

The NETWORKER
Publication of the Gay/Lesbian Community Network

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October, 1989

GLCN INCORPORATES!!!
Annual Meeting Set for October 25

The big news at GLCN is the adoption of by-laws and approval of articles of incorporation. As soon as the state processes our legal paperwork, the organization will be a duly registered non-profit organization in the State of Maine.

Under the terms of the by-laws, a board of directors (including four officers) must be elected at the annual meeting to be held in the Fall of each year. Our first annual meeting has been set for Wednesday, October 25 at the Peace & Justice Center, 9 Central Street, Bangor. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper (paper plates/plastic ware, some beverages provided), followed by the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Like all our meetings, this one is open to all interested persons (even if you've never been before). Please come, and join the fun!

The by-laws were adopted at the most recent 'umbrella meeting' on September 27. Just prior to that meeting, Patti Woolley and Rob Gorsline met with Searsport attorney Miles Frieden who prepared the incorporation papers and by-laws. Within hours, the GLCN members present at the 'umbrella meeting' adopted them with only two changes.

GLCN extends a very grateful **"thank you" to Miles Frieden**, a vice-president of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, for generously sharing his professional expertise.

UMaine GALA IS HAVING A PARTY!

UMaine GALA (University of Maine Gay and Lesbian Association) invites all UMaine alumni/ae, present students, faculty, faculty emeriti, and staff (not to mention anyone else remotely interested in the university and its gay/lesbian alums) to its first Homecoming Reception, Saturday, October 7 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn- Downtown. The reception is informal and free.

Please look for the marquee in the lobby for the suite number, or ask at the desk. For more information about the reception or about UMaine GALA, please write: UMaine Gala, Post Office Box 536, Orono, ME 04473.

POLITICAL/EDUCATION TASK FORCE NOTES

At its last meeting, on September 20, the Task Force focused on organizing around several activities, including establishing a speakers' bureau, working with MLGPA to support their political action and legislative program, evaluating our needs for training in political activity, and -- perhaps of most public interest -- preparing to continue and possibly expand the annual observance of the Charlie Howard's murder. Education programs for our own community were also discussed.

Persons interested in working on any of these areas may contact the
(please turn to p. 2)

(political/education, continued)

following: Speakers Bureau, Jim Martin 942-8046; working with MLGPA and training needs, Patti Woolley 941-2815 (work); and Charlie Howard obserance, Penny White, 843-7801 or Janet May, 862-5907; community education, Rob Gorsline, 866-7958.

The next Task Force meeting is set for Wednesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Peace & Justice Center.

HALLOWEEN COMES A LITTLE EARLY TO ORONO

Saturday, October 21 is the date to plan for, darlings -- I mean, start sewing on those sequins, spiking that hair, rouging your cheeks (!), whatever you do to properly celebrate our national dress-up day.

Of course, you say, usually that day is October 31st, not the 21st. Well, we say, we dance when we can and we dress up when we can, and since Wendy Brundage is offering another of her fashionable dance evenings in Orono on the 21st, well . . . anybody who is anybody will be there (we're told this is true, although personally, dears, we do know of a few who will be forced to miss it due to other commitments).

The time? Oh, of course, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at that ever so delicious night spot, the Keith Anderson Community House on Bennoch Road, just beyond the Orono Post Office (the neighborhood is simply divine).

Be there.

HOW ARE YOU COMING (OUT)?

If Wednesday, October 11 is a date which rings a bell or two with you it may be your birthday, or the birthday of a friend, or the anniversary of the last time you had sex -- OR -- you could be remembering the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Well, that was the march and some good time when 800,000 of us paraded through the District of Columbia and let the world (if not Time, Newsweek, or the major networks) know we're alive and kicking for all we're worth.

Each year since 1987 -- namely last year and now this year -- the date of the march -- October 11 -- has been declared National Coming Out Day.

Now, in GLCN, we are clear that everyone is okay right where they feel they need to be about this business of coming out -- so don't get the idea we're pushing anyone out of the closet.

But the sponsors of this anniversary event have made one point very clear ... and that is that if all of us took one step -- a baby step or whatever -- further along our journey toward full (self)acceptance, what wondrous strides would be made in just one day.

Like maybe somebody needs to stand in front of the mirror and say, "I'm proud (and glad) to be gay." Or maybe, putting a purple flower in a vase on your desk (just to signal to any brother or sister around that you're one, too), or wearing something just a little more outrageous than usual, or finally getting around to telling that friend you've been going to tell for a long time now.

Last year, I went around wishing folks, "Happy National Coming Out Day," and the clerk at Mr. Paperback said sweetly, "Thank you. The same to you." Now what do you suppose she meant by that?

-- Rob Gorsline

SUPPORT GROUP TASK FORCE NOTES

The Support Group Task Force -- not to be confused with an actual support group -- met September 13 to discuss the areas of need within our community.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be Wednesday, October 11, at the Peace & Justice Center at 7:30 p.m. In the meantime, the group needs your help.

Clearly, there is need for a parents' support group, and the Task Force members present at the last meeting agreed that a separate group needs to be established. That will be done. Other areas of need include coming out to parents and siblings, and perhaps a 'rap' group just to hash out general problems.

The Task Froce agreed that support groups need a designated facilitator to keep the meetings on track and to assist in minimizing conflict.

What the Task Force most clearly needs is more input from community members; what are your needs? Please take a couple of minutes to write a few lines to the Task Force, using the form below (or just write a note), letting them know what you need.

Contact persons for the Task Force include Robin Long, 862-5907, Larry Dameron, 794-3339 (w) or 738-5049 (h), or Jeanne Curtis, 525-4467.

SUPPORT GROUP TASK FORCE SURVEY

What are the parts of your life as a lesbian or gay man where you feel the most need for support? _____

Which of these areas would you be willing to discuss with other lesbians and/or gay men in a 'safe' setting? _____

Do you have any special experience or skills to offer to help in discussing these areas? _____

Please indicate preferences (in order from 1 for best to 7 for worst) for days to meet (evenings probably): Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

NAME (optional) _____

STREET/RFD/BOX (optional) _____

TOWN(please list) _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE RETURN TO GLCN, POST OFFICE BOX 212, BANGOR, MAINE 04401

The NETWORKER CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 11

Support Group Task Force meeting to develop more plans for support groups -- 7:30 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 9 Central Street, Bangor (third floor above downtown Mr. Paperback).

National Coming Out Day wherever you are.

Sunday, October 15

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) monthly meeting , 2-4 p.m., All Souls Church, 11 King Street, Augusta.

Wednesday, October 18

Political/Education Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m., Peace & Justice Center, 9 Central Street, Bangor.

Saturday, October 21

Halloween Dance at Keith Anderson Community House, Bennoch Road, Orono, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Wednesday, October 25

GLCN Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. meeting, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 9 Central Street, Bangor.

Saturday, October 28

Fifth Annual AIDS Summit for AIDS activists focusing on AIDS issues of interest and importance to the gay and lesbian community; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Room 252 of the Augusta Civic Center (back entrance of the building).

A Final Note: Many thanks to all of you who signed up to be on our mailing list (and those who made contributions to our postage fund at the September dance in Orono. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and will work with us to make it -- and GLCN -- even better and stronger!