

Let's work within our means

Last week the Center's board held its semi-annual meeting. We discussed where we plan to go with the convention project. The tasks of bringing together a collective white antiracist voice and convention require more than we anticipated. If nothing else, we find that simply bringing together a large, and predominantly white, though multiracial, group of antiracist activists is not enough to bring this project to fruition.

As a board and as an organization we continue to support the vision statement worked out in Boston in September of last year. That statement calls for the creation of "a strong collective white anti-racist community base, with regional representation, to join in the building of a national movement for systemic and structural antiracist transformation." That's good stuff and we're not ready to let it go.

There's still reason for optimism. Informal discussion leads us to believe at least one other organization still holds to this vision and is organizing to make it happen. Possibly other organizations are active as well, and simply have not yet appeared on our radar. It's too early to conclude the failure to build an organization in New Orleans is due to a lack of interest and concern. The fire may not yet be there, but everyone shared in lighting a candle.

Building that support, and bringing it to a point of passion and intensity sufficient to drive a collective action is going to take time and determined organizing. As encouraging as the growth of white antiracism has been, white antiracists do not yet have the means among ourselves to spontaneously put forth that collective voice that admittedly we would like to have.

We, as a board, have thought about this, and come to the following decision. We plan to work closer to home, within the membership framework of our own organization. The original purpose of the membership program was to build and support a constituency who hold a shared concern for transforming United States culture from one based on white values to one cen-

tered on multiracial values. We plan to organize our membership program in a way to give greater presence and voice to members who are looking to network, organize, and participate in a process supporting a collective white antiracist voice.

Here are some things we plan to do:


- Focus on organizing closer to home, among our membership.
- Streamline our membership administration. Right now it's labor intensive and a roadblock to growth.
- Emphasize member participation. It can't all come from our office.
- Foster networking among members. To begin, we plan to develop a member directory, and on www.euroamerican.org, a password-protected section dedicated to member concerns.
- Begin to develop a position statement and a program that makes it clear what we stand for.
- Support development of local and regional units, chapters, discussion and action groups.
- Provide this initiative with its own identity, including a name (Center for the Study of White American Culture does not convey the organizing and action component of our plans).
- Continue to collaborate with like-minded organizations and pursue collective projects. For instance, we continue to support the regional structure that was initiated in New Orleans.
- Keep our ongoing programs in place. Our publishing, speaking, and training operations will continue.

This will take a little time, and its success depends on there being a body of persons who value the program and are willing to devote some passion, time, active communication and financial support to making it work.

Dear Members,

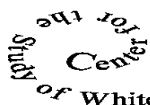
Are you willing to be listed in a membership directory? As we are putting our new membership program together, we need to hear from you. And we think you need to hear from other members. Share your thoughts, experiences, projects and yourself with other Center members. Let's hear from you!

Give us a shout on
whiteness@yahoogroups.com

or use the **contact information** over here.....

Better yet, send a message directly to the board decision-makers at:

CSWACboard@yahoogroups.com



Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc.

The *Membership Newsletter* is a publication of the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. sent exclusively to its members 4 times per year. The Center for the Study of White American Culture is a multiracial organization whose mission is to define and examine white United States culture and to address its role in, and impact on, the greater American culture.

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As promised, we're getting back on a seasonal cycle. This, our winter newsletter, is coming out while it's still winter. Our spring newsletter should close the gap a little more.

Members probably cannot help notice this newsletter is a little brief compared to our customary 4-page spread. The Center has many projects in process, but not a lot to report in the way of "news."

Actually, we'd like the news to come from you. Over the course of this year, as we revamp and revitalize our membership program, we hope to see those missing pages begin to fill with updates, commentary, announcements, and inspirational stories from you and other like-minded people across the country.

Members - new and renewing since last issue

Students

- Carolyn Braley
- Daniel B. Singley

Contributors

- Kay Bacon
- Gillian Burlingham
- Ben Cain
- Janice W. Eddy
- Cynthia Glynn
- Kathleen K. Harr
- Mike Hill
- Kathryn Liss
- Richard E. Mason
- Madeline McClure
- Stella Osemwegie
- Peter J. Stein
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