

CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY LIAISON ORGANIZATION FOR SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND REFORM

Asheville, NC

April, 1989

CLOSER's Open Forum on Sunday, March 5, was a very productive event. If you weren't there, we want you to feel a part of what transpired, and what we decided. Ron L. facilitated, and asked us first to name CLOSER's strengths for this year, and then areas needing work. Some positives were growing membership, good leadership, participation by more women, friendliness and warmth, programs, non-threatening/nurturing atmosphere, social perks, Dan and Joan, church support, and variety of activities. Areas needing work were members' involvement in CLOSER's work, members' exposure to the constitution, and continuity in leadership from year to year.

In sum, we've had a great year, but we need more membership involvement in running the programs, so that we don't burn out our leadership. The officers take care of behind-the-scenes activities like program planning, getting speakers, keeping the treasury, writing thank you notes to speakers, updating membership data, publishing the membership directory, and writing, editing, collating and sending out the newsletter. But there are MANY tasks that need to be done every week to put on a program.

To give you an idea of all that's involved for a Tuesday night program, here are the tasks: Set up the room with chairs and tables for refreshments and literature; hang the CLOSER sign outside; set up the microphone; greet new people; buy refreshments; set up refreshments; make coffee; provide membership information; collect

applications and fees from those wanting to join; put out literature about CLOSER, other relevant groups, and community activities; set up and update bulletin board; staff the library; make opening remarks and announcements; conduct any business; introduce new people; pass the bucket; introduce the program; close the meeting; clean up from refreshments; stack and put away chairs. Did you have any idea?! But as my mother always said, "Many hands make light work," and she knew, because she had five children. But how?

WELL! Jim R. volunteered at the Forum to be Volunteer Coordinator. Two other people volunteered to help Jim. He will ask people, weekly or monthly, to commit to helping with many of the tasks in the paragraph above. (Some are Executive Committee functions.) And he has already begun! We can already feel the load being lifted.

I can guarantee that when you get involved, you will feel even better about CLOSER and about yourself than you do now, because it's another way to express our love for one another and for Asheville's gay and lesbian community. And that love will come back to you. So remember, when you see Jim coming, get ready to say "YES!"

CONGRATULATIONS



To Cindy and Angela on their first anniversary! Many happy returns to these two wonderful people!