

President's Column: Dr. Terry Stein

The first fall meeting of the Gay Caucus -- held in Washington November 16-18, 1984 -- started to define the future directions for our organization. A report on the actual activities follows; this column focuses on what I think are some implications from the meetings for the future of gay and lesbian psychiatrists.

In my view, the organization has reached a developmental point which requires self-examination and planning for the future. Our direction is not clear and the members in attendance disagreed about what challenges and what directions lay ahead. It is my hope that the dialogue started at this meeting will continue at the Annual Meeting in Dallas as well as future meetings.

Expansion: Many agreed that we may be ready to be more than a once-a-year group, and that gay and lesbian psychiatrists may benefit from getting together as a group at other locations and in conjunction with other professional organizations. Crucial issues around how to support gay and lesbian psychiatrists and how to develop a responsiveness to the needs of gay and lesbian patients in the future can be addressed by a group like ours; if we don't, other professions and organizations may step into the void. Such a situation will not only inhibit the adequate provision of services for gay men and lesbian but may also turn gay patients away from us.

Acceptance: It seems that there is no longer the same need to fight for acceptance at an official level. I believe that we now need to accept ourselves, move forward with greater visibility and self-assurance, and recognize that we have to address a population of persons with special needs -- ourselves and our gay and lesbian patients. The profession of psychiatry has remained relatively silent about gay men and lesbians since 1973, while other professions have become more outspoken about, and more responsive to, this group. We have been given a representative to the Assembly of the APA as an Underrepresented Group, and we have received consistent support from a number of components and individuals in the APA. Others, however, cannot give us our directions or define our needs for us. Only we can do this.

Name change: The discussions at the Fall Meetings led to some recommendations to present to the whole membership in Dallas in the Spring. The first is to change the name of our organization to the **Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists**. The reasons are several. First, calling ourselves a "Caucus" may make us appear to some to be more "political" than we actually are. Most of us agreed that while our group has an interest in some political issues, we also have other equally, if not more, important goals, including supporting our members and providing education for ourselves and for the profession of psychiatry.

Second, in suggesting the name change, we wish to move away from the idea of official affiliation with the APA, which we feel is implied in the present name. We now have a Caucus of Homosexually-Identified Psychiatrists (CHIP) within the APA. Our group may need to identify and meet in conjunction with other groups, such as AAPHR or Orthopsychiatry, as well as the APA. Our primary affiliation should probably continue to be with the APA, but most of us felt that we should not limit ourselves solely to this alliance.

Finally, we discussed the use of "gay" and "lesbian" in the name, as opposed both to including "bisexual" and to referring less directly to homosexuality. We concluded that we should continue to be open to the widest possible membership, but that we should be able to be straightforward about what the primary nature of our membership is. For all of these reasons, we will propose changing the name of our organization to the **Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists** when we meet in Dallas.

Committees: The second recommendation we agreed to bring to the membership involves forming two new standing committees. This represents a compromise of several differing views on how the association should organize for the future:

The first committee would be an **Issues Committee**, the purpose of which would be to identify, present to the association, and follow through on any issues of concern to gay and lesbian psychiatrists or gay and lesbian patients. The committee could provide a forum for identifying substantive issues and a mechanism for presenting them to the association for discussion, or for referral to other groups such as AAPHR or CHIP.

It seems to me that formation of this committee would allow the organization as a whole to accomplish two purposes -- the main organization could still focus on support to its membership, but at the same time really identify the problems which lead to the need for support in the first place. The **Issues Committee** would not be political; rather, as its name implies, it would bring our attention to issues that may concern us. This will be presented fully in Dallas.

The second standing committee would be an **Education Committee**. This committee would be charged with "stimulating, proposing, and implementing" ideas for scientific and membership meetings which occur both at the Annual Meeting of the APA and at other appropriate meetings. The purposes of this committee would be to structure planning for our meetings beyond the efforts of a single individual or a local group, and to provide for the possibility of continuing to meet together more than once a year. The planning for the program which we currently offer at the Annual Meetings has become a large and onerous task -- one probably better handled by committee. Obviously, such a committee will work only if it represents the actual interests and investment of all of us. The discussion in Dallas will help decide how much support there is for such reorganization, and how extensive our commitment is to future planning.

Extended terms of office: The third recommendation to present in Dallas is to change the term of office for the President to two years, from its current one year term. The change would provide more continuity of leadership. While there was also discussion of changing other tenures of officers or even of changing the officers the organization now has, we decided only to recommend this single change in Dallas. After we see how this alteration works, we can propose other changes if necessary in the future. The term of President-Elect might also eventually be changed so that there would be one year (the first year of the two-year term of the President) where the immediate Past President serves on the Executive Committee, and the following year a President-Elect could be chosen in preparation for the next two-year term of President. In this manner, there would always be someone to "assist" the President, but no one would be in the position of being President-Elect for two years before becoming President. This change can be affected, if desired, by simply not electing a President-Elect in Dallas.

Problems: Several problems were clear at the Washington meetings. First, there were no women in attendance, nor minority members. The organization clearly continues not to be responsive enough to the needs of these groups. A second problem is that only a small proportion of our total membership was in attendance. Thus, the discussions we had necessarily represented only the opinions of the small group of individuals who were there. Most of us felt it was impressive that we could organize such an "off season" meeting at all, but it was clear that the ideas and recommendations generated by a segment of the membership may not be relevant for the whole membership. Fortunately, we did not feel the need to make decisions for the organization in its entirety, but, rather, generated recommendations for future decision-making.

Other plans and discussions: We also spent a great deal of time planning for the Dallas meeting. These plans will appear in detail in the next *Newsletter*. It appears that we may have our most active program in several years for the 1985 Annual Meetings. We even began planning for the 1986 Meetings in Washington. Other topics covered included:

- definition of the responsibilities of the elected officers, especially the Secretary and Treasurer;
- advisability of using a post office mailing address or mail forwarding service;
- ways of supporting the *Newsletter*;
- updating of the membership and mailing list; and,
- definition of who is and is not a member.

In my estimation, the single most important need for our future communication is to commit ourselves to editing and actively supporting a *Newsletter* which can inform us about our association. This may be the most pressing item on the agenda in Dallas, since Bob Cabaj, editor for the last two years, will be stepping into the Presidency at that time. I am very interested in any ideas any of you may have about this important undertaking.

Finally, we also -- as usual -- had an active social life in Washington. Connie Kyrourpoulos arranged the meetings and hosted a lovely party for us at his home on Saturday night. We also had two dinners as a group.

Personally, I hope this was the first of many fall meetings for our organization, since, I think, it was a worthwhile experience for all of us who were there. I invite your reactions and comments on what we accomplished at the meeting, and I thank all those who were in attendance in Washington for their contributions.

Report on the Fall Meetings: Dr. Bob Cabaj

Members of the Caucus converged from all across the USA and Canada for our first annual Fall Meeting, held in Washington, D.C., over the November 16-18, 1984, weekend. We had representatives from Toronto, Boston, Gainesville, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, New York City, Houston, and East Lansing.

Following an excellent meal at La Chandelle on Friday night, we started early on Saturday, meeting at the Marriott Hotel in rooms made available through the kind efforts of the APA support staff. After a long day of meeting, with much discussion and occasional disagreements, we ate at the hotel, joined by our Assembly Representatives and interested partners. Connie Kyropoulos hosted a magnificent party, where we met with members of the local gay physicians group, CAPA. On Sunday, we finished the round of meetings by noontime, and the attending members headed off in all directions, including the Opera. Topics covered included:

Future of the Caucus -- expansion to a national group; name change to the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP); interfacing with national and local gay groups; interfacing better with the APA (i.e., have the candidates for APA Presidency respond to gay-oriented questions and present in the *Newsletter*, expand our presence as openly gay and lesbian members of APA Committees and Offices, etc.); organization of the Course at the Annual Meetings; ways to address national issues, such as abuse in the military, courts, and problems of gay youth.

1985 Annual Meetings in Dallas -- plans were reviewed and revised; Dr. John O'Donnell has been working intensely to help plan the Meetings; the APA has been very co-operative and will help us obtain a block of rooms in one hotel so that members who so wish can stay in the same hotel as other members; plans for the social events, open small group discussions, closed group meetings, courses and paper sessions, and a special awards luncheon are in the works; because of some last minute room rate changes, the full details are not available, but will be in a separate mailing next month, with the necessary housing/room forms.

Newsletter -- we had extensive discussion on the use of the *Newsletter* to provide information on our own events and important national events, and provoke more discussion and response from the readership.

Membership Status -- we attempted to revise the mailing lists and the separate, confidential membership list, as well as solidify the collection of dues; we decided to drop members who have not paid dues in the last three years, if they do not respond to the separate mailing about the dues status that each of you should have received by now; we still have many inaccurate addresses and need everyone's help to obtain corrections; we also reviewed ways to expand the numbers of members, especially in our hopes to be more "national" in scope.

Other items -- two new committees, Issues and Education, were proposed as described in the President's Column, and will be presented in Dallas; the need for a partners/spouses/significant-others group was presented and a brief article on this follows; budget issues and plans for 1986 were discussed; clarification of the various roles and functions of this Caucus (soon to be the Association?), the APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bi-sexual Issues, and the Caucus of Homosexually Identified Psychiatrists (CHIP) was made and will also be presented in Dallas.

In the over seven hours of meetings, many more topics were brought up, and hopefully will be expanded in future Annual and Fall meetings. We urge all of you to actively consider taking a role in the Caucus/Association as we expand for the future, and let your colleagues know about us and join.

For more information, or to join the Caucus/Association, write to either:

Terry Stein, M.D.	or	Bob Cabaj, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry		90 Chandler Street
A233 East Fee Hall		Boston, MA 02116
Michigan State University		
East Lansing, MI 48824.		

Partner's Meetings for 1985 Annual Meeting: [The *Newsletter* received this letter:]

"My name is Chris Carmichael and I am writing as a partner (my current preferred term) of a Caucus member. While attending the APA Meetings and Caucus activities over the past few years with my partner, Terry Stein, I have spoken with several partners of Caucus members who have suggested that we meet together in some organized fashion. I support this idea and would like to propose that we get together during the Dallas meetings in order to see what our common interests and concerns might be. If you have any suggestions before May, please contact me at 233 Oxford Rd., E. Lansing, MI 48824. We will finalize our plans at the hospitality suite in Dallas. I am looking forward to seeing you there."

Media Watch Activities: [The *Newsletter* will continue to update and inform its readership of items that are offensive or informative in the professional literature and general press, radio, and television. Formal book reviews will begin soon. In the last few months, the following information was received:]

Terry Stein discovered that the National Board of Medical Examiners booklet had a sample question, referring to "treating" a male patient's homosexuality with electric shock! He wrote a strong letter of protest.

Terry Stein also protested a very biased, prejudiced article in the April, 1984, issue of *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, entitled "Parents of Homosexuals -- Not Guilty? Interpretations of Childhood Psychological Data."

John Bonnafe of the APA Media Information, Public Affairs Division sent the *Newsletter* a follow-up on the issue of gay immigration and the Public Health Service memorandum described in the last issue. The APA protested the memorandum to quarantine or deny entry to "self-proclaimed homosexuals", as it did once before in 1974!

The *APA Psychiatric News*, in its December 7, 1984, issue, published a well written and well thought out response to the article entitled "Reseachers Identify Marker for Male Homosexuality", published in its November 2 issue.

Many issues ago, an extensive discussion of the APA's role in the Supreme Courts review of the New York State case *People v. Uplinger* was presented. The Supreme Court decided not to hear the case, which leaves the New York appeals court decision standing -- that the New York loitering statute was unconstitutional. This is a "win" for the gay cause, but is a disappointment because of the potential impact nationwide that the hearing could have had.

The *New York Times* has been busy reporting on gay issues (to make up for so much neglect over the years?), with a feature article on "homosexual couples" -- featuring Emery Hetrick and Damien Martin -- and several well written articles on AIDS.

The APA's American Psychiatric Press has published two monographs of interest: Psychiatric Implications of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, edited by members Stu Nichols and Dave Ostrow; and Innovations in Psychotherapy with Homosexuals, edited by members Emery Hetrick and Terry Stein. Both are available directly from the Press and will featured at the Bookshop booth at the Dallas Meetings.

Important Upcoming Meetings:

April 15-17, 1985: International Conference on AIDS, Atlanta, GA
Co-Sponsors: AAPHR and the CDC

April 20-24, 1985: American Orthopsychiatry Association
Annual Meetings, New York City
Information: ADA, W. 44th St., New York N.Y. 10036

May 3-5, 1985: Second National Conference of Lesbian Physicians,
Provincetown, MA. (to be followed by)

May 6-8, 1985: AAPHR Spring Board Meetings, Boston area

May 18-24, 1985: APA Annual Meetings, Dallas, TX
Full information in next *Newsletter*
(Write to APA for general information)

August 7-10, 1985: AAPHR Educational Conference, Vancouver, CANADA

For information on AAPHR activities, write APPHR, P.O.Box 14366, San Francisco, CA 94114. In addition, BAPHR usually has its conference in June in San Francisco, co-inciding with Gay Pride week and parade.

Dues Appeal:

If you have not paid your dues yet, please consider doing so as soon as possible. You should have received a letter reviewing your individual status; if not, we do not have your correct address or you, for some reason, are not on our current list. Remember, dues are \$50 for members, \$25 for members-in-training, \$5 for students, and \$10 for Friends of the *Newsletter*. Send your check to "CGLBMAPA" to:

Norman B. Hartstein, M.D.
851 North Kings Road, #309
Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CGLBMAPA

Caucus of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Members of the American Psychiatric Association

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1985 ANNUAL MEETING CAUCUS ACTIVITIES

To help members of the Caucus make their plans for attending the APA Annual Meeting in Dallas this year, from May 18-24, 1985, we are providing the following general outline of activities planned by, or of interest to members of, the Caucus of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Members of the APA.

Central Hotel/Location:

The Caucus will have its hospitality suite and site of most of its meetings at the **PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS HOTEL** in Dallas. We encourage all interested members to pick this as their first choice hotel if you wish to be close to other Caucus members. We had hoped to have room forms ready to mail, but were not able to coordinate with the APA offices in time. You could indicate on your room form that you wish to join the block of rooms reserved for the Caucus (the block held at the Plaza for CHIP/CGLBMAPA.)

Activities:

Schedules are all tentative at this time. An ad will appear in the February 15, 1985, issue of *Psychiatric News*, and a firmer update will be sent to you all in April, 1985. So far, what is planned includes:

Sunday May 19: Executive Meetings, from 2-3pm;
Business Meetings, from 3-5pm;
Opening Reception, from 6-9pm.

Monday May 20: Small Group discussions during the day;
Business Meeting, from 5:30-7pm.

Tuesday May 21: Course on Advance Issues in Working with Homosexual Patients;
CHIP Meeting, 12-1pm (will possibly be changed to Wed. pm.);
Business Meeting, from 5:30-7pm.

Wednesday May 22: Component Presentation on Coming Out Issues, 8:30am;
Award Luncheon to honor people active in the cause of gay
and lesbian rights and psychiatry, 12-2pm;
Educational Meeting, from 5:30-7pm (tentative.)

Thursday May 23: Small group discussions during the day;
Closing Party, in the evening.

In addition, there is a Course on working with gay adolescents to look for in the Course lists; several other small group discussions will be held; and several meals will be planned to help members get to know each other and Dallas. Partners/significant others activities will also be planned. We hope also to have a special women's event.

Basically, we are planning a fairly active schedule from Sunday afternoon, through Thursday night, with most events taking place at the Plaza, so please make your travel plans accordingly. Please contact anyone you know who would be interested and let them know about the plans, or have them write to us through Bob Cabaj, 90 Chandler St., Boston, Ma. 02116.