

Lesbian & Gay Caucus of Public Health Workers

In Official Relations with The American Public Health Association

Spring 1992

Chair's Column

by Josh Lipsman, MD, MPH

Hello 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.

Those of you who were in Atlanta for the 1991 APHA Annual Meeting know that we had lots of good programming, good socializing and good networking. We had the second largest number of educational sessions sponsored primarily by a Caucus (after the Women's Caucus), and four social functions—the hospitality suite on Sunday, two functions Monday, including our first Members and Friends Reception, and the sumptuous Annual Banquet on Wednesday, attended by 78 people. Thanks again to Susan and Bruce for all their work. Also, thanks to Mark for the banner and John for the brochure. They were hits!

HEY! ARE YOU THERE? If you haven't sent in your dues for this year, please fill out the membership application in this newsletter and sent it in. We need you to add to the numbers of our members and to the coffers of the Caucus if we are to continue as a strong presence in the APHA. We have about 65 members with 200 people on the mailing list. If you don't join, you risk being booted off the list!

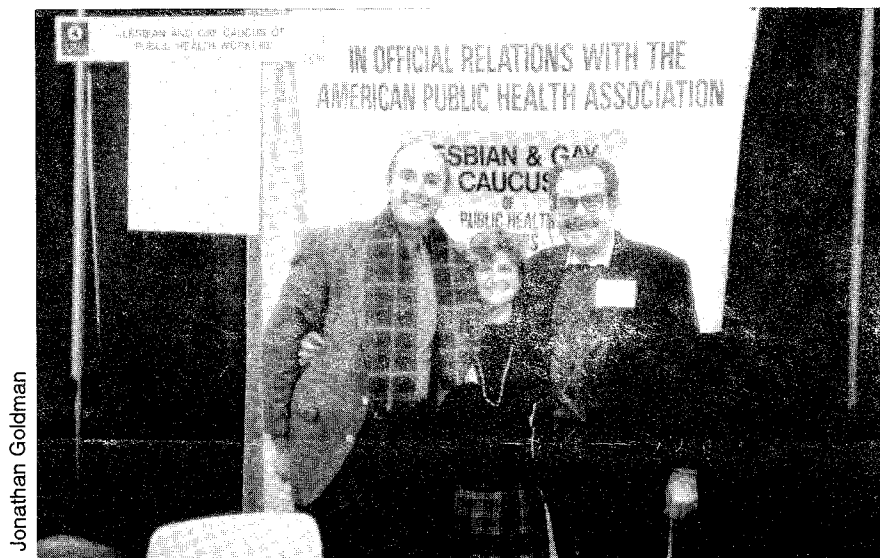
People ask what the advantages are to joining the Caucus. As I've said before, we're not offering frequent flyer miles or calendars with pretty pictures of wildlife. What you do get is a presence in APHA that lets APHA know that there is a lesbian and gay public health consciousness

that matters to a lot of people. For example, as a result of our influence a Caucus member sits on the APHA Equal Health Opportunity Committee.

Your membership gets you all the educational sessions organized and put on by the Caucus at the APHA Annual meeting, an Exhibit Hall booth where you can check in and find out what's happening, the hosted hospitality suite Sunday evening, a co-hosted social hour Monday evening, the Members and Friends Reception Monday evening (all of which are paid for by the Caucus), the

may even elect to have your name withheld from the list of members submitted to APHA. Caucus members who are not APHA members are *strongly* urged to join APHA.

In this newsletter is a short autobiography of Brian Dobrow, Caucus member and first openly gay member of the APHA Executive Board. The profile is part of a series of pieces spotlighting accomplished members of our Caucus. The purpose of the series is to share awareness among ourselves of the people who make up our Caucus and of the work we do (PRIDE).



Jonathan Goldman

(L to R) Caucus Chair Josh Lipsman, members Judith Miller and Walter Lear in the Exhibit Hall, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 1991

Wednesday evening banquet and of course two newsletters per year. There are really only three words to describe your membership: fab-u-lous!

By the way, our membership list is confidential. It is seen only by the Caucus Chair, Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Treasurer and the APHA staff person designated as liaison to Caucuses. You

The next Annual Meeting will be right here in Washington, DC, November 8-12, 1992. The theme for the Meeting is "Uniting for Healthy Communities," and it's going to be great. David Dassey needs your help putting together the program. Call him right away. If you'd like to share a hotel room in Washington,

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PROFILE

... on Brian Dobrow

When the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association formally recognized the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of Public Health Workers, I was one of the few Council members to present an argument in favor of its establishment. Now, after almost 18 years, the Caucus is a viable force in the APHA and has more than proven its value to lesbian and gay health workers alike.

Before I began my career in public health, I was a ballet/modern dancer with a small dance company in Berkeley, California. I gave that activity up shortly before graduating from UC Berkeley. During my professional career I have served as President of the Northern California Public Health Association, the Northern California Society of Public Health Educators, and the western branch of the APHA. I also chaired the APHA Committee of Affiliates and the Community Health Planning Section, was an active member of the APHA Action Board, and served several years on the APHA Governing Council.

I have worked as a public health educator, a family life education specialist, a community health planner, a legislative advocate, and a health program administrator. For nearly two years I was the Executive Director of ELLIPSE-Peninsula AIDS Services (a direct service AIDS agency in San Mateo County, California). I am

currently serving as the Executive Director of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, and the California Public Health Association - North.

During my 30-year professional career, even before coming out to myself and my colleagues, I worked as an advocate for the gay community - promoting health programs and activities which did not discriminate on the basis of sexual preference. I am also the openly gay parent of three children, the grandfather of four boys and, like so many others, have faced the harsh realities of dealing with family and friends.

My formal "coming out" was during the Closing General Session at the Las Vegas APHA Annual

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Chair's Column

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send Marc Wynne a little notice with your name and phone number by September 1 and we'll publish it in our next newsletter in the Fall. This "bulletin board" service is in response to members' requests. Please note that we're not going to take responsibility to match people up, but will print requests to share.

For those of you who live in the Washington, DC area, we'll be having a meeting soon to organize the social events around the Annual Meeting. Watch your mail for an invitation and plan to attend. By the way, about twenty-five DC area Caucus members and friends got together for a New Year's Day Open House at my place. We had a great time! ▼

Editor's Note:

The Haworth Press circular enclosed with this Newsletter is being distributed to Caucus members in consideration of a \$250 donation from the Haworth Press. The support of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus by Haworth Press is appreciated.

The Caucus Executive Committee plans to propose an advertising policy for future issues of the Newsletter.

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

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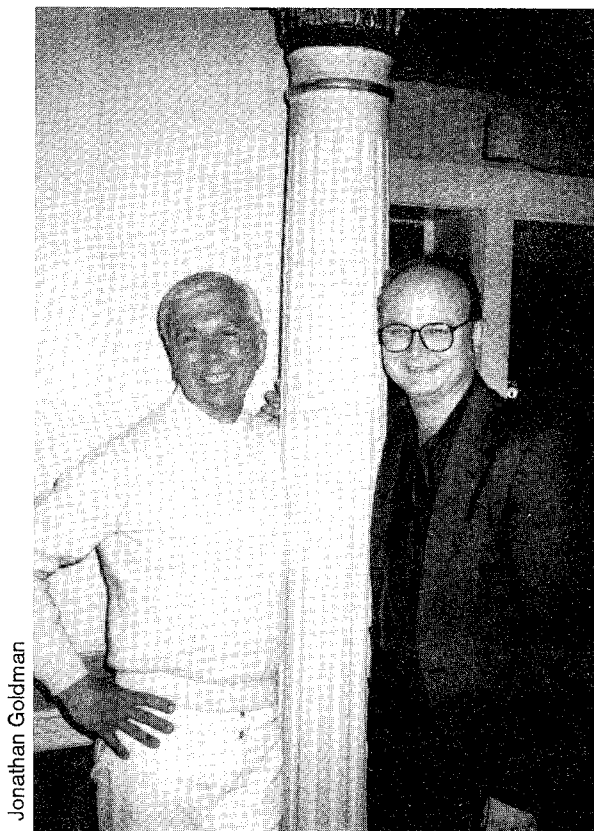
Josh Lipsman

Brian Dobrow

Judd Proctor

David Dassey

Greg Thomas



Jonathan Goldman

(L to R) Caucus members Brian Dobrow and Ted Fairchild, featured speaker at the Closing General Session, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 1991.

Gay and Lesbian Ostomates

by Judd Proctor

What happens to a gay man or lesbian when illness requires him or her to have an ostomy? Besides recovering from serious illness, an ostomy patient faces a change in body image and self-confidence, as well as stigma from others. Gaining acceptance of the change from a sexual partner and caregiver is often a concern. And if the ostomate is gay or lesbian, problems are compounded if health professionals are insensitive.

Because of these concerns, Gay and Lesbian Ostomates (GLO), a special interest of the United Ostomy Association, has put together a pamphlet, "*Living with an Ostomy: Information for Gay Men, Lesbians, and their Caregivers.*" The pamphlet offers guidelines for health professionals and volunteers, describes Gay and Lesbian Ostomates (GLO), and details resources available for gay and lesbian patients, including a newsletter, a telephone network and social events.

To receive a copy of the pamphlet, or to receive more information about this organization, call the GLO chairperson, Judd Proctor, at (804) 266-9385. Or write him at 4015 Monticello Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23227. ▼

The National Lesbian and Gay Healthcare Forum

Greg Thomas, NLGHF Program Co-chair

The National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF) is the oldest health organization specifically representing the special health care needs of lesbians and gay men. It was founded in 1980 and has sponsored an annual health conference since then. In 1986, The George Washington University joined the Foundation as a co-sponsor of the annual conference, and continues in that role today.

This year's conference will be held July 8-12, 1992, at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton and Towers. The theme is "Making Health Care Human: The Impact of Age, Gender, and Race." Special presentations include a session by Drs. Pillard and LeVay discussing their research on determinants of sexual orientation, AIDS/HIV Medical Update, a special session on lesbians and cancer, and a closing session on the crisis confronting HIV+ health care workers. In addition, there will be over 200 paper presentations, plus posters and exhibits. More than 1,000 health care professionals are expected to attend.

Under separate cover you will be receiving a copy of the Preliminary Program for the conference. Please take a moment to review it and hopefully your plans can include Los Angeles in July. For more information, you may contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education at The George Washington University at (202) 994-4285.

[**Editor's Note:** Due to the confidentiality of our mailing list, the Preliminary Program will be mailed by the Caucus. The NLGHF will underwrite the costs associated with this mailing.] ▼

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We need your help, people!

by Marc Wynne, MSPH

In this age of rampant conservatism and pervasive homophobia, now more than ever our numbers count. As you well know, the policies and opinions of the American Public Health Association carry substantial weight in both the scientific and political communities. It is therefore imperative that the Caucus remain a *viable and unified force* within the Association to insure that the interests of lesbians and gays are adequately represented.

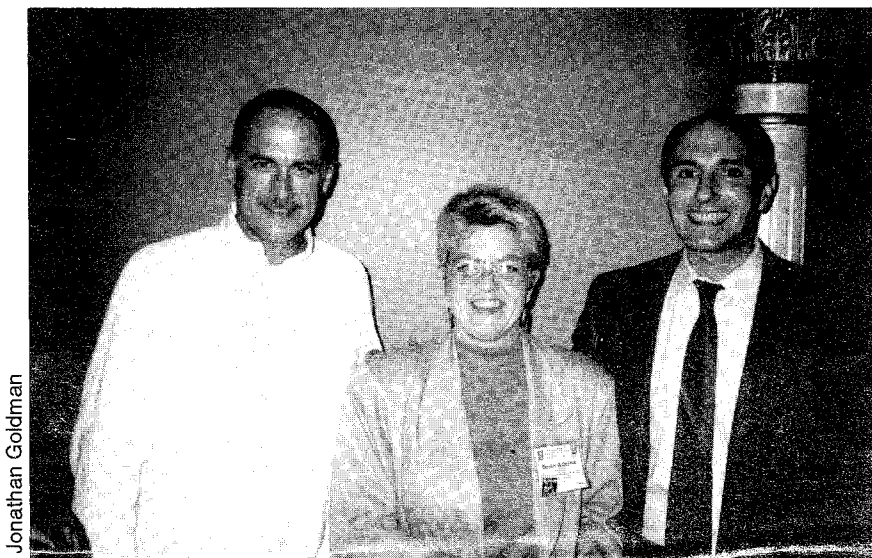
As Josh points out in his *Chair's Column*, as a result of our influence a Caucus member now sits on the APHA Equal Health Opportunities Committee. But our numbers are dwindling, people, and with it our leveraging power. Of the 200+ people who receive this newsletter, only 65 are full-paid members. Now more than ever we need your participation and support. If you are not already a member of the APHA and the Lesbian and Gay Caucus, I strongly urge you to reconsider joining (a Caucus membership application is included in this newsletter). Your name can be held confidential if you wish. And if you've thought about organizing a panel discussion or scientific session at an Annual Meeting, now is the time to do it. ▼

Profile

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Meeting. I was addressing the assembly on the issue of AIDS discrimination and civil rights as the Chair of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus. Following my announcement of my gay self, a cadre of public health co-workers rallied around me and encouraged me to put my name forward for election to the APHA Executive Board. I was the first openly gay candidate for such a seat. At the 1988 Annual Meeting in Boston, after an aggressive campaign in which my gayness was known but did not become a negative issue, I was elected. I will serve on that policy making body until November, 1992.

I sum up my career and related experiences as a lifetime of learning, giving and receiving. Would I do it over again the same way? Maybe? Because despite years of personal isolation from the gay community, the rewards of family life were worthwhile. ▼



Jonathan Goldman

(L to R) Caucus members Ron Sable, Chair-elect Denise Dennis and Chair Josh Lipsman at the Caucus Banquet, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 1991.

Program Committee Report

by David Dassey, Don Gabard and Cheri Pies

SUBMISSIONS — The 1992 Annual Meeting in Washington looks to be another year of strong representation by our Caucus. Although the program is not yet complete, a healthy number of abstracts were submitted for consideration of L&G Caucus sponsorship. Subject matter varies evenly between lesbian and gay male concerns, mental health, and HIV.

PANELS — In addition to submitted papers, several members are working on solicited panels to deal with very specific topics. We have two definite sessions: lesbian and cancer, and volunteerism in the HIV epidemic. Also in the works are panels on HIV infected healthcare workers, and violence against lesbians and gays.

CO-SPONSORSHIP — The Forum on Bioethics has asked for our co-sponsorship of two of its presentations as well: TB and AIDS - civil liberty and public health; and reproductive issues of HIV disease. The Rainbow Coalition also is seeking co-sponsorship of three sessions dealing with classism, social justice, and universal health care. ▼