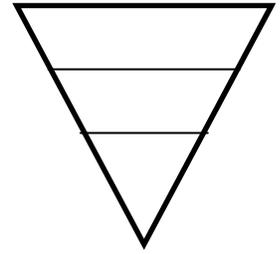


LGBT PHW NEWS



In official relations with the American Public Health Association

November 2004

Chair's Column

The last four years, culminating in this current election season, has sparked discussion, anger, debate, and above all, heightened awareness of the importance of being involved. The significance of individual and collective involvement has never been more important, whether it be through working on a political campaign, strategizing about an innovative approach to disease prevention and health promotion, or simply being a member of an organization that represents your interests.

All of the above applies directly to membership and involvement in the LGBT Caucus of APHA. Since our inception, we have worked hard to ensure that our voices are heard, and that we have allies working alongside of us at all times. This work has paid off tremendously, and we have come to be relied upon by APHA as a primary and dependable source of knowledge on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations.

The American Public Health Association has always been socially progressive, and has been supporting policies of inclusion and equity for LGBT people since 1975. APHA has become increasingly sophisticated in its advocacy and other work on behalf of LGBT populations, and that is in no small part due to the efforts of this group. We have much to be proud of, including members who are visionaries in the field of public health. To maintain this level of excellence, we need to continue to discover ways to reach out to current members and gain new ones, so that ideas and energy continue to flourish.

(continued Page 2, column 1)



The Marian Koshland Science Museum opened in April 2004 in Washington, D.C.

Program Chair's Report

The LGBT Caucus will once again present an exciting and strong program at the APHA Annual Meeting to be held in November in Washington D.C. Our six oral sessions and two concurrent poster sessions represent the best of the 58 abstracts submitted for this year's program. Due to the successful efforts of our past LGBT Caucus program planners, we were able to keep a second poster session that was assigned to the Caucus last year. Even with the allotment of additional sessions, more abstracts were submitted this year than could be accommodated in our program.

Our sessions cover the diverse spectrum that represents LGBT health. Some highlights of our program this year include an accepted abstract about an LGBT smoking cessation program (presented in APHA's Technology Theater), and both the current winner of the Walther J. Lear Outstanding Student Research Award and the previous year's winner presenting in the Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health session.

(continued Page 3, column 1)

Chair's Column, continued from Page 1

One of the ways we seize upon this energy is through the contribution of sessions to the annual conference. This is a vital part of the work we do, and serves as a highly visible and key marker, showcasing the talent, dedication, and hard work of our members. This, however, is only part of my vision for the LGBT Caucus. My hopes extend beyond contributing valuable sessions to the annual conference, and include the myriad opportunities that exist between each November. Your Executive Board (along with other Caucus members) has worked towards this goal in the past year, and I want to share a few examples here to give you some insight on the work that is ongoing.

In April, we submitted a policy statement entitled, "Proposed Resolution Condemning Recent Actions Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) and HIV-Related Research and Service Delivery." This was the continuation of an effort started last year, and it is expected to become a part of the APHA record during this year's conference. The statement outlines ways in which LGBT communities have been unfairly scrutinized, and urges governmental agencies to let science, not politics, guide public health research and policy.

In August, we served as the primary author for APHA's official response to the CDC on proposed changes to guidelines on HIV-related materials. This process involved coordinating an effort to involve as many APHA sections, caucuses, and SPIGs as possible, and engaging in a thoughtful discussion with many of the people within APHA's Central Office. This letter will be made available on the Caucus website for those interested in seeing what we had to say.

Lastly, as most of you have seen, we have initiated an electronic newsletter to share news, job and funding opportunities, and other materials of interest to Caucus members. This newsletter is the latest in a series of efforts to engage all members on an ongoing basis, and we encourage you to submit any items you wish to see included.

(continued next column)



Caucus Members at the LGBT Annual Dinner in San Francisco at the APHA Annual Meeting in 2003

Chair's Column, continued from Column 1

I don't know about you, but personally, when considering becoming a part of any group, I ask myself, why join? What are the benefits of membership? Where will my money be going? What do I get in return? These are all valid questions, and hopefully the above details some of the value of this Caucus, and reminds you of why it is so important that you play a role in making it all happen.

There will always be an ample need for the activities of the LGBT Caucus of APHA. We are fortunate to have leading health officials, researchers, policy makers, advocates, community organizers, and others among us. We are fortunate to have *you*. By continuing to contribute to the Caucus via paying dues, volunteering your ideas and time, attending Caucus events, suggesting us as a resource to colleagues and peers, or giving above and beyond the general membership amount to support the activities of the LGBT Caucus of Public Health Workers, you are guaranteeing that we will continue to grow and prosper in the future.

I look forward to the Annual Meeting, as it is always an opportunity to see friends and colleagues. I also hope that you will take the time to engage with caucus members, other allies, and myself to celebrate all that we have done, and strategize on what we can do in the coming year.

See you in November!

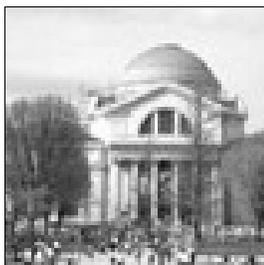
Program Chair's Report, continued from Page 1, column 2

Once again, in addition to our stellar scientific sessions, the Caucus offers outstanding “networking” opportunities. As usual, we have a packed schedule of events to keep you busy catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Our annual Welcome Social will take place on Sunday evening, 11/7 from 6:30-8:30 in the Washington Convention Center. Come meet up with old friends and make new ones and plan your week. Light snacks (while supplies last) and a cash bar will be provided. Our other social events include the Host City Reception on Monday, 11/8 and the Caucus Annual Dinner on Tuesday, 11/9. And, don't forget to stop by the Caucus Booth (#715) for details about all our activities!

We also will need volunteers to staff the Caucus Booth in the Exposition Center. Come meet great people and have a fun time! Shifts will be scheduled in one or two hour intervals. (*Editor's Note: There will be a Sign-up Sheet at the LGBT Caucus Business Meeting and Welcome Social, and you can also drop by the Booth to volunteer.*)

A special thanks to all who submitted abstracts and to the record number of volunteers who helped in the review process. Without your support and contributions, the Caucus could not produce the quality program for which we have come to be recognized.

See you in Washington, D.C.!



LGBT CAUCUS-SPONSORED SESSIONS AT THE APHA ANNUAL MEETING

Please check the on-line APHA Annual Meeting Program or the LGBT Caucus Booth in the Expo Hall (**Booth #715**) for location of sessions.

Mon., 11/8/04 12:30 PM-2:00 PM: LGBT Youth Research (*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Mon., 11/8/04 2:30 PM-4:00 PM: Transgender Health (*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Mon., 11/8/04 2:30 PM-4:00 PM: Improving Access to Healthcare and Services for LGBT Populations (*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Mon., 11/8/04 4:30 PM-6:00 PM: Issues in LGBT Health: Poster Sessions I & II (*20 posters*)

Tues., 11/9/04 8:30 AM-10:00 AM: Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health (Moderator: Emilia Lombardi—*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Tues., 11/9/04 12:30 PM-2:00 PM: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention for Gay and Bisexual Men (*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Tues., 11/9/04 4:30 PM-6:00 PM: Gay and Bisexual Men's Health (Moderator: Richard Trevino—*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Wed., 11/10/04 12:30 PM-2:00 PM: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention for Gay and Bisexual Men (*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Wed., 11/10/04 2:30 PM-4:00 PM: Improving Access to Healthcare and Services for LGBT Populations (*Oral session with 4 papers*)

Schedule of LGBT Caucus Social/Business Events at the APHA Annual Meeting

Sun., 11/7/04 4:00—5:30 p.m.: **LGBT Caucus Executive Committee Meeting** (Location TBA)

Sun., 11/7/04 6:30—8:30 p.m.: **LGBT Caucus Social Hour & Welcoming** (Location TBA)

Mon., 11/8/04 **Host City Reception** 7:00-9:00 pm

Mautner Project, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 230
Washington, DC (near Dupont Circle)

Tues., 11/9/04 **Annual Caucus Dinner** (see Page 7)

Editor's Note—For more information, come by the LGBT Caucus Booth (No. 715) or see the APHA Annual Meeting web-site (www.apha.org/meetings)

Editor's Column

The theme of this year's APHA Annual Meeting—"Public Health and the Environment"—is an issue of particular concern to me as someone who is an avid nature enthusiast. I am a Board member of the "Chiltern Mountain Club" (New England's largest LGBT hiking club), and nothing is as rejuvenating to me as hiking in a remote, unspoiled area. The following 9 areas are currently listed by the *Sierra Club*¹ as their key environmental concerns:

- Energy
- Stop sprawl
- Wildlands campaign
- Forest protection & restoration
- Clean water
- Stop global warming
- Human rights and the environment
- Global population
- Responsible trade

An unprecedented assault on the environment has occurred under the Bush Administration. As we near Election Day, we need to examine the Bush environmental record and consider the consequences of his re-election. According to the website of *Environment 2004*², the Bush Administration in the past four years has:

- Broken its campaign promise to fund the increased maintenance and upgrading of national parks
- Advanced a forest policy that vastly increases timber cutting
- Proposed limiting public involvement, suspending environmental laws, and cutting off judicial review for national forests
- Cut back protections for endangered species
- Undermined longstanding protections for public lands

The website of the *League of Conservation Voters*³ concludes "Bush's proposed budget for fiscal year 2005 once again launches an assault on environmental protection in this country under the guise of fiscal constraints."

continued next column

Editor's Column, continued from Column 1

Meanwhile, in Boston (my home city), Boston University Medical Center has been awarded a federal grant to build a bioterrorism research (Level 4) laboratory. This was a result of the Bush Administration's bioterrorism initiative to build approximately 10 Level 4 labs (that would study the most deadly known pathogens such as anthrax, smallpox, and ebola) and numerous Level 3 labs in various locales in the U.S. At this time, the BUMC site would be the first Level 4 lab situated in a densely populated area, and there is much concern in the surrounding community—particularly in regard to the transport of the hazardous pathogens to the facility. According to an article of 4/14/04 in the *Boston Globe*, 150 Massachusetts professors have added their names to the campaign to stop the project.

While these are not specifically LGBT public health concerns, environmental issues impact everyone on the globe—and therefore we need to be aware of the consequences of the environmental policies of our federal government.

On another subject, I interviewed a gay man who played an early and active role in Massachusetts in calling attention to priest sexual abuse. I have included the interview in this Newsletter because I felt that his courage serves as a role model—especially for those of us who are feeling discouraged about the ability of our activities in changing the status quo. (*See Page 5.*)

Meanwhile, I hope that Bush will be out of office soon. See you at APHA in November!

¹ www.sierraclub.org/environment

² www.environment2004.org

³ www.lcv.org/news



The National Museum of the American Indian opened in September 2004 in Washington, DC

Clergy Sexual Abuse and Public Health—An Interview with a Gay Activist-Survivor

The following is a written interview with Dave Lewcon conducted by this Editor. Dave was one of the first clergy sexual abuse survivors in Massachusetts to come forward and take legal action against the Catholic Church due to priest sexual abuse. He filed a lawsuit in 1996 that went to trial in 2002 and the priest was found guilty. I interviewed him because of his public personae in Massachusetts as a gay man who has challenged the diocese status quo and made a difference by his actions. *[Note: This piece was edited due to space constraints.]*

—Elizabeth Samit, Editor

Question: How did you decide to become active – on a legal/political level – in confronting the sexual abuse cover-up of pedophile priests in the church?

Dave: I guess I never made a conscious choice to become active. I became active by the demands placed upon me by other victims. Many of us had always thought that we were the only ones who have been abused by a clergy member and never spoke with anyone about our experience. For 2-3 years, there were only a few of us and we would communicate with each other in private. Occasionally we would hold a public meeting for anyone who could relate to this subject in the basement of a town library in the Boston area. Most of us grew to realize that the more media attention our stories received, the more fellow victims came forward with similar or even more horrific accountings of similar events. Our biggest challenge was to get the media to print our stories. They might print a story of a lawsuit filed but usually it appeared buried in the paper or was without much detail. Eventually we received more coverage which brought more victims forward. For some who were gay but not totally “out”, we knew our stories would totally out us to our families, friends and communities. Straight men or those still questioning their orientation had to address similar fears. Female victims faced ridicule that they might have enticed and sexually seduced their straight, abusive spiritual elders. Many of us felt very strongly that our stories needed to be heard.

Question: At what point did you feel that your activism on this issue might be able to effect some policy changes in the Church?

(continued Page 6, column 1)

Student Chair's Column

The LGBT Caucus is pleased to announce the winner of the 2004 Walter Lear, MD Outstanding Student Award. Cheryl B. Pearson-Fields, MPH, has been named the second recipient of this award. The LGBT Caucus established the award in 2003 to increase participation of students in LGBT-related research, and recognize their accomplishments. Ms. Pearson-Fields will be presenting "Diversity within Diversity: Understanding the Impact of Gender Identity on Cancer Screening Adherence among African American Lesbians" in a Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Session on Tuesday morning, November 9th, at the APHA's 132nd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Cheryl Pearson-Fields is the Deputy Director and Research Director for the Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization. Her primary research interests include access to healthcare for minority populations within the lesbian community. She is the principle investigator on the Black Women2Women Spirit Health Study and a study addressing Access to Cancer Screening for Butch Identified Lesbians. Additionally, she directs the Mautner Project's social marketing campaign aimed at reducing tobacco use for Lesbians over 40 and the healthcare provider training program Removing the Barriers to Accessing Health Care for Lesbians. Ms. Pearson-Fields was awarded a 2001-2002 Ford Foundation Research Fellowship. Her previous work has included research on HIV, substance abuse, maternal and child health and adolescent violence. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Public Health at Walden University.

The LGBT Caucus congratulates Ms. Pearson-Fields on her award.

If you are interested in making a donation to fund the Walter J. Lear Outstanding Student Award, please contact the LGBT Caucus Treasurer, John Grima, at jfjtg@aol.com

**The LGBT Caucus Web-site is
located at:
<http://www.stophiv.com/lgbtc>**

Dave Lewcon Interview, continued from Page 5

Dave: That is a very interesting question and a very difficult one to answer. While many of the Catholic faithful have taken heart with our allegations, the Catholic hierarchy has taken a strong stand of arrogance and done whatever they can to put up smokescreens. They have paid lip service when forced to but have mostly continued not addressing this subject. This does not hold true to those lower on the Catholic food chain, namely priests. Many priests have been torn between obligated obedience to their Bishop and catering to the needs of the Catholic faithful. Many have known perpetrator priests in action but were too afraid of the disciplinary ramifications from their bishop if reported. I was told by one pastor once regarding reporting a perpetrator priest, "that's information that you would never go to the bishop with because you might end up being assigned to the worst assignment of your life." To answer your question, The Church doesn't really like to listen to anyone. But, in many cases, they might not have been able to defend themselves against the 10,000 or more allegations.

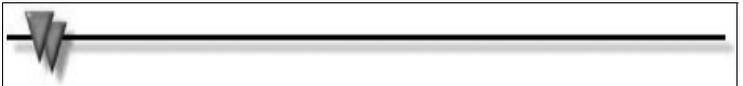
Question: Do you feel your identity as a gay man helped or hindered your ability to speak out about your experience of sexual abuse by a priest? How did being gay affect your choice to become an activist in confronting sexual abuse within the church?

Dave: The conviction that fueled my activism superceded my fear of outing myself. The first newspaper article regarding my lawsuit prompted my parents to confront me with their suspicions of my sexual orientation. This only proved to me to be a blessing and gave me the support needed to move forward with my claims. I found that it took more and more courage to be public about my story. At times, I didn't quite know where I got my courage but even that never because an issue. I grew to realize that what I needed to do what I was doing always seemed to be available. Maybe it was a form of spirituality in action without gold, glitter, loud organ music and incense.

(continued next column)

Question: How do you feel that your public disclosure of being a victim of priest sexual abuse has affected your life? What has been the reaction of gay and lesbian people to this disclosure? Has it differed from non-gay reactions?

Dave: My public disclosure of being a victim of priest sexual abuse is much more extreme than most. Back when I came forward 10 years ago, I was one of a few other victims. We didn't get very good news coverage. As a result I knew that I had to make more noise in order to get more coverage which would undoubtedly bring forward more victims. I have become relaxed in the realization that there isn't much I can hide from the world at this point. Usually, at social gatherings I don't talk about my activist life out of respect to those who might be sensitive about such a dark subject and also because I want to have fun.



Treasurer's Report

As of September 2004, the Caucus has a total of \$8,957.85 in our checking account. These funds will be used to pay for the scheduled social events and to help keep the cost of our Annual Dinner to where it was last year. The Executive Committee would like to thank those individuals who are able to contribute additional funds that help to further offset the costs of the social events and producing the Newsletter.

The Caucus does accept and greatly appreciates contributions throughout the year. Your donation makes it possible to maintain our social events and membership benefits. If you would like to make a contribution prior to the 2004 Annual Meeting, please send your check made payable to LGBT Caucus to: **John Grima, 426 Gonzalez Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132** or feel free to contact me by phone at (415) 337-1720.

**Be sure to stop by the LGBT Caucus
Booth #715 at the APHA Annual
Meeting!**

LGBT ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION FORM*(Please xerox and mail)***When:** Tuesday, November 9, 2004**Where:** Old Ebbitt Grill

675 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

Tel.: (212) 347-4800

Time: 7:00 P.M.**Name:** _____

____ YES, I will be attending the LGBT Caucus Annual Dinner

I would like to be a Stonewall Sponsor (\$100 per person): _____ (# persons)

____ I authorize my name to be listed in the Dinner Program as a Stonewall Sponsor.

I would like to be a Rainbow Sponsor (\$50 per person): _____ (# persons)

____ I authorize my name to be listed in the Dinner Program as a Rainbow Sponsor.

I would like to reserve:

Caucus Members: (\$35.00 per person): _____ (# persons)

Non-members: (\$70.00 per person, includes one-year membership): _____ (# persons)

For individuals who cannot afford the full price, financial assistance may be available. Contact John Grima at jfjtg@aol.com for more information.

Cash Bar starts at 7:00 P.M.!**Choice of Entrée: (Please make your selection)**____ *Chicken Roulade:* Stuffed with spinach, Portobello mushrooms and mozzarella cheese, with rice, seasonal vegetable and lemon butter____ *Onion-Crusted Salmon:* With rice, seasonal vegetables and a lemon-butter sauce

____ Vegetarian (Old Ebbitt Grill will happily accommodate!)

____ I would also like to make an additional contribution of \$_____

____ NO, I will not be attending the LGBT Caucus Annual Dinner, but I would like to make a contribution of \$_____.

*PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION(S) EARLY
(ONLY 45 tickets available)*Make check payable to LGBT Caucus and mail to:

John Grima

426 Gonzalez Street

San Francisco, CA 94132

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- The deadline for submissions for
- the next issue of the newsletter is
- February 1, 2005.
-
- Please address all correspondence
- and submission of articles to the
- Editor at the email address listed
- above.
-



**Report from the 2004 LGBTI Health Summit:
“Supporting Healthy Communities to Promote Social Parity”**

by Jodie Sperber

The LGBTI Health Summit was held August 25-29 in Cambridge, MA. Over the course of five days, over 250 individuals from across the country came together to discuss the past, present, and future of health for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex communities. The Summit provided an opportunity for public health professionals, community activists, educators, and others interested in LGBTI health with an opportunity to interact in ways that are not often provided. Panels ranged across interest and topic area, each one contributing a unique element to the Summit as a whole.

A mix of workshops, plenaries, social activities, and casual interactions gave ample opportunity for people to share their experience, network, and learn a new thing or two. In a single day, attendees could attend a panel discussion from openly gay public health leaders, find out what folks in South Dakota are working on, and then hop to a workshop on Intersex 101. A similar experience could easily be repeated each day, as there were over 90 workshops to choose from. This breadth of scope was commented upon by many of the participants, many of who stated that this was one of the most rewarding conference experiences they’ve ever had.

The next LGBTI Health Summit is scheduled to take place in 2006. The place is yet to be determined, and there is still time to get on board to help organize and shape the event! If you are interested, contact Thomas Lewis at tlewis@jsi.com to be put in touch with the next group of Summit organizers.

National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The NALGAP annual meeting and 25th anniversary celebration will be held in Atlanta on December 4—10, 2004. For more information and registration, see www.nalgap.org

Membership Lapsed?

Please renew!

The LGBT Caucus Membership

Application & Renewal Form can be

downloaded from the Caucus

web-site at:

<http://www.stophiv.com/lgbtc>