



NEWSLETTER of the WOMEN'S CAUCUS of the Southern Sociological Society

August, 1974

Marguerite R. Howie, Editor
Box 1513, State College
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29117
Office : (803) 534-6560
Ext. 7129 or
Ext. 7128
Home: (803) 534-7780

Jualynne Dodson Coordinator
Atlanta University
School of Social Work
Research Center
873 Park Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
(404) 758-0737

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WOMEN'S CAUCUS OF THE SOUTHERN
SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sarah Brabant, Recorder
University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

The second meeting of the Women's Caucus of the Southern Sociological Society met Thursday evening, April 18, 1974 under the direction of Susanne Darnell. Shirley Strickland and Paula Goldsmid, members of the Committee of the Status of Women-SSS, reviewed briefly events that had transpired since the 1973 meeting.

The tenor of the meeting last week appeared to be one of brainstorming rather than of formally organizing and decisions were reached by consensus of the meeting rather than by vote. The major concern of the group was to increase women's participation in SSS. This includes the appointment of women to committees and greater involvement in the program, not only with respect to reading papers but also as section leaders and as discussants. In line with this, it was suggested we find out who the women are in SSS and get the facts straight with regard to numbers and tokenism. A further suggestion was made to petition SSS for money to conduct a survey in order to get this information. This was deemed important since the proportion of women in the membership would determine the tactics employed in reaching the goal of greater participation for women. In addition, a membership drive was mentioned, one that would emphasize the importance of women belonging to and working with the caucus.

Several suggestions revolved around political action. For example, the need to bring resolutions before the business meeting was discussed as well as how to get women appointed to committees. With respect to the former, it was felt information was needed concerning the organization of the SSS; with regard to the latter, it was noted that women in SSS should be identified as pro-caucus or not and that pro-caucus women should be supported for office and program participation.

Specifics concerning greater program participation included identifying women who have research in progress and who will have papers ready for next year, compiling a list of women and their areas of interest and competency for prospective section leaders and discussants, and obtaining slots on the program for areas of special interest to members of the caucus.

Several expressed the need for women to be able to get together during future meetings. It was suggested the SSS be asked to provide a hospitality room for the Women's Caucus. This would provide a place for women to meet and also serve as a center for the dissemination of literature and information pertinent to women sociologists.

Following the discussion, tasks were divided among the members present. Jualynne Dodson was named coordinator by acclamation. Members are urged (1) to send vitas emphasizing areas of competency to Marjorie Chowning and Patricia Martin, (2) to send literature and/or information on availability of literature to Chris Rasche, and (3) to forward all notices and information for newsletter to Marguerite Howie no later than June 1.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIOLOGY IN THE SOUTH

Shirley W. Strickland, Chairperson
Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology
in the South, Southern Sociological Society
Randolph-Macon Women's College
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

The Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology in the South exists as an ad hoc committee of the Southern Sociological Society. At the annual meeting of the Society in April, the Committee met with Joan Harris, Executive Specialist for Minorities and Women of the American Sociological Association, and learned of a project that it feels will be of special interest to the members of Sociologists for Women in Society in the Southern Region.

The first edition of the Annual Audit of Undergraduate Departments is to be mailed by ASA to undergraduate sociology departments in May of this year. The audit is specifically designed to gather data on various topics regarding minorities and women in sociology.

The Committee would like to urge the members of SWS in the Southern Region to be sure that their own departments complete and return the questionnaire.

REPORT OF THE ORGANIZERS OF PROGRAM SESSIONS
FOR THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS OF SSS

Florida State University
Department of Sociology
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Alan Bayer
Institute for Social Research
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Patricia Y. Martin
Institute for Social Research
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Sue Hasselbart
Department of Sociology
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Marie Withers Ckmond
Department of Sociology
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

We interpret our "charge," as articulated at the 1974 Southern Sociological Society (SSS) caucus of Southern SWS members, to be that of offering some programmatic sessions-or other activities, such as panels, round-tables, etc.-to fill possible gaps in the official 1975 SSS program. In short, we hope to offer some volunteered sessions which are supplemental to the regular sessions, and we hope to be successful in having these activities printed in the official program. The exact nature of the actions we take are, as you might imagine, somewhat dependent on the theme and form of the regular program for the meetings. And, as you may be aware, information on these points has been very slow in coming out this year. In fact, we were recently informed that there will probably not be a theme for the upcoming Washington, D. C., annual meeting, despite our proposal to the program chairperson that a theme be adopted on "Women and Minorities in the American Social Structure."

At this point, given our fairly limited knowledge of what is going on, we would like to encourage each of you/us on several points. First, it appears we may have had some success in expanding the number of sections for the next meeting which will specifically focus on women. We understand that, in a meeting of the program committee, three sections have been potentially established: sex roles, women and crime, women and minorities in American society. The latter still needs a section organizer; please contact the program chairperson (Felix Berardo at the University of Florida) or Allan Bayer (at Florida State University) if you would be willing to volunteer to organize and chair this section. If you act promptly, you may still also be able to suggest additional topic areas for substantive sections which you can organize and chair. Also, please begin to plan papers which might be appropriate to submit to these sections (several sessions during the meeting might be scheduled for each section should we have an adequate number of papers submitted) or to other sections for the SSS program. And encourage your students and colleagues to submit papers, particularly papers on women. The list of chairpersons and their address should be forthcoming soon, with a probable due date for papers of about November 15. It is our hope that we will inundate these chair-people with good papers on all topics and thus increase our participation on the regular program.

Finally, we are asking you to begin thinking of some volunteered activities which you are interested in and/or think would be helpful to women sociologists in the SSS. We could plan special sessions on "women and poverty," on the "linkages between race and sex discrimination," or on

“the progress (?) of affirmative action programs.” Further, we might plan another session on grant-writing, publishing, etc., similar to the excellent one which we had this past spring, or you might be interested in a panel focused on the “sociology of the feminist movement: what accounts for it? and where is it going?” with invited participants from within the region and/or elsewhere.

In short, we are: (1) requesting that you initiate suggestions to the program chairperson for additional substantive sections on women; (2) urging you to start preparation and to respond to the regular call for papers; and (3) asking you for ideas, desires, etc. for some volunteered activities sponsored by the SWS caucus. If you will make your wishes known to us, we shall make every effort to follow through on them.

NOTICE

The section on MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY for the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society to convene in Washington, D. C., April 9-12, 1975, is to be chaired by Marguerite R. Howie. Kindly urge your co-workers who are interested to observe the following:

October 1, 1974 - submit their names, positions, title of paper or panel that they may wish to organize and the format for the panel with names of participants and their discourse topics

November 1, 1974 - submit abstract of paper and/or panel discourses

December 1, 1974 - submit two copies of the final draft of the paper and/or panel discourse design

TIME LIMIT: PAPERS, 15-20 minutes; PANEL, 30-40 minutes.

SEND TO: Marguerite R. Howie, Chairperson
Section on Marriage and the Family
Southern Sociological Society
Box 15 13 State College
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29117

RESPONSE AS TO THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE PAPER WILL BE SENT TO THE AUTHORS.