

# Lesbian & Gay Caucus of Public Health Workers

In Official Relations with The American Public Health Association

Fall 1992

## Chair's Column

by Josh Lipsman, MD, MPH

**H**ello, everybody. I hope this issue of the newsletter finds you healthy and happy. Greetings from myself and the rest of the Caucus Executive Committee: Denice, David, Cheri, Marc and Paul. Please welcome Denice as the incoming caucus chair by reading her profile in the Member Spotlight section.

Our meeting here in Washington fast approaches. We are organizing a terrific program of educational sessions and social activities. Our socials include:

- **Sunday evening hospitality suite, 5-7 P.M.**, hosted by the Caucus in the Sheraton Park hotel. For room information, ask the hotel operator or the desk for the Lesbian and Gay Caucus, the L/G Caucus or Josh Lipsman.
- **Monday evening hosted social hour, 6:30 P.M.**, check program for location.
- **Monday evening hosted Members and Friends reception, 8-10 P.M.**, at a member's house in nearby northwest Washington. Check the Caucus exhibit booth #101 for exact address and transportation information. This is the second year for this new social activity.
- **Annual banquet, Wednesday, 7 P.M.**, at Trumpets restaurant in a très gay part of Washington. Tickets

are still only \$35 and **must be purchased by 4 P.M. Monday** so we may let Washington's noted chef, David Hagedorn, know how many we will be. Tickets may be purchased by mail (see registration form on page 3), or at the Caucus exhibit booth #101. Dinner will include hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar, salad, your choice of three entrees (including one vegetarian) — all Heart Healthy, wine with dinner, dessert, and coffee or tea.

and staff the booth, or assist with social functions. Please call me (h) 703-739-8864 or (w) 703-838-4872 **as soon as possible** if you are interested in one of these registrations.

Even with three volunteers we still will need more help to staff the booth and the socials. Please be agreeable to helping if you are asked to do so. If everyone helps a little bit it makes it easier for the jobs to get done. (If you are interested in helping, please indicate the hours you are

### *Attention Caucus Members and Friends:*

**This year, tickets for the Lesbian and Gay Caucus Annual Banquet must be purchased by 4 p.m. Monday. Tickets will not be available at the door.**

**Anyone wishing to attend the banquet but unable to purchase tickets by Monday afternoon is invited to purchase tickets by mail. To order banquet tickets, complete the registration form at the bottom of page 3 and mail no later than October 31. Tickets may then be picked up at your convenience at either the L/GC booth during exhibit hours, or the door.**

If you would like to contribute some or all of the cost of a banquet ticket so that a student may attend, please see one of the caucus officers. Students and low income members, we have three meeting registrations (\$200 value each) available at no cost to you. These will be distributed at the caucus chair's discretion to people who are willing to help organize

available on the annual banquet registration form on page 3, or call me at the numbers listed above.)

In addition to the extensive program put together by David and friends that is featured elsewhere in the newsletter, two program events I want to highlight are:

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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT.....

## ... on Denice Dennis, MPH

**H**ealth, in its broadest definition, has always been of importance to me. As a lesbian-feminist, I find it difficult to separate the personal from the political. Hence, I do not feel it is possible for one to be involved with the health of the planet and the peoples of the planet without concern for the political and social context of these issues. I was therefore very happy to be introduced to both the Women's Caucus and the Lesbian and Gay Caucus at my first APHA meeting in 1986.

Personally, I have more years of political and community organizing experience than I can claim in the field of public health. However, believing in a community empowerment model of health, I feel those experiences have enhanced my work in this arena. In 1979, I received my undergraduate degree in Feminist Studies from a small state college in New Jersey, combining women's studies, political science and psychology course work. An interest in chiropractic college set me back to the classroom to complete the necessary science prerequisites. In 1985, I was fortunate to be offered a position as continuing education coordinator of a local Area Health Education Center (AHEC), where I was first introduced to the field of public health.

It was soon after beginning as director of this program that I made the decision to pursue my masters degree in public health, rather than a chiropractic career. I am very happy to have (finally!) completed my MPH requirements this past May, and am grateful to the faculty at Temple University (Philadelphia) for their mentorship and guidance over the past few years.

My position as the director of the Shore AHEC in Atlantic City, NJ, keeps me very busy. In addition to developing and implementing 35-45 continuing education programs annually for healthcare and human service providers in a four-county area, the center operates as the lead agency for the regional HIV Care Consortium, funded through the Ryan White Care Act. This involves working with approximately 40 agencies and consumers spread out over 2100 square miles. We have developed a health careers mentoring program, which links the area junior high students with staff at the local hospital. I have also had the opportunity to lead several presentations on homophobia in the school system, and enjoy guest lecturing on lesbian and gay issues at the local state college.

This upcoming year will be the first in many in which I will not be a "student." I'm looking forward to spending more time outdoors, with my friends and family, and especially with my nieces, Lauren, 7, and Alyssa, 2. Spending time with children reminds me of what is truly important in life, and I feel blessed to have as many young people in my life as I do. The Fall also brings the National AIDS Conference in San Francisco, and the APHA meeting in Washington, DC. I am sure that some of my time will also be spent on the presidential campaign. (When will I have time to go into the office? she wonders aloud.)

I look forward to meeting new members and seeing old faces in November! The caucuses have a unique role in the structure of the association, and the work accomplished by caucus members over the past few years gives every one of us cause

to be proud. I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead in my position as chair of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus, and am eager to work with the leadership and membership on these issues. ▼

### Lodging Requests

**Caucus members interested in sharing accommodations with other members at the upcoming Annual Meeting are encouraged to add their names to the Shared Housing List as soon as possible. Contact Marc Wynne, Caucus Secretary, at (213) 654-3615 for more information and a copy of the list. This is a name exchange service only; accommodations are not being arranged by the Caucus.**

This newsletter is published biannually by the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of Public Health Workers. Forward all correspondence, submissions, address changes and membership inquiries to: L&GCPHW, 8205 Santa Monica Blvd. #1-360, Los Angeles, California, 90046-5912.

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Marc Wynne

#### Contributing Authors

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## Chair's Column

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- **Annual caucus business meeting, Tuesday, 12-2 P.M.** Check your program for location. This is our only time each year to plan and evaluate caucus activities. Please come to be part of the discussion or just to listen.
- **Tour of Whitman-Walker Clinic, Tuesday, 4-5:30 P.M.** Please sign up by noon on Tuesday at the Caucus exhibit booth #101 so that we may arrange transportation to the Clinic's nearby 14th and S Streets location. Whitman-Walker is Washington's oldest, largest and most respected gay/lesbian and AIDS service organization.

Let me encourage everyone to review the September issue of The Nation's Health which contains proposed resolutions and position papers that are to be considered at the APHA annual meeting. Among the issues of potential interest to caucus members are family violence, a national HIV public prevention and education initiative, and human sexual behavior research. See The Nation's Health for the way to

have formal input to APHA on the issues and also bring your ideas for discussion to our business meeting on Tuesday.

I neglected to mention in the last newsletter our successful and exciting Cracker Barrel restaurant sit-in coordinated with Queer Nation/Atlanta during last year's APHA annual meeting. As many of you know, the Cracker Barrel chain fired employees for being gay or appearing to be gay, and published a homophobic employment discrimination policy. After much public protest, the company withdrew the policy but did not restate its fired employees or put forward a corrective plan.

Cracker Barrel sit-ins have been occurring all across the country, including ours in which 25 people participated. We tied up a dining room during the busy lunch hour and ordered only beverages, though we tipped wait staff what they would have made had we ordered meals, since our argument is not with them. The best part was when QN/A had to educate the new site manager on how to throw us out, since he was not aware of the controversy and might have let us sit there all afternoon! We ultimately did get formal requests to leave and a polite police escort out the door. ▼

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## L/GC Annual Banquet Advance Ticket Purchase

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Yes! I am requesting \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \$35 a piece for the Lesbian and Gay Caucus Annual Banquet on Wednesday, November 11, at Trumpets restaurant. (Tickets may be picked up at booth #101 in the Exhibit Hall prior to the banquet, or at the door of the restaurant.)

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be applied towards the cost of a banquet ticket for a student or low income caucus member.

Yes! I am willing to assist at the booth or at the caucus socials. (Please include home telephone number and contact information in Washington, if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31 TO:**  
L/GC, 8205 Santa Monica Blvd. #1-360, Los Angeles, California, 90046.  
Make checks payable to The L&G Caucus.

Don't miss out on the fun. Cut and mail today!

## REMEMBER

to bring your camera to the Annual Meeting so you can submit your photos for next year's newsletters!

**1992 A.P.H.A. PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE  
LESBIAN AND GAY CAUCUS OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS**

(Check program schedule for last minute location changes)

- SUNDAY 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sheraton-Washington  
**LESBIAN AND GAY CAUCUS HOSPITALITY SUITE**
- MONDAY 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sheraton Washington, Cotillion North  
**THE CHANGING DEFINITION OF AIDS: THE PROCESSES OF REVISION AND IMPLEMENTATION -  
A PANEL DISCUSSION**
- MONDAY 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sheraton-Washington, Baltimore Room  
**VOLUNTEERISM IN HIV/AIDS: THE G.M.H.C. MODEL**
- MONDAY 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sheraton-Washington, Dover Room  
**SURVIVING AMIDST DEATH AND DYING: CARING FOR CAREGIVERS**
- MONDAY 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Check Program for Location  
**JOINT SOCIAL OF THE RAINBOW COALITION**
- MONDAY 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Check Booth #101 for Location  
**LESBIAN AND GAY CAUCUS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SOCIAL**
- TUESDAY 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Washington-Hilton, Intrntnl. Ballroom West  
**LESBIANS GET CANCER TOO - GETTING THE WORD OUT**
- TUESDAY 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sheraton-Washington, Annapolis Room  
**LESBIAN AND GAY CAUCUS ANNUAL MEETING**
- TUESDAY 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sheraton-Washington, Sheraton Ballroom South  
**VOLUNTEERS, BURN OUT, LESBIAN HEALTH AND AIDS**
- TUESDAY 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Meet at Washington-Hilton Caucus Room  
Sign-up at booth #101 by noon Tuesday  
**WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC TOUR**
- WEDNESDAY 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Sheraton-Washington, Sheraton Ballroom South  
**SEXUAL RISK REDUCTION FOR GAY MEN, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS**
- WEDNESDAY 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Omni Shoreham, Blue Room  
**AIDS, SEXUALITY AND HOMOSEXUALITY: ISSUES FOR THE SECOND DECADE - A PANEL DISCUSSION**
- WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Trumpets restaurant (check booth #101 for directions)  
Tickets must be purchased by 4 p.m. Monday  
**LESBIAN AND GAY CAUCUS ANNUAL BANQUET**