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January 26, 1981

RENEWAL

New World Alliance update

Alliance combines left and right, personal and political

By Gordon Davidson and Corinne McLaughlin

We will be writing a monthly column for RENEWAL on the New World Alliance, a national political organization that seeks to synthesize the best values of the left and the right. In this first column we'd like to give you an overview of the Alliance.

Our 39-member Governing Council contains many different kinds of people - consumer advocates and corporate executives, spiritual community founders and college professors, Democrats and Republicans, socialists and libertarians. Our initial gathering in Dec., 1979 was held in response to the felt needs of 350 people across the country who filled out a detailed questionnaire on the kind of political organization they wanted to see. The Governing Council was chosen partly by the questionnaire-answers and partly by chance. There were 89 candidates for Council.

During our meetings we've tried to apply insights from spiritual and psychological growth processes to the tasks of setting up a political organization. What a challenge this has been! We were able to set up a new kind of structure, with decision making vested in groups rather than in a single leader with all his or her strengths and weaknesses. Besides our Governing Council we have a 13-member National Committee that meets more frequently in Washington,

D.C., we have seven regional groups and we have networking groups for various projects. Our projects include a political awareness seminar, a political platform, a speakers' bureau, and - in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin and the Lorian Association - a conference for elected officials.

We are committed to consensus building in all our groups and projects and to using short periods of silence (called "attunements") to draw on our intuition in making decisions and solving conflicts. We've often stopped in the middle of a meeting to explore someone's feelings of anger or sadness. Through these experiences we've learned a great deal about how people's repressed feelings block consensus building and goal accomplishment, and we're learning how to avoid the power struggles that characterize so many political groups.

One group of us has designed a "Political Awareness Seminar." The seminar is an all day experience and we think it can help people create a politics whose means (process) is as liberating as its ends (goals). It can certainly give people a sense of greater personal effectiveness in political activity. The seminar includes group discussion, guided imagery, cooperative games, and experiential sessions on themes like "transforming obstacles to personal empowerment," "the personal/political connection," and

"consensus building." Our next seminar will be held in Washington, D.C. this Feb. 21 and there will be a general presentation on the Alliance the night before.

For more information: New World Alliance, 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 347-6082. For more on the seminar: same phone number or (212) 737-8808.

Gordon and Corinne are founders of the Sirius Community in Amherst, Mass. and are members of the New World Alliance.

New World Alliance update

Alliance releases political platform at D.C.

By Bob Olson

The New World Alliance released its first political platform, *A Transformation Platform: The Dialogue Begins*, at a press conference this January 28th at the National Press Building in Washington, D.C.

A panel of Alliance Governing Council (GC) members, seated before a wall-sized photo mural of the Capitol, took questions for two hours from an audience that ranged from a high official in the Reagan administration to an observer from the Democratic National Committee to a reporter from TASS. Several GC members were in the audience for moral support.

A Transformation Platform is the first attempt to take ecological, decentralist, globalist, and human growth-oriented ideas and translate them into a detailed, practical political platform. It contains nearly 300 specific policy proposals. It also begins a broad rethinking of the very nature of politics, recognizing that activities like neighborhood cooperatives, self-help networks, and personal involvement in spiritual and psychological growth are all important aspects of political transformation.

The platform was written by GC members of the Alliance. Early drafts were reviewed by the entire GC, and different sections were reviewed by nearly 200 other individuals with involvement in the various

subject areas: people as diverse as a McDonald's vice-president and a founder of the Holistic Health Practitioners' Association. The present draft was finalized at a special meeting of the GC in September, 1980.

In writing the platform, members of the GC rejected the whole conventional approach of offering "final answers." The platform leads off with an "Invitation to Participate" — a call for Alliance members and others to send in their additions, dissents and alternative views. Before publication, members of the GC had an opportunity to add commentaries and criticisms; and a revised platform will be published every couple of years with input and commentaries from many.

The idea is to create an innovative national dialogue that can build toward a new political consensus.

What seemed to interest the press most was that the platform is neither "left wing" nor "right wing." For example, it advocates an energy future based on conservation and solar energy (ultra-liberal?), but it relies on free consumer choice, local initiative, and the removal of all subsidies and price controls to achieve that future (ultra-conservative?). It rejects national health insurance and excessive medical regulation (conservative?), but defines a new "holistic health" approach to medical care. It presents a glo-

press conference

bal policy perspective that calls on U.S. "foreign" policy to go beyond parochial national loyalties and concerns, but it also contains a decentralist perspective that favors local control.

We think these novel combinations of ideas make sense, even though some members of the press appeared to be less than entirely convinced.

A Transformation Platform is available for \$4 from: New World Alliance, 733 15th St. NW, Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005.

New World Alliance update

Alliance's new structure: bioregional,

By Jim Turner; edited by M.S.

The New World Alliance has chosen a structure for itself. This structure is based on three decisions that, we hope, will allow the Alliance to grow organically rather than mechanically.

The first decision is to nurture the growth of the Alliance rather than attempt to construct a shape for it. (We see the Alliance as more like a tree than a building.)

The second decision is to organize the national structure of the Alliance at least as much in accordance with bioregional principles, as along the boundaries of political subdivisions.

The third decision is to organize the activities of the Alliance at least as much in accordance with entrepreneurial principles as with governmental principles.

These decisions were made by the Alliance's Governing Council at its meeting in Alamo, California last December. The Governing Council then divided the responsibility it had taken to itself into three committees — a National Committee, a Networks Committee and a Regions Committee. Each committee is an attempt to embody in structure one of the three basic decisions.

The Regions Committee is an effort to develop an organizational relationship between the Alliance and people in the various bioregions. It is a reflection of the Al-

liance's commitment to its belief that at its best, political organization is a reflection of the relationship between people and their natural local surroundings.

The Governing Council members in each bioregion are empowered to encourage the development of chapters in their bioregions, and the National Committee is empowered to develop chapters and bioregional committees in areas without them.

The Networks Committee is designed to embody the entrepreneurial principles of the Alliance. Projects of the Networks Committee are adopted to be self-financing vehicles expanding the awareness of the Alliance and the public of each other. Projects currently managed by the Networks Committee include its Political Awareness Seminars, Political Skills Workshops, Speakers Bureau, and Living Platform Process.

The National Committee of the Alliance is charged with nurturing the development of the Alliance as a whole. It maintains the National Office which acts as an exchange point for local activity; maintains the agenda for the whole Alliance; and does other tasks designed to nurture the Alliance's structural growth.

The National Committee is selected by the Governing Council; the Regions Committee is made up of Governing Council members selected from the bioregions; the

entrepreneurial, organic

Networks Committee is made up of representatives from each of the networking enterprises.

With this initial structure, the New World Alliance hopes to be a different kind of political organization combining the diversification of bioregional focus, the strength of national networks and the energy of self-sustaining entrepreneurial activity. To find out more: New World Alliance, 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005.

"Transformation-oriented" elected officials convene in Milwaukee

the weekend of March 27-29, the Lorian Association, the New World Alliance, and the University of Wisconsin sponsored a national "consultation" for transformation-oriented elected officials at the U.W. campus in Milwaukee. This issue's multilogue poses the question, "What was your response to the consultation?"

"I came away with many (good) questions"

By Dorothy K. Dean, elected member of a County Board of Supervisors

Curiosity is probably the main reason I decided to attend the consultation. As an elected official — and having been a community organizer — I am definitely somewhat jaded about the possibility of transforming my every day work world.

From the beginning it was obvious that there were significant differences between the politicians and the people who represented the Lorian Association, the New World Alliance and the University of Wisconsin. The politicians, I think, found some difficulty in thinking and talking in any but concrete terms. The day-to-day press of work acts against discussing philosophy. The rule is to stick to the issues. "Be practical."

For example, one of my colleagues asked about the relevance of the rediscovery of "the Goddess" to our jobs. I do see relevance in a discussion of the rediscovery of the female in all of us — which, to me, is what reference to the Goddess means. The intergration of the spiritual/irrational with the pragmatic/rational is essential to any transformation.

David Spangler, in my opinion, did a fine job of discussing the interrelationship of material and spiritual. Following his vision, we discussed various practical aspects of transformational politics with Belden Paulson and members of the Alliance. I was impressed with the easy, natural way the speakers moved from the spiritual to the practical and back again. However, I still have my doubts that a group as predominantly male as our group that weekend can really be transformational. If I were to describe my understanding of "transformation-oriented politics" I would say that it is simply the kind of life and community governance that many feminists have been urging for years.

I came away from the consultation with many questions: What do I have to gain by orienting my work as an elected official toward transformation? What might I lose?

How can the quality of my interactions as a politician be deepened? Can that deepening be communicated through the traditional media?

Next time we meet let's have some physical exercise to give our bodies some needed attention after hours of working our minds.

"Real differences separate spiritual, political views"

By Miller Hudson, elected member, Colorado State Legislature

The Milwaukee consultation showed that it may prove difficult to combine personal transformation and practical politics.

Early Friday evening, Wisconsin State Senator Warren Braun provided the theme which focused discussion through the occasional rough spots later in the weekend. Commenting on his hopes for the meeting, Warren expressed his skepticism that the consultation could help him on the matter of, "What do I do Monday?"

I suspect I will always remember Milwaukee as the "Monday Morning Conference." It became apparent that significant differences separate the spiritual and political views of the transformation ahead of us. The "spiritualists," for lack of a better term, clearly hope for a transformation of society propelled largely by an individual recognition of one's connectedness with life and nature. However, the concept of social betterment through personal growth was something less than a best seller with the politicians. Call it cynicism or call it experience, the elected officials were generally looking for practical tips on ways to pave the path for transformation through political and legislative initiatives.

Interestingly, the activities with the most appeal for me tended not to be legislative in character. An exchange of information, regarding transformational projects currently under way in communities across the country, energized everyone. And practically everyone left with a list of promises to mail materials back and forth.

I found it heartening and strengthening to discover other politicians attempting to integrate their personal vision with public policy.

Our weekend failed to achieve some of its more grandiose pretensions. No cosmic agenda of solutions emerged. No plans for a national convention were developed. The politicians and spiritualists left somewhat unsure of just how they could help each other, but certain they should try.

"In practice there was no such dichotomy"

By Belden Paulson, professor of political science, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

As one of the planners of the consultation weekend and one who did much of the invitational telephoning, I already knew several things that seemed to be shared by the group:

1. This is a crucial historic moment;
2. A fundamental reformulation of pol-

itics is taking place as the underlying culture changes;

3. There is a host of community groups working on specific issues but there is need for linkages, coalitions, networks — the emergence of a new constituency;

4. Today's great political issues have little or nothing to do with party labels or narrow partisan advantage.

While the discussions weaved back and forth on various aspects of the above, I felt the most powerful moments — and the reason these busy people had come together — had to do with our attempts to understand the relationship between the deeper levels of our lives and politics.

Although the consultation was sponsored by highly "disparate" groups representing political, educational, and spiritual concerns, in practice there was no such dichotomy. All of us seemed interested, as California State Rep. John Vasconcellos put it, in "infusing our rational, empirical and utilitarian science and economics with more sensitive, caring and humanistic guides for action."

The discussion focused again and again on relating the spirit to the practical: on the "big picture" of the planet and on "leaving here and getting back to our high priority agendas"; on the "priestly function" of respecting a certain sacredness in all that we do and on the "effectiveness function" of getting things done even though compromise and imperfection are the order of the day.

We all seemed to agree that "the politics we do is who we are," that we must interrelate personal growth and social activism, that we empower ourselves by empowering each other.

The strategic aspects of networking, organizing, building support groups, educating, regularly bubbled to the surface; but the specifics began to seem less important (and easier to mold) as the vision of it all began to sharpen in focus.

Renewal

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RENEWAL

New World Alliance update

Alliance sponsors "national consultation" of

By Marc David Sarkady

On the weekend of March 27-29, at the handsome Kenwood Conference Center near Milwaukee, "transformation-oriented" elected officials from across the U.S. came together in a "national consultation" to meet one another and explore common ground. Sponsors of the consultation were the Lorian Association, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and the New World Alliance.

In last issue's RENEWAL, three participants gave their personal views of the gathering. In this column, I want to speak as the Alliance's "primary organizer" of the event.

I felt that the gathering had three main purposes: (1) to begin to clarify what it is that's new about the new politics; (2) to investigate how the work of non-politicians can reinforce and extend the work of transformation-oriented officeholders; and (3) to facilitate the formation of a permanent national network of transformation-oriented politicians. In all three areas I think the gathering was very successful.

In terms of clarifying the new politics I think there was broad general agreement that effective new policies are going to have to be based on increased spiritual and personal awareness. It is this awareness that ultimately characterizes the new politics. Clem Bezold (New World Alliance) demon-

strated the potential usefulness of a kind of "future awareness" to the legislative process. David Spangler (Lorian Association) demonstrated that a special awareness of the universe, and the connectedness of all life, lends a "unifying principle" for viewing the world and politics. And John Vasconcellos (Calif. State Assembly) spoke about using his own personal awareness to become less pious and arrogant about his political views.

Regarding purpose (2) above, I think we all became much more aware of the need for us to express our theories in *practical* terms. The politicians were unclear as to how that "increased awareness" relates to budget cuts, inflation, partisan rivalries, etc. Some of the answers we eventually came up with were: increased awareness can help in the formulation of new creative approaches to problems (as in the Alliance's *Transformation Platform*); and, some of the creative technologies for human unity developed by the human potential movement can be applied to legislative settings.

In terms of purpose (3) above, I believe the consultation was very successful for all participants in really bringing out a sense of community and support. It was quite evident that most if not all participants were fulfilled by meeting each other, and many plans for continued future work were made. We will definitely be holding other consul-

elected officials

tations. The next ones will be on the West Coast, in the Northeast, and around Washington, D.C. Each gathering will be regionally oriented with national participation. Through this kind of step-by-step development we will be able to build other regions, and then hold a national meeting.

A subgroup of Alliance members and others has taken responsibility for developing these meetings. To get involved: Sarkady, Human Resource Consultants, P.O. Box P, Greenville, N.H. 03048, (603) 878-3464.

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June 22, 1981

RENEWAL

New World Alliance update

Alliance's "Political Awareness Seminars"

By Robert Buxbaum; edited by M.S.

"I do not have an activist background," she wrote (from Framingham, Mass.), "and have hardly felt empowered to implement change. I thought you were all so articulate in helping us see our own strength. . . . In retrospect it was even more meaningful than I realized Saturday evening."

In November, 1980 the New World Alliance sponsored its first "Political Awareness Seminar" — a day-long experience that can help us be more politically effective. Since then we've held seminars in Boston, New York (twice) and Washington (twice), letters like the one above have been pouring in, and we've been hoping and planning to take the seminar to many more cities and regions.

The seminar was designed by seven Alliance Governing Council members. Each of us had had experience designing seminars for our own institutes or projects.

Focus of the seminar is on our political attitudes — deeper and more basic than our political ideologies. Through the seminar we try to change the way people *look* at politics. We also try to help people overcome the personal beliefs and fears that block their political effectiveness.

We try to convey a politics of hope and positive vision — a unitive politics that goes beyond "left against right"; a politics where

the means are as humanizing as the goals.

The seminar consists of presentations, group discussions, cooperative games and exercises, and guided imagery. One section explores traditionally polarized value-pairs like technology/humanism, militarism/pacifism, isolationism/interventionism. We look for the positive essence of each "side" of the value-pair and seek to synthesize both "sides," creating a powerful new unified value. Then we bring this synthesis down to earth by applying it to specific issues.

In a second section of the seminar we use role playing to help you see how political statements often contain personal emotions that have not been fully worked through. And we help you see how we often project personal feelings and troubles onto corresponding political issues (e.g., difficulty being assertive onto what-to-do-about-defense). To see these kinds of things is, very often, to see political issues in a totally new light.

In a third section of the seminar, we present and discuss tools for consensus building — tools that are essential to moving beyond traditional adversarial politics. In a fourth section, we help you build new political attitudes which can make you more politically effective.

Recently we designed a second, complementary seminar. In it we present informa-

assist, inspire many

tion on global realities and on new solutions being pioneered, we take a look at personal lifestyle choices, and we present a training process for translating your political concerns into community-based, practical skills, from local elections to community co-ops.

If you'd like to sponsor a seminar in your community, or for more information: New World Alliance, 733 15th St. N.W., Suite 1131, Wash., D.C. 20005, 347-6082.

August 24, 1981

RENEWAL**New World Alliance update****Alliance Governing Council meeting – a***By Bob Olson*

This is a personal view of the Alliance's fifth Governing Council meeting which was held last month in Alamosa, Colorado. I couldn't see how to do an "objective" report.

Thursday: we gathered around a twilight campfire, facing horseshoe-fashion into the San Luis Valley, the largest Alpine valley in the world. Bob Dunsmore, our host, spoke of the valley's history, its Spanish legends and Native American tales of power. Later, by moonlight and candlelight, we splashed in mountain hot springs, glad to be together once again.

Friday: this was to be the day of the Great Strategy Discussion. But afterwards, at night, unable to sleep, I walked the streets agonizing over our group's slow progress toward achieving a clear shared sense of what we want to accomplish. Earlier that evening we'd had one of our occasional episodes of "collective psychosis," losing our focus and flailing about. I think we were all crying in our hearts. Why is it that we so often divert ourselves into discussions of structure, tactics or group process whenever we come to the edge of experiencing our "stuckness"?

I'm not frustrated because we're stuck. No one else has learned how to foster a Transformational Politics either – the task

must be very difficult! I'm frustrated because we don't allow ourselves to experience our stuckness deeply, as a Zen Buddhist uses a koan to enter into "beginner's mind," the inward silence of knowing-that-you-don't-know from which all new understanding emerges.

Saturday: the day began with a hike in the magnificent Great Sand Dunes and a joyously cathartic squirtgun shootout. It ended with an intense, moving "public interaction" with residents of the valley that brought out the best in us. In between, I felt important changes occurring. Several people participated more fully than ever before. Several people volunteered to sponsor new activities – an internal networking newsletter, a fund for local projects, an international exchange of political platforms. I sensed a healthy shift of attention outward, toward our work in the world. And I saw a great deal of healing and personal support taking place.

Sunday: as usual, we accelerated to a dizzying pace toward the end. We made real progress in areas like membership, chapters, endorsement and affiliation policy, and Governing Council structure, although we left many loose ends in our haste. The National Committee worked out an important division of functions between east and west

personal view

coast members. And by meeting's end I felt we were approaching a strategic breakthrough. The same question kept coming up in each area we discussed: How can we network without being the center? How can we help a "network of networks" emerge without "owning" it ourselves. *New World Alliance: 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202-347-6082.*



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October 5, 1981

RENEWAL

New World Alliance update

Governing Council criticizes itself, seeks

By Michael Marien and M.S.

(Marien is editor of the World Future Society's monthly abstract of books and articles, *Future Survey*.)

Recently, the New World Alliance's National Committee asked Governing Council members to describe where they would like the Alliance to be in 1-2 years and 5-10 years. The results are revealing not only of GC members' hopes and fears but of the state-of-the-Alliance today.

There was an uncommon amount of agreement on what the Alliance should *not* become but is in danger of becoming. "We are involuted," says Los Angeles attorney Gerald Goldfarb, "the best kept secret in town; and the last thing the transformational movement needs is still another small organization." We are becoming a "diddler's cult," says Washington, D.C. development consultant Rene Cardenas. Marien said we may already be immersed in the miasma of six interrelated and debilitating extremes: to avoid narrow definitions of politics; we define politics as everything and thus lose sight of power and the electoral process; to avoid an emphasis on institutions, we over-emphasize individual change and human growth; to avoid too much "rationality," we over-emphasize emotion to such an extent that we become anti-intellectual; to avoid

hate, we over-emphasize love to the point of stagnation; to avoid goals and performance measures, we over-emphasize process.

There was considerably less agreement on what the Alliance *could* or *should* be. Among the possibilities:

Network of networks. Richard Perl, director of the Project for Global Education, wants the Alliance to "network the groups that are part of the transformational movement." Mel Gurtov, professor of political science at U Cal — Riverside, wants the Alliance to become "the network of networks — in five years, the leading edge of alternative politics."

Support group. According to Wendy Mogy, co-director of a political consulting firm, the Alliance should be a place for politicians and activists "to turn to for help in resolving conflicts, re-examining their assumptions, finding support for their risk-taking, etc." Eric Utne, director of new projects at Wilson Learning Systems, sees the Alliance as "part salon, part club, part cell, part coven — a resource for people to create community."

Educational organization/idea base/intellectual resource. Many GC members hold this view. Marien wants the Alliance to become "a recognized and respected idea collection and dissemination center." Cardenas

a common focus

adds, "NWA ought to centrally include education of and by minorities."

Political action committee. One GC member wants the Alliance to become the transformational version of the National Conservative Political Action Committee — funneling money and people-power into the campaigns of transformation-oriented political candidates.

In the months ahead, the Alliance will be attempting to synthesize and clarify these visions (733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Wash., D.C. 20005, 202-347-6082).

November 16, 1981

RENEWAL**New World Alliance update****Alliance office resembled "the eye of a***By Sarah James*

(James, 33, is a regional planner in Meredith, N.H., and a former member of the Findhorn community. She ran the New World Alliance office in Washington, D.C. from the summer of 1980 through the spring of 1981.)

Staffing the office of the Alliance during the first year of its development often felt similar to inhabiting the eye of a hurricane.

The 10-foot-by-10-foot, one-room office on the 11th floor of the Woodward Building (circa. maybe 1908) would offer at times a "dynamic stillness" and an atmosphere of peace and purpose that served only to heighten my awareness of the seemingly chaotic activity going on in the hundreds of new transformational and alternative groups funneling in messages about themselves from all over the country.

Other times that activity would invade the office itself. The little room, covered from floor to ceiling with "New Age" magazine covers, photographs of transformation-oriented thinkers and activists, and posters from conferences, would suddenly be filled to overflowing by the added presence of three or four out-of-town visitors, Governing Council members, volunteers helping to send out membership letters. At the same time, the Alliance phone would be jumping

off its hook with interested inquirers wanting to know more about this newly formed political organization aspiring to transform the political process itself.

It was exciting to tell people about the Alliance. And it was exciting to see the excitement of others as they first heard of the Alliance and what it was saying.

Letters would arrive from across the country and around the world — almost 3,000 while I was there — practically begging for more news of this group. Almost all letter writers would say the Alliance was articulating something they had felt inside themselves but had never found in any existing traditional or alternative group. Many writers asked if they could work for the Alliance, join projects or attend functions.

These letters, probably more than any other phenomenon, communicated a need for the Alliance to exist. At the same time, it became clear through reading those letters how conditioned we "seekers of a better way" are to looking to somewhere or someone else to give us answers. A substantial number of letters essentially were saying "tell us what to do." It was rare that a writer would propose an actual project to put into practice the principles we shared.

My office job also offered an overview of the Alliance as an organization. The van-

hurricane"

tage point of the office offered a curious and sometimes uncomfortable perspective on (a) the "where are we going?" deliberations of Governing Council members, and (b) the "what should we be doing?" deliberations of Alliance members and interested friends. The office had to be a receptor to both groups, and often it seemed that neither group was in touch with the needs or the reality of the other. It was a challenge indeed to try to bridge that gap (New World Alliance: 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202-347-6082).

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New World Alliance update

Alliance sponsors second "Consultation"

By Robert Buxbaum with M.S.

(Buxbaum, 30, has been a policy analyst for the Office of the New York City Council President.)

A "Consultation" for public officials — the second of its kind, the first in the Northeast — brought 25 public officials and New World Alliance members together for three days last month at a rural retreat center near Phoenicia, New York.

Sponsored jointly by the Alliance and the Institute for the New Age, the unusual weekend gathering included tears of sadness and joy, intense arguments, exciting brainstorming, songs of great spirit, and sensitive and intelligent discussion of questions dear to all present.

We conveyed a number of ideas that were "new" for many in attendance. For example, Clem Bezold's idea that all our legislative efforts have an implied future scenario attached to them. Or, for example, my own idea that political problems *and* their solutions start from within.

We also learned a great deal. For example, about how to involve more politicians. It's best to first make informal contact and develop a relationship — to make much more person-to-person contact in advance than we did. And other politicians are the best people to do this, so a kind of pyramid-

ing of contact needs to take place prior to meetings. . . .

We also learned what politicians need from us. Basically, they need us to make our transformational ideas as practically applicable as possible. At one point we did this: we used one person's potential Congressional candidacy as a springboard for considering how to run a political campaign in a way that's consistent with "transformational" beliefs and values. We brainstormed in five general question areas (e.g., "What themes to communicate through the campaign?", "How to organize one's life in the context of the campaign?") and then broke up into groups to focus on the questions as applied to the specific candidacy.

Important networking connections were made. One quick example — a Vermont state legislator and I have begun corresponding about specific issues she's facing and how the approach I outlined can be applied.

Music played a much bigger part in this meeting than in our first (in Milwaukee last March; see RENEWALS #6 and 7), and it was a wonderful addition. Robbie Gass's playing and singing seemed to convey a more powerful, direct message of what we are trying to accomplish than almost anything said all weekend.

It was amazing how much interest there

for public officials

was in the case study on how to run campaigns and how many people had ideas of running at some point themselves. If nothing else, I think it was a hopeful sign that our movement is excited about getting involved in the world of elections and decisionmaking responsibility. The Consultations can be an important resource for developing the methodologies we need to be involved in electoral politics without falling prey to it — to be "in" the world of politics and yet not "of" it (New World Alliance: 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202-347-6082).

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New World Alliance update

Alliance meeting signals shift from no leaders

By Marc Sarkady and others

(Sarkady is co-founder of Human Resource Consultants, Waterbury, Vt., and a Governing Council member of the New World Alliance.)

The New World Alliance held its fifth semiannual Governing Council meeting last month at Coolfont Conference Center, Berkeley Springs, W.Va. In a sense, it represented the re-founding of the Alliance.

Two years ago, Mark Satin convened a meeting of about 35 activists, politicians, organizers, authors, etc. from around the country to begin the Alliance. At this first meeting, though Satin had convened the group, he simply handed all decision-making power over to them. They became the "board" and Satin was hired as a staff member with no voting rights.

By putting himself aside but at the same time, through his staff position, exerting considerable influence, Satin set up a situation of considerable ambivalence about leadership and power in the group (this ambivalence about power and authority is, of course, very much a part of the whole "New Age" movement). We have spent the last two years making a transition from Satin's "leadership" (or no leadership - ed.) to group leadership, at the same time developing a sense of just authority and

power within our group.

This may be the most important work that we have done so far. It has involved many painful sessions between and among our different members, working out feelings about each other's roles. At present, the Governing Council is developing as a team, and a group trust is emerging which extends beyond any one person.

The most recent GC meeting was symbolic of this team-building effort.

First, the meeting was planned by a team of people, who are also active in the National Committee of the Alliance.

Second, the meeting included three experiential sessions: a values exploration with Lou Mobley (founder of IBM's management training program), a mental visualization of our personal and organizational futures with Marilyn Saunders (founder of the Center for Conscious Evolution), and a ropes course/outdoor team building exercise. We have learned that conscious attention to the human aspects of our team is as important as clear decisions.

Third, the decision-making section of the meeting was very strongly facilitated. In addition, a method of decision-making was decided before the meeting (two-thirds vote) which enabled us to avoid all the endless process decisions of "should we decide by

to team leadership

consensus or vote?" On the last day, without our usual feeling of panicky rush, we made a whole series of far-reaching decisions.

We are beginning to feel a kind of collegueship and friendship that might just allow us to fulfill the political work we originally set out to do. Joseph Simonetta, co-founder of our Los Angeles chapter and a guest at this meeting, put it nicely when he reported, "GC members in general seemed to have a sensitivity to others and the group as a whole — (something I consider) essential" (New World Alliance: 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005).

New World Alliance update

Alliance's "Bill of Responsibilities" complements

The New World Alliance has created a "Bill of Responsibilities" to supplement and "complete" the Bill of Rights.

Principal author of the bill is Jeff Cox, a former Governing Council member of the Alliance, who has been managing editor of Rodale Press's *Organic Gardening* magazine (circ. 1.2 million) and is currently director of electronic publishing at Rodale.

"It occurred to me in one of our meetings that everyone is talking about rights," Cox told RENEWAL. "But rights are just the obverse of responsibilities — they go hand in hand. It occurred to me that rights without responsibilities are nothing but license and responsibilities without rights is just totalitarianism.

"I realized we had a Bill of Rights in the Constitution and since we were trying to do some new political thinking, maybe we could use a Bill of Responsibilities.

"It took me about two weeks to write (the Bill), and I had more fun with it than anything I'd ever done. I'd never worked as hard on anything, either — and it's only one page long!

"When I sat down (to write it) I said, well, the Founding Fathers when they started their process had used the idea of the pyramid — they were giving their vision a three-sided development. So I wanted to break

(my vision) down to three basic responsibilities. I put down Father-Son-Holy Ghost, body-mind-spirit . . . finally I put down truth-beauty-goodness and that seemed do-able.

"I found it somewhat painful (working with the Alliance), not because I was edited — I'm an old editor — but people were jumping into a very carefully constructed web of thinking with broadaxes and without really thinking too much about it. But finally I just said well, look, I'm not going to keep my ego invested in this. It was an interesting process. . . ."

Here are some key passages from the current version of the bill:

"As a human being, I have inherent rights. The free exercise of these rights promotes awareness of my inherent responsibilities. . . : for truth to myself, for the beauty of the Earth, and for goodness to others.

"For truth to myself. Because truth defines reality, and reality is what works, I will accomplish more of lasting value for myself, the Earth and society if I take responsibility for everything I think and say. I will take no benefit for myself at the expense of the truth. . . . I can only follow truth, not possess it.

"For the beauty of the Earth. Because beauty is the perception of harmony, I will

Bill of Rights

minimize waste from the flow of goods and energy under my control. I will depend as much as possible on my own property for food, energy, and other life supports, thereby contributing to social stability. . . .

"For goodness to others. Because service to others whether personal or through political and social institutions is goodness to others, my concern for everyone else's welfare must be equal to my own. . . ."

A hand-calligraphed edition of the Bill is available for \$1 from: New World Alliance, 733 15th St. N.W., Ste. 1131, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202-347-6082.

June 21, 1982

RENEWAL**New World Alliance update****Alliance chapters flourish, fizzle in cities**

The New World Alliance has tried to start chapters in at least seven major U.S. cities. The results suggest that "transformation-oriented" political people have only just begun their journey-of-a-thousand-miles.

On the positive side, the Milwaukee chapter — just three months old — is flourishing. "Tonight we had a gubernatorial candidate talk to us," Milwaukee's Robert Thompson told RENEWAL, "and at our next meeting we'll have a couple of people from hunger organizations talk to us. . . ." "Us" is about 30 people, including elected officials, educators and community organizers.

Also on the positive side, the Los Angeles chapter has been meeting regularly since November. In the last couple of months, it has given talks before high school assemblies and participated in drafting the California State Democratic Party platform.

And there is the Riverside, Cal. chapter, the Alliance's "flagship" chapter. "One thing four or five of us are doing is putting together a directory of humanistic services for the (Riverside metropolitan area)," Riverside's Mel Gurtov told RENEWAL.

In the four other cities, however, the results have been less than uplifting. Even in Los Angeles and Riverside, the results have been disappointing as compared with the high hopes — and the potential.

In Los Angeles, a founding meeting was called to "unite many kindred organizations for political action." About 70 people came. Now the chapter is down to 10-12 participants, "and different ones want the chapter to go in at least four different directions," says L.A.'s Gerald Goldfarb.

In Riverside, first there were 60 people meeting every other week, then there were fewer people meeting once a month, and now there are five people meeting irregularly.

In Dallas, Susan Walton began "getting people to come over. But they had the hardest time getting involved in politics. . . ."

In San Francisco, a chapter organizing meeting facilitated by Alanna Hartzok drew at least 30 people. "The San Francisco affinity group began meeting every other week," Hartzok told RENEWAL, "but after a couple of months there was almost no one left."

In New York, a "chapter in formation" grew out of the Alliance's first political awareness seminar (see RENEWAL #9). But monthly meetings failed to hold people's interest. Next, says New York's Wendy Moge, a smaller group of people drafted a questionnaire "to help possible chapter members articulate the kind of chapter they wanted to see." The result: "About three or four of us kept meeting until recently," says New York's Michael Blinick.

across the U.S.

In Washington, D.C., another political awareness seminar led to a party which led to 10-12 people getting together regularly for months and trying to decide what to do. "I tried to get together a networking meeting of like minded groups," says D.C.'s Jim Easterly, "but the only people that could come that day were Friends of the Earth. . . . I feel the (chapter) is kind of winding down now, unless some major thing happens."

Why has Milwaukee been successful so far? And what's gone wrong everywhere else? In the next Alliance update, the chapter organizers themselves will try to explain it.

July 12, 1982

RENEWAL

New World Alliance update**Alliance chapter organizers discuss their**

In RENEWAL #24, we reported that most local chapters of the New World Alliance have experienced declining memberships, internal turbulence, and a debilitating lack of focus — despite the Alliance's commitment to such values and processes as sharing, consensus and unity. In this column, the local organizers will try to tell us what's gone wrong.

"People are burnt out on going to lectures, joining groups, that kind of thing," says Dallas's Susan Walton. "Also, there wasn't enough support coming from (the National Office) and people were fumbling around blindly (here) trying to figure out what to do."

"Some people haven't found their particular role to play in the transformation," says San Francisco's Alanna Hartzok. "Then again, some people have already found a level they want to work on. (In San Francisco,) the two came together not so well, they tended to hold each other back," and that tended to hold the chapter back.

"There's a lot of people who've drifted through our meetings and drifted away," says Los Angeles's Gerald Goldfarb. "Chapters may be an outdated, old way (for a political organization) to go. There are so many organizations! Maybe they're already doing (what they can). . . ."

The most successful chapter right now is in Milwaukee, and according to Milwaukee's

Robert Thompson, "That has a lot to do with (our facilitator,) Belden Paulson. He's been doing this kind of thing for so many years, having seminars, drawing people from all (walks of life), that he's just built up a lot of credibility. Probably he'd be doing the same things if there wasn't an Alliance. . . ."

In Washington, D.C., after many meetings, the local chapter finally did come up with a common project, says D.C.'s Jim Easterly — doing low-cost energy retrofitting, especially for older people. "But in practice it was difficult to mobilize people around that. People were more spiritually oriented, I guess—the membership really declined. . . . Another thing, we were always trying to think through 'who we were' and getting no clarity from the national level. We really suffered from lack of definition."

Differing notions of "what to do now" have been put forward by Wendy Moge of the New York chapter and Mel Gurtov of the Riverside, Cal. chapter.

"People (in New York) put the Alliance at the bottom of their list of priorities because they don't know what it is," says Moge. "Also, people who've been attracted to the Alliance (here) either haven't had the organizing experience or don't have the temperament to start a strong local chapter. (Given all this,) I'm intrigued by a more 'dictatorial' model.

problems openly

Like, this is in the contract: pick out one narrow concrete focus and see that as (the task, and don't) spend so much time talking in generalities — just plunge right in there."

By contrast, Gurtov states: "A lot of people (in Riverside) were hangers-on and just not willing or able to find their own path, (but) I vowed that this chapter would *not* become 'Mel's chapter.' I feel no ambivalence about that: either it happens in a New Age way or it doesn't happen. We have to find a way to be both externally competent and internally doing things a new way. If we can't, then maybe someone else will come along and do it right."