

MLGPA News

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Communities since 1984

P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

May 2000

Congratulations to Our Award Winners

The 16th MLGPA Awards Banquet, held April 8 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, was truly an up-scale affair. Many political supporters attended including Sen. Joel Abromson, Congressman Tom Allen, State Treasurer Dale McCormick, Senate President Mark Lawrence, Senate Majority Leader Chellie Pingree, Senate Minority Leader Jane Amero, Speaker of the House Steven Rowe, and House Majority Leader Michael Saxl, Rep. Michael Quint, Rep. William Norbert, and City Councilor Karen Geraghty. People had a wonderful night of dancing, eating, and conversation, but the true stars of

the night were our magnificent award recipients:

Mitzi Litchman

Community Service Award

As effervescent as ever as she received her award for decades of service to our community.

Betsy Sweet

Community Service Award

Entertained us with a poem written by a class of elementary children that explained the need for the Civil Rights Teams in the schools better than any we had heard before.

Sen. Joel Abromson

Larry Connolly Award

Explained how LD2239 was really an act to make the old NO on 1 bumper stickers obsolete.

Susan Comyns

F.E. Pentlarge Award

Caused the quiet reaching for pocket hankies when she held up her son's baby picture.

Anthony Giampetruzzi

Media Award

For consistently objective and intelligent reporting of complex issues.

Nancy Bullet

Cameron Duncan Award

A constant advocate in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

Ellen Stewert

Youth in Leadership Award

Delighted the audience with her maturity and grace

It's Election Time Again, Too

By now everyone has heard that LD 2239 "An Act to Ensure Civil Rights and Prevent Discrimination" has passed the Legislature and been signed by the Governor.

You might think that the work of the MLGPA Legislative Committee was over for now. Not so. The Legislative Committee has a big job to do in the next few months as every seat in our state legislature goes before the public again. One of the most important responsibilities of the Legislative Committee has been and will continue to be identifying the positions of all the candidates and endorsing the best men and women running for office. This is a big job and we need your help to get it done. This fall, many of our supporters will be

facing reelection and many other Senate and House seats will be opening up as term limits prevent some legislators from running again.

Over the next 2-3 months, our work will focus on reviewing the positions of candidates on issues important to the LGBT community. The committee will need to develop, mail and review questionnaires and responses from candidates in order to develop a list of candidates to recommend for endorsement in the November 2000 elections.

If you are interested in being a part of this important work, please contact either Celeste Gosselin at 657-6092 (cgossell@maine.rr.com) or Susan Farnsworth 622-1077 (sfarnsworth@maine.com).

Finally many thanks to the Banquet Committee volunteers for their generous contribution of time, creativity and good humor: Diane Alexander, Ken Bartuka, Jeannie Bourke, Carol Capomachio, Judy Edgerly, Paule French, Jennifer Goldman, Marcia Grant, Kim Jackson, Jane Lincoln, Linda Monko, Jan Morong, Mary Norbert, Aimsel Ponti, Kyle Slayback, Susan Sparaco, Tonya Spaulding, Carol Trotter, Deni Violette, and Kim Volk. It was because of their volunteerism, creativity and fun that we were all able to enjoy such a memorable night.

MLGPA

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, and Transgendered
Communities since 1984

Executive Committee:

David Garrity
President

Maggie Allen
Vice President

Paul Alpert
Treasurer

Susan Sparaco
Secretary

Celeste Gosselin

Larry Bliss

Judy Edgerly

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Harold Booth

Marti Hagglund

Scott Hawkins

Ron Hersom

Paul Holbrook

Robin Lambert

Jeff L'Heureux

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761-3732 (in Portland)

A word from the president...

Hello friends,

We didn't have to wait too long for the filthy lies to begin again. Only days before the House and Senate took up LD 2239, the new civil rights bill, the widely discredited, legendary homophobe, Paul Cameron paid Maine a visit. Paid is the right word, too, because his host, Paul Volle, executive director of the Christian Coalition of Maine, admitted to paying him \$2000 a day to slander the gay community.

For those of you who don't recognize him by name, Mr. Cameron is the so-called "psychologist" who concocted all the bizarre studies that Paul Volle, Carolyn Cosby and Michael Heath have been quoting as "scientific research" for years. He's the one who questioned 41 gay men about their sexual activities in 1983 and has been calling it a national study ever since. He's the guy who just by reading obituaries in gay newspapers "determined" gay and lesbian life expectancies—none of us are supposed to live past 50—without studying anyone who was alive. Paul Volle's recent "Gay Agenda" tabloids that created such a stir in South Portland and Falmouth, was filled with Cameron's garbage.

I had the unique opportunity a few weeks ago to debate Mr. Cameron while he was here on a small local TV show. I researched his "work" for three days beforehand, but nothing could have prepared me for the sheer volume of hateful untruths that came out of his smiling face. He compared us to drug addicts and criminals, called us sick and depraved, railed about our sexual practices, assigned us responsibility for AIDS, and claimed he was here to warn Maine parents that homosexual teachers were going to molest their kids.

Paul Cameron—not the Roman Catholic Church—is the most important reason

we needed to add the clarifying statements to the new bill. Although the bill specifically states that it's about orientation not sexual behavior, he claimed over and over again that it was only about protecting sexual practices, in fact, he criticized Bishop Joseph Gerry for recognizing that distinction. And even Mr. Cameron had to admit that it didn't protect pedophilia.

Volle and Cameron visited editorial boards and met with groups of our opponents. But they didn't stop there. On the day of the second vote in the House on LD 2239, a number of legislators received a packet. It contained a copy of a letter from Volle that went to every superintendent or school board president in Maine along with a "scientific" article by Cameron that claimed homosexual teachers were 8 to 15 times more likely to molest their students than heterosexual teachers. In the cover letter, Volle claimed that this article would constitute evidence in court that the school board had been "informed of the danger" and would therefore be legally liable for any student molested in their schools. Read that again.

Fortunately, not one legislator—pro or con—said a word about those hateful lies in the debate, and the bill received more votes in its second roll call than in its first. But it's a very loud wake up call for anyone who's been standing on the sidelines or thinking this was going to be easy.

Let's not sit on our hands waiting for others to come forward and defend us this time. Call up your town's superintendent, ask if he or she received this packet, and ask if they know the truth about this issue.

Here are some facts for you to raise:

▼ Most pedophiles, whether they molest boys or girls, have heterosexual rela-

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REGULAR MEETINGS

The MLGPA Board meets 6:00–8:00 pm on the third Thursday of every month, downstairs at the Lithgow Library, at State and Winthrop Streets, Augusta. New members are always welcome. We are actively seeking new members and volunteers from all parts of Maine to help pass our civil rights bill NOW in the Legislature and in November's referendum. FMI: snail mail (PO Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347), e-mail

(mlgpa@javanet.com) or voicemail (761-3732 or 800/55-MLGPA).

The MLGPA Legislative Committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in Gray. For directions and for further information, please contact Chair Celeste Gosselin at 657-6092 (cgosselin@maine.rr.com) or Susan Farnsworth, MLGPA Lobbyist, at 626-3312 (farns@gwi.net). You may also use our toll-free voicemail at 1-800-55-MLGPA or send us e-mail at mlgpa@javanet.com.

Clean Elections:

What Does It Mean for MLGPA & Maine LGBTs?

Maine now leads the nation in campaign finance reform. Maine's new Clean Election Law is what demonstrators, including 90-year-old Grannie D.—who walked across the USA for this cause—were struggling and getting arrested for [4/21] on the streets of Washington. Perhaps Maine's new Clean Elections [CE] law will serve as a model for other states and, eventually, for federal legislation.

What does this mean for organizations such as MLGPA, and for GLBT individuals? Digging into our wallets on behalf of CE candidates, or paying for advertising to try to multiply their voter base—these traditional methods of

support are no longer open to us. These limitations were placed in order to try to level the political-financing playing field.

With our first Clean Election upon us what can we now do on behalf of each candidate of our choice who has chosen to play by the CE rules?

1. Volunteer: make telephone calls, paint signs, design mailings, stuff envelopes, distribute literature, etc.;
2. Put up signs, whether on our property or help place signs in public spaces in the district;
3. Drive candidate to meet voters (you may spend up to \$50 on gas, tolls);*

4. Hold a social event on behalf of candidate (you may spend up to \$50);*

5. Speak at a public meeting in support of candidate;

6. Help on Election Day: absentee ballots, rides to the polls, poll-watching; and

7. Make Sure we and our friends vote on election day.

(*Expenses above \$50 must be reimbursed by the campaign.)

CE law was developed to enhance not limit an individual's role in an election. Instead of big money influencing elections, people can make the difference. So call up your local candidates, talk to them about issues that concern you, and volunteer for the ones you like.

From the President...

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- tionships with adults. Real studies report that homosexuals represent only about 3% of all molesters.
- ▼ As far as his work being legal evidence, Cameron has already been disqualified as an expert witness in federal court.
- ▼ His "studies" are so flawed that professional groups like the American Sociological Society have repeatedly attacked his work and censured him—the American Psychological Association actually expelled him.
- ▼ This is the same filthy slander that Volle used in South Portland and Falmouth. It was so obviously untrue that the Portland Press Herald publicly apologized for distributing it as an insert to the paper.
- ▼ Volle's effort at trying to get gay teachers fired is a blatant example of just why we need anti-discrimination protections.
- ▼ The new civil rights bill excludes not only pedophilia but all sexual behavior as well.
- ▼ Gay kids are just as likely to be attacked as others and gay people hate

pedophilia every bit as much as everyone else.

If we stand up and challenge their lies, the public will get to hear the truth. Please take some time to learn about what the religious right is saying about us. Here are some websites to check out:

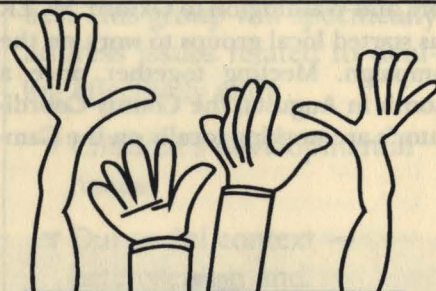
to learn more about Paul Cameron:
<http://www.qrd.org/religion/anti-cameron/> or
http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/rainbow/html/facts_cameron.html

to hear what the extreme right in Maine has to say:
<http://www.asmainegoes.com/>

to learn more about the religious right:
<http://www.pfaw.org/aboutrr.htm> or
<http://www.publiceye.org>

Dave Garrity

PS: Many thanks to Maggie Allen and the Banquet committee, to the wonderful award winners and to everyone who attended for making this year's Annual Awards Dinner more fabulous than ever before.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All grass-roots organizations depend on volunteers.

MLGPA is no different.

The things we want to do can't be done without your help.

If you have some time to donate, please call the MLGPA Office at
 1-800-556-5472 or
 761-3732 (in Portland).

Vote YES on November 7

The Maine Coalition for Equal Rights is on the move. A Campaign Manager has been hired—Jeanette Fruen from Oregon. Jeannette is probably familiar to most of you as the manager of last fall's successful "No on 1" campaign against an abortion ban. This will be her 23rd statewide referendum and her fourth in Maine. She has never lost a single referendum.

She began her work in early April and has already started meetings with County groups, organizations and individuals across the state. The Executive Committee is very excited to have Jeanette on board and looks forward to developing the grassroots team, strategy and plans that will mean victory on November 7.

This grassroots effort will include the work of our County Coordinator groups which have begun in every County in the state. From Aroostook to York and Washington to Oxford, MCER has started local groups to work on the campaign. Meeting together once a month in Augusta, the County Coordinator's are working locally on the Cam-

paign. They will need many volunteers. If you want to work in your area in the state and be a part of making the election Contact Jim in Bangor at 942-7681 or by email at jim@maineguide.com. Together we can create results in November for which we all can be proud.

One key item County groups will work on is Voter Identification. Building on the groundwork done by MLGPA, MCER will use, and needs, local volunteers to make sure we identify the voters needed to win in November.

Remember we are voting YES this November to ratify the action of the 119th Legislature. The actual words that will be on the ballot this fall are:

Do you favor ratifying the action of the 119th Legislature whereby it passed an Act extending to all citizens regardless of their sexual orientation the same basic rights to protection against discrimination now guaranteed to citizens on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit and where

the Act expressly states that nothing in the Act confers legislative approval of, or special rights to any person or group of persons?

Walk with the One You Love

Sunday, June 18

Sunday, June 18, 2000 is Father's Day as well as the final day of Gay Pride weekend in Portland. On that day Maine Speakout Project will sponsor its third annual "Walk with the One You Love."

Last year 115 people participated in a Walk in Portland which helped raise community awareness about the many sexual-minority Mainers who DO NOT FEEL SAFE walking with their loved ones in public. It also gave non-gay people a way of showing that they want to live in a community where everyone feels safe to be who they are without fear.

This year, we are organizing Walks in Augusta, Bangor, Belfast, Brunswick, Kennebunk, Lewiston-Auburn, Portland, Peak's Island, Rockland and South Portland.

We want to create a strong, positive statement about making our communities, including our schools, safe for everyone—and we can IF many non-gay people, elected officials, and community groups participate. We are expecting a legislative resolution declaring June 18 "Walk with the One You Love Day in Maine" and are awaiting Governor King's response to a similar request to him.

We encourage you, your friends and family to participate in the "Walk with the One You Love" of your choice. For information on times and places, check our web-site <www.mainspeakout.org> or call MSOP at 879-0480.

Convention Volunteers Needed

Help staff MLGPA/MCER tables at the State conventions of the Maine Democratic and Republican parties. Shifts can be as little as an hour or as long as you want. The task is handing out information, educating people about our issues, and signing up supporters.

Democratic Convention in Bangor — May 5-7
To Volunteer contact Scott at 774-3806 or
rshawkins@aol.com.

Republican Convention in Augusta — May 5-6
To volunteer contact Robin at 773-3664 or
reprobin@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

For more current information check out the Maine Gaynet Calendar at <http://www.huntcal.com/cgi-local/calview.cgi/GayNet/Events>

May 2, 6:30pm

GLSEN-Southern Maine meeting in the Deering High School Library, Stevens Ave., Portland. Presenting: Nolan Thompson of USM. Topic: Interrupting Harrassment, especially in schools. Video: Lincoln Middle School Civil Rights Team intervention Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network.

May 8, 8:00pm

The Rainbow Educational Alliance of Diverse Individuals meets in the basement of the UMF Computer Center Room 006 to raise awareness on campus, do educational projects, and socialize (despite common belief). <http://violet.umf.maine.edu/~readi>

May 9, 6-8pm

MLGPA Legislative Committee meets in Gray. For directions and for further information, please contact Chair Celeste Gosselin at 657-6092 (cgosselin@maine.rr.com) or Susan Farnsworth, MLGPA Lobbyist, at 626-3312 (farns@gwi.net). You may also use our toll-free voicemail at 1-800-55-MLGPA or send us email at mlgpa@javanet.com.

May 13, 7:30pm

The Diversity Project's second Community Forum takes place at the Creative Photographic Arts Center of Maine at the Bates Mill in Lewiston. More info is coming soon. If you can't wait, contact Sean at 786-4697 or e-mail diversityproj@hotmail.com.

May 18, Thursday, 6:00-8:00 pm

MLGPA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING. MLGPA meets every third Thursday of the month downstairs at the Lithgow Library, at State & Winthrop Streets, Augusta. New members are always welcome. We are actively seeking new members and volunteers. For more informa-

tion: mail (PO Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347), e-mail (mlgpa@javanet.com) or voice-mail (761-3732 or 800/55-MLGPA).

May 20

Women in Harmony present their spring concert, "Like A Natural Woman," to all you lovers—lovers of nature, and lovers of 60's music. Dr. Kitty Beller-McKenna, conductor, Deana Ingraham debuting as accompanist, and 30 wonderful voices will rock your socks! Tickets available at Drop Me A Line and Amadeus Music in Portland, and Starfish Grill in Brunswick. Prices are General - \$10.00, Seniors & Students - \$8.00, \$12.00 at the door. Immanuel Baptist Church at High and Deering Streets is handicapped accessible. Doors open at 7:15

May 23, 6-8pm

MLGPA Legislative Committee meets in Gray. For directions and for further information, please contact Chair Celeste Gosselin at 657-6092 (cgosselin@maine.rr.com) or Susan Farnsworth, MLGPA Lobbyist, at 626-3312 (farns@gwi.net). You may also use our toll-free voicemail at 1-800-55-MLGPA or send us email at mlgpa@javanet.com.

June 10, 7:30pm

WOMEN SINGING OUT! Will present a concert entitled *Songs of Survival and Freedom* at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth, NH.

Regularly Scheduled Events

First & Third Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm

SISTERSPACE: Supportive lesbian social/discussion group meets at the Universalist Church at 60 School Street, Saco, ME. Check out our website www.geocities.com/sisterspace or email us at sisterspace@yahoo.com.

First & Third Mondays, 8:00pm

RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE OF DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS

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Kids First Center Presents:

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Families:

Parenting Through Separation, Transition and Divorce.

A four week group designed to be a support and educational group for members of the GLBT communities who are experiencing the effects of separation, transition, divorce or post-divorce in their families. This group will specifically address issues related to dealing effectively with:

- ▼ Children's developmental needs;
- ▼ Our social context — heterosexism and homophobia;
- ▼ Grief and loss;
- ▼ Gathering support.

The group will meet on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm; May 31-June 21, 2000. The course fee is \$40.00. Financial assistance and scholarships are available.

Facilitated by: Susan Wigin and Frank Brooks, LCSW. To register call: Kids First Center at 761-2709. Pre-registration is required for attendance.

Calendar of Events

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(READI) meets in the basement of the UMF Computer Center, Room 006, to raise awareness on campus, do educational projects, and socialize (despite common belief). <http://violet.umf.maine.edu/~readi>

Every Tuesday, 6:30–8:30pm

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT in Augusta support group for lesbians in abusive relationships; come together to talk, learn and heal. For more information, call 623-3569; ask for info about the Grace Brown Group.

Second Mondays, 6pm

GAYMEN'S POTLUCK meets at the First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant Street, in Auburn. For more info: 783-0461.

First Wednesdays, 6:30–8pm

OXFORD COUNTY/HEART CIRCLES. Heart Circles is a monthly discussion group that provides a safe space for adult gay and bisexual men to discuss issues that are important to us. It is a casual, relaxed atmosphere. Share as much or as little as you feel comfortable sharing. For directions & info on location, contact Sean at 786-4697 or acla@gwi.net

Second Wednesdays, 7–10pm

REEL MEN is a monthly social gathering/movie night for gay and bisexual men & gay/bi identified transmen of all ages. We show the best (and sometimes the not-so-good!) in gay cinema—but always something different. Good food, relaxed atmosphere, great conversation. The feature film in May is *Get Real*. Reminiscent of *Beautiful Thing*, *Get Real* depicts life, love, and coming out for two young men in England. For more information or a list of upcoming films, contact Sean: 786-4697 or acla@gwi.net

Third Wednesdays, 6:30–8pm

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY/HEART CIRCLES meets at the ACLA offices (145 Lisbon Street, Room 306) in Lewiston. Heart

Circles is a monthly discussion group that provides a safe space for adult gay and bisexual men to discuss issues that are important to us. It is a casual, relaxed atmosphere. Share as much or as little as you feel comfortable sharing. For more information, contact Sean at 786-4697 or e-mail acla@gwi.net.

Every Thursday, 7:30–9:00PM

GAY-OK! of Greater Farmington/Franklin County meets in the rear of the psychology building (62 High Street) at the University of Maine at Farmington campus. This social/support group is open to campus and community members & meets weekly when classes are in session. Contact Brian Kaufman at 778-7379 FMI.

Second Thursdays

AROOSTOOK COUNTY/NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD meets at the GLBT Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 658 South Main Street, Caribou, (across the street from the Nylander Museum) 498-2088 or 800-468-2088. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Third Thursdays, 6:30pm

OUT ON MDI POTLUCK monthly potluck is held at a different member's home each month. All are welcome!

First Saturdays

SOLO meets for a potluck. The doors open at 5 PM and we eat about 6 PM at the Durham Quaker Meeting House. For more info, contact footloos@gwi.net

OUTRIGHT offers support and safe space for GLBT youth 22 and under. There are groups in Belfast, Portland, Brunswick, Ellsworth . . . all over Maine. Most meet weekly or bi-weekly. For meeting times and contact info, see GayNet's OUTRIGHT calendar <<http://www.huntcal.com/cgi-local/calview.cgi/GayNet/Outright/>>

**Make a Difference,
Get Involved**

Volunteers Needed

MLGPA is an all-volunteer organization. Committees, events, programs, and even the newsletter are all made possible by volunteers. We all have busy schedules but volunteering with MLGPA is a great chance to meet like minded activists, share fun stories, and help ensure both our community and the Maine political establishment know and understand issues important to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/ and Transgender community of Maine.

We have many active committees that are always welcoming new ideas and workers. You can always find something for your skills and interest—Special Events (we are already starting plans for The Great Pumpkin Ball), Membership drives, Fund-raising, Legislative Committee, Newsletter, mailing parties just to mention a few. Call 442-9513 or sueandmaggi@clinic.net and ask for Maggie.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED

**The Maine HIV Prevention
Community Planning Group (CPG)
is currently seeking Men Who Have
Sex with Men for membership.**

The CPG advises the Bureau of Health's HIV/STD Program on HIV prevention for people whose behaviors or situations put them at increased risk. Community involvement is essential to stop the spread of HIV. We need your experience to help us in developing and updating Maine's Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan. Participants are reimbursed for mileage and receive a stipend for attending monthly meetings.

For more information contact the Project Coordinator:

Phone: 622-7566, ext. 233;
e-mail: mehivcpg@mcd.org;
TTY: 622-1209