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The Membership Table

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those currently available to NWSA. Thus it will fall to the Council to consolidate, refer, sort into priorities, and begin to act upon particular recommendations of the Delegate Assembly.

The meeting was ably chaired by Shauna Adix, assisted by Barbara Gerber and Kathy Brooks.

Submitted by Shirley Frank

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

One of the many challenges to the NWSA in Lawrence came from the Association’s Finance Committee, who, after a summary of the Association’s financial history, made several specific recommendations based on their reflection about the relationship between our past financial behavior and our continuing effort to understand ourselves as a feminist organization. The recommendations should be the beginning of a discussion among all our members of the relationship between feminism and money.

The Finance Committee recommended that the NWSA as an organization dedicate itself to developing an attitude of fiscal responsibility in the Coordinating Council and the membership as a whole. To this end, the committee recommended that a membership drive be a top priority for the next year and that each member make that drive a personal responsibility, basing her efforts to enlist her friends’ and colleagues’ support on the importance of paying for the value received from sisters at least as much as we must pay for what we receive from the patriarchal marketplace.

The remaining recommendations suggested ways of developing consciousness about the relationship between feminist philosophy and the Association’s financial policy. They are: first, that the Coordinating Council dedicate its next Council Exploration Session to the subject of our attitudes as feminists toward money. Second, that the next National Convention include sessions on fiscal responsibility for all of us. Third, that we consciously work in our own administrative and organizational activities on providing a model for running an organization in a nonexploitative, pro-feminist manner. And fourth, that each proposal or resolution to the NWSA henceforth include a financial statement projecting direct and indirect costs as well as potential and actual funding sources.

The Finance Committee report challenges the Association to begin a dialogue about feminist philosophy and money, in which we invite all our members to join — in the pages of the Women’s Studies Newsletter, as well as in regional meetings and at next year’s Convention.

Submitted by Barbara Hillyer Davis, chair of the NWSA Finance Committee

THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE

In the month before the First NWSA Convention, the National Women’s Studies Association doubled the number of memberships received in the first four months of the 1979 dues year. On the first day of the Convention, 100 more members joined, followed by another 50 to 75 in the remaining days of the meeting, when we were not able to staff the membership table full time. Returning to the National Office, we found we had received approximately 50 additional memberships, and numerous requests for membership information.

As of June 1979, this year’s NWSA membership was already more than twice the total figure for 1978: around 600 in 1978, more than 1,200 so far in 1979. Many of the new memberships are group members, thus bringing us closer to the goal of involving all women’s studies programs, feminist school and community educational groups in the work of the Association. Many of the letters received mentioned the Convention or reports from Kansas as being the deciding factor in the decision to join and support NWSA.

The Convention served membership development in another way as well. The Association did not have money or personnel to send out renewal notices in 1978; at Kansas we were able to remind people of lapsed memberships. We were also able to talk with members who have missed mail or Newsletters.

Success in building membership brings more work. We know that new members should be contacted after they join, and that all current members need to be reminded that the dues year expires in December. Caucuses need to be informed of new members who indicate interest in their

![The end of a long day.](image-url)
activities, and regions should receive the names of new members living in their area. Current membership development plans include production of a brochure, computerizing and coding records, and organizing a renewal campaign.

Those interested in working on membership development who are planning to attend meetings at which NWSA materials could be distributed should contact the National Office to make the necessary arrangements. Those interested in working on a coordinated national membership campaign this fall should contact Paula Mayhew, chair of the Membership Committee (37 St. Paul's Road, Ardmore, PA 19003), to offer ideas and assistance. Those in the Washington, D.C., area with time to offer to the National Office will be welcome as volunteers. Our dues year is only half over; we can yet double and redouble our efforts, our numbers, and our strength.

Submitted by Donna Whittlesey

NWSA RESEARCH COMMITTEE

At its February 1979 meeting, the NWSA Coordinating Council established an Ad Hoc Committee on Research and Grant Sponsorship. Its initial mandate was to propose guidelines for relationships between NWSA and its members, subgroups, and outside groups regarding endorsement or co-sponsorship of ongoing or new women's studies research; and to outline for the Council priorities for NWSA's own long-term research and grant-writing. This work is now in progress.

At a Convention session called "Institutional Research in Women's Studies: Planning Sessions for the National Institute of Education and Related Research," the panel, reporting on recent state-of-the-art surveys in various areas of institutional research on women's studies, emphasized the need for ongoing and standardized collecting of data. Eight of the panelists read summaries of N.I.E.-sponsored monographs on women's studies to be published in late 1979: on reentry women; minority women; teaching effectiveness; student career choices; women's studies graduates; faculty development; women's studies in the community colleges; and evaluation and institutional impact. Their recommendations should provide a major basis for further data-gathering.

During the discussion that followed the panel, women's studies practitioners suggested that a column called "Research Notes" appear regularly in the Women's Studies Newsletter. Those interested in working on subcommittees in this and other related areas should write to Chris Bose, Women's Studies (HU 359), SUNY/Albany, Albany, NY 12222.

ABSTRACTS WANTED

Abstracts of papers and sessions presented at the First NWSA Convention are being collected by Barbara Parker, Women's Studies Program, University of Colorado/Boulder, 17 Hillside Court, Boulder, CO 80309. A Publications Subcommittee, working with the editorial board of Frontiers, is considering the production of a special issue of Convention papers to appear in the spring of 1980. They are also exploring the separate publication of collected abstracts.

NOTES ON THE STAFF CAUCUS AT KANSAS

Have you ever overheard someone refer to an office worker as "my" secretary or "my" work-study student? When the possessive pronoun is used in a feminist workplace, what does it imply about relationships? Are links between feminist practice and principle being affirmed or denied? The question of hierarchical language was one of many practical and pedagogical issues shared by staff, faculty, students, and others during the NWSA Convention.

At least five different sessions at Lawrence provided evidence that office conflict in women's studies programs is neither isolated nor unique. Participants shared their experience of conscious and unconscious bias toward office workers, and discussed the need for a Staff Caucus of the NWSA.

Feminist objectives that include a nonhierarchical workplace frequently conflict with the need for one or more persons to complete the routine and sometimes tedious paper work necessary both for program credibility and for long-term survival. The preliminary report of the "Survey for Support Staff / Office Workers in Women's Studies Programs," presented during one session, argued that the resolution of hierarchical conflict is vital to program success, both in terms of feminist principle and in terms of getting the work done.

Members of the Staff Caucus who joined forces during the NWSA Convention believe that there are ways to transform the workplace, and that the promise and the challenge of women's studies are important.