

I am writing this commentary regarding this year's holiday party. I was there only briefly, but I did see certain things that I thought were positive. First, I want to congratulate the people who arranged the set-up for this year's holiday party, as it was a significant improvement over last year's event. I saw that the desserts were on a separate table and the rest of the food was set up on other tables(very good). I also saw that there was a variety of food(also good). The music once again provided a fine background to the festivities, although it might have been turned down just a notch; it seemed a bit loud. On the negative side, it seemed like there were fewer people at this year's party than last year's, which was disappointing; a number of people that I know at both LHS and Daley were not there. I know that you can't force people to come to the party, but on the other hand I noticed that many people around here don't seem to have as much holiday spirit as they've had in years past. The fact that we never got our pay raises has done nothing for our spirits, and some of us have had to deal with other hardships as well, dampening one's spirit even further. I heard someone say that next year's holiday party might be at LHS. Whether or not this is true, I don't know. One needs to take into account that the semester ends later at LHS than at Daley. Also, where would we have it? It seems that there's more space for something like this at Daley. I am a worker at LHS, but to go to Daley for the holiday party was no problem for me. Here's hoping that next year's holiday party will be a good one---and hopefully, we'll see more people there. Or---will there be anyone at next year's event should we have it? A Worker at LHS

Dear Worker at LHS,

Thank you for taking the time to share your well-thought out views on this season's holiday party. We especially appreciate the fact that you recognize that we listened and learned from last year's party. And thanks for attending since it would not be a party without party-goers.

Whether the holiday party is held at Daley, LHS, an off-campus venue or if it is held at all does depend on a number of factors. Some of these include cost, academic calendar, space availability, location, etc. We, the SOCC have struggled with these factors the past two years, trying to juggle them all to provide the best party possible. We also realize that no matter how we try, no event is going to please everyone, and for some, a party is not even an alternative due to family, religious or other obligations.

We take to heart your comment about spirit. Holiday spirit, we hope, infects us all positively and in an ideal world would last all year long. The SOCC does realize that the Holiday Party or any party is not going to solve our, the university's or the world's problems. We do look it as an opportunity to get together with our colleagues to enjoy some off-work time together. We hope this is at least a small step in helping to create a Sense of Community with each other.

Sincerely,
Sense of Community Committee