

2003-2004 Review of The National Service Conference of The American Ethical Union

President - Rose L Walker websites: cebo.org; and www.isdac.com
Treasurer - Lucile Kleiman

Main Representative at the UN - Martha Gallahue (Brooklyn)
Alternate Representatives - Phyllis Ehrenfeld (Bergen) and Lyndon Willburg (Queens)

Steering Committee - Rose Walker, Lucile Kleiman, Lyndon Wilburg, Kurt Johnson, Phyllis and Sylvian Ehrenfeld, and Martha Gallahue. Our meetings are open and we enjoyed participation from Carol Rost, Elaine Berman, Paul Raynault, Elliot Gruenberg, and Betty Levin. We hope to increase participation by inviting younger members to come to these meetings.

Liaisons from various Societies and outreach initiatives-

- MAL - Richard Hobbs, Esq. (Human Agenda Project)
- Bergen - Paul Raynault, (Student World Assembly)
- Brooklyn- Kurt Johnson, (Interspiritual Dialogue Community)
- Societiy- Bergen - P/S Ehrenfeld
- Boston - Bill Mueller
- Brooklyn - Kurt, Martha
- Chicalgo - Dorothy Lockheart
- Essex - Barbara Meyerson, Leader
- Long Island - Ann Klaeyson, Leader
- New York - Carol Rost, (EAC committee)
- North Carolina - Janet Broughton
- NOVES - Steve Drill, Willa Pressman
- Philadelphia - Nick Sanders
- Queens - Lyndon wilburg
- St. Louis - Joyce Guard
- Westchester - Bart Worden

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The NSC enjoyed both a successful luncheon and lively workshop at the 2003 Assembly in Philadelphia. Our luncheon speaker, Susan Benesch, from Amnesty International USA, addressed the issue of refugees in the US and a human- rigths based approach response strategy to justice issues in the US; the workshop "Using our Core Convictions to Raise AEU's Visibility at the UN" was also well received. In it we discussed creation of networks as a means to synergize our convictions of interrelatedness and interconnection.

Platforms - From the NSC, Platforms were given in Brooklyn, New York, Boston, Queens, Long Island, and inNorthern Virginia, In addition, we are grateful to

Societies who plan platforms independently on UN day, such as Philadelphia, Bergen, Essex, New York, Brooklyn, Queens and others. We have addressed concepts such as global citizenship, and developing a global perspective to uncover universal values that make for a better ethical culture.

Our work at the UN has involved the efforts of three people: Phyllis Ehrenfeld, who has with Sylvain Ehrenfeld written most of UN reports posted on CEBO site and for *The Dialogue*. Lyndon Wilburg, who just stepped down as co-chair of the subcommittee on Racism of the Committee on Human Rights to spend time at the briefings on Thursday am;

Martha, who is serving as Chair of the Networking Committee for the DPI/NGO World Conference in September at the UN; and liaison between the DPI and NSC. Martha is also an active member of The Faith/Ethics Based Committee for an International Criminal Court at the UN. We contribute among us between 30-40 hours a week for this service. In addition, all of us are on the committee of The Council of Ethics Based Organizations, a collaborative effort that began when Mary Beaty of AHA created a website which serves as resource and newsletter of Humanist activities at the UN. We have held three meetings this year and created our first Resolution. This Resolution has been submitted jointly to the AEU and AHA Boards of Directors.

We have nurtured and participated in the launching of three major initiatives:

The Interspiritual Dialogue Action Community in partnership with Brooklyn Society; this initiative will hold a workshop at The World Parliament of Religions in Barcelona, Spain, July 7-13.

The Human Agenda Project founded by Richard Hobbs, MAL, in San Jose California. Richard is a bilingual immigration attorney and a University Trustee within the California system. In response to his personal work on human values and response to participation in The Finance for Development Conference in Monterey, he continues to heighten the impact of unequal economic distribution with particular focus on immigrants.

The Student World Assembly - this is a global project funded by the Paul Raynault Foundation whose purpose is to develop a grassroots global experience with direct democracy. This project reaches out to 13 countries and celebrated an East Coast launch on March 26, 2004, at The UN Church Center. Mary Beaty(AHA), Margaretha Jones(IHEU), Kurt Johnson and I(NSC) facilitated his launch.

We are preparing for our 75th anniversary celebration on May 29th, 2004. We will hold elections then, honor Rose Walker as she retires, commemorate our history through a series of scrapbooks that have been created over the last months, and remember those who came before with stories etc. John Hartman, Executive Director, will serve as emcee and we will acknowledge Philadelphia for its all member group membership. We will also have display tables of UN resources. This event will be held at The New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th St. NYC, 10023 from 1pm-4pm. Lucile Kleiman (New York Society) has chaired this

Luncheon committee and given countless hours to its success.

The Executive Committee which includes both Officers and steering committee will meet again in early Fall to plan its next steps. We are hoping also for one telemeetings with liaisons in May.

Our By-Laws state that we are open to membership to anyone whose convictions are Humanist. Members of NSC are not required to be members of The AEU. We raise funds through membership dues to be used for materials and communications only. We are otherwise entirely volunteer.

Sincerely,

Martha Gallahue, President - Elect of The National Service Conference of The AEU