



Log Cabin
Houston

Log On

INFORMATION NETWORK

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 4
APRIL 1995



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Log Cabin Republicans of Houston's primary goal is to ensure that the Republican Party fulfills its promise to be a party of principles, a party of ideas and a party of inclusion. By educating the party at various levels about the gay community, it will work to dispel the unfounded fears and misconceptions that have a negative impact on party positions. LCR is dedicated to working toward a practical resolution of the divisions in the GOP over gay rights; one which values the concept of inclusion rather than absolutism.

To support those who wish to further the mission of Log Cabin throughout the United States, Log Cabin Republicans will educate citizens on becoming involved in political organizations and campaigns, on dispelling myths and stereotypes and generating debates and discussion about gay rights in their communities, and on increasing gay participation in all spheres of American political debate.

As part of its informational mission, Log Cabin Republicans will comprehensively track GOP candidate positions on gay-related issues, monitor gay-supportive and anti-gay donations to GOP candidates, compile data on gay voter impact in federal, state and local elections, and produce voter education guides which summarize the views and proposals of candidates around the country.

PHONE (713) 529-9100
FAX (713) 526-5211

A MESSAGE FROM THE *President*

There's a light at the end of the tunnel, and it's not another train! For the first time in the last ten years of my involvement in the gay community in both political and AIDS issues, the time has come for me to have hope again.

The last several years I have witnessed a dramatic change in the gay community. The Log Cabin movement has played a large role in that change. Now other groups are looking to Log Cabin for ideas and leadership.

Imitation is the highest form of compliment. There is no better example of that than our newsletter. Other groups are now copying our newsletter format. It's no wonder that it's considered by many as one of the finest in the nation. The thanks for this must go to Jim Vilven and Liz Vilven for their graphic designs, Marion E. Coleman for all the printing which has been generously donated by the House of Coleman, and to Editor Kelly R. Jones whose hard work makes this all possible.

In the past, working in gay politics has been like taking a trip through a sewer in a glass bottom boat. At Log Cabin we are the complete opposite. We have earned a reputation of a group that people can work with. An example of this is the recent appointment of Gary J. Van Ooteghem and myself to the Ryan White Planning Council by our friend County Judge Robert Eckels. Judge Eckels came to our meeting last

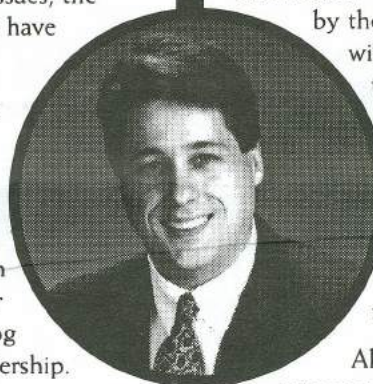
year and told us he will work with us on issues like AIDS that affect our community, and he has been true to his word.

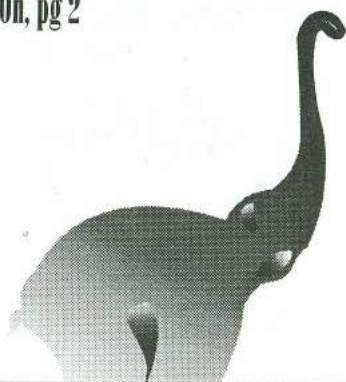
Other news that doesn't seem to get reported by the gay press is the reversal by the Republican-controlled appropriations committee of a decision to cut funding for Ryan White funds by a sub-committee. The cuts recommended by the sub-committee were widely reported, but the fact that they were not cut doesn't seem to be newsworthy. The sad fact is that many people and groups that depend on these funds read the bad news and never got to read the good news.

Also in the good news category is Rich Tafel's effort with the National Governors' Association. Rich Tafel's Log Cabin Republicans in Washington, D. C., won the support of all 30 Republican Governors including Gov. George W. Bush, to pledge strong support for reauthorization of the Ryan White grants.

Next month, during the March Against Hate and Violence weekend in Austin, Rich Tafel will be the special guest at our fundraiser on April 1st, and will be a Keynote Speaker after the march on the 2nd. Log Cabin - Houston members will be lobbying our representatives on Monday the 3rd with other Log Cabin members from across Texas.

These are just a few of the ways Log Cabin - Houston is making a difference for everyone in our community. Whether you are a Republican or Democrat, all are welcome to join. We are the voice of reason in our community.





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Kelly R. Jones

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PLEASE REMEMBER that this is YOUR newsletter. Any ideas, suggestions, or contributions are very welcome. If anyone would like to write an article for the newsletter, we would be more than happy to include it. Please contact Kelly at (713) 529-9100 or fax us at (713) 526-5211.

COMMITTEE *Reports*

FALL FUNDRAISER COMING

The Ways and Means Committee has targeted Fall, 1995 as its next major fundraising event. It is hoped that we can raise nearly half our annual budget at such a function.

A variety of ideas have been put forth from members of this committee. They have already narrowed their choices down to several good candidates worthy of further discussion and research.

The committee has already selected two choice dates in the fall. They will announce their date selection in a month or two as plans begin to firm up.

They also believe some minor fundraiser, such as a social cocktail party, might have to be considered between now and then just to tide us over. But nothing has been planned yet.

The Ways and Means Committee meets on the third Monday of each month.

1995 BUDGET

The Finance Committee, a sub-committee of the Ways and Means Committee, has reported that they expect our first (corporate) year's budget to run at around \$8,500 for 1995.

The committee is unofficially chaired by Scot Hedrick. Other members include Glenn Laible, newly elected Secretary, and Gene Levy, LC-H's Treasurer.

Reporting out an annual budget will be one of the regular assignments and duties of this new sub-committee's role in our organization. Besides being reported to the membership at our February general meeting, the proposed budget now goes back before the Ways and Means Committee to work on putting together adequate funding under which to operate.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Membership Committee met in February to discuss their goal of increasing membership by 100 new members. As of this writing, there are 64 paid members of Log Cabin - Houston, making it the largest Log Cabin chapter in Texas.

Five people have let their membership expire in the past few months, and committee members are increasing their efforts to encourage these people to renew for another year.

Also discussed by the committee was a recommendation to increase individual and household membership dues this summer. Log Cabin - Houston has one of the lowest membership dues of any political organization in the state. An increase of \$10 was recommended to bring our dues up to the level of other organizations, and to increase our funds in the Treasury.

This recommendation by the Membership Committee will be passed on to the Board of Trustees for further review. If the recommendation is adopted, the increase should occur in midsummer of this year.

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SUPREME COURT TO HEAR GAY DISCRIMINATION CASE

ON FEBRUARY 21,
THE SUPREME COURT AGREED
TO DECIDE WHETHER STATES HAVE
THE RIGHT TO FORBID LEGAL
PROTECTION FOR HOMOSEXUALS.

The Court will hear the appeal of Amendment 2, a Colorado voter referendum which voters approved in 1992. Amendment 2 amends the state constitution to bar all state and local governments from allowing gays and lesbians the same protections given to heterosexuals.

Last year, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that Amendment 2 violated the U. S. Constitution because it barred homosexuals from "having an effective voice in government affairs...to seek legislation that would protect them from discrimination based on sexual orientation."

Four states have joined in the appeal, as this case will affect gay rights struggles throughout the entire nation. Nebraska, Alabama, Idaho and Virginia, join Colorado in requesting the Supreme Court to hear the case. This is hoped to clarify any future attempts to discriminate against gays. Last November, Idaho voters rejected the gay discrimination referendum in that state, but Radical Right activists are already at work on another referendum.

Suzanne Goldberg, an attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, said the case, "...will be one of the pivotal cases to determine the future of civil rights in America." Goldberg is serving as co-counsel for Colorado homosexuals in the case, which is expected to be argued next fall and decided in early 1996.

In 1986, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that states may outlaw private homosexual acts between consenting adults. This decision made it possible for Texas' own Section 21.06 of the Penal Code (the "Sodomy Law") to remain on the books. After review by the Texas Sunset Commission, Section 21.06 was signed back into law by Democratic Gov. Ann Richards in 1993. Gov. Bush is quoted as also supporting this highly discriminatory statute.



Meet our new vice president! Julie Ellis, a native of Brownwood, Texas, always had an interest in politics, but never felt at home until she came to her first Log Cabin meeting last October.

Julie spent most of her childhood in Cleburne, Texas, the youngest of two children. Her family was always very Republican-minded, and Julie was raised with a strong belief in financial conservatism.

After graduating from the University of North Texas, Julie attended UTMB in Galveston where she studied physical therapy. This is also where she met her lifetime partner, Sara Bennett, who has also joined Log Cabin.

Julie has always felt that it is important to get involved in a cause in order to make a change. She is tired of the stereotype most people have of gays and lesbians, and hopes that through her involvement with Log Cabin, she can make a difference.

In addition to Log Cabin, Julie's political experience has also involved letter writing campaigns on behalf of health care legislation. Julie has even traveled to Washington, D. C., and the state capitol in Austin in her lobbying efforts.

Julie believes that Log Cabin's major goal at this time should be getting involved in Republican politics on a precinct level, and hopes to see more Log Cabin members as precinct chairs.



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FEBRUARY MEETING NEWS

The February meeting of Log Cabin-Houston was one of our most well attended and productive meetings so far. In addition to our three guest speakers from PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays), and the Montrose Counseling Center, three members were elected to our Board of Directors, one to the State Steering Committee, and we have two new officers.



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Directly after the meeting, our Board of Directors met to discuss the resignation of Marion E. Coleman as Vice President of LC-H, due to her many obligations on the Membership and Ways and Means Committees. The Board then nominated and elected Julie Ellis as the new Vice President.

During the meeting, Glenn Laible was announced as our new Secretary. Glenn succeeds Doug White, who was unable to attend many of our meetings.



Kelly R. Jones was elected as Houston Representative to the Log Cabin State Steering Committee. Prior to the vote, Patrick Ball of LC/H held two positions on the steering committee, as state Vice President

and Houston Representative. This enabled us to elect another person from LC/H on the state level.



Also during the meeting, elections were held for the general members of the Board of Directors. Those nominated were Gary Van Ooteghem, John Melton, Betty Tonnessen and Julie Ellis. As Julie is now our new Vice President, Gary, John and Betty will serve on the Board of Directors.

Our first guest speakers at our meeting were Pat and Gail Rickey of PFLAG. They told us of their work with PFLAG and of the many goals which PFLAG hopes to accomplish. Gail has been elected as a member of LGRL (Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas), and hopes to use her new position to assist Texas gays and lesbians in their fight against discrimination and the violence of hate crimes.

Pat and Gail also requested Log Cabin's support in PFLAG's Healing the Hurt '95, a conference on homophobia. Their second educational conference on homophobia will be held March 31-April 1, at the Sheraton Astrodome.



Ron Jensen with the Montrose Counseling Center told us of the great work MCC is doing in our community. MCC is involved in alcohol/drug abuse counseling, HIV counseling, and lesbian issues, among many other things.

Ron also asked for our support for MCC's St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser. It will be held Friday, March 17, at the Lovett Inn from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers from Log Cabin will sponsor one of the tables during the event. This is an important fundraiser for the Montrose Counseling Center, and is also a lot of fun for the people attending



CALENDAR OF events

● **MARCH 26, 1995:** THRF HOSTS ROBERT "MORT" SCHWAB AWARDS CEREMONY AT PENTHOUSE CLUB, 3400 MONTROSE BLVD., 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

● **MARCH 27, 1995:** LOG CABIN - HOUSTON MEETING AT SIERRA GRILL, 4704 MONTROSE BLVD. SOCIAL AT 6:30 P.M., MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. GUEST SPEAKER: DOLLY MADISON MCKENNA

● **MARCH 30 - APRIL 2, 1995:** THE NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON AT THE GEORGE BROWN CONVENTION CENTER

● **MARCH 31 - APRIL 2, 1995:** EIGHTH ANNUAL TEXAS LESBIAN CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN

● **MARCH 31- APRIL 1:** PFLAG'S HEALING THE HURT '95 CONFERENCE ON HOMOPHOBIA

● **APRIL 1, 1995:** TEXAS ASSOC. OF LESBIAN AND GAY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS MEETING IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, AT THE AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, 10:00 A.M.

● **APRIL 1, 1995:** "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL" RECEPTION AT THE SHERATON AUSTIN HOTEL, 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

● **APRIL 2, 1995:** STOP THE HATE, STOP THE VIOLENCE MARCH ON AUSTIN BEGINS AT PALMER AUDITORIUM, 12:00 NOON

● **APRIL 3, 1995:** TEXAS LOBBY DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

● **APRIL 10, 1995:** MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

● **APRIL 17, 1995:** WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

● **APRIL 24, 1995:** LOG CABIN GENERAL MEETING AT SIERRA GRILL

● **MAY 22, 1995:** LOG CABIN GENERAL MEETING AT SIERRA GRILL

NATIONAL & STATE

NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SENATOR SWITCHES TO GOP

WASHINGTON: Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a moderate, has switched to the Republican Party, giving the GOP a 54-46 edge in the Senate.

Senator Campbell, known for his ponytail, bolo tie and Harley Davidson motorcycle, was a strong supporter of the balanced budget amendment. A co-sponsor of the amendment, Campbell believed its defeat "brought into focus the fact that my personal beliefs and the Democratic Party are far apart."

A Native American, Senator Campbell is the second Senator to switch parties in the 104th Legislature. "I've always been considered a moderate to the consternation of the left wing of the Democratic Party. I imagine my continued moderation will be now to the consternation of the right wing of the Republican Party," Campbell said.

CANDACE GINGRICH LOBBIES FOR HRCF

WASHINGTON: Candace Gingrich, Newt's younger sister, has joined the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) to lobby Congress on behalf of this organization.

"My position is that tolerance is not enough," she told reporters. "We can be fired merely because we are gay. That's discrimination, not tolerance."

Newt Gingrich joined his sister in a brief reunion at his office Monday, but later told reporters that he opposes giving homosexuals federal protections from discrimination in hiring and firing.

GINGRICH BOOSTS PBS FUNDRAISER

GEORGIA: House Speaker Newt Gingrich, an outspoken critic of government-funded broadcasting, recorded two promotional spots for the Public Broadcasting System, and has offered to set up a special fund for PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Gingrich challenged liberals to "Match Newt," and pledge \$2,000 a year for five years to support public broadcasting. "My point has never been to drive PBS off the air. My point has been to say there are a variety of ways of financing other than the taxpayer," Gingrich stated.

Atlanta PBS station WPBA-TV reported callers from as far away as New Orleans and Massachusetts in one of their best fundraisers thus far. Eric Weston, WPBA-TV public affairs director said, "It's been overwhelmingly positive. A lot of people are calling and saying they pledged because Newt asked them to."



BUSH NOMINATES AFRICAN-AMERICAN FOR DISTRICT JUDGESHIP

AUSTIN: Houston lawyer Dwight Jefferson was nominated by Gov. George W. Bush to the 215th state district court in Harris County.

Jefferson, a civil trial attorney, would replace Judge Eugene Chambers, who was elected in November to a county-court-at-law post.

If confirmed by the Senate, the former University of Texas football star would become only the second district-level minority judge in the county.

SURFIN' THE NET

TEXAS: Log Cabin - Texas is hooked up to the Internet. Now you can subscribe to the Log Cabin - Texas Internet Mailing List by sending the words "subscribe logcabin-texas" in the body of an email message to "majordomo@bga.com."

This will subscribe the account from which you send the message to the logcabin-texas list. You will later receive notification that you have been successfully added to the mailing list.

Steve Labinski, a member of the Log Cabin State Steering Committee and a member of Austin's Log Cabin chapter, has worked on this project to provide Log Cabin members the latest updates using on-line services.

For more information, please contact us 713-529-9100.

DOLLY MADISON McKENNA TO SPEAK BEFORE LOG CABIN - HOUSTON

HOUSTON: Dolly Madison McKenna will be the featured speaker at the March 27, 1995 Log Cabin - Houston meeting. An active participant in the Republican party, both as a candidate for office and a member of the party, Dolly has formed an organization called "Liberty Tree." Her goal is to make citizens from a variety of constituencies aware of the political processes beginning at the grassroots level. By introducing people to these processes, she hopes to encourage and empower them to become active. She has been speaking to groups ranging from AARP to Exxon to Log Cabin - Houston.

Liberty Tree is still in its infancy, but Dolly has goals to assimilate information for the political "lay people" on voter registration, precinct conventions, and simply voting in primary elections. Typical voter turnouts for primaries are less than 10%, and she hopes her efforts can at least double that percentage. In her speech to us on March 27, she will describe her game plan and present members with ideas and opportunities to become involved. Dolly is a knowledgeable and talented speaker, and you deserve a chance to hear her.

Message:

COME TO THE MEETING!



*You may reach your
elected official by
calling or writing:*

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United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
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The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20005

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The Honorable (name)
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

House switchboard
(202) 225-3121

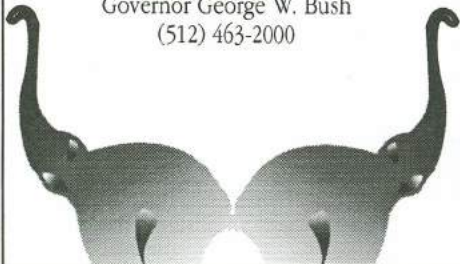
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LOG CABIN TEXAS HOSTS STATEWIDE RECEPTION



Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, Republicans within the GOP who advocate non-discrimination based upon sexual orientation, has announced plans for their statewide reception to be held in Austin on Saturday, April 1, 1995. The reception, titled "Liberty and Justice for All," is being held the night before the "Stop the Hate/Stop the Violence" rally. Rich Tafel, Executive Director of the Washington, D. C. office of Log Cabin Republicans will attend as the guest of honor.

The "Liberty and Justice for All" party will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the 10th Floor Atrium of the Sheraton Austin Hotel, located at 6th Street and IH-35 in Austin. Guest tickets are \$25 apiece and may be purchased at the door. The reception will feature gourmet hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, and a cash bar.

The reception is being organized by the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, with participation by the Log Cabin chapters in Houston and Austin, the Metroplex Republicans of Dallas, and Turtle Creek Log Cabin Republicans.

According to Paul von Wupperfeld, State President of LCR/TX, "This reception will be an opportunity to gather together. Whether they're gay or straight, Democrat, Republican or Independent, they'll all be welcome."

NEWS BRIEFS

LOG CABIN ARCHIVES

STATES

HOUSTON: Log Cabin - Houston is now a part of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). The HMRC is a department of the Houston Public Library "with the primary objectives of locating, preserving, and making available to researchers the documentary evidence of Houston's history."

People interested in information on Log Cabin - Houston can also call the Houston Library's information line, and be provided with contact information.

The Log Cabin archives will allow our caucus to record our growth and our progress as a political organization in Houston. The head of HMRC's research department, Dr. Louis J. Marchiafava stressed the importance of keeping up with an archive in order to maintain the history of our club. A quarterly or biannual donation will occur as time allows.

The HMRC is located in the Julia Ideson Building in the Central Houston Public Library complex at 500 McKinney Street in downtown Houston. They are open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

LC-H APPOINTMENTS AT COUNTY LEVEL

Three Log Cabin - Houston members have been appointed by Harris County Judge Robert Eckels to the Ryan White Planning Council. The Planning Council plays a critical role in establishing local priorities for the allocation of federal funds to meet the needs of and assist those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The appointments reflect the new attitude coming out of the new Harris County Judge's office. For months, LC-H has been saying the Eckels is gay friendly. We say

again that this act is another demonstration of his outreach to us.

Kenneth P. Wilk, President of Log Cabin-Houston, assumes Position #29, and also been elected to the Council Steering Committee. Gary J. Van Ooteghem, newly elected to the Board of Directors, will assume Position #19 on the Planning Council. Both terms end on June 30, 1996. Dr. Michael W. Ross, one of Log Cabin's newest members, will assume Position #9. Dr. Ross' term will expire on June 30, 1995.



Join NOW! You can make a difference!

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