

Adoptees & Natural Parents Org. (ANPO)
c/o Ms. M. Martin
4032 Tarrywood Drive
Portsmouth, Va. 23703

ANPO Newsletter - September, 1977

This is our first try at a newsletter, and so it will be a little unprofessional. But bear with us, and hopefully in the future, with our members help, it will get better and better.

In July, several of the more active members got together and formed a steering committee. In an effort to become better organized and more effective, committees have now been formed. If you have questions or would like to help in any area, please contact the following people:

Mary Haines - Finance, fund raising - Phone 583-2923

Betty Waycaster - Public Relations & Publicity - Phone 483-4216

Marty Martin - Meetings, Newsletters and Records - Phone 484-9322

Gloria Clark - Out of State Searches - Phone 484-7923

Nettie Lang - Virginia & Adjacent Area Searches - Phone 853-8913

On September 7, 1977, several members appeared at a public hearing held by the Joint Subcommittee on the Placement of Children for Adoption. During the 1977 Session of the State Legislature Senate Joint Resolution No. 152 was agreed to, which allowed for a study to be conducted on the general process of adoption in Virginia. This occurred due to the introduction of bills during the Session which proposed that physicians and/or lawyers be permitted to place children for adoption without being licensed as a "child-placing agency". Testimony was largely against this bill being passed, including the testimony of two ANPO members. We can only view this bill as further backward movement in Virginia adoption laws. It could only serve to encourage still further closure of our records. We won't go into all the possibilities here, but you can well imagine the problems, of an adult adoptee seeking information about himself from a doctor or lawyer whose loyalties are to either the natural parent or the adopting parents. You can also imagine the wonderful stories both the adoptive parents and eventually the adoptee would hear. Everyone's natural parents would be "professional, intelligent and completely healthy people". From professional accounts heard at the hearing, these "high expectation" situations for the adopted child can easily lead to both mental and physical abuse.

If you have any thoughts on this proposed bill, we strongly urge you write to a member of the subcommittee. Call Marty for their names.

We now have bumper stickers available, thanks to Elaine and Joyce whose contribution to ANPO is greatly appreciated. Call Betty if you want one for your car. (ADULT ADOPTED HAVE 300% TOO).

We now have over \$250.00 in our treasury, thanks to the hard work of only a few of our members. Remember, if we can get a class action suit going, it will be for the benefit of all our members. Mary will gladly accept any ideas on fund-raising activities, but she must have help to pull them off successfully.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
5700 S. DICKINSON DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

Dear Sir,
I am pleased to hear that you are interested in the
work of the Department of Chemistry at the University of
Chicago. We are currently conducting research in the
area of molecular spectroscopy and quantum chemistry.
If you are interested in a position in our department,
please send me a copy of your curriculum vitae and a
list of references. We will contact you if we are
interested in your application.

Very truly yours,
Rudolph A. Marcus
Professor of Chemistry
The University of Chicago
5700 S. Dickinson Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Enclosed is a copy of the letterhead of the
Department of Chemistry at the University of Chicago.
If you have any questions, please contact me at
the above address.

I am sure that you will find the information
in this letterhead helpful. If you have any
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Taking Care of Business

SENATE HEARINGS:

A committee of ANPO went to Richmond, Va., on February 6, 1978, to present arguments for the changing of the wording on and meaning of Senate Bill #532 pertaining to openness and availability of records as they pertain to adoptees.

The committee spokesperson, Marty Martin, outlined the ANPO position on availability of adoption records, and ANPO attitude toward who, what, and wherefore. Because of the late hour at which we were finally able to be heard, Marty had to depart along with Harriet. Bo attempted to present our case along with Mary who very deftly aroused the interest of the committee with her report on the liberal posture of her home state (Minnesota) toward adoptees.

Senator Wilder, Chairman of the hearing committee, gave some pretty positive vibes. Also, Senator Townsend came across as positive. At any rate, since Marty had to depart, Bo, Mary, and Liz, along with Senator Walker, were able to take matters in hand. The Committee Chair tabled the bill--to be redrafted by ANPO and to be presented at a later date. Since Senator Walker is patron of this bill, the Legislative Committee will attempt to meet with additional local Senators to gain support for our position, so that we can get more clout. Also, Liz gave a very impassioned talk to the committee which set the minds to work. In all, ANPO came away very much impressed with the possibility of continuing this battle to change outdated and ancient laws, and attitudes.

SOCIAL WORKERS CONFERENCE:

The Virginia Council on Social Welfare held its annual conference on March 30, 1978. Included was a segment devoted to the search for biological roots of the adult adoptee. Marty was a member of the panel and spoke as an adoptee who had completed her search. Her natural mother, Joan, talked about the trauma of relinquishing a child. Ed, who was there as an observer, spoke for a couple of moments. Ed is looking forward to the Conference in 1979. He already has plans for an enlightening presentation.

The Social Workers, in some instances, want to take an improved position for the adoptee in asking the natural mother to stay in touch with the agency in the event one or both wish to make contact upon the adoptee reaching adulthood.

ANPO meetings are held the first Monday of each month (excluding holidays) at the Family Service/Traveler's Aid Building, 19th Street, Norfolk, Va, at 7:00. We will be glad to assist anyone whose adoption took place in the Virginia-North Carolina area. There is never a fee.

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Taking Care of More Business

NO WORKSHOP:

We almost had a Search Workshop. Mary Jo Rillera and Nancy Palmer were forced to cancel their tour of search organizations because their homes were threatened by the recent California mud-slides. We hope they are high and dry and can make the trip in the Fall.

ELECTIONS:

Realizing that dynamite comes in small packages, and in view of the dust storm being stirred up by this gal, we elected Donna to the positions of Chairperson and Head of Publicity and Public Relations. Among other things, she has written the major newspapers in Virginia introducing her plans for an in-depth presentation on the adoptive experience.

GETTING IT ON:

We have organized our group into working committees. Each of us who has volunteered to do a job must be devoted to its successful completion. If we don't do it, we're not doing each other any good. We have a number of goals in mind; some of us may never accomplish our private goals--yet we must work positively in the direction of the common goal of the organization. We have a responsibility to project a positive attitude at all times.

UP AGAINST THE WALL (or HELP!)

Ed is battling the Angel Guardian Home in Brooklyn, N.Y., for documented records of his first 18 years on this earth, which they refuse to surrender. If anyone has gouged any facts from these people, please write ANPO.

GREAT THINKERS

Here are a few numbers to call if you've run out of ideas and need a fresh viewpoint, or if you just need to talk to a friend:

Mettie: 853-8918

Donna: 425-7089

Special thoughts from all of us go out to our friend Joyce.

The concept of adoption (or separation) as it now stands is short on honesty, honor, and dignity.

ENRICHMENT

TO THE MOTHER I, AS YET, DO NOT KNOW

Ma; where are you? The only words I could speak as there I sat in solemn anguish--uncomfortable in that old wooden seat.

The repeated phrase so many times said causes pangs in my heart, tearing slowly at my mind; knowing and still not knowing when, how, and which time.

No plurals, no crowds, only one face at a time; quick and still non-identifying glances, crying not loudly but softly one tear for each face, from the one--lonely, but still taking the chances.

If not you, then who? One more tear shed leaves one less to be;

No memories to get lost in, only secrets left to see.

In daylight, reality never leaves, sometimes hurting, yet pursued til, at last, sleep acts as a chariot, into dreams of fulfillment this one is cast.

Even at this very time, somewhere--maybe here--time becomes an enemy, and spoken words a great hindrance to the ears of someone lost for a time--years--or forever between lies spoken and unwarranted fear.

But even as time and tears the vision does blur; still an uncut, unseen umbilical cords promises; one day....someday...it will be her.

Your daughter,

Donna

I once was a seed
Then I was me--
A bundle of joy
You tossed me away
Like a ragged old toy.

I searched through the years
So I could dry my tears
Of unanswered questions and
thoughts
Of who I was.

Then the day came
My tears fell like rain
I had finally discovered I not only
had a Mother but a sister and
some cousins, and yes,
A cute little brother.

Now my mind is at ease
My heart is very pleased
Because now I know who I am.

TINA

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