

THE THREEFOLD CORD OF MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUBS

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Local, State and National are the threefold cord that binds us together at Mothers of Twins Clubs. Local, State and National share a mutual responsibility and interdependence with one another. This threefold cord helps us to grow and develop our potential for the benefit of all. It is cooperation between the three levels that unites us and though each serves in different ways, each is vital to the full scope of Mothers of Twins Clubs.

On the Local level we realize that research is the responsibility of every member and some clubs have research participation as a requirement of membership. Researchers could insure greater participation if they would issue periodic progress reports. Though we realize research is a long, slow process, we are often asked, "Why fill out forms if we never hear what is done with them?". Mothers of Twins Clubs are glad to make time for research if they are made to feel it is worthwhile. Since some clubs belong to State or National, while others belong to State and National and still others belong to neither State or National, research work on the Local level has different outlets.

The prime concern of the Local Mothers of Twins Club however is to learn to raise our twins as individuals while respecting the bonds and blessings of twinship.

The bridge of States is loosely knit with great resources still untapped for research. The growing number of State groups and the ever changing needs of Locals require the combined efforts of State Mothers of Twins Clubs to participate in Interstate communications and cooperation.

There are 20 State groups in the U.S.A., representing over 303 clubs and over 9275 members. Most of the State groups have their own Research Chairman and Twin Registry. Those States without a Research Chairman are for the most part new groups and plan to participate in research when they are able. Even now State Mothers of Twins Club is being worked on by a group in Canada. Since more mothers can attend a State Convention, interest and enthusiasm for research on the State level is high among mothers of twins.

The National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. has 224 clubs in 44 States representing approximately 8262 members. National was organized 14 years ago and research is its primary work. New research goals are met by coordinating Local and State research with National and thereby avoiding duplication of work and waste of time. All Mothers of Twins Clubs groups are urged to keep National informed of research that is being done. Research speakers at National Convention are received with enthusiasm.

In addition to research work, National helps its member clubs by acting as a clearing house for the latest in twin information. The MOTC Notebook is published four times a year to keep members informed. Educating the public is important work as National helps promote twins as two separate and distinct individuals rather than two halves of a whole. There are countless mothers of twins who without National's existence would not know of the help available to them through twin care books and Mothers of Twins Clubs. Those of us so rich in blessings can through our national membership pass on a helping hand to mothers of twins and researchers everywhere.

Researchers can enlist the aid of Mothers of Twins Clubs groups by contacting the organizations directly. A listing of the groups with names and addresses of Research Chairmen has been brought with me to share with all of you. Every effort is made to cooperate with legitimate researchers and our groups are eagerly looking for research projects to participate in. Member lists are protected by each group's Executive Board and every effort is made to see that these lists are not abused for commercial purposes.

Some of the research work that has been done and is currently being done on all three levels are: Indiana: Vitamin C twin study, half sibling study, adolescent twins, study of offspring of identical twins; Michigan: Twin growth chart and oral cleft study; New Jersey: Fingerprint genetic study and twin statistical study; Pennsylvania: ESP and astrology study; Massachusetts: Grandmother of twins study, Northwest Association Twin Directory; Iowa: Mongoloid twins, hereditary factors in glaucoma, effects of birthweight on rates of motor development in identical twins, handwriting study (distinguishing differences in personalities of twins); California: Hereditary factors, aggressive behavior, astrology (what it may say about why certain mothers have twins), hyperkinetic children, Toddler preschool study, twin growth feeding study, speech development. National projects include: Accident survey, pod classrooms, twin file, voice printing, personality of twins, Yale study on mothers of twins, congenital acquired defects file, twins in family, speech research, mothers and twins forms. In Canada research includes: Placentas of multiple births, heredity and cardiovascular health, drug elimination test (why drugs work on some and not on others or cause adverse reaction).

For the past 14 years I have published "Twin Lines", USA's only personal newsletter for parents of twins and Mothers of Twins Clubs. To promote awareness and understanding has been "Twin Lines" purpose as it provides the vital link of communication between Local, State and National. My readers have provided the funds to make possible this trip to Rome. It is their desire that I share with you the work of Mothers of Twins Clubs and our tremendous interest in cooperating with you on research projects. In turn I will bring back to them news of the Congress. This is a unique and challenging opportunity to share with one another and sharing is a vital part of mothers of twins, who live life thankfully.

The threefold cord of Mothers of Twins Clubs is a passport to personal growth in both heart and mind, as a woman (Local), a wife (State) and a mother (National). It means enrichment of spirit and a widening outlook to the problems of our everyday lives and the world around us.

The threefold cord of Mothers of Twins Clubs is not quickly broken because it provides the greatest "strength through unity". Thank you for the honor and the privilege of being here with you.

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