

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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**Title:** *Here's How Newsletter*

**Date:** November 1977

**Location:** LGBT-008 Dan Maneval Collection

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# HERE'S HOW

Volume 1, Number 11, Nov., 1977

## H.O.W. CALENDAR:

- Nov. 3--Monthly social meeting, 8:00 P.M., David Griffin's, 1006 W. Fourth Street, Apt. #7
- Nov. 4--By-law or Charter revision committee meeting, 7:00 P.M., Linda and Louisa's, 1107 West Fourth Street, Apt. #1. Call 322-6243
- Nov. 5--Penna. Rural Gay Caucus meeting, 1:00 P.M., 3002 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster. Social evening to follow; B.Y.O.B., snacks and sleeping bag.
- Nov. 17--Monthly business meeting, 8:00 P.M., Dan's, 659 Beeber St. If you want a social hour to follow, call 322-7987 to sponsor it.
- Dec. 1--Monthly social meeting, site open.
- Dec. 3--Rural Gay Caucus meeting, site open.
- Dec. 9--Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities meeting, Philadelphia.
- Dec. 15--Monthly business meeting, 8:00 P.M., Dan's, 659 Beeber Street.
- Jan. 20, 21, 22--Tentative State Gay Conference, site now open (see article).

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## First Year Is History; Now The Future.

H.O.W. marked the end of it's first year with over 40 people participating in a weekend celebration on Oct. 22 & 23. The celebration began with cocktails at 6:30, Sat. evening at Carpenter's Hall, followed by a buffet style dinner. After dinner came the officer's reports, awards, and then entertainment. The program included poetry reading and guitar playing. The highlight of the evening was a delightful skit put together by several members at the last minute--"Anita and Her Family".

Following the evening program were three parties, a couple of which lasted until morning, or so we understand. Those who survived the night gathered again Sun. noon for Bloody Mary's and brunch. It was a weekend that will long be remembered by many.

Out of town guests included people from Harrisburg, Lancaster, Allentown, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. A letter from Tony Silvestre, Chairperson of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, who was unable to be present, was read.

We again wish to thank all of those who in any way helped make it a success. We could not have done it without you.

While the social aspect of H.O.W. was emphasized at the celebration, and the officer's reports, etc., were noticeably short, there is the feeling among active members of the group that this is a good time for re-evaluation. We can now draw on the experience of one year to plan ahead. What was successful? What was not? Why? Where did we miss out? What was or is lacking?

Our accomplishments have been many, but we can not rest on our laurels. There is much more that can and will be done. The officers are pondering the above questions and expect to make recommendations. Along this same line a committee has been appointed to review and propose changes in the by-laws. In this effort to re-evaluate, we need continued support and input from all members.

A has-been singer and beauty pageant contestant, who sells orange juice for a living, and others with similar prejudice have made gay rights a major social issue of national significance, within the past year. H.O.W. and many other gay and human rights groups across the country have risen to this and other challenges from the other side. Our opponents have helped us advocate our need for existing and also helped bring many people forward in our support.

Gay groups have a history of being short lived. No group, to our knowledge, in recent years has been destroyed by straights, but rather have been ripped apart from within. It has repeatedly been said that gay people are their own worst enemies.

The first year has been good and H.O.W. has gained respect and a good reputation both with the local community and other gays and gay groups around the state. With careful planning and continued hard work we shall survive and grow.

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#### A Busy Month:

The anniversary party was not the only activity or topic of discussion in H.O.W. this month. A lot of business transpired in Oct. The proposed

budget for the 4-month period, Nov.-Feb., was passed. Also passed were the two proposed amendments. There is now a minimum monthly pledge of \$1.00, and delinquent pledges may be caught up by paying a reduced or minimum pledge this one time only. New pledges may then be started.

Lengthy discussion on the charter and by-laws occurred, resulting in the formation of a committee to work on revision of same. Linda, Louisa, Dan, Dennis, Fred, and Rene volunteered to serve and Fred was elected to chair the committee.

The Women's Center of Williamsport has offered to house a telephone hot-line for H.O.W. and possibly have our business meetings there. A hot-line and a regular site for business meetings being a part of our long range goals, this was met with much enthusiasm. Upon realistic discussion of present finances, a possible financing proposal, conflicts with the Center for evening Hot-line hours, and both the questions of enough manpower and properly trained personnell to answer the phone, it was decided to temporarily table this item.

During the month, Michael spoke on the topic of homosexuality with an emphasis on gay organizations, to a Lycoming College class on "Alternate Lifestyles". Michael and Linda participated with the class in a lengthy question and answer period. It was termed ~~an~~ extremely positive and thought provoking by all participating.

National Gay Blue Jean Day, originally initiated by the National Gay Task Force, provided some interesting moments locally. Several H.O.W. members have related interesting experiences and stimulating conversation at work, and at least one interesting experience in public that evening. H.O.W.'s publicity of this event proved to be effective. Most area high school students, as well as adults, seemed to be aware of the "day", even to the extent of not attending school because they didn't have anything else to wear.

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Farwell:

H.O.W. is, unfortunately, bidding a deeply fond farwell to it's treasurer and one of it's hardest workers, Michael Waltz, who has left the area. We wish him the very best for all the years to come. His departure does

create many voids, and it's possible that the treasurer's position will remain open until Jan.5 elections. Capable people have indicated interest in this as well as library committee and newspaper work. Thanks again Michael for all the hard work and a job well done.

#### Penna Gay Conference:

The statewide gay conference, planned for the 3rd weekend in Jan. has a problem. The Americus Hotel has cancelled. Because the speakers and workshop leaders have been scheduled it is still hoped that a new site for the same weekend can be found. We will keep you informed.

#### Gay Era Needs Printer:

The "Gay Era" a monthly publication serving "rural" Penna., is in desperate need of a printer. If you know a printer who would print a gay paper, please contact: David Leas: 717-898-2876.

#### Religion:

H.O.W. has been asked to publish this press release:

Informal visits have taken place with the Mennonite church and Church of the Brethren leadership. Those contacted thus far have been found to be accepting and wanting to learn more about our lifestyle and Gay issues within their church.

Recently there was a weekend of informal discussion between a few Church of the Brethren leaders and Gays representing the Church of the Brethren, the American Baptists, and the Mennonite church. Certain Brethren leaders were found to be sympathetic to Gays and feel that the Church of the Brethren must learn more about their Gay sisters and brothers. One leader commented during one of these discussions, "Hopefully Gays will eventually be able to live out their lifestyle openly within the church community."

If you are Brethren or Mennonite and concerned about Gay issues within your church, or are interested in joining or helping start a Brethren/Mennonite Gay Caucus, write to: Brethren/Mennonite, Box 582, Lancaster, PA. 17604. Strict confidence will be assured.