

Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock
Annual Meeting May 7th 2017
Chair Report 2016/17

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Annual Meeting Chair Report

I will start this meeting off the same way I started last years, and that is with extreme gratitude! I will apologize in advance for anyone I miss thanking in my report. On behalf of the entire Board, we are grateful for all of the many hands and souls that make this Center what it is. We are appreciative of ALL those that have served this church over the last year. We can't ignore the fact that some have chosen to seek spiritual fulfillment elsewhere, yet we are grateful for the gifts they shared with us while they were inspired to do so as well as the love and energy we all shared together.

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Introduction of Board members

Mary Loughman ~ Chairperson: I was duly elected and am beginning my 3rd year of my first 3 year term.

Rina Schroeder ~ Vice Chairperson: Was Duly elected an ending her 3rd year of her first 3 year term. Rina stands for election for a second 3 year term.

Ken St Onge ~ Treasurer: Was duly elected and is ending his 3rd year of his second 3 year term. Ken is not eligible to run for another term. Thank you Ken for your 6 years of service to the Board!! The Board Treasurer position comes with a unique set of responsibilities, much of it behind the scenes and we have been so very grateful for your commitment to these responsibilities! You have served us well my friend, Thank you.

Stan Perrin ~ Secretary: Was appointed to fill a vacant trustee position. Stan is beginning the 3rd year of his first 3 year term

Pat Novy ~ Trustee: Was Duly elected and beginning her 2nd year of her second 3 year term.

Marypatrice Raupp ~ Trustee: Has recently stepped down from the Board of Trustees. MP was duly elected in May 2016 and served one year of her second 3 year term. A great big THANK YOU to Marypatrice for her 4 years of service on the Board! Your calming presence will be missed.

Nancy Nott ~ Advisory Board Member: Nancy recently stepped down from Board service. Nancy was appointed in April 2016 served for one year. Thank you Nancy for the skills and voice you brought to the Board during your year of service!

Jacob Cichy ~ Advisory Board Member: Jacob was appointed in April 2017 and stands for election for his 1st year of a 3 year term.

This dedicated group of volunteers has put in plenty of overtime over the last year. We have had to make very important decisions, many very difficult decisions. The decisions we have made have always been what we thought, at any given time, was in the best interest of the Spiritual Center. Right or wrong, Where ever you personally stand on any given decision, I can honestly stand here and tell you that we have done our very best. And we have reached out to both, Rev. Ron Fritts, our Transition Facilitator and UWWM for guidance on many occasions. I would like to thank this entire team for the devotion they have put into this last year. Thank you.

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Celebrating our blessings

~Our beloved Miss Marie Wendt resigned as Youth Ministry Director in Feb of this year. We celebrate all of the good Marie brought to the youth of the Center, their parents and our adult volunteers in YM. We also celebrate years of light and devotion that she gave to this community. Marie continues to support the ministry through communications and direction whenever asked.

~Tricia Alexander resigned as Music Ministry Creative Director and has left the newly organized music ministry team. We celebrate the musical gifts and heart she brought to our music ministry over the years. Tricia remains available as a guest musician.

~Tricia also remains as our Administrative Director, keeping the wheels turning and watching the road ahead. Thank you Tricia for all you continue to do for our Center.

~We welcome our new Youth Ministry Director, Michele Sprouse-Gerbig. We are grateful to have such a qualified teacher take this important role in our ministry. We celebrate all the good Michele will bring to the children of our Spiritual Center.

~I need to give a special Thanks to Maria Pizzuto-Wubs and Nancy Nott for the role they played in creating a smooth transition in the Youth Ministry program. It was through their efforts that the program was able to continue in an almost seamless way.

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Our ministries, more blessings!

I would like to thank all of the leaders and volunteers of the following ministries:

- a. Audio Reproduction.....Rina Schroeder
- b. Building Management Team.....Mary Loughman
- c. Lending Library.....was Dorothy Biris, now Stan Perrin
- d. Greeter Team.....was Ken St Onge, then Nancy Nott
- e. Hospitality Team.....Pat Novy
- f. Sunday morning Angel who comes early to start coffee...Jim Graff
- g. Sunday morning Cleaning Angels.....Dorothy Biris, ??
- h. Mindshifters.....Dr. Tim Hayes
- i. Dinner with Abraham group.....Rina Schroeder
- j. Shopping Angels.....Vince???
- k. Social Media.....Stan Perrin
- l. Unity in the Community.....Maria Pizzuto-Wubs
- m. LGBT team..... was Dave Carlson, now Michele and Karen Sprouse-Gerbig
- n. Adopt-a-Family.....Eileen Branigan
- o. Growth Team.....Rina Schroeder
- p. Picnic Team.....Maria Pizzuto-Wubs and Ken St. Onge
- q. Indoor/Outdoor landscaping.....Kathy and Ken St. Onge and Boyd and Shannon Whitt. The leaders of this ministry are releasing this to the next leader with a passion for plants. Thank you for the beauty you have created for us!
- r. Lawn Care Angels..... was Ken St Onge and Joe Weylend
- s. Prayer Chaplains.....Marypatrice Raupp
Thank you Prayer Chaplains for lovingly receiving and responding to any wellness calls needed throughout the year.
- t. Audiovisual coord./Webmaster.....Jacob Cichy
- u. Internal Publicity.....was Barbara Lehman-Cichy and Jacob Cichy
- v. Admin Angels (ensure bulletins are ready each week)....Joni Long, Karen Peterson and Mary Raatz??
- w. Unity Earth Care Team..... Stan Perrin
- x. Platform Assistant Team..... Beth Alan
- y. IT Angel: George continues to be our Tech hero!

I'd like to ask anyone who has served on one or more of these teams in the last year to please stand. Thank you all. Let's give each other a hand please.

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Board Activities

Yes, it has been a busy year and yet your Board of trustees has needed to attend to everyday business as well. Those things include:

Continued Minister Transition Activity

We will have a special Report on this activity presented by our Transition Team leader Rina Schroeder. Rina will be reviewing the activity and discussing our plans moving forward toward our perfect, inspirational, dynamic next minister of Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock. Thank you Rina for all of your energy, enthusiasm and the heart and soul you have put into this process.

I'd also like to thank all the Search Team members of last year. That Team consisted of:

Beth Alan, Jacob Cichy, Carol Hubner, Rina Schroeder and Larry Walsh.

Building Management needs

The Center continues to be on a spending freeze since the middle 2015. With this, any expenditures have needed to be approved by the Board of trustees.

Our visions for the future include:

~New Calhoun Street entrance doors

~Partition between Power and Fellowship to be able to better utilize our Rental income

~Updates to our Sanctuary

Lastly, I would like to recognize George Mulligano for his great generosity in our buildings maintenance needs. George has remained our Maint. Manager and is tithing his time to do so. Thank you George for all of the gifts you bring to our Spiritual home! And thank you Rina for your constant assistance in anything Maint. Related!

Other activities:

Your Board has hosted 2 Bi-Annual Spruce Up Days, one in the spring and one in the fall.

The Board of trustees also monitors all of the active ministries in the Center.

Decisions on Guest Speakers and Guest Speakers compensation

Membership Survey and re-organization of Service Flow

Background check changes for all leaders and teacher within the ministry

Thank you Rina and Tricia for overseeing these changes

Scheduling Soft wear

A soft wear called Sign Up Genius is now being used for scheduling YM, Music Team and other ministries. Like any change, it is taking some adjustment, but it has helped reduce our employee costs and make us more efficient with assignments and tasks. Thank you Nancy Nott for introducing this tool to us and getting us set up!

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Thank you to our Staff

~Our music team for the last year has consisted of Tricia Alexander, Andy Anderick, Lori Gray Muligano, Ken Johnson, George Muligano and Alpha Sterwart. Music is such an important part of our ministry. The talent we enjoy every Sunday is truly inspiring. Thank you all!

~Tricia Alexander who serves as Administrative Director. Like the rest of us, Tricia has had to roll with the flow over the past year. Thank you Tricia for your understanding during some challenging times.

~Deb Gelscheit is not technically staff. Deb is an independent contractor assisting with our bookkeeping needs at an extreme discounted rate. Thank you Deb, we are so fortunate to have Deb as part of this Centers team sharing her gifts.

~Maria Pizzuto-Wubs who now assists Michele Sprouse-Gerbig with YM needs sharing her amazing organizational skills.

~Our cleaning crew is also not technically staff, but I want to acknowledge them for the work that they do. Senior Whiskers is the company that cleans our building along with our Sunday Cleaning Angel Dorothy Biris and our volunteer Sunday Cleaning Angels Bill Kanies (who served last year but has recently needed to release this service) and Karen Gurbig. Thank you all. You have made our Spruce Up Days much shorter!

And finally I would like to thank all of you! We all come to this place to be spiritually fed. We come here to share ideas, love and support. I am grateful to

be here, to have an opportunity to serve and I am grateful for each and every one of you.

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Be the Change

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

How many of you have heard this quote? How many of you strive to live it?

I had always related this quote to internal work: remaining peaceful in the face of chaos, kind in the face of meanness, loving in the face of anger (all things I continue to strive for and still sometimes miss the mark). But it occurs to me that there is much more to this quote!

Be the change... It is a call to action! It's a call to put hands and feet to the change YOU want to see in YOUR world. And if it is your desire for this Spiritual Center to be a part of your world, we need you to take action.

Your Board of Trustees has faced some pretty extreme challenges over the last year. We have gotten and done much more than we originally signed up for. This is not a complaint, it is a fact. And, quite frankly, we are tired. We need you, we need you to “be the change”.

If there is something you see that needs to be done, don't wait to be asked, ask how you can help.

If there is a volunteer need posted, don't wait to be asked, ask how you can help.

If you have asked and not gotten a response, ask again. Tell us what gifts you would feel inspired to bring to this community.

This is YOUR Spiritual home and we need you. We need each other. Let's “be the change” together.

Thank you all! Thank you for all you do, for all you will do and be, and for all that you give.

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Questions?