

Voluntarism need is stressed

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By SALLY GOODHUE

In every community there is a need for voluntarism, a system of supporting or doing something by voluntary action. "It goes beyond the bandage and gulf situation," said Mrs. Ricarda G. Kleindienst at a meeting of the Maryland Association of Hospital Auxiliaries held Monday at the Hunt Valley Inn.

Mrs. Kleindienst, whose husband is the United States Attorney General, cited wives of men in government service to explain her statement. She chose Mrs. William Rogers as an example.

As the wife of the Secretary of State, Mrs. Rogers has a daily schedule of official duties, but she finds time to go to a Washington school for tutoring of juveniles in need.

From two friends in the health field, Mrs. Kleindienst cited their interpretation of successful voluntarism. Mrs. Casper W. Weinberger, a health service volunteer, and Mrs. William Fitzgerald, past president of the Child Health Center, explained that it was organization; development of concepts of how to work and consideration of the nature of a volunteer group working with professional people. They added that volunteers should not trespass into the field of the professional.

Similar life

Mrs. Kleindienst's life is similar to the women she mentioned. She is a member of the Department of Justice Wives Drug Education Committee and is national chairman of the Wolf Trap Association, a part of the Wolf Trap Farm Park, a center for cultural and performing arts. She serves on the board of the District of Columbia Chapter of Health and Welfare Council and the board of Child Health Center.

Her civic activities share equal interest. She said the child center is an infant educational center where day

care is provided. "Here, I feel that I'm better in personal contact than devising ways and means."

The drug education committee is composed of women of different backgrounds, according to Mrs. Kleindienst. They educate themselves on crucial issues such as drug abuse and related crime."

Her interest in voluntarism she said, began in Phoenix, Ariz., where she was guide docent at the Phoenix Art Museum for 10 years before coming to Washington in 1969.

She and her family came from Arizona to Bethesda, moving later into a six-bedroom house in McLean, Va.

Rises early

With no full-time help, Mrs. Kleindienst rises early. "I get up at 6.45 A.M. with my husband, who leaves at 7.30 A.M." After their daughter leaves for school, she begins her work on her outside activities.

She devotes a half-a-day five days a week to these activities making certain that she is home when her daughter returns from school and to prepare dinner. "I like to cook. I prepare the food with a cookbook in front of me, but sometimes I give a recipe my own interpretation."

She admitted she was a health-food shopper for grains, cereals, chicken and variety of vegetables in the health stores. She attributed this interest to a baby sitter she had in Arizona.

"Weekends are my survival mechanism," said Mrs. Kleindienst, the mother of four children. "I cook, entertain informally and garden."

The three older children are away in school most of the time. This leaves room at home for the Kleindiensts to have young people stay with them while they work at summer jobs in Washington. She said, "You could say that we run a hostel."

Mrs. Kleindienst, who shares her husband's interest in young people, met him when she was doing graduate study in modern European history at Harvard University. She was graduated magna cum laude from Radcliffe College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Volunteers Hear Mrs. Kleindienst

April 3, 1973

"About 70 million people are changing the face of America, in the ferment of voluntarism," Mrs. Richard Kleindienst told the Maryland Association of Hospital Auxiliaries yesterday at the Hunt Valley Inn.

Mrs. Kleindienst, wife of the U.S. Attorney General, told the gathering that "the changes we make are profound—beyond sending gift cards. The one-to-one basis gives love and concern—it's an enveloping counterattack, a war of love."

Mrs. Kleindienst told of the new program of the National Center of Voluntary Action in Washington, of which she is a member. She noted that the organization grew from a George Romney-led committee, which investigated voluntarism and how it could be used nationally.

"President Nixon is very interested in this kind of mix and thought the country could put together a private and public combination," Mrs. Kleindienst said.

Now, Mrs. Kleindienst said "There is a Renaissance in voluntarism." She noted the places voluntarism incorporates and cited women in government.

Mrs. George Romney and her husband "have been embodiments of the spirit of

what the individual can do in the community—local, state and national," she said, describing them as "selfless and graceful."

Mrs. Romney, rather than being absorbed by personal duties, is vice president of NAVC. Her husband is incoming chairman, as well as having a voluntary program of his own, soon to be announced.

"Every woman in the Cabinet and little Cabinet is out doing something," Mrs. Kleindienst said, giving Mrs. William Rogers, wife of the Secretary of State, as example.

Attending perhaps five official occasions a day and acting as a constant source of information for diplomatic families, she still goes privately to a Washington school for one-to-one tutoring of juveniles in need.

"Rather than tiring her," Mrs. Kleindienst said, "it refreshes her, giving contact with growing young people and an insight into their hopes and efforts."

Two women in the health field were also cited. Mrs. Caspar W. Weinberger, wife of the Health, Education and Welfare, worked 20 years at a San Francisco hospital. In Washington she goes from

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Volunteers Alter U.S.; Mrs. Kleindienst Says

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heart, to health, to library work. She is a regular volunteer as a Gray Lady, at D.C. General Hospital.

Mrs. William Fitzgerald, immediate past president of the Child Health Center, brought Voluntarism into conjunction with reality and a response to what the board does.

Summing up successful voluntarism, the two told Mrs. Kleindienst, "Organization is everything. The unfortunate experiences come when no one develops a concept of how to work, and areas of responsibility. There is a need for consideration of the nature of a volunteer body working with professional people."

Mrs. Fitzgerald added, "We've done a tremendous amount of creative thinking. The auxiliary and professional boards design professional roles and volunteers' unprofessional thinking helps the staff, which may get into professional ruts."

Mrs. Kleindienst read excerpts from the NCVA bulletin's report on a talk by Harold S. Williams, president of the Institute on Man and Science.

Of volunteers he said, "They must have a theory of intervention, which must include an understanding of their role and objective, their source and extent of their power, their commitment and the limits of their perceived liability."

Failures, he noted, are due to a lack of mechanism of intervention, no patterns by which they could get their resources into the situation.

"I'm willing to say," Mr. Williams continued, "too many have engaged in activities, too few pursued objec-

tives; too many have dealt with effects, too few with causes; too many worked on peripheral matter; too few dealt with things that really matter most.

"Before acting," he concluded they must choose the course which will do the most good, the least harm."

Mrs. Kleindienst spoke of the Voluntary Action Centers (VACS). There is one in Baltimore, and she suggested contact with the center. She suggested, too that volunteer skills are mobile, from one field to another, and that a professional volunteer group may be organized.

Now on the board of the Child Health Center, Washington, a satellite of Children's Hospital, Mrs. Kleindienst said, "I have gained more than I have given." In any community, she continued, "You can find a neighborhood of interest, when humans share common interests."

She gave the Christian Halfway House in Georgetown as an example of volunteers working together, even in a large urban area, and finding common interests while joining efforts.

Before Mrs. Kleindienst spoke, Mrs. Howard F. Rasquin, MAHA president, addressed the group, reviewing the workshops and efforts in the organization's educational program this past year. "Have briefcase, will travel," she said, is the motto of the board of directors.