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The Sing Out Solution

In an effort to revitalize the local Sing Out program in America, and lend a coordination to Sing Out efforts nationwide, delegates to the national Sing Out Conference at Waco, Texas, over the Thanksgiving weekend formed the National Sing Out Action Council. After holding the first of their many meetings over the three day span the 26 delegates from around the United States decided that the Sing Out program in America is losing its uniqueness, vitality and effectiveness as a moving social force, and chose to take upon themselves the job of finding solutions to the problems faced today by all Sing Outs.

Jane Bandy, a representative of Sing Out Volunteers in Knoxville, Tennessee, and of the Southeastern Action Council summed up the feelings of most of the delegates when she wrote, "The facts are, whether or not we want to admit them, that Sing Out in America is dying, and that many of the people in Sing Out who once knew exactly where they were going, are confused and disillusioned. In the South, where some of the first casts in the country began, our Southeastern Action Council is rapidly becoming an association of individuals, rather than of casts. In the last two years, six casts have gone under in Tennessee alone.

"The task we have taken-on this weekend is awesome. With a force of thirty people, we are going to reverse the trend. Our potential membership includes casts of all descriptions and beliefs--small groups of ten or twelve barely hanging on, and casts with membership in the hundreds and going strong--casts who still live and believe MRA, and those who have rejected any association with it--casts who pattern their show after Up With People, and those who believe that Up With People is a mockery of what Sing Out is meant to be--groups of people in their late teens and early twenties who reject "adult help", and casts run by adult advisors who reject any advice from youth--evangelistic casts, and isolationist casts who want only to be left alone to do their own thing. And somehow we have to find a common ground--something big enough and exciting enough to get all these casts working together, because together is the only way we can survive. It's a big job but not an impossible one."

The conference was divided into four sections, each concerned with a vital aspect of the situation the new Action Council will be facing: Music and Show, Communications, Organization, and Goals and Purpose. Tremendous strides were made in all areas as you will see as you read on in this special edition of People to People. While the delegates did not agree initially on what the appropriate methods

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of approaching specific problems were, they were able to get together and mold the concepts that a new and solid future for Sing Out can be built on. Throughout the meetings it was kept in mind that the NSOAC will not be something that is forced on all Sing Outs across the land, as the only way to go. The delegates rather, felt that as the NSOAC develops as a self-help program for re-creating Sing Out, local casts will believe in its purpose and will want to participate. It is stressed also that this Action Council was not conceived as an answer to Up With People, Inc., but is solely a local Sing Out self-help program: Sing Outs helping Sing Outs.

Please read on and find out all about what was acted on in Waco, and how everyone's help is needed if Singout in America is to be revitalized.

Purpose and Objectives of the NSOAC

The following were adopted by the delegates to the Waco Conference as the NSOAC's statement of purpose, and its objectives for the coming year. Participation in the activities of the NSOAC by casts or individuals does not depend on their full acceptance of the following. These are the stated beliefs and objectives of the delegates at the Waco Conference.

We believe that in all people there is greatness, and our purpose is to bring out that greatness, and to improve the world by first changing ourselves.

Objectives for 1972:

1. To revitalize local Sing Out casts already in existence.
2. To set up a National Action Council that will tackle the problems of local Sing Out casts and will work as a unified force to solve them.
3. To set up Regional Action Councils in each geographic area in the United States that will give all local Sing Out casts a chance to participate in joint efforts for their common good, and to encourage them to realize the importance of such joint efforts.
4. To hold our first annual National Conference for all Sing Out members in the United States, designed to teach the history, purposes, and ideals of Sing Out, improve our methods of communicating these purposes and ideals, and help local Sing Out casts to see other casts not as rivals but as equals working together toward common goals.
5. To help local Sing Out casts to understand and realize the purpose and ideals on which Sing Out was founded.
6. To encourage local Sing Out cast members to experiment with new applications of Sing Out ideals.
7. To revive, practice and preach the concept that a change in the world begins with a change in yourself.
8. To assist in the writing, copyrighting, publishing, distributing, and producing of a complete new show for local Sing Out casts.
9. To introduce the concept and purpose of Sing Out to new areas of the nation and to help in the establishment and growth of new local Sing Out casts.
10. To compile a complete and up to date mailing list of all Sing Out casts and individuals interested in Sing Out.
11. To publish a monthly national newsletter.

12. To build a force of dedicated people who can grow beyond selfish motives, class and race barriers, and national prejudices, to become citizens of the world.

In addition to the above purpose and objectives, the delegates took a look at the four absolute standards of MRA and decided to modify them. They decided on the following four, Concerned Love, Self-discipline, Honesty and Unselfishness.

Organization of the NSOAC

The National Sing Out Action Council has five national officers, eight regional coordinators, and a single representative from every local Sing Out cast in the country. The five acting officers are:

National Coordinator: Tunny Pattison of Sing Out El Paso, 3716 Volcanic Dr., El Paso, Texas 79904, 915-751-0964.
Assistant National Coordinator: David Braughn of Sing Out Dubuque, 1330 O'Hagen, Dubuque, Iowa 52001, 319-583-7966.
Secretary: Jane Bandy of Sing Out Volunteers, 1911 Highland Ave., Knoxville, Tennessee 37916, 615-525-0166.
Treasurer: Marlyn Parks of Sing Out St. Louis West, 4553 Natural Bridge, St. Louis, Missouri 63115, 314-381-2065.
Music Chairman: Dennis Onopa of Sing Out El Paso, 3221 Titanic, El Paso, Texas 79904, 915-751-6787.

The eight regional coordinators are responsible for establishing regional cohesiveness, for serving as communications links between the NSOAC and local casts, and for keeping an up to date mailing and phone list of their regions. The eight regions, with their coordinators are:

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee; Roger Hoover of Sing Out Volunteers, 831 Maplehurst, Apt E, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, 615-546-2891.
Southwest: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas; Dusty Dieterich of Sing Out Dallas, #5 Briarwood Circle, Richardson, Texas 75080, 214-234-1354.
West: Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii; Bob Middough of Sing Out Ojai, 1006 Mercer Ave., Ojai, California 93123, 805-646-2862.
Ohio Valley: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, and Virginia; Kathy Klopfenstein of Sing Out St. Mary's, RR 1, Box 141, New Bremen, Ohio 45469, 419-394-3571.
Midwest: Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado; Glover Brown of Sing Out Jeff City, RR 5, Valley High Road, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101, 314-636-7201.
Northwest: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana; Vacant.
North: North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan; Vacant.
Northeast: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine; Vacant.

The above officers and regional coordinators are holding their
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Organization of the NSOAC (continued)

positions temporarily, until they themselves or other persons are formally elected to their positions by the local Sing Outs of the country in the spring. The three vacant regional positions are open to any persons living in the regions in which they wish to serve. Applications for the positions should be sent to Tunny Pattison, National Coordinator.

Who Attended

Because the Waco Conference was called on less than a month's notice, the attendance was predictably small. As you will see by the distances some travelled though, those who made it meant business. People flew, rode buses, drove all night and hitchhiked to get to Waco. Several came on only a day's notice. Those present included: SO Dallas, Dusty Dieterich, Shelly Jones, Jan McDermott, John Ryan, Harold Lovelady, Rebecca Spears, Ted Steinke, and Tom Woods; SO Dubuque, David Braughn; SO El Paso, Glenn Goodwin, Bonny Jones, Hazel Kessel, Dennis Onopa, and Tunny Pattison; SO Houston, Mike Maddox; SO Jeff City, Glover Brown; SO Normandy, Jim Kennedy, Ed Weldon; SO St Louis West, Nancy Miller, Marlyn Parks; Let's Go San Diego, Bill Montgomery; SO Tulsa, Loie Pascoe; SO Volunteers, Jane Bandy, Roger Hoover; SO Waco Gary Gibson (who deserves much thanks for being such a devoted and efficient host).

The conference also received several telegrams wishing it luck in its efforts. Paul Hogue of Plant City, Florida telegraphed, "Study and Think beyond America and Sing Out. Remember that China and Russia are giving us ideas...Come up with new ideas for the show." Others expressed disappointment at not being able to attend, but determination not to miss the next conference.

Everyone Is Needed Comment

If you are interested in helping to further the local Sing Out program in America, your wholehearted efforts are earnestly needed. There is a saying, "You get what you pay for." Indeed, we must pay with our efforts for a greater chance to positively influence America's future. The beauty of Sing Out is that its essence can be understood by every heart. It sells itself. We just need to revitalize the sales apparatus and get going again all over America.

Write today for information on how you can become involved in local Sing Outs everywhere. Please. Don't forget your own cast, just add another dimension to your life! Contact your regional coordinator, or the NSOAC officer or chairman you would like to assist, and help "upturn the world." There may be some strength in our numbers, but there is far greater strength in our determination. We are determined to help Sing Out in anyway we can, we pray that you are, too.

Music and Show Plans

The Music and Show Committee at Waco has laid the foundation for what could become a fantastic outpouring of talent. Its plans include the development of a new musical show built on interchangeable 20 minute segments, each segment with its own theme or message. Initially, the segments would use primarily the music of Up With People and ultimately would consist solely of music composed and copyrighted

by local cast members. The committee emphasizes that it wants to help all casts that need assistance in restyling their shows, but that it doesn't intend to force any of its recommendations on anyone. It is researching the requirements that must be met in order to copy-right music. The feeling is that all local cast compositions should be copyrighted by their authors, with hopefully a blanket authorization permitting other local casts in the nation to use the music for free. The committee will help in the publishing, copyrighting and distributing of such compositions. Any inquiries concerning the committee, or music up for its consideration, should be addressed to Dennis Onopa of Sing Out El Paso.

National Communications Planned

To make the NSOAC an effective national organization capable of really helping local Sing Out casts, a national communications system has been established. Several steps have been taken by the Action Council to open lines of communication among Sing Outers around the country. Regional coordinators are now in the process of getting two reliable addresses for each cast in the country where official mail can be sent, and one phone number for each cast where someone can be reached at almost any time. The coordinators will keep files on all the casts and will be able to mail them news of all that is happening. In the event that there is very important news that can not wait several weeks to be spread by newsletters, the coordinators will telephone out the information.

The Communications Committee, with Jane Bandy of Sing Out Volunteers as chairman, is planning to develop several other avenues of communication, between Sing Outs and with the general public. People to People is going to be expanded in format and in circulation. Regular editions will now start to carry articles concerning all aspects of Sing Out. Circulation will be expanded to include all people interested in receiving the newsletter. For the time being subscriptions will be free.

The committee is also planning to develop libraries of books, movies and tapes pertaining to Sing Out. The tapes would be recordings of shows, new songs and lectures of interest to casts. Complete files will be kept on the whereabouts of other material that can be obtained by local Sing Outs. Also, the committee hopes to be able to develop a list of people willing to speak to local casts or persons interested in Sing Out.

Publications being planned, in addition to the newsletter, currently include booklets on revitalizing Sing Out casts and on starting new ones, and supplements covering areas of interest to local casts in as much depth as possible. Every attempt will be made to get the best minds in and out of Sing Out working and writing on the problems local casts encounter.

Any questions or comments concerning national communications should be addressed to Jane Bandy of Sing Out Volunteers.

New Sing Outs!

There are two new local casts in the U.S. now. A Sing Out was started at Hiwassee College, in Madisonville, Tennessee in November by an SEAC strike force. Sing Out Dubuque started a cast in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, after a series of shows there in December.

The Turning Point

The NSOAC is planning its next conference for Easter vacation according to Tunny Pattison, National Coordinator. Tunny says that he believes the conference will indeed represent the turning point for the local Sing Out program in America. The enthusiasm and talent of the delegates from around the country will turn everyone on once again to what Sing Out is, and what it can and must do.

The conference will be open to all who are interested. Definitely coming will be all of the officers and regional coordinators of the NSOAC. It will run for four days during the Easter break. Tunny says the Action Council is now accepting bids from casts around the Midwest interested in hosting the conference. Any interested casts should contact Tunny.

OVAC Takes A Stand Concerning UWP, Inc.

In a letter addressed to J. Blanton Belk, chairman of Up With People, Inc., the director of the Ohio Valley Action Council, Thomas P. Hanrahan, made the following points.

1. OVAC will no longer associate in any way with Up With People, Inc.
2. While Up With People, Inc. is developing a fine liberal and innovative educational program, in OVAC's opinion it is no longer moving in the direction it set out in--it no longer is primarily concerned about people.
3. OVAC believes that one reason for the "downfall and collapse" of the Sing Out program is because local casts attempted to emulate Up With People, and failed.
4. ~~OVAC~~ advocates the return to the original concept of "a commitment to people, to making this a better world for all humanity, and to try to establish cooperation and understanding among men and nations.
5. OVAC advises discontinuance of the term "Sing Out", because of its association with Up With People, Inc., in favor of a term that would more readily communicate our care and concern for people.
6. Local Sing Outs, in OVAC's opinion should use meaningful contemporary music to complement the use of music copyrighted by Up With People, Inc. They recommend that royalties be paid to ASCAP instead of Up With People, Inc., once current performance agreements expire.
7. OVAC asks that all other local casts and regional associations join it in its action.

When copies of this letter were distributed around the country, local casts in the Ohio Valley objected to the impression it gave that they agree with and supported the position taken by OVAC. A second letter was written by Hanrahan clarifying the matter. He said in part, "The Ohio Valley Action Council is people and it represents only the people who are present at its meetings. Those who were present at the December meeting were current and former members of Sing Outs all over the OVAC area, but that does not mean that all the people of the groups agree with all the decisions. In fact, some of the Sing Outs in the area served by OVAC still claim to be a part of Up With People, Inc., and many Sing Outs are quite satisfied to take advantage of the reputation that Up With People has in their location."

Any questions, or comments concerning this matter should be addressed to OVAC, Box 1355, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201.

The OVAC Letter Comment

The NSOAC chooses not to approve or disapprove of the position respective to Up With People, Inc. taken by the Ohio Valley Action Council recently. While such a position may have been considered by nearly everyone in Sing Out at one time or another, it seems that now is not the time for us to make such a declaration.

OVAC members apparently considered extensively the possible ramifications of their action and were able to predict a favorable outcome for themselves. We hope that they will indeed be benefitted by the outcome.

We see for ourselves many more pressing issues that need to be faced at the moment. The most urgent question, as we see it, is whether or not the local Sing Out program is going to move forward. We are resolved to answer that question with a resounding yes, by somehow helping local Sing Outs everywhere gain what they need to become revitalized. Hope, determination, knowledge and ability, we feel, many casts need right now more than a set policy concerning Up With People, Inc.

Further, we would rather have the opportunity of reviewing any future publicly announced Up With People, Inc. policy concerning local Sing Outs, before committing ourselves to any single position. Hence our current position of no position.

A Costly Tangent Comment

The following passage is from Anne Wolridge Gordon's PETER HOWARD: LIFE AND LETTERS (copyright 1969 by The Oxford Group, and published by Hodder and Staughton, Ltd., London), pages 279 & 280. In it a tendency is discussed that you may perceive in yourself or in those around you.

"Buchman had refused to let Howard be dependent on human approval. Buchman himself had once been offered large sums of money in America to turn his work into a popular organisation. An offer he rejected immediately. With M.R.A.'s increasing advance, Howard understood how easily this idea could attract and influence people. He knew the danger of it. After Buchman's death he wrote:

'Moral Re-Armament stands like a rock and will, I am convinced prove the cornerstone for a new world. Buchman said, "The one thing to do in a time of crisis is to change men." It is a source of deep concern to me that we understand and accept this truth, which was the engine of Buchman's life.

'We seem to be reaching the masses in many countries, but we need to be very watchful that we do not drift into a movement so much in love with mass response that we are only out for the applause of the multitudes and that when that applause is not forthcoming, we develop an anti-Communism and self-justification and self-defence which is not of God, but which is indeed anti-God. I think that as God entrusts us with the masses, we need to let Him penetrate more deeply and purify our lives more absolutely, instead of allowing success to make us turn more and more to a reliance on applause.

'One man writes to me: "The issue of fighting for God's rule in men, rather than using men to achieve a purpose born out of ambition, is a very fundamental one. Otherwise we so like the applause of the crowd that we work to get crowds to applaud, rather than to change men.."

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A Costly Tangent (continued)

'...I believe that this impurity, which drives us to seek appreciation from everybody, can, if it is uncured and unfaced, result in disastrous national strategy.'

Whether or not any of us perceive this "impurity" in or around us, we must all make a conscious effort to avoid it in the future. If we are to communicate to America the true message of Sing Out that is in all of us, we mustn't slip onto such tangents.

People to People

This newsletter is published monthly for the National Sing Out Action Council by Let's Go San Diego, Inc. Editor is Bill Montgomery. Remarks concerning the newsletter, and possible news items should be addressed to People to People in care of Let's Go San Diego, Inc., Box 6193, San Diego, California 92106.