
MLGPA News

P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347

August 1996

POLITICS

EDUCATION

OUTREACH

All "new" MLGPA

We are searching for new blood! As MLGPA begins the next period in our history of working in (and for) the gay/les/bi/trans communities we are searching for people who want to take active leadership roles in our organization.

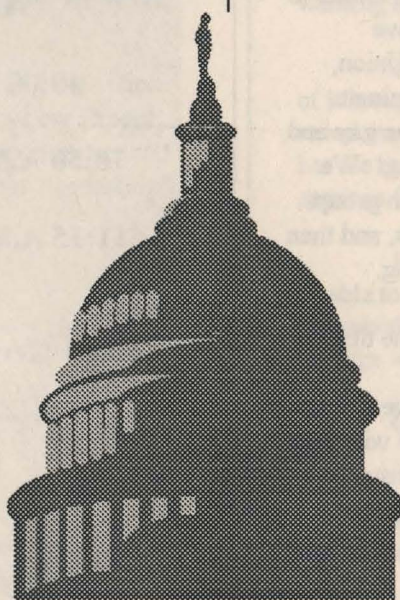
If you have been thinking about becoming involved in promoting gay visibility and civil rights, finding ways to end anti-gay violence, or building coalitions with other state and national civil rights organizations, then MLGPA is the place for you in the next years.

Having a leadership role means committing time and energy on a regular basis to work for a broad and diverse political and educational agenda for the communities we serve.

Our foes are much better organized today than they have ever been, and there is an increasingly more complex set of facts to consider when making decisions. For this reason, we are building a board that will meet the challenges of this new environment.

All seats on the board are open. Please contact a member of the nominating committee by calling the MLGPA office at 1-800-55-MLGPA.

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21.



MLGPA: Fighting for fairness since 1984

DECLINE TO SIGN

Carolyn Cosby is back. This time she's attempting to limit Maine's definition of marriage.

Her petition asks whether Maine citizens feel that marriage should be the union of one man and one woman. Her intent is for the state of Maine to not recognize same-gender marriages should they become legal in Hawaii.

According to the Full Faith and Credit clause of the Constitution of the United States, if a couple gets married in one state, their marriage must be legally recognized in all states. Hence, if Hawaii legalizes same-

gender marriages, which will be decided on in the next few years, Maine may have to recognize those marriages. Unless, of course, a new law was passed that exempted Maine from having to legally recognize same-gender marriages.

Cosby has found herself another vehicle by which to express her fear and intolerance towards gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered. She will be collecting signatures in order to bring this issue to a vote. We feel that we must do whatever is necessary to prevent her from collecting the appropriate number of signatures - 51,000 by January 23, 1997 in order to have it considered by the legislature in 1997. (For the 1995 referendum campaign, she collected 57,000 valid signatures - but it took her 18 months to do it.)

MLGPA is helping to spearhead the effort to stop Cosby by countering her attempt to collect signatures. We have created a plan to reach people and encourage them to **DECLINE TO SIGN** her petition. She will be collecting signatures from across the state, and we will attempt to be at each and every signature gathering place - educating potential signers about the discrimination they are being asked to endorse.

The project has been named **DECLINE TO SIGN**, and is modeled after similar, successful efforts to stop anti-gay initiatives in other states. We have enlisted the help of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, former chapter chairs of Maine Won't Discriminate, active MLGPA members, and other folks in the gay and non-gay communities. Our coalition is growing! We will organize by geographic locations and train groups of people on how to track down the petitioners, and then educate citizens at the point of potential signing.

This will be a state wide effort and one that will require many volunteers to be successful. Naturally, if she collects enough signatures, we will be faced with either a petition that the legislature will enact into law, or send out to referendum - an all consuming anti-gay referendum campaign - one that we cannot afford.

We encourage everyone to play a role in this vital and important effort. All of our efforts, big and small, will help us stop Carolyn in her tracks! Please call immediately to volunteer or contribute money to this worthy cause. Call the new statewide, toll free hotline: 1-888-DON'T-SIGN.

Have you remembered to send in your membership dues? If not, please do so today. With your generous help - we can keep doing important work in and for our community!

Thanks!

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MLGPA 13th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

AUGUSTA UNITARIAN CHURCH
AUGUSTA, MAINE

10:00 A.M. Juice, coffee, bagels

10:30 A.M. Presentation of 1997 goals

11:15 A.M. Election of new board and
Officers

12:00 Review of 1997 budget, and board
responsibilities

12:30 P.M. Adjourn

Meet new people

See old friends

Promote G/L/B/T unity

Call MLGPA for more details

Toll free: 1-800-556-5472

WISH LIST

We are still in dire need of a computer for our field office in Portland. If you got a new computer recently, then you are the generous donor we are looking for. We are hoping for a 386 or better IBM compatible. We run MS Word, Works, and Excel.

If you or anyone you know would like to donate, or loan, a computer to MLGPA - we are soon to have our tax deductible entity set up. This would be great way to give to us this year.

Thank you Dale and Betsy!

Thank you for continually breaking new ground, engaging in the really hard battles, showing us in real terms how we are shaping history, having convictions, and running such an enormously successful campaign.

Thank you for being out there as such inspirational role models for all of us, whether we are engaged in political work or not. You have shown us what family values is all about.

Most of all - thank you for having the vision and the courage to fight for the issues we care about: health care, civil rights, educational opportunities and good jobs. You have demonstrated what "leadership" really means.

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

Our CLEAN THE HOUSE, and Senate Campaign is hard at work helping to elect candidates who support a progressive social agenda. We are currently working with candidates in York, Cumberland, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Waldo, Knox, Hancock and Penobscot counties.

If you have a few hours to volunteer - why not consider "hosting" a candidate in your home and inviting a few friends over. It's a great way to get to know who wants to represent you in Augusta - and a great way for them to hear about the issues that are of importance to you.

Call Karen Geraghty at the MLGPA office for more information on how you can get involved in local races.

Also, check out next month's newsletter for a list of endorsed candidates!

ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 5TH

**YOU'VE GOT THE POWER -
VOTE!**

"HOUSE PREVENTS GAY DIVORCE"

(reprinted from The SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER,
Sunday, July 14, 1996, ROB MORSE COLUMN)

MY MARRIAGE has been threatened by a lot of things, including arguments, marathon silences, raging hormones (mine), mid-life crisis (mine), dirty clothes piles (hers) and occasional failure (mine) to wash the backs of plates.

My marriage has never been threatened by Bob wanting to marry Ted, or Carol getting engaged to Alice.

Now, with the passage of the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," the House of Representatives has saved the battered institution of heterosexual marriage. Let the marriage counselors of America, the ones who aren't in Congress, join the unemployment lines.

If the bill passes the Senate, gay couples won't be able to share the joys of government-sanctioned connubial bliss. They'll have to decide who takes out the garbage without benefit of marriage licenses.

Oh, yeah. And American civilization will be saved.

And now a word about some of the legislators who saved the institution of marriage and America.

Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., the sponsor of the bill, declared on the floor of Congress that "the flames of hedonism, the flames of narcissism, the flames of self-centered morality are licking at the very foundations of our society, the family unit."

Barr ought to know about family units because he's been married three times. And he knows about the licking flames of hedonism too. He once was caught licking whipped cream off the chests of two buxom women.

Of course, that's OK, because it was disgusting straight sex, not disgusting gay sex. However, it was shockingly high in fat grams.

Then of course you have the speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., whose idea of traditional family values was to visit his cancer-stricken first wife in the hospital to say he was leaving her.

Paying guys like this to defend marriage is like paying Bonnie and Clyde to guard your bank.

That's what we're doing - paying meddling politicians to deal with nonexistent problems. More precisely, to make problems.

They're trying to make problems for Bill Clinton, and turn him into the best man of the gay marriage party. It's a desperation move by Republicans saddled with a dud candidate for president. As Sen. Ted Kennedy said, this should be called "The Defense of Endangered Republicans Act."

President Clinton responded in true form, out of both sides of his mouth. He said he opposes discrimination against any group of Americans, but will sign the bill because he "has long opposed gay marriage." Another guy whose advice on marriage we need.

The backers of the anti-gay marriage act say they're saving American civilization - you know, the heterosexual civilization that brought us Al and Peggy Bundy.

Rep. Steve Largent, R-Okla., who used to run around and get smacked in the head by NFL free safeties, said, "No culture that has ever embraced homosexuality has ever survived."

Steve, no culture has ever survived. They all decline and fall. Homosexuality somehow stays with the human race, though.

Largent seems to have been referring to ancient Greek culture, as represented by pederastic philosophers who live on in the Western Civilization courses conservatives love so much.

So Greek culture doesn't live on? What was that Olympic flame all about? Think Greco-Roman wrestling, Steve.

For the first time, the federal government has tried to define marriage. Legislators who claim to favor states' rights, religious freedoms and individual rights are over-regulating intimate human relationships.

The House has forbidden citizens to peaceably assemble as man and man in their own bedrooms. The House that treasures the right to keep and bear arms can't bear two women legally in each other's arms.

The problem with most Washington politicians is that they're so busy boozing and bimboing that they've never seen a gay relationship.

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They should do some field work in San Francisco, where the only normal people on the average block are gay couples.

I live in a bungalow that was occupied for 45 years by two women, easily the stablest relationship for a radius of three miles.

On my old block the two gay men next door were quiet, loving, neat and owned a successful small business. The other neighbors included a psychopathic heterosexual redneck couple who kept a .357 Magnum stashed in their broken dishwasher, and a zoned-out heterosexual hippie couple who grew pot in a house with so many grow-lights it glowed like something from "The X-Files."

Everybody else was single and lonely.

Congress should ensure domestic tranquillity, not prevent more perfect unions. If they want to save marriage, they should pass a law requiring that the backs of dishes shall always be washed.

(Sent to us by Bob Gordon - who now lives in San Francisco.)

SAVE THE DATE!

Dirigo Alliance Annual Dinner: Friday, Sept. 20, 6-8 PM, Portland Holiday Inn, Spring St.

DIVERSITY DAY (2nd Annual)! Join in a celebration of our differences - ethnic, racial, religious, and sexual orientation differences. Sunday, Sept. 8, 12 - 5 PM, Deering Oaks Park, Portland. Sponsored by the Ethnic Minority Coalition.

GAY BINGO! First gay bowling, now gay bingo - what next? Join us for gay bingo and an evening you'll never forget. Call the office at 1-800-55-MLGPA for details.

BENEFIT CONCERT: Lynn Deeves, Erika Gilbert and Val Bennett (as Harmonies Extraordinaire) will bless your ears with beautiful music. 1/2 proceeds to benefit the work of MLGPA. Coming this fall to a stage near you!

If you have any social, educational, or political events in your area and would like a hand organizing - please call us! We can help!