2.

SUMMER PLANS

The Alliance will be operating on a very abbreviated schedule for the remainder of the summer, as we attempt to recuperate our energies for fall. For the rest of July and August there will be no regular office hours. There will be Open Houses for ex-inmates/"patients" on July 26 and August 23, both Thursdays. They will begin at 7 p.m. and will take place at our office (16th & Sansom). Public meetings for non-ex-inmate "friends of ALMP" will resume on Thursday, September 20, also at 7 p.m. at our office.

People may reach us by mail. Members have been known to sneak into the office to do work on occasion, so you can try phoning if you'd like. We will resume our regular office hours of 12-4 p.m. weekdays on September 4. Also in September we will resume holding Open Houses for ex-inmates on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL

Beginning in early September, the Alliance office will be open again. We will again be plunged into an ocean of activity, most of it equally important and necessary. And, if things go as they usually do, we won't have enough people to do the work as effectively as it could be done with a larger staff. Following are a few of the things that constantly need doing: Letter writing, order-filling, phone-answering, cleaning, writing articles for the newsletter, researching facts about drugs, shrinks, etc., calling people about meetings, bookkeeping, filing, laying out the newsletter, doing graphics & other artwork for publications, posters, etc., visiting inmates, communicating with the media, making leaflets, speaking at schools, on radio, etc., planning and participating in demonstrations, getting endorsements for the SmithKline boycott, fundraising, working on various committees, etc. as ALMP's representative. There are also a number of other things that are just as essential and have not even been included in this list. Got the idea?

Who can be an ALMP member? Currently, the only requirements are that 1) you must be a former psychiatric inmate ("mental patient") or have been subjected to involuntary psychiatric "treatment" on an "outmate" basis; 2) you must be opposed to all involuntary psychiatric intervention and support the concept of user-controlled alternatives to the "mental health" system; 3) you must come to at least one meeting per month. Before having a vote in business meetings, you must first attend one ex-inmate Open House and one business meeting. Like all ALMP members, you should be prepared to fight not only psychiatric oppression, but all forms of oppression, both in society-at-large and within the ALMP collective. That means being open to the process of criticism/self criticism and struggling against the racism, sexism, and other bigotries that we have all internalized as a result of growing up in an oppressive culture.

ALMP PUBLIC MEETINGS

For the past several months the Alliance has been conducting meetings on a regular basis for people who support our goals and activities, yet who are not current or former psychiatric inmates. Attending have been friends and relatives of "mental patients," legal advocates, former "mental health" workers, and others who take an active interest in the "mental patients'" liberation movement. At our last public meeting it was decided to begin an effort to help boarding home residents in the city organize for better living conditions. We decided to begin with boarding homes in West Phila.; late summer is our target date for all this to ensue. If you can help out, contact ALMP. Our next public meeting will take place on Thursday, September 20, at 7:00 at the Alliance office.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

As mentioned in our last newsletter, mailing and printing expenses have forced us to begin charging $1.50 per year for subscriptions to the ALMP Newsletter. The only exceptions to this policy are: 1) Former and current "mental patients;" 2) Those who have contributed $5.00 or more to the Alliance in the past year; and 3) People who cannot afford to donate $1.50 and who let us know they wish to keep receiving the newsletter.

If your copy of this newsletter is marked "Last Issue," it means that you have not sent in your $1.50, you have not contributed in the past year, you have not indicated that you are a current or ex-"patient," and you have not indicated that you are poor and wish to receive the newsletter for free. Unless you get in touch over the next six weeks, your subscription will end with the next issue. We trust that our supporters will understand the necessity for this change in policy.