

OPERATIONS REPORT — JANUARY 2024

PROGRAMMING

JANUARY 24

Kevin & Trisha are considering another Parent's Night Out on Feb. 10th, to provide more support for families. Look for Kevin's article in the UUpdate on plans for two camps — CRE is doing its best to broaden the reach of their programming to encourage more involvement with UUTC from our local community.

We are happily burdened with an incredible number of offerings in the programming department — if you haven't looked at the front counter or the bulletin board, lately — take a gander!

I would welcome feedback on another outside group (with no financial assets—this is more of a local/regional lobbying group) being offered space quarterly. They met once previously — the Citizen's Climate Lobby. My feeling is that these "UU Values" organizations, like the Rainbow Alliance and the NAACP Education Committee, help to make UUTC a more vital part of the community—within reason. They would have to accept a time on the calendar that does not conflict with our existing programming or paid space use offerings. This particular group may meet a need we are not currently providing for in other programming.

STAFF

Trisha Wesley continues her successful work at Blue Ridge on Office Administration (all A's, of course!). Chelsea is enrolled in her payroll class, and learning a lot. This investment in staff is an essential part of building and maintaining skills, and supporting the need to refresh skills— nothing ever stays the same!

Chelsea has accepted an additional job with Social Services which will give her health insurance, a pension and other benefits like Paid Time Off. It is a 37.5 hours per week job. This is essentially Medicare administration, and is not anything like as complex as the work she does with UUTC. She does not wish to leave UUTC. She was issued a UUTC laptop quite some time ago which she has used primarily at those times when she had a sick child, but also when I have contacted her after her regular hours to iron something out, or even to run payroll when she has been forced to wait for employee hours to be turned in to her. She will work with me on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 so that we are available to each other in the work she will continue to do with UUTC.

TEAMS

The Membership Team has been renewed under Susan Slocum's leadership, and I think we are on a good path—avoiding letting people slip through the cracks. Kristin Leesment has joined this Team, creating a leadership vacancy for the Pledge Drive.

This Team is an essential part of getting people connected and into their niche— finding the areas where they are most comfortable to serve and grow.

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SAFETY

The Safety Task Force has been dormant this month. I compiled all safety-related policies in one document with I shared with the group for review.

Staff, however, has been busy. Kathryn Burleigh has both the financial computer and the AV Mac backing up daily to the new Network Attached Storage (NAS). This turns out to be in the nick of time... one of the old NAS drives failed shortly after the Mac was set up to talk to the new one...which hastened the work to get the financial computer talking to the new one, as well. That work is complete save for Kathryn's tweaking. A typical hard drive in use in a NAS has a lifespan between 2 and 5 years. Sometimes we get lucky... ;)

Monday night, Trisha, Kathryn and myself attended a Digital Security course (the first of two sessions) offered by Side With Love. The program began with a history of surveillance, and the forces that are still using old (and new) technologies to do this for any and all groups—but especially those groups being targeted by far-right elements. The second night of instruction/education is February 5th. The cost of this training was \$100 for a team of 5 (it has been deeply subsidized). Any two people interested in the second session —I can share the link with you. It runs from 7:30 to 9:30pm, on Zoom. You will need to have the most current version of Zoom already on your computer before class begins.

All materials and information from the class will be sent to UUTC to be shared with attendees. Some of what we learn will be focused on UUTC's virtual campus (Google Workspace, website and social media), but there is a lot being covered of value to our members in terms of protecting themselves from fraud and other forms of digital malfeasance. We intend to create a short program with handouts to benefit members and their own security.

—In Covenant, RK