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Peace is goal

Oakland center studies issues

By CAROLINE FREE

The days of the turbulent 1960s seem long gone. Little remains to remind us of a decade when hair grew long and free, a nation grew tired of war, and campus demonstrations were an everyday occurrence that tucked away in an office at Church of Our Saviour on Middle Bell and Maple is an organization founded during the Vietnam War. It is called the Peace and National Priorities Center of Oakland County, and members feel its function is just as vital today as when it was founded five years ago.

Possibly the reason this group has survived when other peace organizations have long since fallen apart is because it differs from them in several ways. The center's membership is not composed of old-eyed fanatics who may have the right idea but use the wrong methods, nor does it take positions on specific issues having to do with peace.

"OUR REAL EFFORT is peace education—we don't tell people what to do," says Gerry McNabb, secretary and one of the founders of the center.

She continues, "We do choose certain issues to discuss and encourage people to write or call on government representatives."

According to Mrs. McNabb, members of the center pick an issue to explore at the beginning of each year. This issue will be discussed at meetings, slide demonstrations, and in a newsletter that reaches more than 750 persons in the Oakland County area.

"Since this is an election year, we thought we would focus on that. We had 23 of our members (mostly church and social action leaders) make 40 questionnaires that were sent to candidates in the U.S. senatorial and area congressional districts primary. Of the 29 questionnaires we mailed out, we got 22 replies," Mrs. McNabb says.

Replies to the questionnaire, which asked the candidates about their stands on a number of peace-related issues, were compiled into charts that show whether the candidate has hawk or dove leanings. Any qualified answer to a question was printed verbatim after the chart.

SOME OF THE candidates' replies tended to be a little confusing. For example, Republican senatorial candidate Robert Huber replied in part, "The questions to which you expect yes or no answers are very thought-provoking and very complicated issues. Consequently, it would be impossible to answer with a yes or no

Kim Moran, a Democratic candidate for the 12th congressional district, answered, "Even though I know the answers you would like me to give, until I am apprised of all the factors involved, it would be dishonest of me to answer these questions."

And Republican senatorial candidate Thomas E. Brennan's answer to "Is military spending inflationary?" was simply "Yes and no."

The purpose of this questionnaire, according to Mrs. McNabb, was to "raise issues and make available the stands of the candidates."

"I don't feel that we tried to rate the candidates as part of our project," she adds.

ELAINE MORSE, a Birmingham resident, is a member of the center and thinks its function is still very important. "The issues are still the same as they were in the '60s," she says.

"We see ourselves as an information network," Mrs. Moran continues. "One of our most useful functions is that members are often involved in other action groups. And all of us who come into the organization are concerned about the enormous potential for destruction in the United States."

Mrs. Moran says she is heartened by the large number of older people involved with the center. "There is a marvelous kind of esprit being with people who keep up. A number of women in our organization are in their 70s and were involved with the suffrage movement. They have seen many battles."

Mrs. Moran, and other members like her, will continue studying the questions of nuclear testing, demilitarization, unconditional amnesty and overseas troop levels. Whether their view of these subjects is very radical or fairly conventional, their main concern centers on peace.

"It's time to stop asking who is responsible for peace and just lay the one responsible," says Mrs. Moran.

Troy men earn CPAs

Five Troy residents have been granted certified public accountant (CPA) certificates by the Michigan State Board of Accountancy.

They are Christopher T. Callaghan, 54 Cochenour; Charles M. Maloy, 178 Kurtz; Mark S. Johnson, 85 Leetonia; Matthew A. Mendrygal, 1209 Astell; and Robert G. Reaser, 314 Lovington.

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