken on the 24th and will go to the Churchworks Fund. December's collection will be on the 26th and will be donated to Good Cheer. November's collection will be taken on the 7th when Sharon Parks speaks. We will ask Sharon if she would like to suggest a charity recipient before we make a decision.

Actions needed: Nancy will find out more about Operation Sack Lunch for our next meeting. Bill will contact Sharon Parks regarding a charity recipient.

c. Adopt-A-Road cleanup

Our final cleanup for the season is scheduled for October 2nd.

d. voter registration: Campaign for Communities (below)

While we all felt that voter registration is a priority, we decided not to join the Campaign for Communities. It's too late to take a plate collection to donate, and we don't have the resources to volunteer in communities of color that will be targeted by this project. However, Nancy indicated a willingness to spend a half day doorbelling in a low-income community to register voters if someone else can organize this. Malcolm will continue to offer our assistance to the League of Women Voters.

Action needed: Malcolm will again contact LVW volunteers to see if we can assist with voter registration.

e. topic/speaker for Sunday service Dec 26 (Kathy McLaughlin)

Bill updated the group on Kathy's scheduled presentation on December 26th. Because he will not be in town then, Nancy agreed to contact Kathy and coordinate her presentation with the service leader.

Action needed: Nancy will contact Kathy.

4. New Business:

a. countering vote suppression (Malcolm)

While voter suppression by political parties is a concern, we did not see any role for this committee in this project.

b. stem cell research video (Malcolm)

Malcolm has been contacted by a woman who has a video about stem-cell research that she wants to show to educate the public about this issue.

The committee decided that we support sponsoring such educational events a few times a year and would like to show the video provided it does not contain political material.

Action needed: Malcolm will contact this woman to see if he can preview the video and schedule a showing for our congregation and the public.

c. Sudan action (<http://capwiz.com/uusc/mail/?agencyindid=1043&type=AN> or <http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/sudan/activism.html>)

Nancy led a brief discussion of action to be taken on the situation in Sudan. Individual actions are encouraged, but we did not see a role for this committee.

Action needed: Nancy will write something for the October newsletter encouraging congregants to investigate the Sudan situation on the UUA website and take action.

5. Next meeting
9:30 am on Friday, October 8th at Trinity