

Aldredge House - May 24, 1995

I would like to advise you of a proposal that the Aldredge House committee is considering.

Many of our own members do not know that this house that we all love:

- has needed a yearly infusion of dues money
- is our major philanthropy, taking monies that could otherwise be used for charitable philanthropies
- has major maintenance and repairs, the cost of which often do not fall within our budget.

We have entertained a proposal from a local company, Culinaire International, that would schedule the house and provide catering or Event Planning. A manager would be assigned to Aldredge House to oversee and execute the events held here. They would offer a commission on food and beverage sales of 7%.

Their background includes providing all catering and planning for the Dallas Convention Center. Their access to first knowledge of conventions in the city would allow them to book the house for appropriate groups. They are in the third year of completely managing the Belo Mansion, catering, lawn care, parking, maintenance, etc. They have an extensive list of corporate and private clients for whom they have catered events. *inc. Dallas City Hall*

All privileges currently enjoyed by our members would remain the same--that is, bringing in our own liquor, own caterer (with workmen's comp) and member house fees. We would still retain the house fees of non-members. They believe that a reasonable event minimum for non-members would create a more exclusive image and attract higher revenues.

Becky would remain our employee and would be compensated for the additional work that increased use of the house would generate.

There are a lot of issues to address with this move and we have requested the legal help of Mike McCullough, the attorney who drew up the contract for the Belo which is also a 501 (c) (3) organization and we will have the advantage of that research.

Please be assured that we are not "giving away" any control of the house but would like to have consistent management, scheduling and marketing. A committee made up of our President, Linda Dysert, President-elect Nancy Shelton, Fifth Vice-President elect, Jean Bremner, Helen Nixon and myself will take every consideration to address the issues unique to this house in drawing up a contract.

This is a proposal about which we are very excited and are asking the board's confidence in pursuing it.