

Report of the Committee on the Relationship Between the National  
Council on Family Relations and Its Affiliates

Date: November 1, 1953

TO: The Executive Committee

FROM: David Fulcmer, Chairman of the Committee on the Relationship between the  
National Council and Its Affiliates

Introductory Notes:

- 1) It is the strong conviction of this chairman that the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the National Council should put serious emphasis upon improving and making more effective the relationships between the National and its affiliates. Over a period of years - and very clearly evident at the recent conference in East Lansing - has been the "pushing off until some later time" treatment of the affiliate issue. If our affiliates are as important to us as we claim they are, this entire matter demands very careful attention. And it should be made clear that a few committee meetings and a hurried consideration by such bodies as the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors will not do justice to the importance of this problem. Sometime soon this matter must receive first priority, or the National Council had better change over to an organizational structure without affiliates. It was evident at the East Lansing meetings that many of the representatives of our affiliates feel this strongly; and I fear that they went home disappointed.
- 2) The recommendations in this report represent a revision by the various representatives of the affiliates (at the annual conference in East Lansing) of a report presented by the Committee on the Relationship between the National Council and Its Affiliates to the Executive Committee of National - also, the entire Executive body - at the Sunday session at East Lansing.

It is recommended that the pertinent bodies within the National Council take immediate steps to expedite the following recommendations:

- 1) Any area council wishing to affiliate with the National Council must submit this request to the National office. This office must immediately refer the matter to the Executive Committee which, in turn, must refer the matter to the Board of Directors as soon as possible. The Board must give approval, by majority of those voting, before an area council can be accepted as a full affiliate. No area council shall be accepted as a full affiliate (with a representative on the Board of Directors of the National) unless it has at least twenty-five members; but smaller groups may be accepted as associate affiliates.
- 2) Section 3 of Article V of the National Constitution shall be changed to read: "Each full affiliate shall have one representative on the Board of Directors."
- 3) All full affiliates shall have equal status.
- 4) The stated purpose of each affiliate, as declared in its constitution, shall be the same as the statement of purpose of National. (See Article II of the National Constitution.)
- 5) Each full affiliate shall have an official representative - either its representative on National's Board of Directors, or some person appointed officially to represent him - present at the annual conference of the National Council. This representative shall participate in meetings of all affiliate representatives and otherwise act as the official delegate of his affiliate.

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- 6) How well National and each affiliate are fulfilling their responsibilities and services to each other shall be reviewed each year by the Executive Secretary or some other person designated by the president; and a specific report submitted each year to the Executive Committee. Whenever a relationship is found to be seriously unsatisfactory, the matter shall be referred at once to the Board of Directors for its study and decision. The Board of Directors shall have power to rescind the right of a Council to be an affiliate and to take any disciplinary action in regard to official personnel, and other functionaries of National.
- 7) The Executive Committee may give financial help to an affiliate, either through a loan or grant, from the National treasury. If such sums exceed more than \$50, the Executive Committee shall first secure permission from the Board of Directors.
- 8) It shall be the responsibility of the National office to keep the affiliates informed of action taken by National, which affects the affiliates.
- 9) National shall provide each office of its affiliates with a constitution of the National council.
- 10) It shall be established as a principle that the National Council will in no way dictate to an affiliate its specific constitution nor its program. Each affiliate will have its own program, planned and developed by persons living within its area and along the lines deemed advisable by its members, in general conformity to the policy and purpose of the National Council.
- 11) The National office shall keep the affiliates informed in regard to members of the National Council who reside within the geographical boundaries of the affiliate. These lists shall be brought up-to-date every six months.
- 12) The National office shall maintain and keep up-to-date a Working List of officers of the National Council and its affiliates.
- 13) Each issue of MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIVING will contain a section for the affiliates, containing news about, from and for each affiliate and its membership.
- 14) The National office shall have available various pamphlets, brochures, researches, course materials, lists of films, and other materials pertinent to the work of National and its affiliates. Notice of what is available shall be sent to each affiliate office at least every six months.
- 15) The National office shall have available an attractive and effective poster display, showing pertinent facts about National and its affiliates. This shall be available to affiliates on a loan basis.
- 16) Each affiliate shall be required to have a constitution and officers, with clear and definite responsibilities. A copy of each constitution shall be on record at the National office.
- 17) Each affiliate shall promote an active, continuing program, which aims at fulfilling its purpose and those of the National Council; and which is designed to fit the needs of its area and the resources of its membership. It shall hold a minimum of one conference a year.
- 18) Each affiliate shall designate a definite headquarters office, or home address, which shall be used for receipt of all official communications from National.

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- 19) The affiliate shall be responsible for keeping the National office informed in every possible way of its activity and progress. All minutes of official boards shall be sent to the National office within a month after their origination.
- 20) The affiliate shall designate one of its members as officially responsible for getting to the editor of MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIVING, in sufficient time for publications, any news about the affiliate's program, activities, special events, personnel, and plans for the future which would be desirable for the section of the journal designated for news about affiliates.
- 21) The affiliate shall act as a distributing agent for materials available from the National office.

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