

JUNE, 1986
CULT AWARENESS NETWORK
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
C. W. Post campus of Long Island University
Brookville, N.Y.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Loomis on Thursday afternoon, June 5, 1986.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Engel, Anne Greek, Hope Hinde, Louise Hudson, Ron Loomis, Melba Neale, Harry Stanton and Josie Zelov*. Michael Rokos was unable to attend.

A. OFFICER REPORTS:

1. PRESIDENT: Ron Loomis

a) TREASURER:

- 1) Ron apprised the Board of the fact that, for personal reasons, Kay Resner had to resign from the board and from her position as Treasurer. Louise Hudson moved that the Board accept with regret Kay's resignation. Hope seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Ron Loomis nominated Hope Hinde for the position of Treasurer. She was elected unanimously.
- 2) Since Kay's resignation, the National Office has reported that the CAN income from January through April was \$24,673.07. Expenses for the same period were 22,590.04.

b) BOARD VACANCY:

- 1) To fill the vacancy on the board created by Kay's resignation, Hope moved that the Board appoint Josie F. Zelov of Bryn Mawr, PA., who was next in line on the nominating committee list. Anne seconded this motion, and it was so passed.
Affiliates

2. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Anne Greek

- a) Anne expressed encouragement with the new energy in our organization. She feels that Affiliates respond to this excitement.
- b) Anne also reported that CAN/PAC has moved into a public office, and that they are subjected to much harassment from the cults.
- c) She reported that Fr. Kent Burtner will become a full time member of their staff.

3. SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Paul Engel

- a) Paul mentioned that he is dealing with the problem of La Rouché candidates in his job, and suggested that this is one area where we

7. Focus: Paul Engel

- a) Focus is progressing with their brochure, and expect to have it ready in time for the October Conference.
- b) Boston and Portland, OR Focus groups are active, and the NY/NJ and Washington, D.C. groups are having a beach party soon, guests of Anne Lindgren.
- c) Relationship of Focus to CAN:
 - 1) History: Paul gave a brief history of Focus, saying that the first meeting was held in D.C. in 1982. Eight committees were formed at that time. The support group has continued.
 - 2) Growth: When Paul joined the National Board in 1983, Focus became more similar to an Affiliate.
 - 3) Needs: Focus members want and need to keep their separate identity, but cannot yet operate on their own. They should be self-defining, and state their own goals.
 - 4) Proselytizing: There should be an agreement that there shall be no proselytizing or evangelizing by Focus members towards other Focus members.
- d) Expert witness list (Former members)
 - 1) There have been only a few requests for their services. It may be because lawyers are not aware that this list exists.
 - 2) The list should be updated, and lawyers made aware of it. This list is a joint project of CAN, AFF and FOCUS.

8. AWARDS: Louise Hudson

- a) Letters and questionnaires were sent to Affiliates on April 29th. Lists of nominees will be sent to the committee and to the Board. The committee will recommend recipients for the Ryan Award and the Hall of Fame Awards to the Board, which will make the final selection. Louise, in cooperation with the Board, will arrange for the presentations.

9. CAN/AFF RELATIONS: Ron Loomis

- a) Dr. Michael Langone, Director of Research for the American Family Foundation, joined the CAN Board of Directors meeting on the afternoon of June 6th to discuss the proposed cooperation of these two organizations on the establishment of a joint "CULT INFORMATION SERVICE". In preparation for Dr. Langone's visit, our Board had tentatively restructured his proposed organizational chart, and prepared a list of questions for him.
- b) Dr. Langone briefed the Board on his background, education, experience, and his contact with Dr. John Clark, who in 1977 was just beginning to build a reputation as a mental health professional who spoke out against

9 - b), CAN/AFF relations (continued)

cults. In 1979 Dr. Clark and Dr. Langone joined forces with Kay Barney, a founder of Citizens Freedom Foundation, Dr. Robert Schecter, Roger Daley and Guy Ford. Together they formed the American Family Foundation, dedicated to scholarly research about the cult phenomenon, and the education of the public and professionals. In 1981 they received their first large grant, gathered their Advisory Board and moved to an office in Weston, MA. Financial problems began in the fall of 1985. They had to lay off paid staff, reduce their budget, and finally give up their office. At this point (spring of 1986) things are looking more optimistic. It is felt by many that cooperation between CAN and AFF would benefit both organizations. More study will be done.

- c) The Board discussed with Michael the proposed Cult Information Service, which would be a joint effort. Michael agreed that he and CAN members could work together. This project would be under the direction of a CIS officer, responsible to a Board composed of four CAN and four AFF representatives. The CIS would refer people to the proper professional or Affiliate as appropriate.
- d) Paul moved that we adopt the proposed agreement with AFF to establish a joint Cult Information Service (after consultation with Daphne Green, President of AFF and reactions from our own Affiliates.) Anne Greek seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
- e) Ron asked that Board members review very carefully, and edit the CIS proposal which we received. After Board members' response, he will rewrite it, and send a letter to the Affiliates.

10 EDUCATION and PUBLIC AWARENESS: Ron Loomis

- a) Relative to the White House Briefing on April 4th, Ron indicated that the education of young people about cults was of primary interest to members of the White House staff.
- b) Reg brought up Michael Rokos' presentations for young people. He puts a class through a hypothetical cult indoctrination session in order to help them understand the devious recruiting methods of the cults. The Board thought that it would be very helpful to have Mike video-tape his presentation and make it available to high school students and those of us who present programs to them.
Jim ~~Mabrey~~ of the NY/NJ Affiliate is doing something similar. Sandy Andron's "Cult Evading" curriculum should also be included.
- c) A video and film committee should be added to our list of committees. They would review existing videos and films, and inform affiliates of those they think are worth-while. They would also work on the development of new videos and films, which would be supplied to the national Office as a resource for affiliate use. Steve Hassan, Bob Brandebury, Dave Clark and Bob Tucker have all developed film libraries, and they should be consulted. If local affiliates sell any of these tapes they should receive a percentage of the profits.