

San Diego State College
San Diego, California 92115

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES AND SERVICES
(714) 286-6063

Dear Jane Kennedy,

am writing you
I recently telephoned you (and spoke with your "answering service" Ken Janiszewski) on behalf of the Center for Women's Studies and Services (CWSS), and our work surrounding the Republican National Convention to be held in San Diego in August. We would like to explore with you the possibility of your participating in our August activities sometime between August 17 and August 23. The topic would be of your own choosing - hopefully woman oriented and reflecting your moral-political stance on a variety of issues. Please let us know your ideas on the subject. We hope to have national coverage for our events, so we will make sure that your voice is heard.

Concerning housing and transportation, we here in San Diego would make arrangements for you. I can specify no specific amount for an honorarium as yet, since we are in the process of investigating resources; all I can say at this moment is that we will have an honorarium for you.

Let me now tell you a bit about CWSS, the Community Congress, and the Congress August Project or CAP.

Judy Mills from San Diego MCHR took some material to the fall MCHR Conference concerning CWSS. In addition I wrote you a letter in response to the question at the end of one of your articles from prison; namely, "Does anyone out there care about prisoners?" In that letter I briefly outlined the work that CWSS is doing with women prisoners and ex-cons. But let me start from the beginning:

CWSS is a multi-component organization dedicated to identifying and meeting the vast array of women's needs. Its twin principles are community orientation and participant control. We combine the working relationships of a collective with well defined task areas called components. The Recruitment and Tutorial Components have helped organize in-prison sisterhood organizations at CRC and CIW, and have provided educational opportunities and supportive services for women coming out of these institutions. The Cultural Component organized a countywide arts festival of 200 women extending over a three week period during which there was an art show, a poetry reading, multi-media presentations, dance and music recitals, and a panel on Women and Prisons. Proceeds from the festival went to an Emergency Support Fund for Women Prisoners. The Education Component sponsors courses and workshops on women, as well as conferences. Rainbow Snake, a poetry anthology of San Diego women poets and guests, is the product of the Publications Component, in addition to newsletters and special feature articles. The Research Component is involving women on a national scale in the annotation of a world bibliography of women writers. Our two most recent projects are the opening of a downtown storefront - walk-in crisis and daily counseling and referral - in a poor neighborhood; and the formation of the CWSS Convention Action, which is described on the accompanying sheet.

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CWSS joined the Community Congress at its inception last spring. The Community Congress can be most aptly described as a coalition of street service agencies and organizations - free clinics, drug rehabilitation programs, ex-con projects, etc. - which have come together for the purpose of "obtaining and exercising power to achieve community goals and purposes; for educating, informing, and lobbying for changes in the system; and for bringing to bear humanizing influences upon delivering services to community people."

CAP, Congress August Project, is a special undertaking of the Community Congress. It was created to directly challenge the existing priorities of our national government, and to point out that services are a right, not a privilege. To this end, member groups in CAP will be providing services to the many non-delegates who will be here in the spirit of non-violent dissent this August, as well as putting on programs and events which will focus on the issues of poverty, racism, sexism, social alienation, etc. It is within this creative dissenting feminist context that we want to explore with you the possibilities of your coming to San Diego this summer. We would be proud to sponsor you.

Please let us hear from you soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joyce Nower

Joyce Nower
CWSS Convention Action