



## ACWR MEET AT SAA CONFERENCE.

By Susan Nowalis, RSM

The Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) held its annual meeting on August 30, 2001 during the Conference of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in Washington, DC. Approximately 30 members from both ACWR and SAA were present.

This is the first year since 1992 that the ACWR was able to meet without being linked to the Women Religious Archives (WRA) Roundtable. At its January 2001 Council Meeting the SAA approved the request for the WRA Roundtable to disband and agreed to provide a time slot for the ACWR at the annual SAA meeting.

As a result of this change the ACWR is neither a Roundtable nor a Section within the SAA. Our new relationship within SAA comes under the category of Associated Organizations and Associations, that is, organizations, associations and groups related to, or of interest to, the archival profession. These are listed in the SAA Directory of Archival Organizations in the U.S. and Canada. The Directory includes general information on each organizations' membership totals, annual dues, contact persons, newsletters published, and web site. Unlike SAA Groups (Sections and Roundtables) there are no SAA guidelines that apply to Associated Organizations.



During the ACWR Business Meeting, presided over by Kathryn Callahan, CSC, Elvira Kelley, OSF gave the Secretary's report and Joann Kessler, OSU gave the Treasurer's report. Sr. Kathryn introduced the new Executive Secretary, Maggie Hoerl, who reported on her orientation/transition activities under outgoing Executive Secretary, Mary Beth Fraser. Sr. Kathryn's last official act as ACWR President was to conduct the installation of new officers; President Edna McKeever, CSJ and Vice President/President Elect Susan Nowalis, RSM.

The Board expressed gratitude to Sr. Kathryn for

her leadership during the past year. She led the orientation of new Board members, revision of the ACWR brochure and application for membership, and revision of ACWR policies and procedures.

The program part of the agenda consisted of follow-up to Conference 2000. Sr. Kathryn gave a detailed report about her efforts as both a member of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the ACWR president, to get on the LCWR agenda for the 2001 meeting in Baltimore and the LCWR orientation program. Time was not available for her to make a presentation at either session. Edna spoke about the success she and others had in addressing LCWR regional meetings, noting that their presentations were well received. Sr. Susan reported on the SAA/WRA/ACWR developments, thanking Charlene Alipio, former WRA Chair, for her significant part in articulating the need for change, and Jane Kenamore, SAA liaison to the WRA, for presenting the request to the SAA Council.



The meeting concluded with a discussion of plans for Conference 2003 and an invitation for program suggestions that would benefit members. There were some excellent ideas gathered from the Conference 2000 evaluations and from suggestions of those present at the ACWR meeting, which will be considered by the Program Committee. Additional suggestions are welcome and can be sent to the ACWR National Office or by email to [ACWR@juno.com](mailto:ACWR@juno.com).

## SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US

Do you have ideas for programs you'd like to see as a part of Conference 2003? The program committee would like to hear from you!

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article? Would you like to write an article about your own experiences as an archivist? Do you have suggestions on topics you would like to see written about? If so, contact the national office, we'd love to hear from you!

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR MEMBERS OF ACWR,



It is with joy, and a bit of trepidation, that I take up the responsibilities of the president of ACWR. First,

I would like to thank Sister Kathryn Callahan, CSC for her excellent leadership, and the sharing of her expertise, during this past year. Those of you who were present at the SAA meeting in Washington

this past August will certainly affirm that she did much on our behalf. Besides clarifying our relationship with the SAA, which was a very time consuming and exacting job, she did much to try to make our professional position concerning archives and archival training known to the national Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). Sad to say, this effort has thus far been unsuccessful, but we hope that at some point in the near future we will be able to address the LCWR at the national level. Our concerns are quite immediate and impinge on the future of the preserved history of the religious, social, cultural, and educational contributions of religious communities to American society and the world.

Joann Kessler, OSU, who has been our enthusiastic treasurer for the past five years, has told us she will not be able to continue in this capacity. She has taken great care of the "coffers" and planned the physical set-up of our Conference 2000 in Cleveland wonderfully. We can never thank her enough. Sr. Joann will help our new treasurer, Pauline Ingram, OP, to move smoothly into her new position. I want to thank Sr. Pauline for her willingness to serve the ACWR

As for the future, the Board is already preparing for Conference 2003. We should be able to announce the date and place relatively soon. You are aware that we have been working in collaboration with Avila College as a repository for closed archives, but legal and other parameters are still to be worked out. You can imagine all the questions that will have to be solved. When we have more insight into this, we will let you know.

This year promises to be a busy one for all of us on the Board who are looking forward to promoting the cause of ACWR. We hope that your year will be profitable and happy as you also continue to promote our cause.

Sincerely,  
Edna McKeever, CSJ  
ACWR President

### ACWR MEMBER DEATH NOTICES:

**Sister Evelyn Marie Augustyn, CSFN**, Province Archivist for the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Pittsburgh, Province, died unexpectedly on May 11, 2001. The sisters of the province are indebted to Sister Evelyn Marie for having initiated and organized their archival system in 1985.

**Sister Christina Wolken, OSU** died on February 15, 2001 after being in poor health for some time. Sr. Christina most recently served as the archivist for the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kansas

**GENERAL EDITOR**—Dolores Liptak, RSM  
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**EDITOR**—Maggie Hoerl

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## THE CHANGING FACE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

By Mary Beth Fraser



In August of 2001, Maggie Hoerl became the Executive Secretary for the ACWR and I left the position which I held for three years. I left to devote more time to my studies and to complete my dissertation.

When I began in 1998, I stepped into very accomplished shoes. Two talented women had come before me and performed this job admirably, efficiently, and gracefully. The success of the National Office is owed to Patricia Hodge, RSM who established the office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While a full-time archivist for the Mercy Sisters in Pittsburgh, she incorporated the ACWR, contributed to the ACWR by-laws, developed the newsletter, maintained the ACWR directory, and maintained numerous correspondence. She continues to contribute today, helping the Executive Secretary as an active board member and willing consultant.

In 1997, Rosalie McQuaide, CSJ became the Executive Secretary and fulfilled one of the ACWR's goals of establishing its national headquarters at a women's college. She moved the office to Trinity College in Washington, DC. Sr. Rosalie has been a part of the ACWR from its conception in 1989 and her devotion continues to this day. While Sr. Rosalie held this position for only one year, she accomplished much in that time.

The continued good health of the office is owed to the generous support of Mary Hayes, SNDdeN and Trinity College. Sr. Mary is the perfect ambassador to Trinity. Her door is always open to give advice and assistance.

In the three years that I have worked for the ACWR, I have gotten to know many of its members.

The little office on the fourth floor of Trinity College has allowed me to connect with archivists across the United States and Canada. I have learned much and will carry this experience with me to my future endeavors. I would like to thank everyone in the ACWR for all of their kindness.

## “LISTEN TO US, WE HAVE A STORY TO TELL”

By Elvira Kelley, OSF

This is how one historian expressed the sentiments of over 190 participants who gathered at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from June 17–20, 2001 for the Conference on the History of Women Religious. The theme of the conference was “Individuals in Community: Women Religious and Change – Past, Present, Future.”

Keynote speaker Mary Ewens, OP reflected on her several decades as a historian of women religious. She traced her slow journey into the scholarly word as well as the adventures, discoveries, friendships, satisfactions, and disappointments that one who enters this field can expect to experience. Photos supplemented her oral account, which included details of her life as a “pre-Vatican II” graduate student.

During the following four days, there were over eighty presentations, many of which included stories of individuals or communities dedicated to improving the lives of the people they serve. Participants heard of the generous, hard-working and dedicated lives of religious who work for social justice.

At the awards banquet, Mary J. Oates, CSJ received the Distinguished Historian Award and Carol K. Colburn and Martha Smith, CSJ received the Distinguished Book Award. At the business meeting, Karen Kennelly, CSJ Coordinator/Newsletter editor, announced that Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri has been selected to house the archives of History of Women Religious.

The welcoming packet for the Conference contained a message from Marquette President Robert Wild, SJ. He noted that it was fitting that Marquette University was selected for the meeting since it was the first male Catholic university in the United States to admit women (1912), most of whom were female religious.

## ACWR-LCWR RELATIONSHIP

A report by Edna McKeever, CSJ  
to the SAA , August 20, 2001

Having had experience on the Election Committee of the ACWR and serving as the Board Secretary, as well as having attended the Monroe, Michigan and Sinsinawa, Wisconsin Conferences, I learned much about the state of many archives of religious women, as well as the status of their archivists. In addition, I have also had the experience of meeting many archivists of religious institutions at the conferences of other organizations, such as Archivists of Religious Institutions in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area and the New England Archivists of Religious Institutions.

All of these contacts pointed out to me that too many Communities, or Congregations, had little knowledge of what archives were all about, especially of the work entailed in doing archival collections. After I had some archival education, through workshops and courses, I began to realize how big a job it is and how demanding it can be. Then I became very concerned when I met so many archivists who were older, just starting out in their new careers without any training, and who very often held other positions in the community.

At one of our Board meetings, I brought up this topic and expressed the idea that perhaps we might address the LCWR leadership concerning the importance of archives and the need to have a trained archivist with plenty of energy. After discussion, it was decided that we would approach the LCWR and ask for a slot of time at their national meeting. We would thus be able to alert them to some of these problems. Rosalie McQuaide, CSJP was appointed to get in touch with the LCWR. However, it seems that no matter how much she tried we could not make headway with the LCWR leadership, who responded that they had much more important things to discuss and that their agendas were filled three years in advance.

I was off the Board for two years, but during that time the question was still being addressed. It was finally decided that if a representative of the ACWR could not go to the LCWR on the national level then perhaps the LCWR could come to the ACWR. An invitation to the Cleveland Conference was sent to the leadership of each Religious Community. There were about 200 attendees altogether at the Conference and among them were many members of leadership. Those

present at that Conference will remember the marvelous presentation given by Grace McDonald, FSPA on the history of the ACWR and LCWR. A lively discussion followed this presentation. The leadership members had their eyes opened during the conference and were duly impressed by what they saw and learned. It was agreed that the message was important and should be given to the entire LCWR membership. The next question was "How"? After the meeting, one of the participants suggested that we address the regional meetings of the LCWR.

At our Board meeting in October, 2000 we discussed the need for follow-up with the LCWR before the "fervor" dissipated. The decision was then made to initiate a program as soon as possible with the regional meetings.

A letter was sent to each regional chairperson asking for time on the agenda. We offered to give our program at our own expense, which included travel and board. Of the fifteen regions, one did not respond at all and two regions said they did not need us. The other twelve responses to our request were positive.

A list of recommended topics for presentation was drawn up and Board members offered their services to speak in different regions. Kathryn Callahan, CSC spoke in St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana; Elvira Kelley, OSF in Racine, Wisconsin; and Joann Kessler, OSU in Springfield, Illinois and Frontenac, Minnesota. I spoke in Holyoke, Massachusetts; Skaneateles, New York; San Antonio, Texas; and Orange, California. I also plan to speak in Melbourne, Kentucky and New Orleans, Louisiana during the next few months. Rita King, SC, a past member of the election committee and the board, agreed to speak in Mount Angel, Oregon.

Some of the topics that we discussed during these visits were: the importance of community histories and documents to researchers; professional training of archivists; the responsibilities of archivists; proper preservation needs; full-time work for the hale and hearty; need for cooperation and communication between government of the community and its archivist; knowledge of law regarding restrictions, copyright, the right to privacy, and freedom of information, etc.

From all reports, the talks were very well received. The enthusiasm and resolutions that they engendered seem to have made our efforts and monetary investment worthwhile. I say "seems" because we can only tell the real results by the actions that the leadership will take in the future. As far as we know, some have already taken great steps to not only improve their own archives, but also the archives of their region.

## ***GALILEO'S DAUGHTER***

(Penguin Books, 2000)

Reviewed by Maggie Hoerl

In *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel presents Galileo in a unique and intriguing light. The subtitle: *A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love*, reflects Sobel's emphasis on Galileo as a man sustained and inspired in his work by his relationship with God and his daughter.

Sobel's unique contribution to the study of such a well-known figure is her incorporation of excerpts from many of the 125 letters written by Galileo's illegitimate daughter Suor Maria Celeste. These letters are housed at Florence's National Central Library and contain annotations by Galileo. The letters written by Galileo to his daughter have not survived, thus the correspondence presented by Sobel is necessarily one-sided.

Throughout the work Sobel's eloquent prose paint a picture of Galileo's life and surroundings. She presents a tender, loving relationship between a brilliant, passionate, loyal, faith-filled man and his intelligent, dedicated, pious daughter. Despite Suor Maria Celeste's enclosure in the Convent of San Matteo in Florence at a young age, the growth and significance of this relationship is revealed through her letters. As presented by Dava Sobel, the story of the relationship between Galileo and his daughter is truly "a love story, a tragedy, and a mystery."

In addition to illustrating the relationship between Galileo and Suor Maria Celeste, *Galileo's Daughter* provides an excellent description of the social, religious, and political situation in seventeenth century Italy. Fascinating details from Suor Maria Celeste's letters, as well as passages from the writings of many scientists, philosophers, students, friends, and churchmen with whom Galileo corresponded, reveal scientific, social, and religious realities which affected Galileo and his daughter.

Though Sobel's work is clearly intended and appropriate for a popular audience, it contains several scholarly elements. Sobel cites many primary sources in addition to Suor Maria Celeste's letters. She also includes a few footnotes which

often explain scientific references in the text and describe their relevance to modern scientific theory. Her inclusion of copies of several manuscripts, as well as her consideration of details such as the changes in writing style, tone, and signature of Suor Maria Celeste, reflect the important relationship between archival preservation and historical research. This intimate picture of the relationship between Galileo and his daughter would not have been possible without archival treasures such as Suor Maria Celeste's letters.

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Suzanne L. Bunkers, ed., *Diaries of Girls and Women: A Midwestern Sampler*, (University of Wisconsin Press, 2001).

Frances M. Gimber, RSCJ, *Woman of the Word: A Life of Marie Louise Schroen, A Religious of the Sacred Heart* (privately printed). For more information contact the Society of the Sacred Heart, 4389 West Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108.

Suellen Hoy, "Illinois Technical School for Colored Girls: A Catholic Institution on Chicago's South Side, 1911-1953," *Journal of Illinois History*, Summer, 2001, 103-122.

Barbara Misner, SCSC, *The Living Love of Christ Among Us: The History of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. Part II: The Era of Consolidation, 1888-1938*. (privately printed) For more information contact the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Merrill, WI 54452.

Suzanne Noffke, OP, *The Letters of Catherine of Siena*, volume 2 (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, Arizona, 2001)

Mary J. Oates, *Saint Katherine Drexel: Salvation, Education, and Philanthropy*, (Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University, 2001).

Anita Specht, "The Power of Ethnicity in a Community of Women Religious: The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in the United States, 1868-1930," *U.S. Catholic Historian*, Winter, 2001, 53-64.

## FIRST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN VISITATION ARCHIVISTS HELD IN DC

By Dolores Liptak, RSM

Spearheaded by Mada-anne Gell, VHM, of Georgetown Visitation (Washington, DC) the American Visitation monasteries joined together at the first Visitation Archives workshop. Held in Washington, DC from July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>, it attracted more than twenty representatives from eleven of their thirteen monasteries. Sisters from New England, the Middle Atlantic states, as well as from monasteries as far south as Georgia, and as far west as Minnesota, exchanged their knowledge and learned common approaches to archival practice.

Dolores Liptak, RSM, who had organized the Georgetown Visitation archives in preparation for the bicentennial of the American Order in 1999, was the major presenter. Session topics included: the mission and sacred trust of the archivist; basic methodologies; and basic tools of processing, organizing, and displaying.



A second presenter, Anne Robertson, who serves as a curator for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, discussed the restoration of the Georgetown art works saved after the disastrous fire of 1993. She explained how an archival inventory done only months before the fire enabled the monastery to restore the damaged art. She also presented the meticulously researched tablebook she has recently published that depicts the restored Georgetown collection.

The group took two field trips to broaden their historical grasp of the Visitation monastic tradition in the United States. The first was to southern Maryland where the first Catholic parishes in the original British-American colonies were begun by Jesuits and where the present Baltimore Carmel began at Port Tobacco, only nine years before the Visitations began their school in Georgetown. The second trip was to the John Paul II Cultural Center near Catholic University in Washington. Both experiences were meant to demonstrate the symbolic relationship that must exist between history and archives.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, REMINDERS:

The 16<sup>th</sup> **Western Archives Institute** will be held July 14-26, 2002 at the University of Redlands in Redlands, California. Further details and application information will be available in January 2002 by contacting: Administrator, Western Archives Institute, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916)653-7715 or [ArchivesWeb@ss.ca.gov](mailto:ArchivesWeb@ss.ca.gov).

The **American Catholic Historical Association** will be holding its spring meeting March 15-16, 2002. Included will be topics dealing with Catholicism in the western U.S. and Canada. The meeting will be held at the University of Portland in Oregon.

The 12<sup>th</sup> **Berkshire Conference of Women's History** will be held June 6-9, 2002 in Storrs, Connecticut.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the **American Catholic Historical Association** will be held January 4-6, 2002 in San Francisco.

The ACWR National Office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 2:30pm EST. The executive secretary can be contacted at (202) 884-9441 or [ACWR@juno.com](mailto:ACWR@juno.com).

### DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:

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Joann Kessler's email is [JnnKs@aol.com](mailto:JnnKs@aol.com)

## GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

By Mary Serbacki, OSF

I have heard it said by some that to be an archivist is to work in isolation. Not so! As province archivist for the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Stella Niagara, New York, I have had many opportunities for inter-personal contacts and even international travel.

From March through June 2001 I was in Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia, at the provincialate of our congregations' Holy Trinity Province. I had been asked to assist the staff in preparing administrative records for permanent retention, to assess the current state of their archives, to advise them on necessary changes, and to begin training one of the sisters to become their province archivist.

I found myself in a world totally "foreign" in every respect. Language, dress, customs, religion, politics, climate, and food; filing systems, record types, business practices, and available supplies (or lack thereof)—each presented its own unique challenge. Yet, I was made to feel very much at home by everyone. Mara Walton, OSF, and I were honored by being asked to cut the



ceremonial rice at a gathering for sisters visiting from the United States.

Together, my "archives crash course" students and I learned our way around what we found. We made the sometimes difficult decisions about how things had to change to provide reasonable access to information and documents. Providing a better physical environment meant explaining the role light, temperature, and relative humidity play in the life-cycle of archival material. I was most impressed by their willingness to learn and change, and more than a little humbled by their faith in my knowledge and abilities as the archival "expert."

This venture was not my first international foray. Since 1985, I have presented several sessions to the Canadian Religious Conference-Ontario Archivists. Since 1991, the ongoing reorganization of my congregation's generalate archives has meant six work periods in Rome [ACWR News 2/1992]. I also served on a three-person international editorial

team for our recently published congregation history [ACWR News 11/1998].

Each of these varied opportunities has broadened and enriched my professional and personal life. They have made the archives a veritable gateway to the world!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Colette Ackerman, OCD        | Baltimore, MD       |
| Catherine Altamura, FMA      | Haledon, NJ         |
| Patricia Annas, SSJ          | Philadelphia, PA    |
| M. Rene Azar, SSJ            | St. Augustine, FL   |
| Agnes Blee, SNDdeN           | Stevenson, MD       |
| Mary Ann Brady, RSM          | Oregon, OH          |
| Mary Virginia Butkovich, OSF | Peoria, IL          |
| Joy Clough, RSM              | Chicago, IL         |
| Rose Dolores Costello, SSMO  | Beaverton, OR       |
| Marilisa H. DaSilva, OSF     | King of Prussia, PA |
| Ann Marie Damiani, CSJB      | Bronx, NY           |
| Rita Feeney, FSPA            | LaCrosse, WI        |
| Irene Feltz, SSND            | Mankato, MN         |
| Juliana Fitzpatrick, OSM     | Massena, NY         |
| Caroline Flynn               | Houston, TX         |
| Ruth Fox, OSB                | Richardton, ND      |
| Mary Beth Fraser             | Youngstown, N       |
| Mary Giaimo, ASCJ            | Hamden, CT          |
| Frances M. Gimber, RSCJ      | New York, NY        |
| June Hansen, CSJ             | Cleveland, OH       |
| Mary Harper, SA              | Garrison, NY        |

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Ann Hentges, SSMN           | Kenmore, NY       |
| Susan Huck, CDP             | St. Louis, MO     |
| Marilyn Joyce, OSF          | Pittsburgh, PA    |
| Lucia Kenny, RSHM           | Tarrytown, NY     |
| Charlotte Kirst, RGS        | St. Louis, MO     |
| Margaret Knoeber, ASC       | Dodge City, KS    |
| Fidelis Kreutzer, SSMO      | Beaverton, OR     |
| Florence Lawlor             | San Lorenzo, CA   |
| Arlys McDonald, CSJ         | Wichita, KS       |
| M. Virginia Melan, CSFN     | Grand Prairie, TX |
| Elizabeth Mullen            | Santa Rosa, CA    |
| Rev. John J. O'Brien, CP    | Brighton, MA      |
| Ellen Orman                 | Houston, TX       |
| Rita Redmond, OSU           | Paola, KS         |
| Ellen Marie Robarge, RSM    | Hartsdale, NY     |
| Romona Seidl, CSJ           | Wichita, KS       |
| Patricia Rose Shanahan, CSJ | Los Angeles, CA   |
| Mary Virginia Sheblak, IWBS | Victoria, TX      |
| Catherine Tahaney, OP       | Sparkill, NY      |
| Mary Ann Untener, IHM       | Monroe, MI        |
| Kathleen Urbanic            | Rochester, NY     |
| Judi Welle                  | Little Falls, MN  |

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**2002 NOMINATION BALLOT FOR ACWR**

The ACWR Nomination/Election Committee for 2002 is seeking nominations for the offices below. The committee will be sending a compiled election ballot for your consideration in late February. Please give your nominee(s) with reasons for nomination and let the individual(s) know of their nomination. Thank you for your participation in this process.

**ACWR Vice-President/President-Elect:** The Vice-President (President-Elect) shall serve a one year term before moving into the Presidency. The President is elected to serve a one year term, followed by an additional year on the board as past-President.

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**ACWR Secretary:** The Secretary is elected for a two year term.

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**Would you be willing to serve as Vice-President/President? \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary? \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer (appointed position)? \_\_\_\_\_** If you would be willing to serve in any of these offices, please provide your name and address with this form. Thank you for your willingness to serve the ACWR membership!

ACWR Nomination/Election Committee 2002:  
Please return this ballot by **January 1, 2002** to:  
*Anita Therese Hayes, BVM, Committee Chair*  
*1100 Carmel Drive*  
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