

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: Gay Lobby Day Update

Date: February 12, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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GAY LOBBY DAY
UPDATE
February 12, 1976

BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

It was decided that rather than focus only on SB 743, we would take a pro-gay approach. The pro-gay issue will be summarized for use by lobbyists.

WORKSHOPS

Pittsburgh - March 13, 1976

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Calvary Episcopal Church
Shady Ave. and Walnut St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206

PF

directions - Penna. Turnpike to Monroeville exit. Pick up the Penn-Lincoln Parkway, west. Follow the Parkway to the Squirrel Hill exit (after passing through the Squirrel Hill tunnel). Pick up the Blue Belt North to Shady Ave. Proceed along Shady Ave, across 5th St., to the church. Private parking available at the church.

Philadelphia - March 20, 1976

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

St. Mary's Church (tentative, ref. Harry Langhorne)

for further info., call the Philadelphia Gay Switchboard. (215) 978-5700

State College - March 20, 1976

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Hetzel Union Building - E.U.B. (tentative, ref. Tony Silvestre)

Agenda for Workshops

- 1:00 - 1:30 Coffee
- 1:30 - 2:30 Introduction of the Lobbyists' Packet
- 2:30 - 3:15 Informal; sign up for lobbying, have more coffee
- 3:15 - 5:00 Step-by-step rehearsal for Lobby Day

Lobbyists' Packet

- to consist of
- 1) The text of the present law, dealing with solicitation, sodomy, vagrancy, harrassment of gays, etc. R. Stickles is preparing this text.
 - 2) Position papers. Earl Greenberg, of the state Justice Dept. is preparing position papers on SB 743 and on the proposed pro-gay legislation. (PGN: check with Greenberg before printing his name)
 - 3) Lobby Day schedule
 - 4) Copies of all anti-gay legislation
 - 5) A Background on Gayness
 - 6) The police stance

RECRUITMENT (See Recruitment Letter)

As forms are returned to the Lobby Day Committee, each potential lobbyist will be sent another letter. They will be asked to verify their intentions of participating in Lobby Day. Directions and other pertinent information concerning the Work-

shops and Lobby Day Schedules will be included. In this letter, potential lobbyists will also be encouraged to engage in pre-Lobby Day activities, such as contacting their legislators ahead of time, or contacting the news media concerning gay issues.

EDUCATIONAL PACKETS

The Educational Packet, which will be distributed to the Legislators, is nearing completion. Funding for this project comes from GAA Philadelphia and the Quakers of Philadelphia. The packet will include the Greenberg Position Papers, an edited form of "25 Questions and Answers on Homosexuality", and lots of endorsements as previously established.

ACTUAL LOBBYING * LOBBY DAY, MARCH 23, 1976 !!!!!!!

It has been established that there will be a central gathering place for all lobbyists to meet the morning of March 23 for coffee, fellowship, and psyching. No platform will be available for anyone. We do not want speeches, etc. The Lobby Day Committee members will act as resource people. Probable location for this coffee hour is the Y.M.C.A. We will begin arriving at around 9:00 A.M. As lobbyists arrive, they will be instructed to call the telephone center at Harrisburg Gay Switchboard to report their arrival. There will be two phone lines available for use throughout the day. Statistical information, etc. will be available from the phone center. It will not be necessary for all lobbyists to wait around at the coffee center for late arrivals. After receiving necessary instructions, etc., lobbyists should get on with the business of actual lobbying. Resource people will be on hand for a couple of hours to help late arrivals. A form will be used on which each lobbyist will answer a few pertinent questions as to the reactions of the Legislators who they saw. This info. will be tallied and kept available for future use.

FINANCING (See Financial Appeal Letter)

MEETINGS

Our Lobby Day Committee has had meetings on the following dates

- 1) January 10, 1976 (Reading)
- 2) January 15, 1976 (Northumberland)
- 3) January 24, 1976 (Northumberland)
- 4) January 30, 1976 (Bethlehem)
- 5) February 8, 1976 (Lancaster)

These meetings have been attended by Sam Deetz, chair; Joe Burns; Bill Hollabaugh; Sam Edmiston; Bari Weaver; Lee Haddock; Rick Hoffman; Ray Stickles; Lester Jones; Lori Ruffennach; Sherri Smith. Many others have contributed in various ways. Everyone is invited to future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, in Northumberland. Several committee members are planning to make a couple of trips across the state on behalf of Lobby Day. On the weekend of the 13th of February, we are making a trip west across the state, planning to talk to parties in various locations. Again on the 19th of February, some of us plan to make another trip across the state. Our slogan is

PENNSYLVANIA GAYS, IT'S TIME!