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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Report*

Date: March 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

RURAL CAUCUS REPORT MARCH '76

The purpose of this report is to inform all participating and interested persons of the Rural Caucus. It also incorporates a "Calendar of Events", so that individuals as well as other organizations in the 'rural' areas of Pennsylvania will be aware of what is happening and being accomplished in other areas of the state. All information is to be sent to Dave Leas c/o GUL 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601 Tel: 717-898-2876.

MEETING OF THE RURAL CAUCUS 2/7/76
chaired by Ray Stickles
Lancaster, Pa.

- (1) Walter Lear was contacted about running for public office, his response was that he was flattered but that he would not.
- (2) The next meeting will be held in Lebanon on March 6. The April meeting will be hosted by North East Pennsylvania Gay Alliance (NEPGA) on April 3.
- (3) Gay Lobby Day workshops will be held in Pittsburgh at the Calvary Episcopal Church on March 13, and at GAA headquarters in Phila, HOPS headquarters in State College both on March 20. The educational packet to be distributed to the legislators will be funded by GAA Phila. and the Phila. Quakers. Lobby Day will begin at 10 am, but it was suggested that all people meet at designated places other than the Capitol. Probably at the YMCA at 9am. LOBBY DAY WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 23. Help has been volunteered by the Harrisburg ACLU to coordinate Lobby Day. A committee meeting had been scheduled for 2/8 at 1pm in Lancaster. For more information contact Sam Deetz 717-473-9923.
- (4) Letters were read from Ken Burke and Jerry Brennan suggesting and endorsing a council of liasons as the Rural Caucus with a permanent chairperson to make it less cumbersome and more functionable. The idea of a council was defeated, but the motion to have a permanent chairperson was accepted.
- (5) Sam Deetz spoke on Janet's behalf about the function of the chair which should include working with individual groups, attending various meetings and working with steering committees. The person should not be committed to more than they can handle. Ray Sticles was elected to that position by a majority vote.
- (6) Joe Burns passed out information packets and reported on the Legislative Packet for Lobby Day.
- (7) Donna reported on Dyketactics which held their first demonstration on Dec. 4. The week of Jan. 31 they picketed the x-rated film "The Snuff" which was being shown in Phila. They achieved public support from passersby who joined in. The theater closed down for the rest of the day and on Thursday the theater had an injunction. there is a possibility that the film is being shown at a Phila. drive-in.
- (8) Kevin Smith gave a report on his efforts with the Human Relations Act in Reading. He has met with all Councilpersons and with the mayor and now has support from three councilpeople. He has also been gathering strong evidence of discrimination in the Reading area. GCS would like to introduce a bill banning discrimination against gays on a pre-council level by March. Reading could possibly be the first Pa. city to amend its Human Relations Act to include gays. They would also like to have the Council Chambers packed for the hearings. It was then suggested that pickets, extra people for showings etc., be announced in various newsletters elsewhere. The Reading group's new address is GCS, PO Box 3131, Reading, Pa. 19604.
- (9) There is a Lesbian Teenage Rap Group headed by Kava Franklin. It can be contacted at 215-CH7-5659.
- (10) Lebanon announced that it will be guests on the "Good Morning Show", channel 15, Feb. 16, at 8am.
- (11) Janet announced that there will be a demonstration on Feb. 28 at Independence Mall for International Women's Year. It will have a theme of "Tribunal of Crimes against Women". Janet will be speaking about women who wanted to be physicians. Example: Agni Dici, an ancient Greek woman who cross-dressed to treat women. When she was found to be a woman she was sentenced to death. She was saved by the women of Athens who joined in her defense. At that point women were allowed to practice medicine in ancient Greece.
- (12) A documentary film will be shown at Shippensburg on Feb. 26-27 entitled "Gertrud Stein".
- (13) GUL announced that it was sponsoring the "Seminar on Military Spending" being held in Phila. that weekend.
- (14) Sam Deetz reported on the meeting with Col. Barger of the Pa. State Police. He stated that the State Police had not changed its policy for dealing with gays in the past 50 years, and that a task force would be set up within the police force.
- (15) GCS announced its Coffee House and social events (skating parties bowling etc.) Contact Jan Sweat 215-373-3643.
- (16) MCC Harrisburg announced its first Holy Union. They have applied for a marriage license in Dauphin Co. and have the support of the main MCC office in California.
- (17) Sam Edmiston told of harassment at Bloomsburg State College and a Committee was established to check into the handling of the situation. Mary Nancarron is to chair that committee.

Gay Lobby Day (as of February 12)

It was decided that rather than focus on SB 743, we would take a pro-gay approach. The pro-gay issue will be summarized for use by the lobbyists. The workshops will consist of an introduction to the Lobbyists' Packet, signing up for lobbying and a step-by-step rehearsal for Lobby Day. Workshops will be held at the following locations from 1-5 pm.:

Pittsburgh
March 13, 1976
Calvary Episcopal Church
Shady Ave. and Walnut St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206

Philadelphia
March 20, 1976
St. Mary's Church
(tentative, ref. Harry Langhorne)
infor. : Gay Switchboard
215-97-5700

State College
March 20, 1976
Hetzl Union Building HUB
(tentative, ref. Tony Sylvestre) 814-237-0211

The Lobbyists' Packet is 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 Justice Dept. is preparing position papers on SB 743 and on the proposed pro-gay legislation. 3/ Lobby Day schedule. 4/ copies of all anti-gay legislation. 5/ a background on gayness. 6/ the police stance.

Potential Lobbyists are also encouraged to engage in pre-Lobby Day activities, such as contacting their legislators ahead of time, or contacting the news media concerning gay issues.

The Educational Packet, which will be distributed to the Legislators, is nearing completion. 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.

It has been established that there will be a central gathering place for all the lobbyists to meet the morning of March 23 for coffee, fellowship, and psyching. No platforms 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 YMCA. We will begin arriving at around 9:00 am. 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 the coffee center for late arrivals. After receiving necessary instructions, etc., lobbyists should be on their way with the buissness of actual lobbying. Resource people will be on hand for a couple of hours to help late arrivals. A form will be used to answer pertinent questions as to the reactions of the legislators they saw. This info. will be tallied and kept available for future use.

To mount this incredible effort, the Gay Lobby Day Committee, composed of people from all parts of the state, is soliciting a donation from those who may be interested. Your contribution will be used to cover the costs of mailing, telephone calls, printing, and the one-day workshops to train lobbyists. All time and travel by the committee or lobbyists is voluntary and at their own expense. Will you please help the cause?

Please donate by check only, payable to the Gay Lobby Day Committee or to Sam Deetz. Mail your donation to: Gay Lobby Day Committee c/o Sam Deetz, PO Box 182, Northumberland, Pa. 17857.

A NOTE FROM DL

While you have your checkbook out, kindly sign your name to another and send it to me. A special thanks to those select few who have done so already. It really helps!!! The \$28 received thus far has defrayed the deficit, but with this being the fourth report to be sent out, the 100 names on the mailing list have hardly been pulling their load. Being quite frank if you don't want on this list, let us know, we'll GLADLY stop sending the Rural Caucus Report to you. Now, while I'm on my knees, I really need the \$35 i have laid out already. \$ or any suggestions will be welcomed.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

The Lancaster Gay Era, a monthly publication is offering a free classified (4 lines, 35 characters per line) to new subscribers. Subscription rates are \$1.50 for 6 issues, \$3.00 for 12 issues. Mail subscription application to : Lancaster Gay Era, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601 Tel: 717-898-2876 Make checks payable to same.

MARCH MEETING IN LEBANON

The next Rural Caucus meeting will be held in Lebanon, Pa. It will be hosted by the Gay League of Lebanon (GLL). Directions are enclosed. The adress is 823 N. 7th St. Tel: 272-0983. See you all there. It will be the last meeting before Gay Lobby Day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS::.....

EVERY WEEK

Deadline for April Calendar is April 20

Coffee House

Sat. nights 1am to 4am 42 S. 4th St., Reading, Pa.

Sun. 4pm to 10 pm

Sun. 3pm to 10 pm 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601 Tel: 898-2876

- Wed. Feb. 25 *MCC Bible Study and Rap Session 7:30 pm, 1001 N. Spring St. Middletown
994-1574 EVERYWEEK
- Sun. Feb. 29 *MCC Services, above address, also EVERYWEEK (Calendar 2, D. Le...)
* Bowling Party sponsored by GCS Reading Location? 215-373-3643

- Tues. March 2 *GUL meeting 8pm 3002 Marietta Ave. 898-2876
- Sat. March 6 *Rural Caucus meeting, Lebanon, Pa. 823 N. 7th St.
- Sun. March 7 *Susquehanna Valley Gays United meeting 7:30 pm, 651 5th St. Northumberland, Pa. 717-473-9923
- Tues. March 9 *evening "Song of Myself" Special on Walt Whitman Check local CBS listings.
- Sat. March 13 * Pittsburgh, Pa. 1pm Lobby Day Workshop
- Sun. March 14 * W:O.W. Women Oriented Women meeting, formerly Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Center, Lancaster, Pa. 230 W. Chestnut St. 299-5381
- Sat. March 20 * Lobby Day Workshops, Philadelphia and State College, 1pm
* Dignity meeting, Newman Center, Millersville State College 7:30 pm
- Wed. March 21 * GCS General meeting 2pm 528 Pike St. Reading, Pa. 215-372-5123
- Thurs. March 23 * GAY LOBBY DAY Harrisburg, Pa.
- Fri. March 27 * Bicentennial Ball Millersville State College, Call GUL 898-2876 for details. Should be quite interesting.
- Sun. March 28 * WOW meeting, above...
* General Meeting Le-Hi-Ho 215-435-3493
* Janet Cooper at SVGU, Northumberland 651 5th St.
- Mon. March 29 * GCS Reading, Skating Party "Sinking Springs Rollerink" 6:30 to 9:30
\$1.50 for tickets call Kevin 215-372-5123

