

*****All money collected for T-shirts are turned over to Jeff Perry, Local 300 Treasurer.**

FIELD ASSOCIATES PROGRAM (voluntary)

The Caucus members have been concentrating on the Field Associate (voluntary program). Field Associates assist the Caucus in distributing our newsletters and inform the membership of Caucus activities.

The FA's also gather feedback from the membership so that we may form a plan of action or project related to women's issues, and issues that affect us as working families. To date, our FA's numbers are at 30 volunteers.

The FA net-workers have proven to be successful. The program has provided the extra mechanisms necessary to unite the membership.

Member, Yvette Johnson inquired if a male member could volunteer as an FA.

Chair Yancey stated that some issues that concern women also affect men. We have no problem with any male member who wishes to assist us in the Field Associate position.

*****Branch Presidents, who do not have a sitting member on the Caucus, have been asked to canvass the membership for volunteers for the FA Program.**

NEWSLETTER

Our next issues will address Women's Health Month (October). Items of interest for the newsletter are solicited.

The Caucus acknowledges the assistance of the Branch Presidents in supporting us in our efforts to empower our Sisters in the Local through education and organization.

We sincerely thank the BP's for giving updates on Caucus activities through their newsletters and providing us with space on their bulletin boards.

Making Strides Walk

The Caucus will participate in the walk to fight against Breast Cancer. The Caucus will again offer (Sister-2-Sister logoed T-s) to those participating in the walk with a Caucus member. We will coordinate our efforts with the (vendor) responsible.

The purpose of this special project (T-shirt) for the Making Strides Walk is to demonstrate solidarity.

Yvette Johnson has been appointed Special Project Coordinator for this venture. Anyone interested in purchasing these shirts, please contact Sister Johnson at the Brooklyn (GMF) office.

NBCF

The Caucus will again collect for our official Charity, the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF).

The Foundation provides free mammography service, health education, and other free medical services to under privilege women in poor communities, who do not have access to these types of services. Last year the Caucus raised \$1600 in donations. The Local Executive Board approved a contribution of \$400 to the Foundation.

New Business

Labor Movement Activities

A discussion ensued on getting more women to actively participate in the labor movement.

The Bush Administrations' plans regarding FMLA, Social Security and Postal Reform harms working families. It is important that we educate our sisters on these issues.

Any changes that undermine these key pieces of legislation will severely affect the safety nets they provide to women and disproportionately harm women and minorities. Women depend on Social Security and FMLA and many other services more than men.

In discussion, the plans that the President is promoting would exacerbate current problems already associated with these programs. These programs must be strengthened not whittled away.

The Caucus has already distributed a newsletter addressing these issues. Due to the upcoming Local Contract negotiations, we will again make the membership aware of these proposed changes.

We will also solicit input (via survey) from the membership to submit to our National Officers regarding our Contract.

Women's Welcome Package

The Caucus has been focusing on how we could assist the Branch Presidents in resolving workplace issues that combine with family obligations.

The number of women entering the Mail Handler craft has greatly increased. Our membership (women) stands at approximately 43%. The Caucus is concerned that many women bring with them a multitude of family issues that can not be addressed through the grievance process.

To address this situation, the Caucus has been gathering information on various agencies the membership can use to resolve personal issues. The information will cover, government agencies, Congressional leaders, Community, Teen Hotlines, Human Resources, Veterans issues, School Advocates/Education, etc.

The members also discussed formulating an "Information Bank".

OPEN FORUM

WORKPLACE (Women's Concerns)

The Caucus discussed how we could further our efforts in helping women in our Local resolve workplace issues. Childcare and FMLA issues are a concern for many of our members. Light duty jobs are also of great importance.

Member Johnson suggested that we research job assignments that will enhance our light duty pool. There are a limited number of light duty positions available in the Mail Handler craft. Many members suffer loss of income during these times.

Caucus members were asked to address these issues with the Branch Presidents and assist them in identifying assignments (compatible with medical limitations) to negotiate additional positions under the LMOU.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

In discussion, Caucus member's focused on our agenda and goals. All efforts in solidly executing our message to the membership are key elements if we are to be successful as a Committee.

Chair Yancey reiterated the message, that volunteerism is a personal commitment. When one fully commits to networking, only then are we successful in educating and organizing our members.

Caucus members and FA's will increase their efforts in communicating to the membership, that active participation in the Union movement empowers us to resolve Contract matters and helps us to gain support from Congressional leaders on postal issues.

We will also work to increase our membership pool by getting non-members to sign up.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Yancey
Chair-Wm's Caucus