

Message from Cynthia Book Gorman, ~~www.cemnet.org~~, she cannot attend our retreat. Cynthia is managing our web site, and is asking for suggestions,

In case any one on the board doesn't know it, the address for our web site is:

<http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~cmbg/cem/>

The Viewer's Declaration, new board listing, Action Agenda, People's Charter, CEM structure, how to subscribe to CEMnet, and "Why CEM?" are all there (among other things). What is missing is an update on our affiliates as well as the publications list. Who should I contact about CEM membership updates? I will get the publications list and contact information for ordering up in the next week.

My main concern is that we are under-utilizing our Internet presence. What I would love to see would be a CEM committee to discuss uses and strategies. I would welcome some input on moderating CEM. I know that this all takes time and CEM members are generally overly-active people, but perhaps there are some on the board who would like to be involved. I believe Nancy Snow once expressed an interest. There may be others. Perhaps Ruth Dyson would like to guest moderate.

Naturally CEM's outreach is a many pronged approach, but for the moment, the Internet is a cheap way to cross borders and gather support. I just need some other heads to bounce ideas off of and get fresh ideas from. I find that I am, perhaps, overly cautious about anything I put up on the web, because we are a large coalition and it would be so easy to forget that other people's concerns may intersect with mine, but may not be the same.

If there are any who would like to work with me on making our internet presence more dynamic, I welcome their thoughts. I would love to reach Nancy, but my messages to her are bouncing back as undeliverable, she may have changed her e-mail address.

Is it possible for me to obtain the Pagemaker files used for the newsletter? I can convert them into a downloadable format (PDF) and put them on the web site.

Liz Thoman is coming to Austin in February to keynote a conference on Media Awareness/Media Literacy which I am helping to plan. Ellen Wartella and John Wright will also be speaking. The conference is being organized by an unnamed group of interested individuals from the religious, educational, and media communities... and then there's me. We are hoping to form a long term organization from the networking and support the conference generates. I plan to work towards making that group an affiliate of CEM. Rev. Rich Thompson who is the instigator of the conference is very interested in CEM. What I need to do is find out from someone like Charlie Bien what the best way of setting up the structure would be.

I look forward to hearing all about the retreat. I really wish I could be there.

Take good care of yourself!

Cynthia