

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

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**Title:** *PA Rural Gay Caucus Report*

**Date:** February 1976

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

**Contact:**

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RURAL CAUCUS REPORT  
FEBRUARY 1976

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: 1 717-898-2876

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MEETING OF THE RURAL CAUCUS 1/10/76 (READING)  
chaired by Joe Burns

The meeting was called to order by Joe Burns at 1:50pm. An announcement was made that the liaisons from each group to the caucus were to give their names to Dave Leas for correspondence.

(1) The issue of the name for the caucus was tabled until the next meeting

(2) It was suggested that we start thinking about what we were going to do for the Gay Pride Marches in Phila. and NYC. Bari Weaver volunteered to coordinate parade ideas and plans. It was also suggested that joint booth or separate booths be planned for the Philadelphia celebrations.

(3) Legislation Day was discussed and a tentative date will be set for the end of March. Sam Deetz presented a list of items pertaining to the day to be held in Harrisburg. Harry Langhorne is preparing an information package to be given to legislators. It was noted that many legislators haven't had the chance to meet with openly gay people and it was urged that everyone get moving in setting up dates with their respective senators and representatives. People who are interested in helping to plan for the day are to contact Sam Deetz, Box 182, Northumberland, Pa. 17587 Tel: 1-717-473-9923.

(4) GCS of Reading suggested the idea of presenting a 'Proclamation on Gay Rights' to the Wagon Train (Bicentennial). The capsule will be opened 2076. It was tabled until the next meeting so that there will be time for the proclamation to be drafted.

(5) All organizations are to check with their other members for approval for 'Shapp for President' inserts into their newsletters. Contact Kevin Smith GCS Reading

(6) An education committee was formed. Those wishing more information are to contact Jere Yoder 29 Water St. Oley, Pa. 19547 tel: 215-987-6634

(7) The idea of a caucus picnic was tabled till spring

(8) The discussion of blackmail rackets in Lancaster was tabled till the next meeting. (information will probably be forwarded to various newsletters before the next meeting)

(9) The next meeting will be held in Lancaster at 3002 Marietta Ave. Lancaster, Pa. 17601 at 2pm on Sat. February 7 (map enclosed)

NOTE: GCS of Reading has lambda patches available at \$1 or in lots of 10 at .75 on consignment. Contact Kevin Smith 528 Pike St. Reading, Pa. 19602 tel: 215-372-5123

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GAY LOBBY DAY

The date has been set for Gay Lobby Day. It is Tuesday, March 23. The day was first proposed by a rural member of the Governor's Gay Task Force in November, 1975. It was officially proposed at the Rural Caucus meeting of December 6, 1975. Two members of the caucus were appointed to study the idea and to present an outline at the next meeting. On January 10, the decision was reached to have a committee go ahead with plans, working with members of the Task Force and gay groups across the state. Anti-gay legislation is the main issue. At stake are the jobs of gay people in Pennsylvania. The aim is to educate our legislators wherever possible and to protest discrimination.

Plans are to have at least 125 lobbyists available for the day. Working in pairs, they will be able to meet with the approximate 250 legislators in the Capitol. Workshops will be held at three locations in the state to acquaint lobbyists with techniques in dealing with representatives and senators. They will be held in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and State College on March 20 at 1pm. Any person wishing to volunteer for this greatly needed endeavor are to contact Lynn Hughs, Wilkes Barre, Pa. 717-829-4004 or Sam Deetz (address above)

An informational packet is being gathered by Harry Langhorne. Letter writing is still being urged condemning any anti-gay legislation as discrimination.

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LETTER TO ALL.....

JOIN US IN NEW YORK!!! Be it known in this year, 1976, a year commemorating 200 years of Gay Oppression in the United States of America, we the American Gay Populus do honor, recognize and declare the next 200 years, GAY YEARS. Years of true freedom, pride, growth and love.

We the Pennsylvania Rural Caucuses urge all state organizations to gather together for the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in order to reinstate it in New York, and developing it across the nation. Bring your banner and carry it proudly behind the "Pennsylvania Gays" banner. We also urge in this cause for celebration that each organization attire themselves with symbolic clothing identifying their area of the state. From within you, and beyond, come. Spread the freedom thou dost deserve by inheritance. In the month of our lord, June, in the year 1976. - Bari Weaver  
Have your chairperson contact the Hon. Bari Lee Weaver (parade coordinator) above

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MAKE YOUR NOTES: FEBRUARY 1976

Note: Since most newsletters seem to be published at the beginning of each month, individual organizations' calendars are not being received in time to be included in the overall calendar! Please TRY to send information at least one week BEFORE the end of the month. Nothing fancy is required, a postcard is better than nothing at all. Thanks.

Sunday Feb 1: Susquehanna Valley Gays United Meeting  
651 5th Street Northumberland, PA.

Fri/Sat/Sun Feb 6,7,8. Delaware Valley Conference on Military Spending and Human Priorities, co-sponsors: GAA-Philadelphia, Gays United Lancaster, Society of Friends, Philadelphia, et al. 1515 Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA. Info: 215-241-7231.

Thursday Feb 12 PLANT PARTY NITE AT GUL 3002 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster. 717-898-2876. 7:30 PM 100 plants on sale \$2.50-\$8.50. Bring your sick plants for free diagnostic evaluation, etc.

Sat Feb 21 DIGNITY Meeting & Liturgy Friends Meeting House Harrisburg, PA

Sat Feb 28 Lobby Day Committee Meeting 1PM  
248 S Queen Street Apt 3-B  
Northumberland, PA 17857 Tel: 717-473-9923

Sat March 20 Lobby Day Workshops at Phila., Pittsburgh, State Coll. 1:00 PM--(See Lobby Day, P.1)

Tues March 23 LOBBY DAY AT STATE CAPITOL

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The next meeting of the Rural Caucus will be held in Lancaster at GUL 3002 Marietta Avenue 1-717-898-2876. In order to facilitate creating an agenda, GUL requests that items for inclusion in the agenda be sent to them as soon as possible at the above address. Directions to GUL follow. If overnight accommodations are desired please contact GUL by letter or phone PRIOR to the meeting. Thanks.

WEST OF LANCASTER:

Turnpike to Exit 21, Lancaster/Reading. RT 222 SOUTH to Junction RT 30 WEST. RT 30 WEST TO CENTERVILLE EXIT. Turn Right, GUL is the red house just before the traffic light at the corner of Centerville Rd and Marietta Avenue.

EAST OF LANCASTER:

Turnpike to Exit 21, Lancaster/Reading. Follow above directions. For special instructions call 717-898-2876.

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