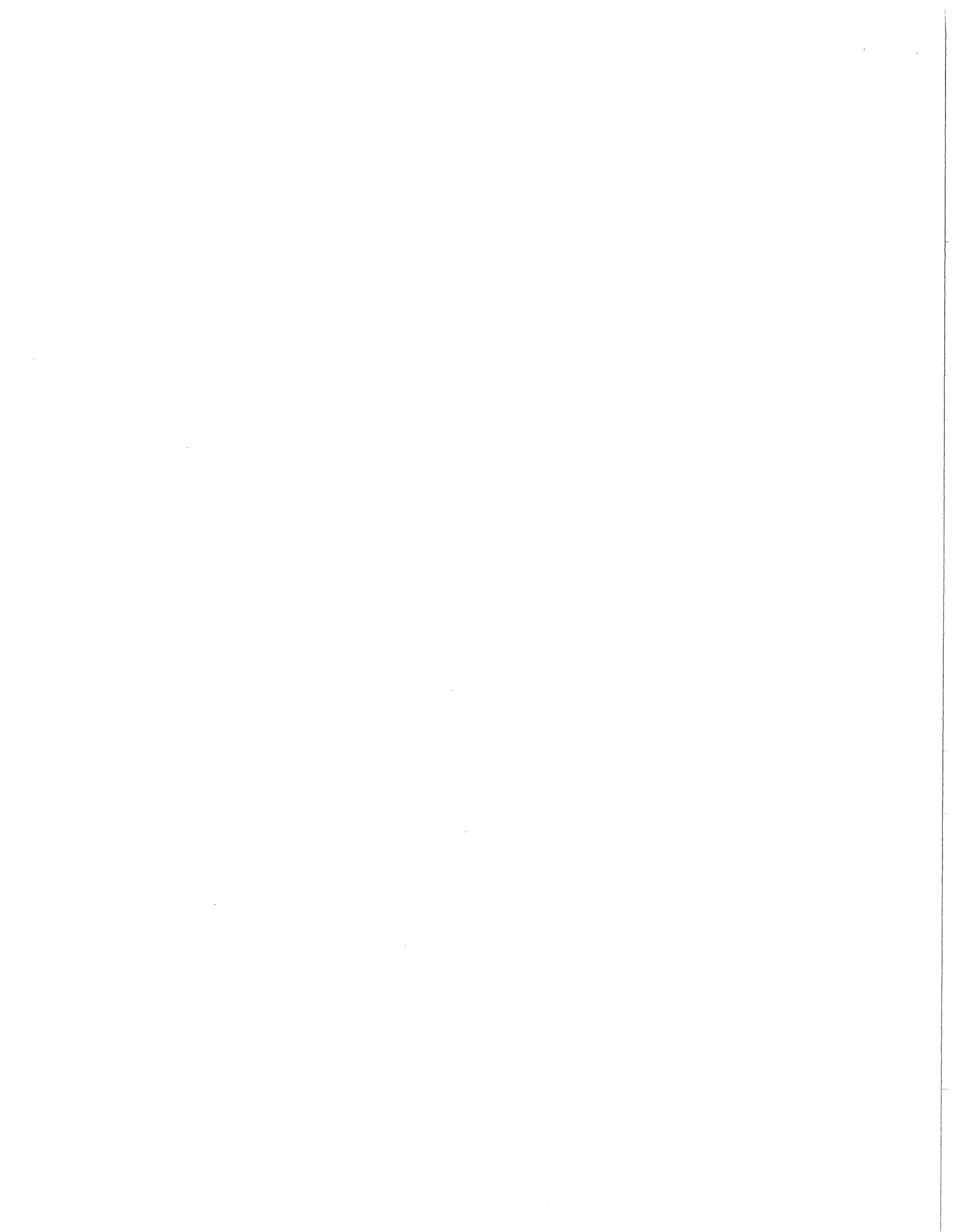


Report on the progress toward the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 1994

Included in this report are:

- A) Where we stand -- What we have done so far and what our obstacles are.
- B) A timeline for activities between now and the AGM (in board packet).
- C) Some goals and objectives for this years AGM.



It is now time to really kick off our efforts for this years AGM, and in fact there has already been some work and effort put forward. The staff has met to talk about the annual meeting and constructed a timeline for the activities which staff would need to do between now and then, and have begun to arrange for the site and activities. There are a variety of areas for which some discussion and direction may be required.

The AGM Committee:

An AGM committee was constituted at the July retreat, but in fact has not yet functioned. Some of the people on it have found themselves unable to work on the meeting. Camilla has been very helpful, but there isn't an official committee or committee chair. I hope that a new committee can be constituted at this board meeting.

I believe that the majority of the work will be done out of the office this year, because of the location of the meeting, but I still need a committee to help make decisions on possible speakers etc., and off of whom to bounce ideas and problems.

I hope to schedule a conference call between the members of this newly constituted committee sometime in the middle of January. You'll find a tentative date marked on your timeline, but if this isn't acceptable it's negotiable.

Site:

This years AGM is exciting to us because it is to be right here in our own back yard. We have yet to decide on a specific site, but there is the possibility of having it right on the campus where our office is and right now that option looks th most exciting to us.

The reasons why it's exciting include the possibility to save money on xeroxing and phone calls; not needing to set up an on site office; the ability to show people the office (a little bit of 'this is your GLU'); PRICE!! The conference rooms are free, the food is cheap, and we can house people for \$16/person/night in the on campus dorms, we might even do the reception ourselves. There are banquet facilities right on the lake, in the park across the street. Beautiful!

There are some problems with this senario though. a) The rooms are dormatory rooms. There were a few complaints last year that the dorm-style thing was uncomfortable. b) The campus is not on the water (although it is only a few yards from Delaware Park Lake and Skajaquada Creek. c) although not far from Buffalo's better drinking establishments, the campus does not have any hotels in it's viscinity. This would make it difficult for people who do not want to stay in the dorms to get to and from the meetings. The nearest hotel is probably 2-3 miles away. Although we have been able to secure a flat rate there of \$45 per room there. (We might be able to provide a van or something, we have a plethora of volunteers to work with here.)

We have asked for bids from about 10 other hotels and conference centers in the area. Acceptable prices and availability are going to be our greatest obstacles here.

Several have come back to say that they are unable to accommodate us on the dates we need, and a couple have come back with prices that are simply too high for the people attending our AGM. Two of the nicest (and most expensive) options are the Holiday Inn on Grand Island which is right on the water, and can put us up for about \$70/room/per night, but isn't near anything (there's nothing for miles around it.) Or possibly the Buffalo Hilton, which is right downtown, but which would cost \$76/room/night.

I'm still waiting for others, the final budget will depend greatly on which of these options we choose.

Theme:

In order to determine which direction to look for speakers, a theme or point to the annual meeting would be helpful. I'm told that a theme to our annual meeting is a fairly new thing. I've called a few (three to be exact) board members and spoken to most staffers asking about possible themes. The idea behind the calls was to put down a few ideas which could be used as the basis for discussion. Here are some of the ideas surrounding themes which have been presented to me since I started asking about it:

⊙ We don't need a theme. In the past we never had one. Sessions were developed around topics, but the sessions weren't necessarily on one theme.

⊙ In the past it has been hoped that we could use our annual meeting as a conference on a particular topic (theme), and therefore get foundation funding for it. This would allow us to bring in "big name" speakers and therefore increase attendance etc. -- Funders who were approached last year said that as long as our annual meeting was something that was called for in our by-laws and at which a large portion of the time will be spent doing strictly GLU business, they would be unable to fund it.

♥ The theme should be based upon program work. A subject area where at least one staff person is expert, we can point to ongoing program work, and receive program ideas and education from. Or possibly based on a campaign we are working on or will soon be working on.

♦ The theme should be a driver to help us shift program areas. Last years theme of the urban ecosystem should have spun into a new GLU program on inner city environmental problems.

* The theme should be a currently "hot" issue. The reasons here are obvious.

For all of the talk about what the theme should do I've gotten very

little in the way of what the theme should be, but here are a few.

◆ Environmental justice.

• The future of GLU, and great lakes environmentalism.

■ The transition to a phaseout of Chlorine and organizing for this.

○ Organizing for the post-NAFTA world.

⊗ Wetlands.

Any other good ideas. I sort of hope that this can be determined at this board meeting.

Fees and fee waivers:

I am going on the assumption that the fees for the annual meeting will not change this year. From what I understand the last change was hard fought and many people feel that the GLU AGM is becoming out of reach for smaller, poorer groups. Last year however, was the first time in which there was a late fee. I found a serious problem with the waving of this fee. Many groups called and asked if they could have the fee waved and I was put into a difficult position. In most instances I was at a loss, and being a bit of a wimp I was inclined to allow these waivers rather than risk not getting the participants. I would love for the board to decide that the late fee is not negotiable (I might even include this in the brochure) or possibly assign a board person to whom I can defer these decisions. It would make things flow much easier.

Some Goals

Because the AGM is in Buffalo this year we may well be able to do some things which we normally aren't able to do. For example we might be able to spend the effort to get items donated by local businesses for an auction perhaps, or food for our reception; We'll be able to put some people (board members etc.) up in our homes; we'll not have the exorbitant xeroxing and phone costs; and it'll reduce our phone costs for setting up rooms and entertainment. With a local cache of volunteers we can have runners, drivers and servers for events which may make things easier for all concerned.

Given these factors we would like to be able to not only have an annual meeting which breaks even, but one that actually makes us a little money, and one at which the number of participants is actually greater than in past years. So we're looking at these goals:

Goals:

- a) We would like to see 200 delegates to this year's AGM. For this we will need a great deal of board participation. We hope that each board member can commit to reaching 5 people who wouldn't have otherwise gone to the annual meeting and try to convince them to attend.
- b) We would like to bring in \$1500 dollars from our AGM fundraising activities. We foresee an enlarged auction at the banquet, an larger number of salable items at the tables, and possibly a friday night fundraising bash at a local nightspot with a local band. Other ideas are welcome.
- c) Black Ink!
- d) A well attended press conference