

NAAFA NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO AID FAT AMERICANS, INC.

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EVERYTHING YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CONVENTION... AND ARE SORRY YOU ASKED.

By Joyce Maloney



Anyone who has ever attended a NAAFA Convention will rave on and on about the fantastic camaraderie, the feeling of total acceptance and the sheer joy of being a NAAFAAn for those few very short days. Anyone who has ever tried to organize a NAAFA Convention will rave on and on about the fantastic amount of work, the feeling of total insanity and the sheer exhaustion you experience during those few (seemingly) very long days.



As Convention draws nearer, NAAFAAn all over the country are wild with excitement; they can't wait until the BIG day. Conventions Committee members, on the other hand, are gnashing teeth, rolling eyes and begging God for "...just a bit more time, PLEASE!!! So, you see, there is some truth to the rumor that it all depends on where your're coming from.



It's not that the Conventions Committee is disorganized or that they wait until the last minute for everything. It's just that the Convention takes so much time to organize (about ten months) and everything appears to be going along very well. Very well, that is, until about three weeks before the BIG day. Then all of a sudden, WHAMMO. The hotel

"loses" half of the reservations; your fashion models all quit; your guest speaker comes down with bronchial pneumonia and the band you hired gets "discovered" and is playing Carnegie Hall for the next six months. The occurrences are not at all unusual and the Committee is never surprised when they do happen. They've grown accustomed to hoping for the best, but expecting the worst.



Fortunately for NAAFA, the Committee has never come up with a problem that someone could not handle. Granted, it may have taken a little more time than expected, but, what the heck, they're entitled, right?



I have never personally known nor have I ever heard of a Conventions Committee member having a relaxing time at a NAAFA Convention. It is unheard of. There is no such thing. So, if you have plans to volunteer your services to the Committee in the near future, be forewarned.



You know those interesting packets you are given when you register? The ones that are filled to bursting with all those freebies? Well, they have been stuffed personally by a Committee member at about 5:00 the very morning of your arrival. So, if you discover that you have two little bars of soap instead of one, and no name tag, have a heart. Exhaustion was just about setting in. Speaking of name tags, guess who printed them? That's right, the good old Committee member. So, if you've asked one of them for their address to put into your book of memories and they decline, it's not that they don't want to correspond with you, it's just that if they write one more word, their arm will fall off.



Should the band sound a bit out of tune, please don't mention it. After you've auditioned six terrible orchestras, twelve gorillas playing kazoos sound absolutely wonderful.



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EDITORIAL
VIEWPOINT

MARIANNE GLUCK

I'm hoping that all of you NAAFans out there liked the last issue of the Newsletter, and that those cards and letters will be pouring in with your comments on what you'd like to see in these pages, as well as what you feel about the items and articles we've already printed.

Again, let me stress the need for your input in this publication. This is truly a national Newsletter, edited in New York, but hopefully with contributions from all over the country—send in articles about what's happening in your area; share with us what's happening in your local chapter and what you're feeling. I think that you, the membership at large, and the Newsletter staff, can use this publication as an open forum to exchange ideas and feelings.

While attending my local chapter meeting last Friday night, I was delighted to see the various viewpoints and attitudes that make up a well-balanced, inspiring group. I was also glad to see that there were many members who wanted to get more involved in the political aspects of being fat and what can be done to balance the scales of justice, or even tip them our way!

Being fortunate to receive many of the publications of the local chapters throughout NAAFA, I must say I'm very impressed with the involvement and devotion I see. Many of them are rich with ideas and social activities, and the camaraderie and caring among the members comes across clearly in these pages.

I'm hoping that the national Newsletter can help unite us all, not just on the local level, but in this same sort of sharing and camaraderie. To provide a way for those of you in California to reach those of you in Maine, or Michigan to reach North Carolina, etc.

It's very important that you, the members of an organization whose partial goal is to promote understanding and self-acceptance, bring to the NAAFA Newsletter Editor's attention, through newspaper and magazine articles, as well as other sources, any forms of fat discrimination you come in contact with. It is the view of this publication's Editor that, united, we can change the misconceptions and injustices society has thoughtlessly and insensitively perpetuated.

Marianne

EDITORIAL THANKS

To my staff and to the contributors of this issue for their total cooperation, and a very special thanks to my friend, and co-worker Rita Lawler, not a NAAFA member, but always a NAAFA sympathizer, for her assistance.

EVERYTHING YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

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If you returned your reservation form with a question and did not receive an immediate reply it's because 140 other NAAFans have asked the same question and they're writing or phoning all of you with the answer.



It's really tough work, but somebody has to do it. And, believe me, the smiles on the faces of all NAAFans, but especially on the faces of the newer members, make it all worthwhile.

If you happen to run into a harried looking Committee member this weekend, give her a smile and a pat on the back, she certainly deserves it!

Copies of the program from both 1979 (Tenth Anniversary) and 1980 Conventions are available. Send \$1 for each one desired, indicating the year of interest, to NAAFA, P.O. Box 43, Bellerose, NY 11426.

EXECUTIVE NOTES

Prior to the September Board meeting, Joyce Maloney and Ernest Harff resigned from NAAFA's Board of Directors. Ernest Harff, as well as Michael Simpson, resigned as the Co-Chairs of the Local Chapters Committee. Rosalie Radcliffe was appointed by President Goodman to the position of Chairperson of the Local Chapters Committee. Ms. Radcliffe was also appointed to the Publications Committee, to a seat left vacant by Rhea Bardin's resignation.

Louise Wolfe of California was appointed to edit Chapter Chatter, a publication for Chapter Chairpeople.

We are sad to report that Lisbeth Fisher, NAAFA's Executive Secretary, has tendered her resignation as a paid employee of NAAFA, effective January 31, 1982.

Noel and Sue Nyman have been appointed Co-Chairs of NAAFA-DATE, in conjunction with Peggy and Russel Williams and Nile Daley, who are running the computer end of NAAFA-DATE.

At the September meeting of NAAFA's BOARD of DIRECTORS, Florane Sclar was elected Vice President, filling the position left vacant by Joyce Maloney's resignation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

by Dianne Rubinstein
NAAFA's Treasurer.

Among the questions I am most often asked are: Where does all of NAAFA's money go? and why are you always asking for donations? The answer to both questions can be summed up in one word: Inflation. Everything we buy and use costs more and more with every purchase. The dues you pay today are worth almost 50% less than the same money 10 or 15 years ago. The purchasing power of a \$25 regular membership is only about \$10 in real (non-inflated) dollars. So, when dues were \$10 per year, they were buying more than can be purchased with our current \$25 levy.

With these constantly shrinking dollars we must make even more costly expenditures. Last year, for example, we had to expand the Bellerose office and the new equipment and fixtures cost thousands of dollars. Postage has gone up something like 20%. Printing and supply costs have gone out of sight. In the meantime, our membership, and therefore our income, has been remaining approximately steady.

We have also been very lucky. We have numerous people who have been donating their services free of charge to NAAFA - services we would otherwise have to pay for, and could not afford. Our Assistant Treasurer keeps our books without charging the \$100 or more a month she bills her private clients. The computer programming and "run-time" needed for NAAFA-Date is donated. Some members provide free printing; others don't charge us for phone calls (often long distance) made on NAAFA's behalf. The Treasurer donated the booklet/premiums for the last fund-raising drive. The Executive Secretary donates prizes for our annual raffle. Our President donates hundreds of hours of free secretarial services. And so on, and so on, and so on.

In addition, to voluminous donations and volunteerism, we also have expenses that have to be paid. We only have one full-time and one part-time paid employee, but their salaries cost NAAFA over \$1,000 a month. Put another way, we need 40 new or renewal regular memberships every month just to meet our payroll; another 10 regular memberships just to pay the office rent; another six to pay the Xerox bill. An entire Life Membership fee goes for each issue of the Newsletter. An election can cost more than an entire Patron's membership. Our normal expenditures eat up all of our resources, and we are still left with so much more to do - so many things regular, extra-ordinary or emergency that we have to pay for. The monies for these things have to come from donations and fund-raising (mostly from our members who, after all, profit most from NAAFA's activities).

Hopefully these explanations have helped answer some of your questions about where your dues and donations go. If you have any other questions about NAAFA's finances, we would be glad to answer them in these pages. The "Financial Statements" will be a recurring feature in the Newsletter, and is open to any of your requests and questions. Just write to:

"Financial Statements"
NAAFA Newsletter
P.O. Box 43
Bellerose, N.Y. 11426

BUT, DOES IT COME IN A 48D?

by Barbara Donahue*

"Roaman's has a sexy bra in a soft, silky material. It comes in pretty pastels. More important, it supports!"

This is a part of a phone conversation I had recently with a NAAFA friend of mine. It was earth-shaking news. When you wear a 48D bra, you get used to utilitarian garments. Oh yes, they make pretty bras. Look in either Roaman's or Lane Bryant's catalogues, but, look also at the size ranges. If they do come in large sizes -- well, either your cup runneth over, or they give as much support as a wad of used chewing gum.

Of course, by the time I got to the store they were all sold out. A salesperson told me that they had received only a very small shipment: the buyer didn't think they would sell. Wouldn't sell? The women who were lucky enough to be in the store when the bras went on sale bought the garment in every color, by twos and threes, well aware that this wonderfulness would disappear off the counter, never to be found again.

Not long before NAAFA's 1980 Chicago Convention, the Long Island Chapter announced a pool party, so I went shopping for a new swimsuit for both functions. From Lane Bryant, to Roaman's, to Smart Size, with stops at several branch stores, I searched. All there was to be found were nice, cute, skirted suits. I already had one of those, in a nice, solid, dull brown.

Once again, the telephone rang: "Lane Bryant has a sexy suit. I just bought one." My reply: "Don't move. I'll be there as soon as I can." The subway ride from Queens to Manhattan seemed like the longest on record. I just knew that the suit would be sold out by the time I got there. Arriving at the Fifth Avenue branch of Lane Bryant's, I practically dragged my friend on to the elevator. That elevator ride to the fourth floor was also a record-breaker! On the rack was "The Suit." It even came in my size! And, miracle of miracles, there was an extra bonus. I had two colors to choose from. (Oh, be still my heart!) Which color to choose from was not all that difficult, however; since my friend had bought it in cranberry, that left me my favorite color, orange. A beautiful, rusty orange. The fates were indeed kind to me that day. A suit that was absolutely gorgeous and in my favorite color. What did

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C.O.B.'S CORNER

W. J. FABREY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

THE NIEDERSHUH CONTROVERSY

In NAAFA, Niedershuh is becoming a "household word" in some circles, not unlike ex-Vice-President Spiro Agnew, but for different reasons. Karl Niedershuh, as you may have already heard (or noticed in the last Newsletter,) would have tied for third place in the June election to fill Board seats if it were not for the fact that he was disqualified in a special meeting of the Board prior to the counting of the ballots on June 19.

Why was he disqualified, and by whom? It is not my purpose in this column to go into all the details, because at the moment this Newsletter is going to press, majority and minority opinions of the Board are being prepared for inclusion as a supplement to this or another Newsletter. Also, those NAAFA members who wrote letters or petitioned to the Board requesting Karl's reinstatement will be receiving an official reply soon.

I am very concerned, however, that the whole matter may escalate and prove to be extremely divisive, pitting one NAAFA member against another. I wish to appeal to you all to not jump to hasty conclusions before you learn more of the facts, as seen from both sides of the issue. Believe me, the question of whether or not Karl should have been disqualified is not an easy one.

The Board met on September 18 and heard arguments for and against a motion to rescind Karl's disqualification, and again a majority voted that errors in his list of credentials were enough to disqualify him from the election. Whether or not the majority was right, the Board has to have the right to, in essence, refuse to seat anyone that it feels has been elected by misleading or fraudulent means, or even by any infraction of the election rules that it feels might have influenced the outcome of the election.

I am not happy with the outcome of the entire situation; I know Karl as a talented and concerned fat activist, whose input to the Board might be very productive. However, I am pledged to uphold the Constitution and the majority of the Board; to this end, I hope that we can revise the election rules to make the matter of violations and disqualification less subject to interpretation, in time for the 1982 elections.

BOARD MEETING MINI-MINUTES

Note: Copies of the complete official minutes of NAAFA Board meetings are available to any NAAFA members for the cost of copying and mailing. It is hoped that these Mini-Minutes will prove to be a good alternative. Please write to the Editor and let her know whether you would like this column continued.

--W.J. Fabrey, C.O.B.

June 19, 1981 West Side YMCA, New York City
Board members present: Bill Fabrey, Liz Fisher, Sheila Goodman, Dianne Rubinstein, Florane Sclar;
Guests: 7

This Board meeting, open to NAAFA members, was called to consider any complaints received by the 1981 Election Committee. It was held immediately prior to the counting of the ballots.

A motion passed to only consider such complaints that have been submitted in writing.

A motion passed to not apologize to Matt Madigan, who complained that his name had been used by a candidate without his permission; but instead to make a note in the 1982 Election Rules and Manual regarding use of another member's name in a candidate's election statement.

Goodman moved to disqualify candidate Niedershuh for violating NAAFA's Election Rules and Manual, as amended, Sec. III, Bl. Second by Rubinstein. Fisher requested a roll call vote. Goodman, Rubinstein, and Sclar voted in favor; Fisher voted against. The motion was passed.

June 19, 1981 West Side YMCA, New York City
Board members present: Same as above
Guests: 7

This meeting was the regular, scheduled one. Fisher moved to accept with deepest regrets the resignation of Board member Ernest Harff. The motion passed without opposition.

A motion passed to confirm Pres. Goodman's appointment of Rosalie Radcliffe as Chairperson of the Local Chapters Committee ("Chapters Coordinator.") A motion passed to hold the next Board meeting on Sept. 18. Another passed to hold it in the Bellerose office.

Fisher, as Chairperson of the 1981 Election Committee, announced the results of the election (reproduced in the last Newsletter.)

A motion passed to give a 5% discount on convention reservations postmarked by Aug. 5, and that the mailing be sent by first class. A motion passed to place all convention money collected in a government-protected fund or bank account. A motion passed that allowed up to \$500 to pay for the first prize in the annual raffle.

A motion passed to allow money for printing and mailing of the raffle to be borrowed from the seed fund, if necessary, to be repaid from the first proceeds of the raffle. A motion passed that the upcoming national dance be paid for out of the general fund, and that the revenue should return to the general fund.

Both June minutes above were taken by Recording Secretary Barbara Donahue and transcribed by Pat Coles.



it matter that my friend and I had the same suit. We had it in different colors, didn't we?

Come September, and the Labor Day weekend, I packed my great find and trotted off to that toddlin' town, Chicago. Look out, Convention pool party -- here comes Barbara! For those readers who were at the '80 Convention what comes next is really no surprise, nor should it be to anyone else. "The Suit" was there in five colors on about a dozen NAAFA bathing beauties; we looked like the chorus line from an Esther Williams movie. "The Suit" was the uniform of the day.

For a Manhattan Chapter dance, I purchased one of the loveliest, most exquisitely enchanting dresses I had ever seen -- at least in my price range. Black gauze. Sheer black gauze, trimmed with black lace. And black ribbons. A dress that said that the woman who wore it was aware of herself and of her appeal. I floated into that dance on black, gossamer wings, to be greeted by two other black gauze dresses trimmed in black lace with black ribbons. We three were knock-outs. We also spent as little time as possible in each other's general area.

What is the common denominator of each of these little tales of woe? The fact that if a store has an article of clothing, be it bra, bathing suit, dress, or fancy panty-house, that is pretty, alluring, or down-right sexy, fat women will buy it...will buy it, in fact, in all the colors available, because they know from previous experience what a rare find it is.

What is the solution to this problem? Well, you can sew your own clothing. If you are anything like me, you are in real trouble. I like to sew as much as I like root canal work without novacaine. I've been known to staple on buttons and Scotch tape hems.

The alternative is consumer pressure on stores, and manufacturers. When you are lucky enough to purchase something that is extra, extra special or something that has been hard to find, write the store thanking the buyer for getting it. Complement them for their excellent taste. Tell them how disappointed your friends were when they couldn't get the same thing because of a small stock. Lay it on thick. Write the manufacturer (get the address from the tickets on the

article, or the store). Tell them of your pleasure with their merchandise. Compliment them on their astute business acumen in finally realizing the potential of the fat market. They have known for years that fat people will spend money for clothes. What they, the stores and manufacturers, must come to realize is that fat people, both male and female, have good taste. No longer will we settle for camouflage to blend into the background -- we want to be in the foreground.

*Editor's Note: Barbara Donahue is NAAFA's Recording Secretary

Fat Liberated is ...
Being able to insist that your doctor take your blood pressure with a large cuff and explaining to him/her that you will take your business elsewhere if he/she doesn't treat you with the same concern and respect as his/her thin patients.
Finding another doctor if necessary.

"I believe in NAAFA and what it stands for. We all need to be committed to something in life...to give our efforts to...and I strongly believe that any members who don't give some time to make this organization work, will not feel a part of anything. That FEELING is Terrific! I count for something. And I know I help to make a lot of people's lives better. I just wish I could pass it along to more members. A few people can't be responsible for all the work. Strength comes from numbers. I get very angry with folks who won't even write a letter to complain about mistreatment or support Fat rights. It takes so little time and adds so much..."

Sue Nyman
Wash. State Chapter

See you in december!
marianne



IN MEMORIAM

In May 1981, San Francisco NAAFA was saddened by the sudden death of Cliff Folsom, Chapter Vice-Chair. Cliff was instrumental in reviving the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter as its Chairperson, and did a great deal to get members organized and active. Cliff always volunteered for whatever needed doing--- from helping to organize and run the group's first fundraiser, to driving miles out of his way to give a member a ride. He also served as past Secretary, local Anthropometrics Chair, and on the Chapter's Convention and Employment Committees. Because of his deep interest in fighting job discrimination, the San Francisco Chapter has made a donation to NAAFA's Legal Defense Fund in his honor.

L. W.



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PERSONAL ADS

Warm, romantic female, 39, 375 lbs., looking for intelligent, sensitive males, 30-50, who enjoy laughter, animals, scenic drives, films, picnics, music, and intimate fireside evenings of shared feelings. MUST BE single, sincere, open, honest, and caring. Los Angeles area. Reply to PO, Box 41410, Los Angeles, CA 90041.

Share NAAFA with a friend.

COMMERCIAL ADS

FOR FEMALE NAAFANS

Learn "Why Most Diets Fail" while learning to accept yourself in workshops offered by licensed therapists, who are also Naafans. Moderate fees. Manhattan. Carol Annette, 212-799-9190. Leave message.

Learn about NAAFA's history through the Newsletter. Back issues are available as follows:

Single issues, \$1 each, plus a SASE. One volume (6 issues), \$5 postpaid. 7-volume set (42 issues), \$25 postpaid.

All issues are available from Vol. I, No.1 October 1970. A few are in Xerox form, but most are originals.



CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Commercial Ads: 50 cents/word, 10-word minimum. Department number available at \$10/issue. (Contact NAAFA for display rates.)

Non-Commercial Ads: 25 cents/word, 10-word minimum. Department number available at \$5/issue.

Non-members must pay commercial rates for personal ads.

All ads are accepted for publication provided they are not against NAAFA's purpose. They may include personals, wanted to sell or buy, employment notices, meeting announcements, and many other items.

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