

NEW DIRECTIONS A resource center for women NEWSLETTER

Published by New Directions Resource Center of Suffolk, Inc.

Vol. IV, No. 9 May 1984

Ellen Cooperperson Guest Speaker June 15 At New Directions Annual Meeting

New Directions extends the following invitation to its members to come enjoy the opportunity to meet with other members, talk with the guest speaker, members of the Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and the New Directions staff. Refreshments will be served.

*All members
are cordially invited to attend
The Annual Meeting of
New Directions Resource Center
of Suffolk, Inc.
Friday, June 15, 1984
The Business Center,
Southampton College
8 p.m.*

*Guest Speaker: Ellen Cooperperson, Director,
Women's Educational and Counseling Center
State University at Farmingdale*



Ellen Cooperperson

Leading Women To Non-Traditional Roles

"Ellen Cooperperson gave New Directions its first dollar bill," said Jeanne Block, a founder and president of the New Directions Board of Directors. Ms. Block had been president of the East End NOW organization at the time of Ellen Cooperperson's widely publicized name change.

In 1978 Ms. Cooperperson filed to change her name from Ellen Cooperman in what is usually a routine legal action. When the name change request was turned down, it sparked widespread national publicity before she won the case on appeal.

A 1981 Daily News article reported that as a result of what she says was an unexpected controversy, Cooperperson started doing research into sexism and language and produced the film, "Yes, Baby, She's My Sir." Meanwhile, her first film, "Women NOW," led to a request from the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College at Farmingdale for her to advise it on setting up a program to encourage women in non-traditional jobs.

When the program was established, the article stated, as the Women's Educational and Counseling Center, Cooperperson was named to direct it. Her goal in career counseling for non-traditional jobs was not to concentrate on blue-collar jobs but jobs with upward mobility. "Also,"

she said, "I didn't want to lose those jobs in nursing, secretarial work, teaching and social work, but our purpose was to open the full range of opportunities, including as well engineering technology, business and careers in health."

The center recently submitted a grant proposal to address the question of women who say they can't move up the job ladder and of employers who say they can't find women to promote. It will train women in leadership skills and work with administrators in recognizing women's capabilities.

"Women are trained to believe that everyone else comes first and they come last," Cooperperson has said. "So we try to encourage women to take themselves off the bottom of the list and put themselves on the top of the list."

Legislation making it easier to prosecute sex crimes against children was signed into law yesterday by Gov. Mario Cuomo.

The measure repeals corroboration requirements for minors testifying to acts of nonforcible sexual abuse.

Newsday, April 19, 1984