

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Caucus of Public Health Workers

In Official Relations with The American Public Health Association

Fall 1994

Chair's Column

by Denice Dennis, MPH

Hello and greetings from myself and the other members of the executive committee: Don Gabard, Jim Brennan, Bruce Reeves, Marc Wynne and Cynthia Gomez, as well as our ad-hoc student representative, Liz Gruskin.

This issue of the newsletter contains all the information you need to know about the Caucus events at the upcoming meeting in Washington, DC, in addition to business updates and a member spotlight.

I hope that each of you will participate in Caucus activities this year - Jim has worked very hard to organize a terrific schedule of Caucus-sponsored scientific sessions for this meeting, and Gregg Pappas and other DC friends have been busy planning the social events. A schedule of Caucus-sponsored sessions and social events is available in this newsletter and at the Caucus booth in the exhibit hall.

Last year the Caucus sponsored our first women's members and friends breakfast which was a wonderful success. This year we have also organized a breakfast for lesbian, gay and bisexual students, recent grads and new public health professionals. Other social activities include the Caucus hospitality suite, the all-caucus social hour, the friends and members reception, and the annual Caucus banquet.

Linda Wardlaw, our spotlighted member this issue, is organizing the ex-

hibit booth this year. If you would like to learn more about Linda and the role she has played in furthering the goals of the Caucus, sign up to work the booth.

We depend on volunteers to staff the booth over the course of the annual meeting. It is a great way to meet other committed APHA members! If you can volunteer, call Linda at (415) 476-7732, or stop by the booth at the beginning of

pursuing this option.

In follow-up to last year's business meeting, the executive committee has developed a Caucus "membership package." We know that there are many more supporters of the Caucus than those who obtain formal membership; attendance at the banquets and hospitality suites are evident of that. In an effort to increase the numbers in our ranks, Caucus member-

Attention Caucus Members and Friends:

This year, tickets for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Caucus Annual Banquet must be purchased by 4 p.m. Monday, October 31. 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 15. Tickets may then be picked up at your convenience at either the LG/BC booth (#208) during exhibit hours, or the door of the restaurant.

the meeting. You may also complete the "I am willing to work the booth" section of the banquet ticket order form on page 5 of this newsletter.

There is one meeting registration badge available for a student or low-income Caucus member who would be willing to work the booth in exchange for admission to the conference. Please call me directly if you are interested in

ship will now include the following:

- ▼ reduced ticket price for the Caucus annual banquet,
- ▼ complimentary hospitality suite,
- ▼ complimentary Member and Friends reception,

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT.....

... on Linda Wardlaw, DrPH

My first introduction to the lesbian, gay and bisexual caucus was at the 1987 APHA meeting in New Orleans. The annual banquet that year was attended by about 60 people, with enough women to fill a single table. Last year, more than half of the 120+ who attended were women. It has been exciting to watch the increase in our numbers overall, and in the number of women in particular (and that's not *just* because I'm single!).

I started my career in environmental health, with a focus on developing meaningful, effective disclosure of health risks to the public. After completing a doctorate in public health at Berkeley, I began working in AIDS research, initially at San Francisco General Hospital. Currently, I am serving as the project director for a U.C. San Francisco study of informal caregivers to persons with AIDS/disabling HIV infection. Over 600 men and women have been participating in a longitudinal study of the day-to-day experience of providing care and assistance for partners, friends, and relatives. I enjoy the work and the people I have met over the years, but there are times when dealing with AIDS at work and among friends can feel overwhelming. I have found the cross-country friendships formed during APHA, and sustained in-between by regular "dial-a-thons," are a significant part of my support system. (A special thanks to Jim, Bruce and Denice!)

Weekends, I carry on my search for the perfect donut and coffee (as they say, "you can take the girl out of Indiana, but..."). These are usually coupled with the latest murder mystery or lesbian "schlock" novel. I also like hiking, urban food forages, and baseball (as in the Chicago White Sox).

I look forward every year to visiting and volunteering at our caucus booth: *the* place to go for all you need to know about presentations, political action, social events, and local hot spots. It is a great place to relax, visit with old friends, and meet some new ones. I will be in charge of the booth this year in Washington, and I encourage you to come by and volunteer to spend some time there. You won't regret it! Please feel free to call me if you would like to get your name in early. My number is (415) 476-7732.

See you in Washington! ▼

Caucus Student Report by Liz Gruskin

Last year at the annual business meeting and throughout the conference, we brainstormed ways in which to increase student participation and visibility in Caucus activities and events. The dialogue continued during the year, and here are the highlights:

- ▼ **Student/Young Professionals Breakfast-** Please join us for our first student/young professionals breakfast on Tuesday morning. It will be a chance to network with other students and young professionals, and share experiences and opportunities. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Union Street Grill located near Bagelworks at the Union Street Metro station.
- ▼ **Room Sharing for Annual Meeting-** Please call me at (415) 759-8719 if you would like the name of other students looking to share rooms at the annual meeting.

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This newsletter is published biannually by the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Caucus of Public Health Workers. Forward all correspondence, submissions, address changes and membership inquiries to: LG&BCPHW, 1345 North Hayworth #310, West Hollywood, California, 90046.

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Marc (chao, it's been a blast) Wynne

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Denice Dennis
Liz Gruskin
David Jernigan
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Chair's Column

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- ▼ continued subscription to the bi-annual newsletter, and
- ▼ continued visibility in the APHA.

As always, non-members will be encouraged to attend Caucus social events, but will now be asked to make a small donation to cover expenses. (The cost of social events have traditionally been funded solely through membership dues.)

Another cost incurred by the Caucus is the Hospitality Suite. Anyone interested in staying in the suite for one night in exchange for the rate you would have paid if you were paying for a regular room should contact me as soon as possible. It would also save the Caucus money if someone would like to volunteer to purchase another two year supply of pink triangles. Call me for details.

The agenda for this year's business meeting will include discussion of:

- ▼ amending the Caucus by-laws to include student representation, and

▼ the formalization of a process to respond to the APHA Membership Deployment Letter.

Please stop at the Caucus booth to pick up agenda materials any time prior to the business meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Don't forget to get your pink triangle sticker there too.

Election of several officers will also be on the agenda. Marc Wynne, the member who so eloquently brings this newsletter to you twice a year, will be leaving the position of secretary this year. We need to elect a replacement.. A program chair-elect must also be elected. Therefore, it is very important that everyone that can attend the business meeting, does. Contact me if you are interested in one of these positions. Women are especially encouraged to consider nomination. (I know you are OUT there!)

I'm looking forward to seeing old and new faces in November! ▼

Lodging Requests

Caucus members interested in sharing accommodations with other members at the upcoming Annual Meeting are encouraged to Contact Liz Gruskin at (415) 759-8719 for more information.

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LG/BC Annual Banquet Advance Ticket Purchase

Name: _____ (please print)

Yes! I am requesting _____ ticket(s) at \$30 a piece (members) and _____ ticket(s) at \$40 a piece (non-members) for the LG&B Caucus Annual Banquet on Wednesday, November 2, at Trumpet's Restaurant. (Tickets may be picked up at booth #208 in the Exhibit Hall or at the door.)

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 15 TO:
LG/BC, 1345 N. Hayworth #310, West Hollywood, CA, 90046.
Make checks payable to The LG&B Caucus.

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

Student Report

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- ▼ **Student Member Tickets at the Annual Banquet** There are a limited number of discounted student tickets for the Caucus annual banquet. Contact Denice Dennis, Caucus Chair, at (609) 628-3438 for more information.
- ▼ **Free Registration Badge in Exchange for "Personing" the Booth** A free registration badge is available to a student willing to work the Caucus booth. Contact Denice Dennis, Caucus Chair, at (609) 628-3438 for more information.
- ▼ **Contact with Schools of Public Health**- Letters will be going out to each of the schools of public health introducing the Caucus and emphasizing student activities. In addition, they will be sent copies of the newsletter and calendar for Caucus events.
- ▼ **Representation to the Executive Committee** It was agreed upon last year to add an ad hoc (i.e., non-voting) representative (that's me) to the Caucus Executive Committee to represent the interests of students. The student representative will submit articles for the Caucus newsletter, participate in Executive Committee and Caucus annual business meetings, and act as a liaison to other student representatives from other APHA caucuses, sections and special interest groups. A proposal to make this position official has been submitted to the Committee and is scheduled for discussion at Caucus business meeting.

Please contact me at (415) 759-8719 or via e-mail at Egruskin@UCLINK.berkeley.edu if you would like more information, or would like to get involved. ▼

EHOC Report by David Jernigan

APHA's Equal Health Opportunity Committee (EHOC) continues to push for policies within APHA that promise the rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual public health workers. As I reported at last year's Caucus business meeting, our efforts to have the Association adopt a policy of not meeting in states with sodomy laws on the books was initially rebuffed by former Executive Director William McBath. We had asked that the policy be considered by the Executive Board. Since the whole Board never discussed it, EHOC chair Dr. Patricia Mullen and Caucus Chair Denice Dennis wrote the new Executive Board chair, Allen Rosenfeld, asking that the whole Board be permitted to take up the matter. Rosenfeld responded that a new panel has been appointed to consider criteria for future Annual Meeting site selection, and that our letter and fact sheet had been forwarded to all members of that panel. I should have more to report on this at the Annual Meeting.

As I also reported at last year's Caucus business meeting, we succeeded in getting the Association to adopt language in its annual letter to Section nominations committee chairs indicating the Association's commitment to encouraging the participation of and visible leadership by lesbian, gay and bisexual people. This year, at our suggestion, the President-Elect's letter to Section, Affiliate, SPIG and Caucus chairs also included similar text.

The changes in these letters represent the culmination of a four-year effort, initiated by past Caucus Chair Andrea Aiello. We expect these changes to be permanent, and we can claim this as a victory for all of us. Thanks and congratulations to all who helped out. The next step is up to us: we need to volunteer and make it known that we are willing and interested in leadership positions throughout the Association.

Along these lines, I have been re-nominated by the President-elect to serve another three years on EHOC. As I have recently begun work on my dissertation, I wanted to give another Caucus member the opportunity to serve on this committee. Cheri Pies, Ph.D., past Caucus program-chair, has been recommended for nomination by Denice Dennis and myself to the APHA President-elect. We should have some word regarding this recommendation at the upcoming business meeting in Washington. ▼