

Board, Young Women's Christian Association, Salvation Army, and the National Travelers Aid Association. Traditionally the President of the United States is Honorary Chairman of the USO. The American people support the USO through their local United Funds and Community Chests.

National Capital USO, incorporated in the District of Columbia and chartered by National USO as an autonomous organization, is responsible for all USO operations and activities in the Washington area, to include neighboring sections of Maryland and Virginia. National Capital USO is a member of the United Givers Fund and receives USO operating funds allocated by the Health and Welfare Council. The first Lady is Honorary Chairman of the USO in Washington.

National Capital USO maintains a USO Lounge in Union Station, in the space originally reserved for use by the President of the United States. (Even now, this area is sometimes used for official occasions in connection with arrivals by train.) The space is made available by the Washington Terminal Company as a public service.

The USO Lounge offers round-the-clock services such as information, free baggage checking, tour guidance, games, home area newspapers and other reading materials, radio and television, rest rooms with special features for men needing a quick uniform press or repair and for mothers with small children, couches for "napping" between trains, "wake-up" service, etc. Currently more than 11,000 Armed Forces personnel or dependents are being accommodated at the USO Lounge each month.

National Capital USO also maintains a USO Club at 451 Penna. Ave., N.W., opposite the National Gallery of Art. The limited, unattractive and inconvenient USO Club space on the first floor of the old Ford Building, has been made available to USO by the District of Columbia Government. It should be noted that the Ford Building is one of those which will be razed when the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan is further implemented.

At the USO Club, a professional staff supplemented by some 300 Senior Volunteers and Junior Hostesses provide information services, operate a non-profit canteen. Offer television and reading materials, and conduct an activities program for servicemen and women stationed in or passing through the Washington area. The activities include free Sunday breakfasts, holiday lunches, dinners, formal and informal parties and dances, movies, games, variety shows and other amateur and professional entertainment, guided tours, projects for hospitalized service personnel, and other special events. Many of the activities are sponsored by church groups, patriotic societies, veterans, civic, women's business and professional organizations of Washington and suburban communities. At the Club the door-count is also averaging about 11,000 to 12,000 per month, in spite of the fact that the Club capacity is limited to 300 at a time and the space available cannot be adapted for a well rounded USO program.

National Capital USO extends its reach by maintaining a direct line information service, round-the-clock, from USO telephones in the Greyhound and Trailways bus terminals and at the Statler Hilton Hotel. Information desks at Andrews Air Force Base and at the hotel are staffed on a part-time basis by USO Volunteers. The Lounge and Club also provide information services in answer to telephone calls from National Airport and Dulles International Airport.

Thus the two USO facilities, with the information services by telephone, do in effect constitute a "Visitors Center" for Armed Forces personnel and their dependents who need help or wholesome entertainment while they are in Washington. The success of the USO effort to meet their myriad needs reflects not only the proficiency and enthusiasm of the USO staff and volunteers but also the interest and cooperation of the community leadership which is represented in the USO organization. The Senate and the House of Representatives, the National Park Service, the D.C. Government, Selective Service, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington Board of Trade and many other agencies and organizations are represented on the USO Board of Directors or in the USO corporation.

National Capital USO has a close working relationship with the Department of Defense and with the headquarters of the major Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard commands in this area. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower is an *ex officio* member of the USO Board of Directors as well as a member of the National USO Board of Governors. The Commanding General, Military District of Washington, the Commandant of the Washington Naval District, the Commander of Air Force Headquarters Command, the Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks, and the Chief, Headquarters Services, U.S. Coast Guard, are also *ex officio* members of the Board of Directors and are present