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Please Respond!

Inside this issue, Guild members will find an Interest and Referral Card. Please complete this card and return it to the Guild office.

This is an opportunity for members to express an interest in serving the Guild on a national committee. Members who participate at the national level direct the future of the Guild. This is an opportunity to build relationships with women beyond the chapter level as well as use and develop skills to serve Valparaiso University.

The card asks for leadership and membership referrals. Please recommend women who have an appreciation for Valparaiso University and may consider joining or serving at a national level. The Guild office will contact membership referrals with more information about how the Guild serves VU. Thank you for building the Guild’s future.

Chapter Structure for the 21st Century

The Valparaiso University Guild’s strategic plan encourages Guild members to dream about where the organization will be in the future. Part of the unfolding plan is to find a chapter structure that best serves the Guild and its members. This includes exploring contemporary structures to build chapters around areas of interest.

Since its beginning, the Guild has organized into chapters by geographic location. This structure continues to make sense as a way to bring alumnae, mothers of students and friends of Valpo together to support the University. Part of the strategic effort intends to strengthen existing chapters. By developing the Membership Tracking Plan, chapters and the national office are partners in increasing overall membership. In the coming months, an ad hoc committee will review chapter bylaws to establish what requirements, at a minimum, are necessary to maintain a Guild chapter. In addition, new alternatives to chapter leadership continue to be explored.

Guild members, however, are located all over the country and even overseas. Those unable to join a local chapter may retain a Four Winds membership. Four Winds membership, first offered in the early 1980s, continues to grow with over 70 members this year. An increase in Four Winds members confirms that the Guild should seek opportunities for individuals to serve Valparaiso University beyond the conventional chapter structure.

Concurrently, affinity projects are being explored to find new possibilities to utilize member strengths around areas of interest. This fall two groups, College of Nursing alumnae Guild members and the Chicago Northwest Suburban chapter, were approached to fund specific projects for the University. The encouraging results from this trial are being analyzed and will be shared at convention in September (see page 3).

The strategic plan pushes national leaders to respond to how members choose to serve Valparaiso University as it builds upon its Christian network of women. It also encourages a member to perceive her service not only at a chapter level, but to recognize her involvement as serving the national organization. Realizing this future dream for the Guild starts today.

All members are welcome to attend the Guild’s 73rd Convention – September 24-26.
WITH ONE VOICE
By Susan Dippold

work at a hospital that, like most organizations, functions with committees. Many of these committees evaluate areas of patient care and form subcommittees to look at various issues. Following their analysis and review, the subcommittees give recommendations to implement something new or maintain status quo. The Guild functions in a similar way.

At Convention in 2003, three ad hoc committees were named. One committee, chaired by Lorraine Dorough (Atlanta chapter), will plan for the 75th Guild Anniversary in 2006. This milestone is something to celebrate! Many ideas were generated at the Targeted Leadership Forum for making the 75th a significant event.

A second ad hoc committee will study chapter bylaws. Currently, Guild chapters follow bylaws that were adopted when the chapter was chartered. Some chapters abide by and amend bylaws faithfully. Other chapters, while maintaining the mission and purpose of the Guild, find bylaws cumbersome. This committee, chaired by Paula Sauer (Columbus Capital Bells chapter), will develop a contemporary approach to bylaws and determine what is operationally necessary to effectively maintain a healthy Guild chapter. Our goal is to present the revised chapter bylaws format at Convention in September and pilot the implementation with several chapters the following year.

The third ad hoc committee, chaired by Colette Irwin-Knott (Indianapolis chapter), will review the Guild’s Standing Rules and dues structure. Individual dues were last increased in July 2002 and, at current membership levels, cover approximately 25% of our operating costs. A goal of this committee is to identify ways for the Guild to reduce its reliance on chapter project funds to fund operating expenses.

In their review of the Guild’s Standing Rules, this committee will look at our expense reimbursement policy last reviewed and approved in 1997. At times there is ambiguity regarding what expenses are reimbursable. The committee’s goal is to recommend standing rules that do not increase our annual travel budget yet are fair to all Guild members.

You are invited to share your thoughts regarding all three of these committees. We look forward to the ad hoc committee reports at the Convention 2004.

Scrip Earns $1500 for Guild Project
By Judy Rullman, National Fundraising Chair

The Guild-endorsed Scrip Program has grown from a handful of women ordering gift certificates to over 50 participants in 2003. A Guild member from California said, “Hooray! My Christmas shopping is done!” after picking up her order at Convention.

HOW IT WORKS: Customers buy gift certificates at the redeemable value. The fundraising comes from merchants donating 2-13% of the certificate’s face value to the organization. Purchasing a $100 gift certificate from a merchant offering a 10% donation totals $10 for the Guild. Scrip sales raised $1500 for the Guild in 2003.

Over the summer, chapter presidents and communication coordinators will receive an order form listing hundreds of businesses offering Scrip certificates. Use this order form to select certificates to use personally or give as gifts. Follow the instructions and mail the order by the stated deadline. Certificates will be distributed at Convention. (A chapter’s convention representative may pick up the chapter’s orders.)

Individual chapters may also use this program. The Quad City chapter places an order five times annually and makes about $50 per order. Oregon Trail started selling the certificates in Fall 2003 and have already seen positive results. Barbara Berg, who coordinates the Oregon Trail chapter’s Scrip sales, said, “It takes some educating, but once people understand how it works, they are enthusiastic to participate.”

Contact Judy Rullman at jrullman@hotmail.com with any questions.

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Affinity Chapters Trial New Fundraising Opportunity

Last summer, the Guild board approached a few members to pilot Affinity Projects. These Affinity Projects focus Guild members' fundraising efforts on specific campus needs.

Guild National President Susan Dippold said, "Affinity chapter projects may give the Guild an opportunity to connect Guild members in a new way while exceeding fundraising beyond the National Project."

Guild members who graduated from the College of Nursing were approached to donate funds for pamphlets to be distributed by nursing students. This affinity group raised $1000.

The second group, the Chicago Northwest Suburban chapter, chose its project from unfunded Guild Special requests. In addition to raising $1500 in national project funds, the chapter raised $1000 for a Guild-Memorial residence hall courtyard landscaping project.

Nancy Fehr (Chicago Northwest Suburban chapter) said her chapter "felt this opportunity would benefit not only our chapter but also provide the national organization with feedback necessary to perhaps change the course of the Guild fundraising in the future."

After reviewing the selection of unfunded Guild Special grant proposals, each chapter member had an opportunity to preferentially voice her top three choices. Nancy added, "we were amazed at how like-minded our members were. Having a specific project to fund definitely motivated our chapter." The national officers will evaluate and refine the affinity process before targeting new groups to fund Affinity Projects. While still in a trial phase, Guild national officers envision this as an opportunity to match members' interests with campus needs.

University Offers Vocational Discernment Retreat

The Chapel of the Resurrection invites students to participate in Vocational Discernment Retreats. The retreats take place off campus in a setting ideal for Valparaiso University students to experience spiritual contemplation and prayer. Participants come away with a better understanding of their call and vocation as students and servants of God and neighbor. The retreat, offered twice a year, is open to all students.

The retreat allows for discovery of spiritual practices disciplines and skills designed to help the individual listen to God. This can happen through a deliberate focus on the Word of God, the counsel of others, discovery of individual gifts and celebration of one's abilities. Participants learn to listen to the Word of God and make use of a variety of forms of prayer.

Pastor Joseph Cunningham, Dean of the Chapel, explains, "This is by no means a process designed to offer immediate answers." Steve Driver, Assistant Director of the Lilly Project; Diane Marten from the Lutheran Deaconess Association and Cunningham lead the retreat and are assisted by four to five student leaders. Students begin discerning God's call for them now and in the future. Through the use of scripture, primarily the example of Peter, the group observes how the apostle perceives God's call for his life.

Pastor Cunningham adds, "Each retreat brings me to a point of utter amazement as I see the participants grow in their understanding of self and begin to really listen to God. Some find genuine healing from past hurts and disappointment, while others discover the joy of silence, contemplating the Word of God and learning to trust the voice of God."

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Tax Deductions for Volunteers

With tax season recently ended, Guild volunteers are reminded to deduct volunteer-related expenses from taxes in 2004.

As a general rule of thumb, volunteers are allowed a charitable tax deduction for unreimbursed expenses directly connected with the performance of services for volunteer organizations. Travel expenses such as air, rail, and bus transportation; out-of-pocket car expenses; taxi and shuttle fares; lodging costs and meals are also deductible if there is no significant element of personal gain.

If driving for an organization's benefit, either deduct actual expenses such as gas, parking and tolls or use the standard rate of 14 cents per mile for reimbursement.
News+Notes

CONVENTION 2004
Plan to attend the Guild's 73rd annual convention on campus September 24-26. Highlights include a tour of the new Christopher Center, workshops to promote chapter success and the election of the 2004-2006 National President and Vice Presidents.

IT'S A BOY!
Executive Director Julie Thomas and her husband Rick welcomed a baby boy, Robert David, into the world on February 25, 2004.

SENIOR WOMEN'S LUNCHEON
The VU Guild will host its annual Senior Women's Luncheon on May 13.

MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTS
Chapters may request membership prospect lists through the Guild office. The Guild office will categorize prospects to assist chapters in gauging potential interest level.

ANNUAL REPORT ADDITIONS
Lorraine Dorough and Jane Rudolf were not listed as 2002-2003 individual donors to the Guild's National Project. We apologize for the oversight.

BED & BREAKFAST
"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels unaware." (Hebrews 13:1)
Please contact the Guild office to be added to the Guild's Bed and Breakfast Directory. Last year, in addition to creating friendships among Valpo friends, this project raised $1500 in funds for the Guild National Project.

Valpo Resident Assistants Support Student Well-being

Wanted: Students to devote one year to establishing programs, counseling students, and securing residence halls. Must work well in teams and be active on campus.

Sound like a complex job? Just ask Valpo's 47 Resident Assistants (RAs)!

"When residents blow a fuse, get locked out of their room and violate policies, you're the one who gets pulled into the situation," explains Sara Boedecker, freshmen RA. "Most days, being a RA feels like a full time job." She added that though it can be overwhelming, it is rewarding to see students succeed.

RAs complete an intensive one-week training session. Off campus professionals train the RAs in everything they may encounter in and out of residence halls. By the end of training participants are equipped as an authority figure to handle a variety of emergency situations.

As the public "Face of Valpo", residents come to RAs for advice about relationships, school and family. One of the greatest benefits, according to RA Jon Ackerman, is observing the residents' personal growth. He adds, "It is the first time residents have truly been on their own, and that fact alone requires a great deal of personal growth."

RAs plan programs each semester for the entire residence hall. Programs range from academics to cooking to self-defense to faith. For example, one creative topic was titled "Healthy Cooking for the Frugal College Student." RAs asked John Ruff, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to share his favorite healthy and inexpensive recipes. RAs also plan informal events such as bowling or game nights to give residents the opportunity to mingle.

B.J. Engelhardt, an upperclassman RA observes, "It is amazing to see the wing come together and appreciate living in that community and strive to make everybody feel they are accepted."

Psalm 133:1, 3 — "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."

I recently learned a praise song, based loosely on this Psalm verse, which keeps playing over and over in my mind. What better thought to have than to know it is pleasing to our heavenly Father that we live together in unity! As a member of Four Winds it is sometimes challenging to "stay united" in the Guild work we do. We are each like the individual musicians of an orchestra, working on our own part, either alone or in small groups.

It is not until all the parts are united that our work reaches its fullest potential. It is then that we can clearly see how good and pleasant it is to live and work together in the Light of Christ. And we know that it is in this light that we see light, the light of our Savior, leading us through our daily lives. Praise the Lord!

Audrey Kubr Darville is a Four Winds member living in Kentucky. She graduated from Valpo in 1978 and her daughter Anna attended from 2001-2003.
2003-2006 National Project Fund Update
by Norma May, 03-06 National Project Chair

The Valparaiso University Guild was birthed because caring women saw urgent, unmet campus needs and resolved to take immediate action to meet them. This burning desire to make a difference in student lives still drives our actions today.

Early on, the need was for such essentials as mattresses. But even today, the University must say “no” to some requests from departments and student groups for valuable learning tools, equipment, and programs.

Set to launch this fall, the innovative Guild Campus Gifts Fund will improve the lives of today’s students and faculty by providing added dollars for current campus needs. And Guild members will experience the excitement of seeing one-third of the monies raised through the 2003-2006 Project Fund impacting the campus immediately.

Campus departments and other groups will submit requests for funding, and a Guild Council, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, will determine priorities and allocate funds. Julie Thomas, Executive Director, with input from the Targeted Leadership Forum has been working to establish guidelines for the Council.

The Guild Council will be an impartial body acutely aware of campus community needs. They will research submitted proposals to ensure that those chosen are in line with VU’s master plan. The Guild Board, at its quarterly meetings, will review their recommendations to ensure that all selections are true to the Guild’s mission and values.

One expected outcome is that the Guild will gain greater visibility on campus, as faculty, staff, and students learn more about our mission and how we serve the University.

Julie Thomas, Executive Director, said, “Funding smaller campus needs is an extraordinary approach to the Guild’s traditional national projects. It has the potential to meet campus-wide needs.”

The first projects funded by the Guild Campus Gifts Fund will be announced at convention.

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*The other 2/3 of our 03-06 project monies will be allocated to serving future students through building a reserve for a new Student Union building and to strengthening our organization by increasing the Guild Office Endowment Fund.*

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Guild Bazaar Highlights

Guild chapters put forth extensive energy and effort into producing high quality items for the Bazaar. This past year the “Basket Boutique” was a hit with those creative juices flowing. Some of the distinctive baskets included the Martini, Holiday, Gardening for Kids and California Wines baskets.

From a Bazaar committee report and the convention evaluations the following decisions were made:

- Eliminate the Silent Auction, but feature those items as “one of a kind” at the Bazaar. Both Silent Auction participation and income have decreased for the past three years.
- Create two categories of baskets: those valued under $50 and those valued over $50.
- Promote using baskets that are collapsible in nature, making it easy for packing, especially for those who travel by air.
- To create a better flow at the Bazaar, create departments to merchandise similar items together.

Chapters may prepare now for the 2004 Bazaar and Basket Boutique by seeking donated items. Chapters may want to consider collaborating with other chapters on a basket.

The Convention Fundraising Committee is looking for volunteers to help at the 2004 Bazaar and Basket Boutique. Consider volunteering by calling the Guild office or emailing Marcia Eckrich at maeckrich@sbcglobal.net.

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**DID YOU KNOW??**

- The Bazaar and auctions have raised approximately $14,000 each year for the past three years?
- Of the $13,762 raised in 2003, $10,057 was Bazaar sales, $2244 came from the Basket Boutique and $1461 came from the Silent Auction?
- 52 chapters participated representing 65% of the membership?
- The primary Bazaar customers are Guild Convention attendees? We learned from convention evaluations that 21 members spent more money than they planned and seven spent less.
- Average chapter income from the Bazaar in 2003 was $234? Average chapter income from basket boutique was $77 and from the Silent Auction was $86.
New Chapter Development

Area I will begin to recruit members for a New England area chapter. Centered around Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, three Four Winds members—Christine Blake, Christine Bateman and Rachael Keisling—are beginning to approach alumnae and Valpo friends to be charter members of this chapter. Please use the referral card in this issue to recommend women for this potential chapter.

Chapter Structure Ideas

There seem to be three structures that chapters use to function:
1. A “traditional structure” which describes a chapter led by an elected executive board. The executive board plans the year’s calendar and divides chapter responsibilities among themselves.
2. A structure with two leaders—a President and a Treasurer. Additional leaders are appointed on a need basis. Many members keep the same position as long as their enthusiasm for the job stays strong.
3. A structure with an appointed communication coordinator who collects and distributes Guild information to members and delegates responsibilities using the annual chapter plan.

Kay Schultz, Battle Creek’s contact, said that her chapter plans six meetings each year. There are three planning teams (based around three area congregations). Each team plans the logistics for one business and one social meeting. The distribution of responsibility takes the pressure off one person and encourages members to attend the two meetings that they plan.

Other chapters, such as Diablo Valley, appoint a person to oversee the planning details of a meeting. Milwaukee Suburban, with 49 members, spreads the work by getting a lot of members involved with small tasks.

Area Gatherings

The Wisconsin State Unit and Area V share the same geography. For 59 years, this group has coordinated an annual meeting featuring guest speakers from the University and the Guild. Perceived as a “mini-convention” for the Wisconsin members who don’t travel to campus in September, the meeting keeps members connected. This year, Wisconsin members are reviewing the agenda and structure to update the meeting to appeal to more Wisconsin members.

Area VIII (Ohio) members gathered in Columbus, Ohio over the summer to refresh and renew with a facilitated, all day meeting. The speaker helped individuals look at new ways to view their role in the Guild, pointing out that the role doesn’t need to be the same for everyone.

Area XIII (Ohio) Guild chapters met for an area retreat in Columbus, OH over the summer.

Very Important Members

Does your chapter have a special member who will “Do What It Takes” to support Valpo? Honor her by nominating her for a Volunteer Service award. Applications are available through the Guild office or in the Chapter Information Resource Kit.

Marcille Ansorge has done lots of work for Lincoln. She has been a chapter officer for nearly thirty years serving as president seven times. She has represented VU at college fairs, donated items for Bazaar, organized the pecan sales and been a good friend to members and to Valparaiso University.

Wife of alumnus Art Gray, Doreen Gray has been Orange County’s faithful secretary for over 30 years. Her son, Peter Gray, graduated from Valparaiso in 1978. Her chapter said she keeps the group organized and informed.

Des Moines recognizes member Dorothea Rice. A charter member, she has served the Guild in many capacities over the years. Last January, she suffered a stroke and moved to the Park Ridge Care Center (where a print of the Chapel of the Resurrection hangs in her room). In spite of her handicap, she was the top pecan salesperson this year selling 70 bags! The chapter meets at “her home” so she can stay involved.

Serving Houston for many years, Belva Walker has worked tirelessly, writing handwritten letters to members and prospective members. She and her husband arranged several rummage sales at their church, lugging tables and rummage, always with a smile. Belva often reminded other members that the rummage sale not only raised funds for the chapter and was an opportunity to visit while selling, but that it served the neighborhood—whether helping a young woman find clothes for her first job or filling bags to the brim for a dollar by shoppers who spoke no English but knew the warmth of smiles.

Thrivent Matching Funds

Even with the changes caused by merging Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood into Thrivent, Guild chapters are still able to request matching funds for chapter fundraisers. Cincinnati received matching funds for its holiday nut sales.
Rummage Sales
Thirteen members contributed items to Columbus’s rummage sale, assigning eight members to shifts during the two day sale. Members contributed useful items that they no longer needed making a profit of $665.35. Beautiful weather and publicity contributed to heavy traffic at the sale. All leftover items were given to charity.

North East PA hosted a rummage sale on a Thursday and Friday in September. To promote the rummage sale notices were included on TV listings and flyers were posted around town. Leftovers from the rummage sale were picked up by a local thrift store.

Celebrity Speakers
Local celebrities make wonderful speakers for Guild meetings. Orange County member Tina Gibson Hillings’ husband Hogan spoke at a January meeting. He authored the book, The Man Who Would Be Dad and is a consultant and trainer for Proud Dads, Inc. He and Tina appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show and Hogan was in the ABC documentary “Fathers and Sons” and other television broadcasts about parenting.

Quad Cities invited the mother of the young man who cleans the rivers. He’s gotten TV and magazine coverage. He lives in the Quad Cities and his mom does presentations on his work.

Publicizing Chapter Events
Here is a checklist of where chapters should promote upcoming events:
• Church newsletters and bulletins
• “What’s Happening” section of local newspaper.
• Valpo’s website calendar (just send details to the Guild office)

Membership Tracking Plan
To date, the Guild has welcomed 55 new members this year. Each new member received a welcome packet. Chapters are encouraged to use the Membership Tracking Plan (in the Chapter Information Resource Kit) as a guide when following-up with prospective members.

As stated in the plan, the Guild office will provide prospective member lists. The chapter is asked to let the Guild office know the prospect’s interest level (whether she joined, attended a meeting, is still interested, or declined to join) .

Creative Communications has new Gospellite greeting cards available. Spring order information is available through the Guild office. Call 800.748.4538.

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Five Tools to Chapter Success

1. Chapter Information Resource Kit – Use it!
2. Convention – Attend it!
3. Area Director – Ask her any question!
4. Guild Bulletin – Read it!
5. National monthly e-mail updates – Forward to chapter members!

SAVE THE DATE!

Hosting a SUMMER SEND-OFF?
Please let the Guild know the date and location!

APRIL 24
Wisconsin State Unit Convention

MAY 1
School of Law’s 125th Anniversary Celebration, Field Museum, Chicago

MAY 16
Commencement

JUNE 10
Project Funds and Annual Questionnaires due!

AUGUST 24
Classes begin

SEPTEMBER 18
Dedication of Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources

SEPTEMBER 24-26
VU Guild 73rd Annual Convention

OCTOBER 1-3
Homecoming West

OCTOBER 8-10
Homecoming

NOVEMBER 6-7
Family Weekend

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