



NEWSLETTER

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus
April 1989

P.O. Box 66664

Houston, Texas 77266

(713) 521-1000

GLPC ON THE MOVE -- LITERALLY

By HARRY LIVESAY

GLPC Wednesday meetings will bring new changes to members. The April 19 meeting will be the last one at the Viscount Hotel. Members voted to begin meeting in May in the Conference Room of the PWA Coalition, located on the Second Floor of the Parkway Athletic Club, 800 Rosine. Hill favors the move to an existing community facility. "The PWA Coalition's offer to house the bimonthly meetings of our organization is very generous. It's another example of how the organizations in our community can work together and help each other." The significance of this change in our meeting location coincides with the efforts of the GLPC

Executive Committee to relocate our office from its current location at 900 Lovett.

The meeting on May 5 will include an assessment of the participation of the GLPC in the March on Austin, with regard to our lobbying efforts with the Texas Legislature and the "grass-roots" involvement of our community and the continued growth and strengthening of the GLPC. The meeting on May 17 will begin a new program of open discussion forums with special guest speakers from all over the state. The first program will include a discussion by President Ray Hill with the Houston NOW president on Pornography: Banning Sexual Exploitation of Women and protecting the First Amendment.

Caucus Gets in March on Austin Spirit

GLPC members started moving toward Austin at the March 15 meeting.

March on Austin Co-chair Jim Owens updated members on plans for the April 30 march. The caucus, which has lent March on Austin-Houston \$500 in seed money, voted to allow the Houston March on Austin committee use of the GLPC mailing list for a joint GLPC/March mailing April 1.

GLPC members and others are urged to march with the caucus behind the GLPC banner. Numerous caucus mem-

bers are helping with March on Austin plans and the Houston committee is sharing the GLPC office. The caucus also will help coordinate the Houston hospitality suite at the Driskill Hotel in Austin.

In other action, a county Voter Registration representative deputized caucus members for GLPC's massive voter registration drive. Members also received information about the need to write state representatives about important legislation. (See President's Report, page 2.)

Thanks for Chipping In

By BILL WILLIS

We had fun. We ate, drank and whiled away the hours in the most interesting of company.

Past GLPC President David Fowler was honored with a gavel, a GLPC tradition. Other former presidents and officers were recognized, and current officers were introduced.

It was easy to have a good time for such a worthy cause. Over \$300 was given for the computer fund.

Computer/Mailing List Committee Chair Mike Stubblefield said the fundraiser will help pay for a significant increase in the speed and storage capacity of GLPC's aging computers. That's a big step in keeping the caucus effective.

Thank you for your generous support and time. Special thanks go to Dennis Spencer for graciously hosting the event.

"A Flaming Success!"

That's how an insider described GLPC's second annual Easter food drive for Stone Soup Food Pantry.

The community donated seven truckloads of items with an estimated value of \$3,000. In addition, just over \$1,000 in cash, gift certificates and checks were given.

The event was co-sponsored by GLPC and the AIDS Foundation.

We are proud of the strong community involvement. Many GLPC members and their friends helped in the effort, which was even more successful than last year.

We thank Mary's for providing the space. We extend special thanks to GLPC Board Member Lou Vanech for spearheading the second highly successful food drive.

Active Support Urged for Hate Crimes Bill

By RAY HILL

As reported in the last newsletter, the Caucus has accepted the responsibility to press for passage of Senator Craig Washington's Hate Crimes Bill in the Texas Legislature. We have also asked that the City of Houston add CSSB #22 to their legislative package and instruct their lobbyist, former Senator Babe Swartz, to join us in that effort. When presented with that proposal, the City Council, with few exceptions, responded favorably. Please call your District Council Member and any At-Large Members you know and remind them that you encourage their support of this proposal.

While you have your favorite Council Member on the phone, it would be a good time to discuss other matters that concern you. In the Council's legislative package are several proposals that advance censorship. One expands the definition of sexually oriented businesses to include bookstores, video rental shops and hotels/motels that run adult videos, and increases the controls on such businesses, including the ability of the city to close them. One group that has approached the Council to support this measure has long advocated the closure of gay bars in Montrose. There is also no support for any AIDS related legislation in the city's legislative package: no support for increased AIDS funding; no support for the Omnibus AIDS Bill proposed by Senators

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

friendly to the community. The City of Houston will spend in excess of \$200,000 of tax money for lobbyists in Austin this legislative session. So far, not one cent is devoted to help our community, but a considerable amount will be spent to appease those who oppose our existence in our own community. Now would be a good time to advise your favorite members of Houston City Council how you feel about this.

When you collect your thoughts on these topics, you might join the members of the Caucus who attended our last regular meeting. We wrote Senators and House Members our concerns on several issues. If you would like to get copies of the sample letters passed out at the meeting to help you compose your own, there are copies of these letters at the Caucus office, 900 Lovett, Suite 101. The GLPC office is staffed between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. each weekday. Volunteer office secretary Clay Harper will be glad to help you get copies of these letters. To find out who your Texas Representative and Senator are, call the Harris County Office of Voter Registration at 224-1919 and give them your precinct number or street address. Please encourage your friends to join and become active in the Caucus.

GLPC Supports LGRL Lobbying, ChildCustody Task Force formed

By CICELY WYNNE

After an extensive update, the GLPC board voted March 8 to send a \$500 check to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL).

The funds help pay the Caucus' share of the lobbying effort in the Texas Legislature, which costs about \$57,000 annually. The Southeast Texas share of the 1989 budget is about \$17,000.

Lobbyist Glen Maxey has been praised extensively for his work, but statewide fund-raising efforts have not kept pace with lobbying office and salary expenses.

Last session, Maxey was credited with preventing any anti-gay/lesbian legislation from passing and liberalizing potentially dangerous AIDS legislation. Between and during sessions, Maxey monitors state agencies and boards, such as the insurance board, which has been battling insurance companies over AIDS coverage.

The GLPC board also approved formation of the Child Custody Task Force. Now in the planning stages, the group is designed to work with gay and lesbian parent groups and litigation organizations to coordinate efforts in this critical area.

The task force also would target family court races and raise public awareness about the need for equal custody, adoption and foster parenting rights.

In other board action, the board voted to:

- Order membership cards. They will be mailed in the next few weeks.
- Spend \$300 from the computer fund to upgrade one GLPC computer.
- Recommend use of the mailing list for the March on Austin mail-out.
- Appointed a committee to coordinate GLPC's efforts in the March on Austin Houston hospitality suite.
- Purchase an ad in the March on Austin program. The ad, which will help recruit new members, will be paid for by a special collection taken up at a caucus meeting.

March Ride Matches Offered

Need a ride to Austin for the March, or have an extra space? Call the GLPC office, 521-1000, or March on Austin, 524-0909.

"Wild West" Raises \$800 for Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby

By HARRY LIVESAY

A March 31 benefit performance of Charles Marowitz's hilarious new comedy *Wilde West*, sponsored by the GLPC at the Main Street Theatre, raised over \$800 for Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL). The benefit performance was well attended by GLPC members and community supporters of our state lobbying effort. *Wilde West* is a new comedy by London-based American playwright Charles Marowitz that premiered in Houston March 25. It chronicles the fictional account of British wit Oscar Wilde's meeting with outlaw Jesse James during Wilde's tour of the American West in 1882.

Supplies Still Needed

The GLPC office cabinets are almost bare. We would gratefully appreciate:

- Copy paper, 50-60 pound (white and colors)
- Business envelopes
- Stamps

If you happen to have any extra supplies, call the Caucus office, 521-1000.

Clay Harper new office secretary

Clay Harper is the new volunteer GLPC secretary.

Harper is in the office 6-7 p.m. Monday through Friday. GLPC phones will be answered throughout the day until late April by March on Austin volunteers, who are sharing GLPC's office space.

This benefit performance is a "first" for the GLPC in its continuing effort to help LGRL continue its work in the Texas State Legislature. "I am very pleased by the community support", stated GLPC chair Cicely Wynne. "Events such as these give our community the opportunity to enjoy original and entertaining new talent and support an organization that works to benefit all persons in Texas." Sponsors of the benefit performance included Say Cheese and Charlie's Restaurant as well as numerous individuals. The GLPC extends deepest gratitude to these sponsors, and to the staff of the Main Street Theatre and the cast and crew of *Wilde West* for their support of the GLPC and LGRL.

Bill Opposes Realtors' AIDS Disclosure Plans

In our March 1989 newsletter, GLPC announced the formation of a committee that focuses on efforts to convince the Texas Association of Realtors to drop from their owner disclosure statement that they are distributing to realtors questions concerning whether a former resident of a property had AIDS. Please contact The Texas Association of Realtors, P.O. Box 14488, Austin, Texas 78761.

There is legislation filed in the Texas Legislature to amend Section 15 of the Real Estate License Act to suspend the license of an agent or broker disclosing whether a previous occupant had AIDS. Letters to your senator or representative should be addressed to: Your Representative, State Capitol, Capitol Building, Austin, Texas 75701

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GLPC Committees

Computer/Mailing List: Mike Stubblefield heads this intense effort to update and maintain the confidential GLPC mailing list. To volunteer for a work session, call Mike at 995-8036.

Voter Registration: Tim Hall directs this crucial effort to increase the gay bloc vote -- the only voice elected officials hear. Contact Tim through the GLPC office, 521-1000.

March on Austin: Volunteers are needed for caucus activities in the upcoming March on Austin. GLPC is helping organize the Houston hospitality suite at the Driskill Hotel,

marking in the parade and providing volunteers for numerous tasks. Contact the GLPC office, or attend the April 19 GLPC "March on Austin" 7:30 p.m. meeting at the Travelodge Hotel, 2828 Southwest Freeway.

Child Custody Task Force: The newest committee is designed to coordinate efforts in this important area in conjunction with gay/lesbian parent groups and litigation organizations as well as heavily target family court races and increase public awareness. Contact Cicely, 522-9837. (See story on page 2.)

Mark Your Calendar

April 12 - Board meeting, 900 Lovett, #101.

April 19 - GLPC "March on Austin" meeting. Find out how you can help. 7:30 p.m., Travelodge Hotel, 2828 Southwest Freeway.

April 28-31 - March on Austin.

May 3 - First meeting at the new meeting space, PWA Coalition office, Parkway Athletic Club, 800 Rosine (one

block off Dallas and Waugh). Putting the March on Austin spirit to work in Houston will be discussed, as well as other matters.

May 10 - Board meeting

May 17 - Joint meeting of NOW (National Organization for Women) and GLPC, "Pornography vs. First Amendment Rights." 7:30 p.m., Parkway Athletic Club.



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Join the GLPC and the LGRL

Both are fighting hard for our rights!

(713) 650-3300

DONALD L. SKIPWITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW

LA MAISON ROUGE
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