



HOUSTON GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS

1310 McDuffie Suite 28a 526-2668

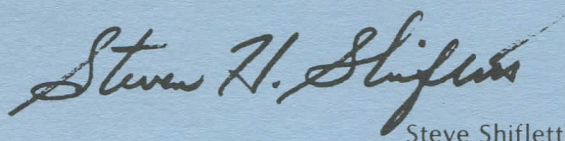
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Upon considering the single most important issue for discussion in my first written communication to our membership, I thought, "our community needs to know that the Gay Political Caucus is a dynamic organization and has restructured in order to make itself more sensitive and responsive to the concerns of its membership and will do so again as necessary". Simply stated, I believe the realignment has made us a more inclusive and, therefore, a more representative caucus.

In order that the GPC becomes a truly effective representative of the Lesbian-Gay community, it is imperative that criticisms, both positive and negative, be voiced, but voiced in such a way that the Caucus can use the ideas contained within to improve itself. Our membership can generate enormous enthusiasm, support and sincere commitment from our community as easily as we can perpetuate old rumors about the past. Let us therefore begin to look toward a positive future of cooperation and mutual concern rather than at a past filled with allegations and innuendoes.

Today the Gay Political Caucus stands before you a non-partisan, special interest group operating with democratic principles and methods, and uncontrolled by any clique. The single concern of the GPC is the elimination of discrimination, whether on the basis of gender, race, or sexual or affectional preference...and nothing more. I submit to you that our (yours and mine) new GPC deserves your support. The time is upon us. Gay people, both women and men, must join the movement now for tomorrow may be too late. Let us feel your support in whatever way you can. Volunteer for a committee, send a check, attend a meeting or just offer your opinion by calling the GPC office at 526-2668.

Remember always the promise of America, that all Men are created equal, is a goal we must all strive to attain. Let us learn from the Black experience; freedom cannot be granted. Freedom, the delicate blossom that it is, must be nurtured and protected within each of you before you can demand freedom from those around you. Freedom, that's what it's all about. Accept nothing less; expect nothing more.


Steve Shiflett

PRECINCT CONVENTIONS

Due to a fortuitous combination of events, Lesbians and Gay Men have before them a rare opportunity to be heard in the deliberations of the Texas Democratic Party. Because it is likely that the 1978 primary will draw light voter response, it is also highly likely that the precinct conventions will also experience a small attendance. It will therefore be possible to control many conventions with a very small number of voters. These conventions will elect delegates to the state senatorial district conventions which will in turn discuss matters presented at the precinct level and elect delegates to the statewide convention to be held in Ft. Worth. Remember, homosexuals are not yet a recognized minority within the Democratic Party and if we are ever to change this or achieve the repeal of 2106 (the Texas sodomy statute), this is where we must begin.

Due to the heavy concentration of homosexuals and their supporters in certain precincts in this city, 1978 can be the year that the Houston GPC makes the power merchants in Austin and Dallas as aware of our strength as we have made the local politicians. Wherever you happen to live there is something you can do to aid in this cause. If you would like to help in this effort, whether as a member of a precinct slate, as a volunteer to aid in coordinating this drive, as a participant in your precinct convention, or in some other capacity, please contact your Political Action Coordinator, Bill Whiting, at 524-9360. Election Day is Saturday May 6; let's make it a Gay Day in Houston.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

If you would like to help in the closing days of the current electoral campaign, or would care to celebrate an election day victory at a candidate's headquarters, the GPC recommends:

Mickey Leeland
1501 Elgin
527-9692

Ron Waters
205 E. 11
868-6207

Mike Driscoll
2917 San Jacinto
522-5816

Joe Christy
2405 San Jacinto
759-1837

THE SCREENING PROCESS

Candidate screening by the GPC is accomplished by the Screening Committee under the capable leadership of Lee Marsters. After deciding which of the elections are of greatest interest to Houston's Lesbian-Gay community and therefore in which the GPC should issue endorsements, the committee members investigate the records and backgrounds of each candidate in the chosen races, a long process culminating in a personal interview with as many of the candidates as will speak with representatives of the homosexual interest group. The committee then makes its recommendations to the General Caucus which votes to either accept them or change them. This year the membership of the GPC voted overwhelmingly to accept them and then requested the endorsements be expanded to include some judgeships. Hence you see before you the largest and most thoroughly investigated slate of endorsements the GPC has ever produced. In those cases where a "NO VOTE" is suggested, it is because there is no one in the race worthy of your support. If you have suggestions regarding the screening process or would like to be involved in it during the next election, contact the GPC office. Remember, THE SCREENING PROCESS NEVER STOPS.

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Traditionally, the only time any minority has achieved its goals and been assimilated into the mainstream of the American experience has been when the members of that minority realized the importance of delivering a large and united vote for local and regional candidates. American politicians are a pragmatic lot and can generally be expected to remember the interests of the groups to whom they owe their election OR which seem to control enough votes to effect the outcome of future elections. Houston's homosexual community must show its strength by supporting single candidates in the various races. In this way we can not only place sympathetic persons in influential positions but also can, through fear of a large and united negative vote, cause unenlightened office-holders to reconsider their stands on issues Lesbians and Gay Men regard as sensitive. Despite our past support in his earlier races a current City Councilperson and candidate for the 18th Congressional District who did not receive GPC endorsement in this race is trying to splinter the homosexual vote. This is a step which does only a disservice to our Gay Community. The GPC urges all its members and friends to remember this when they vote and further urges them to BLOCK VOTE today so that tomorrow we will not be forced to do so.

THE GPC RECOMMENDS

Governor- NO VOTE*
Lt. Governor- NO ENDORSEMENT
United States Senate- JOE CHRISTY
Texas Attorney General- PRICE DANIEL JR.
18th Congressional District- MICKEY LELAND
79th District, Texas House- RON WATERS
Harris County Judge- MIKE DRISCOLL
Harris County Treasurer- EARL FARMER
Harris County Clerk- BILL WILLIAMS
Chair, Harris County Democratic Party- ANNE GREENE
Precinct Judge, Pct. 33- DEBRA DANBURG
Precinct Judge, Pct. 34- LEE MARSTERS
Precinct Judge, Pct. 38- ROSEMARY SCOTT
Precinct Judge, Pct. 123- TEAGUE CAVNESS

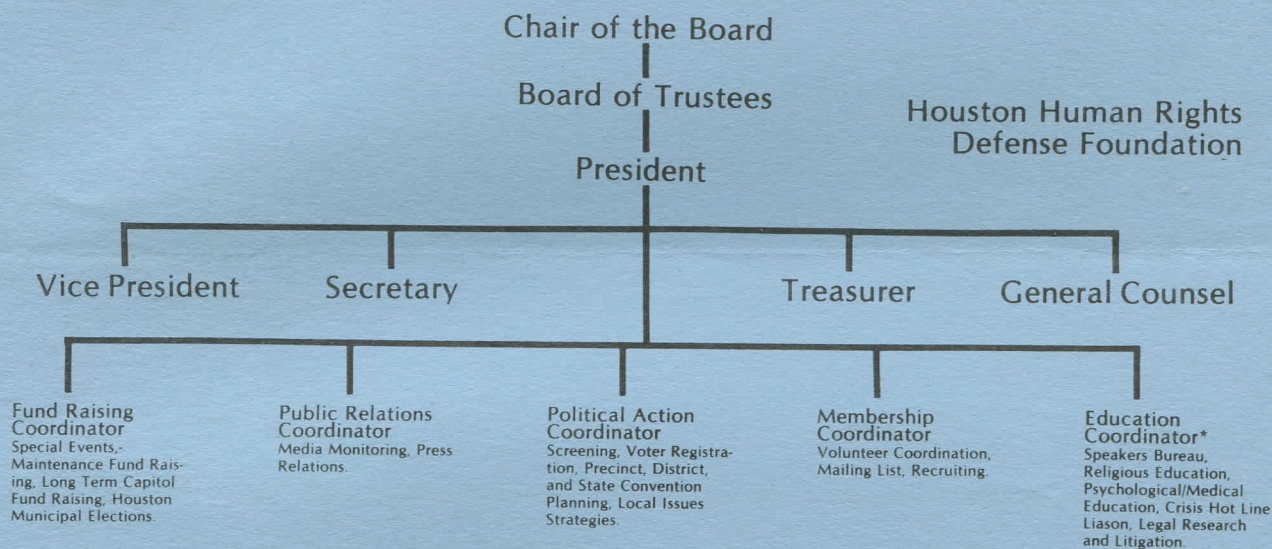
Judicial Endorsements:

Dist. 185-NO VOTE
Dist. 228-NO VOTE
Dist. 245-HENRY G. SCHUBLE
Dist. 246-JOHN W. PEAVEY
Dist. 247-BEN G. LEVY
Dist. 248-JIMMY JAMES
Dist. 263-LOUIS MOORE
Dist. 312-FELIX SALAZAR
County Court at Law 4-NO VOTE
Criminal Courts at Law:
Court 2-NICK BARRERA
Court 3-RONALD G. WISENTHAL
Court 4-NO VOTE
Court 5-NO VOTE
Court 6-ALICE BONNER
Court 7-NO VOTE
Court 8-NEEL RICHARDSON
Probate Court 1-BOB RICHTER

*In some cases a NO VOTE has been recommended. Where this has occurred, it is due to a complete lack of qualified opponents to an incumbent who has, either through his words or actions, exhibited extreme homophobic tendencies. In the case of the race for Governor of Texas, while it is generally felt within the caucus that the current occupant of that office should not serve another term we cannot in good conscience recommend his major opponent. Recently a tape was played for the caucus by a member who also happens to be a reporter for a local radio station in which John Hill expressed satisfaction with the current sodomy statute and opposed its repeal. He went on to say that the law had worked well and expressed a belief in the right of the majority to make laws of this sort to regulate private morality. The Houston Gay Political Caucus believes this is antithetical to the ideas of freedom and justice as expressed in the American Constitution.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

In response to the many requests from both our membership and interested parties outside our ranks, the Houston GPC presents below a general outline of its official bureaucracy as well as a complete expenditure report for the fiscal year ending March 15, 1978.



**Education Department of the GPC is currently being formed; there is, as yet, no one in the role of Education Coordinator.*

All authority and responsibility is drawn from the General Caucus and all office-holders serve at the pleasure of the General Caucus. The Houston Human Rights Defense Foundation is a separate legal entity and therefore has an existence apart from the GPC however the GPC is allowed to use the HHRDF as a legal arm should the GPC

ever find the community faced with an insurmountable problem. In such a situation, the President of the GPC and the board of the HHRDF are empowered to activate this relationship thus mobilizing the considerable legal and financial resources of the HHRDF toward the dissolution of the emergency condition.

OFFICERS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD-Nick Escobedo

TRUSTEES- Jim Cotton
Jeff Stephenson
Bob Lockett
Pokey Anderson
Scott Tillinghast
Lee Marsters
Joe Baker
Steve Shiflett

PRESIDENT-Steve Shiflett

VICE PRESIDENT-Jim Cotton

SECRETARY-Nick Escobedo

TREASURER-Bob Lockett

Fund Raising Coordinator-Jeff Stephenson
Public Relations Coordinator-James Vilven
Political Action Coordinator-Bill Whiting
Membership Coordinator-Charles Botts

Mar. 16, 1977-Mar. 16, 1978

EXPENDITURE REPORT	
Office Equipment	\$ 648.50
Office Supplies	179.92
Secretary's Salary	3443.68
Telephone	774.15
Xerox Expenses	126.35
Withholding Tax	786.84
Unemployment Tax	70.30
Corp. Franchise Tax	38.50
Postage	1146.45
Printing	902.21
Car Allowance	142.95
Entertainment	16.25
Petty Cash	180.21
Travel Expenses	494.50
Benefits & Donations	4029.72
Literature	10.00
Rent Expense	765.25
Subscriptions/Dues	30.75
Advertising	104.40
	\$13890.93
Miscellaneous	172.48
Total Expenditures	\$14063.41

BENEFITS & DONATIONS	
Gay Rights Natl Lobby	\$1000.00
Texas Gay Task Force	85.00
Dade County Coaliton	300.00
Texas GPC*	2204.00
Texas GPC	250.00
Troy Perry	100.00
ACLU	90.72
Total	\$4029.72

CASH FLOW REPORT	
Balance 3-16-77	\$ 1692.83
Total Deposits	12656.08
Total Expenses	14063.41
Balance 3-15-78	\$ 285.50

Robert Lockett
Treasurer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 25: Town Meeting Planning Session, Old Plantation-7:00 pm
 April 30: Meet Our Candidates Cocktail Party Soixante Quinze, 6015 Westheimer, 2-6 pm.
 May 3: GPC Meeting, Bymans Furniture, 1401 South Post Oak Road, 7:30 pm
 May 4 & 5: Go Vote Calling Sessions
 May 6: Election Day; VOTE
 May 6: Election Day Leafletting, 7 am - 7 pm
 May 6: Precinct Conventions 7:15-8:00 pm
 May 6: Poll Watching Celebrations, suggested locations listed elsewhere
 May 7: Gay Community Victory Party-Cherryhurst Park; Call GPC office for time.
 May 10: Media Monitoring Committee, 2044 Branard, 7:30 pm
 May 13: State Senate District Conventions
 May 15: Political Action Committee, 2044 Branard, 7:30 pm
 May 16: Mr. Metro Houston Contest, Cuddles, Proceeds to GPC

May 17: GPC Meeting; time and place to be announced
 May 24: Media Monitoring Committee, 2044 Branard, 7:30 pm
 May 25 & 26: C.A. Triap, Author of The Homosexual Matrix, conducts seminar at UH, \$25, call GPC office for information
 June 3: Runoff Election
 June 4: Beach Party, Bolivar Peninsula
 June 7: GPC Meeting, time and place to be announced
 June 9-11: Texas Gay Task Force (TGTF) Meeting, Royal Coach Inn (Love Field), Dallas
 June 14: Media Monitoring Committee, 2044 Branard, 7:30 pm
 June 21: GPC Meeting, time and place to be announced
 June 25: Town Meeting, Astrodome
 July 30: Dinner for Human Rights, time and place to be announced

Call the GPC office for information regarding any of the events scheduled above.

GAY PRIDE WEEK

Gay Pride Week in Houston is expected to be busy this year as a number of events are either ready to go or in the planning stage. The week will be kicked off on June 16, first anniversary of the last years very successful march and rally, with a celebration sponsored by the Montrose Activity Center and tentatively called The Greatest Show On Earth. Volunteers are requested to call MAC at 526-9719

Tuesday, June 20, is a National Day of Mourning commemorating the victims of homophobic oppression throughout the world. On Sunday, June 25, the Gay Town Meeting is scheduled for the Astrodome. The GPC has endorsed the idea of the Town Meeting as an effort to set goals and priorities for the coming year in Houston. Present plans call for the seating of 6,000 delegates from all areas of Houston's Lesbian-Gay Community. Observers are scheduled to arrive from many cities throughout the South and Southwest as well as Mexico. The GPC encourages everyone to take this opportunity to participate in an event which has the potential to unify our community in preparation for the struggle to repeal the Texas Sodomy Statute (2106).

This is by no means a complete list of events for Gay Pride Week; it is simply all we knew about when we went to press. Anyone with information about other events is requested to contact the GPC office so that they can be placed on the calendar.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES TASK FORCE

The GPC Community Resources Task Force is compiling a list of professional and social services available to Houston's gay community. When completed, it will be used to provide referrals to public agencies, private organizations, and independent professionals sensitive to the needs of gay men and women. The current compilations are inadequate and out of date, and help is needed to compile and maintain an accurate list of community resources. Special emphasis is being placed in the legal, medical, and psychological specialties. Information and workers are being solicited through the GPC office, 1310 McDuffie 28-A.

MR. METRO HOUSTON 1978

The Houston Gay Political Caucus will conduct its annual search for the perfect man to represent this area in the Mr. Gay Texas contest. The search will take place in CUDDLES, the night of May 16, at 9:30. Sponsors for the contest are Studz News and the Union Jack boutique. Winners will receive cash prizes and gift certificates donated by area merchants. An entry fee of \$25 must be posted by May 15. All proceeds will go to the Houston GPC so if you would like to participate in some good, old-fashioned sexism for a good cause, come on down. Audience participation is encouraged.