

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 24, 1997

ANNUAL MEETING
SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY
March 24, 1997
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

7:00 Reception and Displays

7:30 Guest Speaker

*"The Role of the D.C. Agenda
and Current Happenings in D.C."*

*Carrie Thornhill
Senior Program Officer, The D.C. Agenda Project*

8:00 Announcements and Presentation of Annual Reports

8:15 Presentation of Community Service Awards

*8:30 Announcement of the Results of the SWNA Board Election
Charlotte Brooks*

*8:35 Installation of Officers and New Board Members
Thelma Jones, Notary Public, D.C.*

8:45 Adjournment



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996 (APRIL 1996-MARCH 1997)

This thirty-second year of the founding of Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) was an exciting and very productive one. This report will begin with a brief description of the association followed by program issues and concerns of focus during assembly meetings. The financial report of the treasurer and summaries from each of the task forces and standing committees will conclude the report.

SWNA – WHAT IS IT?

SWNA is the local civic association in near Southwest, D.C. whose objective is to improve the quality of life for all its residents.

Voting membership in SWNA is open to all persons eighteen years or older who reside in Southwest Washington, north of the Anacostia River. Non-voting membership is open to a representative of any organization having governmental, business, welfare or religious interests in the area. No dues are required for membership or the right to vote. SWNA affairs are managed by an elected volunteer executive board, composed of the officers and committee chairs and district representatives.

The SWNA board meets monthly. Special thanks goes to Southeastern University for providing a space for the meetings and to Carole Early for her facilitating role.

MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

SWNA holds general assemblies on the last Monday of the month. Exceptions to that schedule include July, August, November and December, months in which summer vacations and major holidays occur. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall has continued to be our main location for the Assembly meetings. Its central location, ease of access and the graciousness of Pastor Mayberry and his trustees have made this a mainstay for assembly programs. Other locations for SWNA assemblies include the boys and girls club #4, (Alvin Hudgens, Director) and Second Baptist Church (Rev. J. Franklin and his Trustees), and Carron Baptist Church (Rev. L. Allen and his Trustees). All three of those organizations have earned our thanks. Meeting attendance ranged between 30 and 60 persons.

ASSEMBLY ACTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR FISCAL 1996-97

SYPHAX SCHOOL SITE

Initiating discussion about the Syphax School site and presentations of alternative ideas, and resolving to support affordable housing on the site was a major focus. Under the capable leadership of Marc Weiss and a summer MBA intern, Eric Lofgren, a charette (an architectural exercise) was held bringing together community ideas for the design of the site. At present a response to the D.C. Government's request for proposals is in process. Watch for further reports in *The Southwester*.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Planning environmental clean ups, petitioning governmental agencies on issues of trash collection, and idling of tourist buses and the general care of the streets and surroundings was another important focus. Collaborative planning with Capital Park II and IV, the 4th Street group, the resident council presidents and "Earth Works" resulted in a spectacular "team up to clean up" event. Mary Ann Bailer and Sandy Schwarz spearheaded that clean up event.

ZONING ISSUES

Hearing from public officials on housing and zoning plans for Southwest, joining with the ANC and resident organizations in concerns related to the Waterfront developments and rezoning resulted in testimony before community hearings.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Conducting a community holiday party and collecting gifts for the homeless and for children in Southwest....were activities which brought us together as a community! The cooperation of Jenny's Restaurant, the Waterfront Fish Market and Holiday Inn provided the food and the convivial atmosphere for the holiday party.

HEALTH AND WELFARE REFORMS

Informing the community about the changes in health services and the coming welfare reforms resulted in sessions with officials from DC General Hospital, Alphonse Coles and Charles Rosseau on the merger of DC General and health clinics, and with Debbie Weinstein of Childrens' Defense Fund and Suzanne Clay of the Commission on Social Services. These meetings were ably moderated by Ethel James Williams and Rick Bardach, respectively.

OTHER CONCERNS

Additional community concerns resulted in submission of a petition for a bottle bill, and the formation of a task force on the Waterside Mall to focus on the future of the mall after EPA departs. Former SWNA President, Margaret Feldman, chairs the Waterside Mall Task Force. Exploration of a recycling project for employment opportunities was also a focus by Joe Rauscher. Taking leadership roles truly is part of the fun and responsibility of being a resident of Southwest and a member of SWNA.

Candidates' forums were sponsored by SWNA and ANC 2D during the primary runs off and the general election.

AN ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL FOR SOUTHWEST

Southwest Arts Festival is being revived. . . . SWNA was the original sponsor of this cultural event which highlighted our beautiful diverse community on the Waterfront. Planning is underway under the direction of the committee chairs. . . Mary Ann Bailer, Barbara Erhlich and Gene Harley.

IN CONCLUSION

As President, I have had the opportunity to take part in the city wide Federation of Civic Associations and the Federation of Citizens Association, as well as represent SWNA in meetings on zoning, transportation plans, budget and financial plans, and public safety hearings.

I have been honored by your selection of me for President and by the support I have received from each and every member of the Executive Board and the membership of the Assembly. Special thanks to the chairpersons of the Youth Task Force, and the Scholarship Committee, Dale MacIver and Barbara Murray, the Editor of *The Southwester*, Carole Early for their dedication. SWNA brings together wonderful and caring persons which makes all the difference in how an organization functions. I think we can all be proud of this 32 year old organization! It is a most vital part of our community!



SUMMARY OF 1996 FINANCES SOUTHWEST
COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC. for
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly
(Prior to annual audit)

INCOME, January 1 - December 31, 1996

General Fund	\$ 3,143.69
Southwester Scholarship	\$ 9,807.20
Fund Youth Act. Task	\$16,325.00
Force Total Income 1996	<u>\$ 5,132.00</u>
	\$34,407.89

EXPENSES, January 1, - December 31, 1996

General Fund	\$ 5,128.79
Southwester	\$11,688.70
Scholarship Fund	\$14,221.36
Youth Act. Task Force	<u>\$15,746.35</u>
Total Expense 1996	\$46,785.20

BALANCE IN BANK AT END OF 1996 \$45,110.09



S.W. YOUTH ACTIVITIES TASK FORCE (SWNA)
1996 ANNUAL REPORT

The 1996 program of the S.W. Youth Activities Task Force brought services to 333 youth and involved sixteen regular volunteers and a cost of \$15,602.75.

By working with a dozen other organizations who had programs available to Southwest Youth, the task force was able to leverage our dollars for the greatest impact. Effectiveness of our effort was increased by our volunteer task force members passing out fliers promoting these programs, reaching parents at their homes, driving youngsters to day camp activities and sometimes helping with breakfast or lunch for the youth. By using a camera to follow the S.W. youth we helped *The Southwester* record their activities and made photo boards for the S.W. branch library. Volunteers also conducted our fundraiser at Foxtrappe.

Following are the activities we sponsored and the goals we achieved:

1996 Goals and activities	Amount spent in 1966 no. of youth reached
1. Summer enrichment	
A. Day camps in summer -(Sidwell Friends BB, Challenger Center, Howard U BB, Stallion touch FB, Living Stage)	\$4,980 – 88 youths,
B. Overnight camps in summer - (Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club Camp Brown, Boy Scout camp, Lutheran Church camp, Family & Child Service Camp Moss Hollow, D.C. Rec. Camp Riverview, Central Union Mission camp)	\$2,835 – 46 youths
2. Prepare for job market	\$122.75 – 57 youths
A. One day briefing on summer job procedures (with pizza, mentors)	
B. Support Mayor's job program	\$660
C. Pay stipends for after-school jobs (Club 4, SW Library, Project Wonder in summer)	\$4,337 – 11 youth for 5 wks 4 for 1 week, 1 for 3 wks
D. Sought summer openings at federal agencies	
3. Encourage through rewards	
A. (Club 4 trophies, Dollars for Scholars)	\$1,700 – trophies for 80; 31 cash awards
4. Tutoring	
A. Help finance S.A.T. classes of Second Baptist at library	\$250 – 15 youth
5. Raise funds for above activities	
A. Foxtrappe fundraiser in May	cost \$618 to raise \$5,000 from 114 donors (Balance of 1996 expenses paid from grants from past years)
Total spent in 1996	\$15,502.75 serving 333 youth, with 16 regular volunteers and 114 neighborhood donors

Youth Activities Task Force Members

Dale MacIver, Chair	Mary Ann Bailer	Betty Brown	Joyce Patterson
Delmar Weathers, V Chair	Rick Bardach	Wyatt Green	Melvin Pickett
Jean Macdonald, Secy.	Charlotte Brooks	Maria Hernandez	Beryl C. Rice
Cliff Albright	Walter Brooks	Thelma Jones	Marc Weiss
			Barbara Hurlbutt, emeritus

THE SOUTHWESTER – 1996 ANNUAL REPORT

The Southwester is our community bulletin board. The editor always encourages people to submit articles to the paper. Without a full-time staff, this is the only way that they can be assured of getting news about our community. The more people that submit articles, the greater the chance that all areas in SW will be covered. Maybe the District Reps will consider writing about their specific areas. Carole Early wants to thank the committee heads, and everyone else who have contributed articles to the paper. If you have a news item, an upcoming event, a report about a happening, a general informational article, a poem, etc. – drop it in *The Southwester* box at the SW Branch Library or mail it to POB #70131, Wash., D.C. 20024.

As of this writing, the editor has successfully brought the printing bill down to \$750 each month, the Distribution is the same, the Desktop Publisher costs \$240 a month, the Business Intern and Journalism Interns still cost \$10 per hour. The Business Intern earns about \$100 a month and the Journalism Intern earns about \$30 a month. Considering the price reduction, an issue costs an average of \$1,200.00.

The following appeared in the February issue of *The Southwester* in a "Letter from the Editor"

Budget for Southwester

Printing Bill	\$1200	each month
Distribution	\$300	each month
Desktop Publisher	\$280	each month
Business Intern	\$10	per hr.
Journalism Intern	\$10	per hr.
misc. (prorated cost of POB,	\$10	each month
stamps, invoices)		

Each issue costs an average of \$2,080.00

In less than two months, we have been able to reduce the amount of money spent on the printing of the paper. This has been accomplished by several things. We have reduced the number of pictures – pictures cost \$5.50. The print size has been made smaller – the new size allows us 60 words per inch as opposed to 50 words per inch. We have increased the amount of ads. Oftentimes, we have inserts.

Furthermore, it was decided at a SWNA Board Meeting that the number of pages of the paper will not exceed eight. This will be continued until the paper is on more secure financial footing.

I am very excited to report that *The Southwester* is a proud recipient of a grant for \$2,000 from the Gannett Foundation for a Youth Employment Program. This money will be used for payment to neighborhood youths for work done for *The Southwester*. Youths, under the supervision of adults are being used to deliver papers to the various townhouses thus increasing the number of papers delivered in the SW area. The apartment buildings, schools and government installations are covered by the bulk delivery man.

The paper has a new intern in Journalism. Her main focus will be to write stories. This is in addition to our present one who assists in the manual laying-out of the paper, prior to its going to the desktop publisher. The new intern is volunteering her time so that she has the opportunity to learn more about reporting.

In the next year, the editor would like the paper to start a writing program with Jefferson J.H.S. If there is a former teacher among us, I am sure that she would welcome their guidance with this project.

Besides those who submit articles, the editor wishes to thank the board for giving *The Southwester* their support and advice this past year, Jim Early for his patience at answering the phone and door and ..., Dale MacIver for his archival and writing help, CW Hargrave for "The Calendar", Ruth Hamilton, Jerry Blastenstein, Jim Early, and Sherre Washington (Jefferson J.H.S.) for their typing; Marion Tignor for proof-reading; our advertisers for choosing our paper to advertise in; Kim Zellar – advertising/business intern; Yolonda Earl – journalism intern; Katy Davis – Desktop publisher, Chesapeake Printers; George Morgan – bulk distributor and Gary Hill, who supervises the youth helpers distributing papers to stores and townhouses. If anyone else would like to help in any capacity, I will pass your name on to the editor or a SWNA Board member.

Carole Early, Editor