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(U) Cryptologic Almanac 50th Anniversary Series

(U) “Essential for Morale of the Workforce”

announced that a Multi-Purpose Dog Club is forming and will probably be asking for [CWF] recognition soon.” -
CWF Council Meeting Minutes, October 1961

P.L. 86-36

(U) One of the benefits of working at NSA is access to the Civilian Welfare Fund, more commonly known as CWF. Whether it be for intramural sports teams, discount tickets, Sam's Club memberships, the recreational reading library, or gift shops, NSAers have come to rely on CWF for a variety of services that make our lives both on and off NSA property more enjoyable. Like other constants in our lives, NSOC and navy bean soup in the cafeteria on Mondays, it is hard to imagine NSA without CWF.

“It was decided that ...picnic equipment will be purchased by the Civilian Welfare Fund Council to loan to Ft. Meade, NSA employees....” -
Civilian Welfare Council Meeting Notes, 6 June 1955.

(U) The origins of CWF date back to Arlington Hall days in the years just after World War II. The Arlington Hall Civilian Welfare Fund was established on 9 January 1947 “for the purpose of financing welfare activities for the benefit for all civilians regularly employed on [that] post.” When NSA was formed in 1952, such activities appear to have remained under the Arlington Hall CWF until employees began moving to Fort Meade. The NSA CWF was formed in early 1955. The two CWFs frequently cooperated, especially on events for NSA civilians at both sites, until the last NSA personnel left Arlington Hall Station. At that time, the Arlington Hall CWF gave the NSA CWF a portion of its treasury based on the number of civilians transferred to Fort Meade.

“The 1963 National Bridge Tournament will be held in Los Angeles and the NSA team will be expected to defend its National championship.” -
CWF Council Meeting Minutes, November 1962

(U) The NSA CWF was organized under NSA Regulation 11-4, which has evolved over the years as Agency needs have changed. The purpose of CWF, as described in the 1972 version of its charter, is to “provide support for approved recreational and welfare activities deemed essential for the ... morale and efficiency of the civilian employees of the Agency.” Although CWF is a civilian-focused organization, military personnel at NSA

have always been allowed to take advantage of most of the services and benefits available to civilians. Funding for CWF activities originally came from only the food service profits, but now also from a small service fee on ticket sales. Other membership fees have never been charged.

“The NSA Basketball team recently played the Fort Meade Generals in a playoff-series. The outcome of the series was 3 and 2 in favor of NSA....” -
CWF Council Meeting Notes, 13 April 1961

(U) In the early years, CWF was almost omnipresent, working to improve virtually every facet of Agency life outside the office. Its activities were wide ranging and included buying magazines for the dispensary waiting room, redecorating the cafeteria, purchasing sanitary disposal containers for the ladies rooms, managing NSA sports teams, convincing planners to allow space in Ops1 for the NSA drugstore and barber shop, loaning small amounts of money to employees, and investigating strange odors emanating from hallway Coke machines. Although some of these responsibilities are no longer necessary or have been passed to other organizations, others, such as the cellular phone service, have been added.

“It was brought to the attention of the Council that one of the NSA baseball players suffered a head injury during a game last week. Discussion was held regarding the purchase of helmets. Mr. Lanham will be authorized by the Council to purchase the helmets.” -
CWF Council Meeting Notes, 13 June 1956

(U) From the formation of the first NSA softball team to the stamps purchased at the CWF ticket booth an hour or two ago, CWF has been an important part of the NSA culture. It has grown from an organization with an annual budget of about ten thousand dollars to one that makes \$3.5 million in sales each year and from one CWF office to six. It has been here since before the start of NSA - let's hope it's here for a long time to come.

~~[(U//FOUO)]~~Jill Frahm, Center for Cryptologic History, 972-2893s, jefrahm]

Almanac 50th Anniversary Series

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