

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: Central PA Pride Festival Report

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Contact:

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This is the first issue of what was formerly known as *Festival News*—The Pride Newsletter. The Pride Coalition wants you to give it a new name. Submit your suggestion to the address below and if yours is the winning entry, you will receive dinner for two at The Paper Moon Restaurant—courtesy of the Pride Coalition. Good Luck!



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The Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania, held at Harrisburg's Reservoir Park on July 31, 1994 remains a pleasant memory for those who attended and participated. For seven hours on that warm midsummer Sunday, the 4,500+ men and women became a potentially social,

economic and political force with which to be reckoned.

Vendors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and New Jersey, fifty-eight in all, gathered on the hilltop overlooking the bandshell—selling items ranging from jewelry to food, works of art to gay & lesbian publications, tee shirts and sodas.

Most vendors were pleased with the careful planning that went into

Pride Coalition plans for '95

1994 Central Pennsylvania Festival a Huge Success!

By Eric W. Selvey

making their brief stay in Harrisburg comfortable. Most present, as well as potential vendors who later heard about the festival, are already requesting the opportunity to get in on the ground floor for next year's event—tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 30, 1995.

Country and folk, rock and lip-synch, and ballroom dancing and clogging were indicative of the ever-present gay and lesbian influence on the entertainment industry.

The general membership of the Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania selected its leadership for the year at their first post-festival meeting held October 22nd.

Leadership Selected for 1994-95 Coalition

The meeting, held at York's YWCA, is an attempt to gather input from members of the Harrisburg, Lancaster and York gay and lesbian communities for next year's festival and subsequent events. Regular general and steering committee meetings will rotate among the three locales.

Coalition treasurer Shayné M. Flowers reported the Coalition raised \$22,948 through vendor registration, Dinner Out With Pride, program and

The pre-festival concert held at The Harrisburg Community Theatre was a positive beginning. The Harrisburg Men's Chorus, along with Katie Dunton and Andy Pushnik, started the weekend on the right note (pun intended). The debut of the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, before an audience of 180+, further enhanced what was a captivating event with their strong and sure tones.

The Harrisburg Department of Parks & Recreation, who estimated the number of festival attendees to be over 4,500, described the festival as the most orderly gathering at the park.

Though festivities ended at six o'clock, the celebration moved into the heart of Harrisburg as Bridgeside Square hosted *Pride at the Bridgeside*. Revelers donated \$1844 towards next year's festival. Though the Bridgeside is no longer in business, we thank all those who made the evening a rousing success for the future of the Pride Festival.

The Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania takes this opportunity to thank all vendors, entertainers, coalition members, financial donors and **you** for making the 1994 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania a huge success. Here's looking forward to next year's festival! ▽

newsletter ads, gay task force funding, the pre-festival concert, Coalition festival sales and private donations.

The Coalition chose their leadership for the coming year. Dr. Elaine F. Wasilewski, D.C., 1994's president-elect, became president while the membership chose former chair of Resource Development, Ken Oakes its president-elect—continuing the tradition of placing a lesbian and a gay individual in the top leadership positions. JoAnn Goshorn and Shayné Flowers were retained as Secretary and Treasurer.

Individuals, who previously chaired committees were retained for another year. They are:

Doug Francis — Hospitality
Mary Gage — Entertainment
Alex Richardson — Membership
Dr. Eric W. Selvey — Publicity

▽

Two \$500 grants to be awarded

1995 Awards Banquet and Concert to be Held April 22nd



The Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania will hold the 1995 Community Awards Banquet and Concert on Saturday, April 22nd from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00

a.m. The annual recognition of community achievement will place at Casa Rillo's Ballroom located at 201 E. Green St. in Mechanicsburg.

The event is an occasion for gay and lesbian organizations in Central Pennsylvania to celebrate their own with awards presented to their own before their community peers. All organizations, whether or not they are Coalition members, are asked to participate by informing the Coalition of their award recipient(s) by April 8 for inclusion in the program booklet.

Co-hosted by Coalition president and president-elect Dr. Elaine F. Wasilewski, D.C. and Ken Oakes, the gala will feature performances by musical artist *Suede*, former Miss Gay Pennsylvania Ito Lamé and D.J. Michael Troutman.

Two \$500 grants will be presented to organizational members who make contributions to the community. Grant proposals, stating how the funds will be used, should be no more than two pages and submitted by March 15, 1995. Winners will be chosen by organizational members via secret ballot at the April 8th General Membership meeting in Lancaster. Meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

Tickets for the banquet are \$30 and are now available at **Sensational Woods** in York, **Sharp Jewelers** in Lancaster, **What If...Cafe** in Harrisburg and through the Pride Coalition office at 545-8411. Black tie and gowns are **optional**.

Come celebrate with your friends and neighbors in Mechanicsburg and recognize the pride that lies within our own backyard. See you April 22nd! ▽

A successful festival takes much commitment and preparation. Though the Pride Festival—lasted a few hours, the fact remains that months of detailed planning and imperative for the production of an event exemplary of the pride displayed by gays and

lesbians of Central Pennsylvania.

To this effect, the Pride Coalition is seeking assistance from its friends in Central Pennsylvania for this year's festival. At the same time, you'll have the opportunity to meet new friends and have fun in the process.

We Need You!

Coalition Seeks Volunteers

Please read the committee descriptions sprinkled throughout this newsletter. If you have any talent or experience, or even if you don't, call the Coalition office at 545-8411 and volunteer. Remember. A gay and lesbian festival is an expression of pride in the area it represents.

Operations

Many months of foundation and planning precede Festival weekend. One of the most important tasks is the set up, monitoring and clean up of the park. The work of this committee begins in April/May and culminates the day of the festival.

Tasks include:

- working with the Steering Committee to develop a full inventory of all items, materials & supplies necessary for the festival,
- order inventory,
- arrange delivery,
- organize the park & set up in preparation for the day,
- clean up park after festival ends,
- pass bills on for payment.

EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!!

The Pride Coalition is in search of local talent to perform July 30, 1995—the tentative date of the Pride Festival.

If you have an act that you would like to showcase, please give us a call at (717) 545-8411.

This year's goal is to celebrate our pride and to recognize talent within our community.

Be a part of celebrating PRIDE within our own area. Come perform with PRIDE!

While the work of this committee is critical to our success, and sounds like an enormous task, its work is well organized and documented. It requires six-to-eight committed volunteers willing to work as a team and communicate with the Steering Committee.

Resource Development

This committee and its four subcommittees are the most important volunteer efforts of the festival and the Coalition as a whole. There would not have been a festival last year if it weren't for the \$22,000+ raised by the Resource Development committee.

The Steering Committee is actively seeking volunteers to serve on and/or co-chair the subcommittees. The subcommittee co-chairs will make up the Resource Committee.

Their activities include:

VENDORS - goal \$5,000

- develop vendor information & materials,
- secure vendors,
- coordinate registration,
- organize park for set up,
- order tables & chairs for vendors,
- prepare map & vendor list,
- troubleshoot during festival,
- post-festival follow-up.

PROGRAM ADS - goal \$3,000

- sell ads for Festival program booklet,
- collect ads & payment,
- coordinate with publicity committee to develop program booklet,
- send follow-up "thank you's".

SPECIAL EVENTS - goal \$8,000

- develop & coordinate pre-festival special events to raise funds for festival,
- develop & coordinate post-festival party,
- festival donations day of event,
- sales of tee-shirts & decals at festival,
- follow-up & "thank you's".

DONORS/SPONSORS - goal \$6,000

- develop & implement an individual donor campaign,
- develop & implement a business & organizational donor campaign,
- send "thank you's" & recognition,
- maintain donor records.

The festival and other efforts of the Coalition are important to our community and need your support. Call us if you can serve on any of the subcommittees.

The Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Presented Sept. 23, 1994

Sharyé M. Flowers
Treasurer

INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| DONATIONS | \$5,5785.24 |
| GAY TASK FORCE | 1,842.11 |
| PROGRAM ADS | 2,215.00 |
| NEWSLETTER ADS | 225.00 |
| VENDORS | 4,425.00 |
| DINNER OUT WITH PRIDE | 143.83 |
| PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT | 1,580.00 |
| FESTIVAL | 6,743.01 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$22,743.01 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| ADMINISTRATION | \$3,821.32 |
| FESTIVAL | 16,623.85 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$20,445.17 |
| ACCOUNT BALANCE | \$2,503.02 |

This newsletter is the official publication of the Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania.

Staff

Editor:
Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Layout & Design:
Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Contributing Writers:
Shayné M. Flowers
Ken Oakes

Membership makes up nearly a quarter of the total budget for the Pride Coalition. Your support is critical to ensuring the continuing success of the coalition and its upcoming Pride Festival. There are two different levels of

membership: **Individual and Organizational.**

The benefits of membership are many. If you become an individual member, you'll receive:

- voting privileges at the Coalition General Membership meetings,
- 10% discount on Coalition items and sponsored events (excluding awards banquet),
- advance notification of Coalition events;

—Coalition quarterly newsletter.

Organizational membership includes all of the above and:

- 20% discount on advertising, festival vendor booth, Coalition items, sponsored events (excluding awards banquet)

Please take the time to fill out the adjacent form and become a supporting member of the Coalition.



YES! WANT TO JOIN AND SHOW MY SUPPORT & PRIDE!

\$10 INDIVIDUAL
 \$25 ORGANIZATION

NAME/ORGANIZATION _____

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE () _____


ENCLOSED IS AN ADDITIONAL DONATION OF

\$100 \$50 \$25
 \$10 \$5

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PRIDE COALITION OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

NOW AVAILABLE

Items from the Pride Coalition Gift Shop



Drive around town displaying your pride on your window with the Coalition decal—Complete with Coalition logo. **\$2.00 each!**

Summer is not far off. Get ready by purchasing your very own Coalition tee-shirt. Sizes vary. **\$10.00 each including shipping and handling.**

I GOTTA HAVE THIS GREAT STUFF!!! Please send me

_____ **Coalition Decal(s)** @ \$2.00 each _____

_____ **Tee-Shirt(s)** @ \$10.00 each _____

____Xlarge ____Large ____Medium

Total _____

Make check payable to
The Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania

The Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania wishes everyone a happy, prosperous and proud 1995!

The following volunteer opportunities are available for interested people who are willing to ensure the success of the Coalition and the Festival as well as enhance the status of the gay & lesbian community in Central Pennsylvania.

Please indicate on the form below your interest in one or more areas and send form to the Coalition office.

.....

..... office/clerical work vendor subcommittee donor/sponsor subcommittee

..... program ads subcommittee special events subcommittee operations committee

..... entertainment committee awards banquet

Name _____ Address _____

Phone () _____ Best time to call _____

.....

The Pride Festival is an expression of homosexual pride within the Central Pennsylvania community. However, it was the concern of some how the media could portray this display of self-conviction specifically and how coverage of the event would be handled by the Coalition in general.

The Steering Committee, and subsequently the general membership, will take up the matter of the Fourth Estate and the Pride Festival.

The Publicity Committee was charged with the task of formulating a policy that will tackle the sticky issue

*The Fourth Estate and
The Coalition*

Issue of Press at Festival to be Tackled

of coverage during the annual event.

The following is a draft of that policy. Any suggestions will be accepted for consideration by the Steering Committee.

In order to ensure the rights of privacy to be enjoyed by all members of the gay & lesbian community, it shall be the policy of the Steering Committee of the

Pride Coalition to work with the media in the following manner:

- 1) to send press releases to media representatives within a month of a Coalition-sponsored event,*
- 2) to refer all questions and requests to the Coalition's spokesperson as designated by the By-Laws or, in lieu thereof, the Steering Committee,*
- 3) to request the media when necessary, due to possible negative backlash, to refrain from using still cameras or any type of video photography unless they have the consent of the intended photographic subjects.*

Print and other news journalists will be permitted to mingle amongst participants if they choose. It will be made clear that the privacy of event attendees must be respected. ▽

We Need You
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Publicity

The job of the Publicity Committee is to assemble, collate and distribute information to all Coalition members and residents in the Central Pennsylvania region.

Following are the responsibilities of this committee:

- to produce materials relevant to the Coalition e.g., newsletters, posters, flyers, programs, etc.*
- issue press releases of upcoming Coalition-sponsored events,*
- work with the Resource Development committee to produce festival program booklet.*

Artists and writers are also needed to keep Coalition publications fresh. ▽

The Pride Coalition of Central Pennsylvania Presents

THE 1995 CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET & CONCERT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1995
7:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

**CASA RILLO'S BALLROOM
201 E. GREEN ST.
MECHANICSBURG**

Catering by Casa Rillo's Restaurant

**FEATURING
Suede**

**ALONG WITH
Former Miss Gay Pennsylvania
Miss Ito Lamé
&
D.J. Michael Troutman**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
Sensational Woods
25 Beaver Street
York
(717) 848-6838**

**Sharp Jewelers
21 West King Street
Lancaster
(717) 291-1611**

**What If...Cafe
3424 North Sixth Street
Harrisburg
(717) 238-1155**

**and through the Coalition Office at
(717) 545-8411**

General Meetings

**Pride Coalition
of Central
Pennsylvania
Datebook**

- January 14** - Harrisburg
Planned Parenthood
1514 N. Second St. Rear
11:00 a.m.
- April 8** - Lancaster
Location to be announced
in next newsletter

Steering Committee Meetings

- January 11** - Lancaster
- February 8** - Harrisburg
- March 8** - York
- April 12** - Lancaster
- May 10** - Harrisburg
- June 14** - York
- July 12** - Lancaster

February 28 - Deadline for next newsletter

March 15 - Grant application deadline for award banquet