

CGLBMAPA

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

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The 1984 APA Covention Report:

A full report of the Caucus related activities at the 1984 Annual Meetings in Los Angeles will be in the next *Newsletter*, in addition to a review of the last half year's activities of both the Caucus of Homosexually Identified Psychiatrists (CHIP) and the APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues.

The CGLBMAPA events and gay/lesbian related events filled most of the time at the convention. The Executive Committee met several times to review issues and proposes officers for next year. Full member Business Meetings were held on Monday and Tuesday of the convention week, with updates on local activities; reviews of recent conferences; discussions on how to expand the Caucus both in number of members and in purpose; presentations on CHIP and Committee activities for the last year; presentation and approval of some necessary changes in the Caucus by-laws; review of the Caucus finances and dues structure (addition of a student category and request that as many people as possible pay their dues, annually, or at least send something to help cover the cost of the *Newsletter* and annual meeting activities); and nomination and election of officers for 1985.

The new Caucus officers are: Terry Stein, President; Bob Cabaj, President-Elect and *Newsletter* Editor; Laurie Moore and John O'Donnell, Vice-Presidents; Norm Hartstein, Treasurer; Connie Kyropoulos, Secretary. Our Past President, Stu Nichols, chaired the meetings before passing the gavel to Terry Stein, and led everyone in rounds of applause for the hosting Los Angeles gay psychiatrists -- especially Norm Hartstein -- for organizing an impressive and exciting series of entertainment; for Bob Schwartz for his many years of service as the Caucus Treasurer; for Bob Cabaj and his efforts to get this *Newsletter* regularly. Stu himself was applauded as he stepped down.

Well attended small group discussions were held on the gay and lesbian psychiatrist in private practice, and coming out during training. A special event sponsored by the women in the Caucus featured poetry readings by Judith Barrington, a lesbian feminist poet. There were various courses, lectures, workshops, symposia, films, and paper sessions focused on gay, lesbian, and women's issues, especially the treatment of AIDS patients and the impact of AIDS on the gay community.

The largest attended events, of course, were the parties. The Opening Reception on Sunday drew not only Caucus members, but many APA Staff members, potential new members of the Caucus, and several APA officials, including the President Elect, Dr. Carol Nadelson. The Closing Party was a fantastic reception hosted by David Sanders at his incredible Beverly Hills home perched high up on the hills. A special thanks is due David and the entire LA psychiatrist group who helped support that event.

President's Column: Dr. Terry Stein

I have had some time for reflection since returning from Los Angeles, and during this time I have reviewed the plans for the past year which Stu Nichols printed in the *Newsletter* last summer after becoming president. I am impressed with how many of his goals were accomplished. Most of the structural changes he suggested are completed, including revision of the dues structure, updating of our membership list, amending the by-laws, streamlining our annual meeting program, and reinstituting a regular and informative *Newsletter* (thanks to both Stu and Bob Cabaj). Other goals, especially those related to Caucus activities between Annual Meetings and examining the needs of special membership groups such as lesbian and psychiatrists working in non-metropolitan areas, are still in process and will need further attention this year. In addition, I would like to propose that some new tasks should be undertaken in order to assure that the Caucus remains a relevant and productive organization in the future both for its members and for the field of psychiatry.

I propose that the Caucus begin a process of internal dialogue with the goal of discussing and identifying the future role of gay psychiatrists both within the APA and within the larger field of medicine. This process must include the largest possible number of our membership and may also involve other interested individuals, including perhaps gay, lesbian, and bisexual consumers of psychiatric and other health care services. Part of this dialogue was begun in Los Angeles with the discussion concerning a possible change in the name of our organization. The name, "Caucus of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Members of the American Psychiatric

Association", itself has a history which reflects both strong personal feelings and persuasive political forces. But gay psychiatrists now have the Caucus of Homosexually Identified Psychiatrists (CHIP) as an official component of the APA. While CHIP itself must forge an identity within the organization of the APA, the membership of our "unofficial" and larger Caucus can examine the needs of gay, lesbian and bisexual psychiatrists in a more comprehensive manner, looking not only at professional but also at personal, social, and political concerns. Such a group could, if it desires, also coordinate in a more systematic manner with other gay health care organizations in order to represent the special needs and concerns of gay-related psychiatry and mental health. These or other directions may be the ultimate outcomes of a dialogue about our future purpose, but I believe that such a process must begin at this time. I invite your input into this dialogue within the Newsletter, within local groups of gay psychiatrists, and by discussion between individual members during the coming year.

I will start the process by stating some of my own thoughts about the Caucus. First, I agree with those individuals who stated in Los Angeles that we should change our name to something like the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. Such a name would represent a statement both of differentiation from the APA Caucus of Homosexually Identified Psychiatrists and of movement from a primarily political to a broader-based organization. Since we now have an established political voice within the APA, it seems that we should begin to focus on developing a more systematic voice with respect to the spectrum of mental health care issues relevant to gay men and lesbians. An Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists could be the National organization for gay and lesbian psychiatry and could speak more consistently for the psychiatric needs of gay men and lesbians with respect to AIDS, psychotherapy, and other gay health care concerns, addressing the educational, research and service issues relevant to these concerns. Such an Association would continue to affiliate primarily with the APA but could develop a voice within other organizations as well. The purpose of such an Association would be to maintain and develop the professional identity which gay and lesbian psychiatrists have fought to establish over the past decade. Now that we have been officially recognized, our task should be, it seems to me, to help identify and articulate in the most responsible manner the psychiatric concerns of gay and lesbian psychiatrists and patients.

The mechanism for moving the Caucus to the next developmental stage need to be approved by the membership as a whole in future meetings, but I hope during the coming year we can begin to implement some changes by having meetings of members throughout the year and by establishing liaisons with other gay health organizations. Next year at our meeting in Dallas, I hope that we can have in-depth discussions of our future directions as an organization. In addition, I intend to encourage recruitment of new members and new leadership into the Caucus.

I consider it a privilege to be President of the Caucus, and I look forward to serving the membership in the coming year. Let me and other members of the Executive Committee know your ideas about the Caucus goals and priorities. We have benefitted enormously from the past efforts of many individuals to legitimize our sexual orientation within the profession of psychiatry; I hope we can now contribute as a group to the support and understanding of others as they learn about the important mental health needs of gay men and lesbians.

Women's Column: Dr. Laurie Moore -- Reflections on Women, Race, and Class by Angela Davis

This is a fascinating book that explores the inter-relationship of the liberation of women with the Black Liberation struggle. The ideas discussed are crucial to understanding the nature of racism in the women's movement and in our society. I really enjoyed reading this book. I'm not going to try and review it but I wanted to share with you some of the feelings and thoughts I was most affected by.

I have to start by saying that in my opinion Angela Davis is the most brilliant woman thinker of the Twentieth Century. Her analysis of hers/history is clear, precise, lucid and visionary. Behind her thinking I always feel an incredibly certain compassion and belief in people. She has the clarity of vision, the wisdom and the integrity to lead us forward at a time when we desperately need such leaders.

I was especially struck by two insights in reading this book. One was that women (and I am speaking particularly of white women) got the idea, the concept of struggling for liberation from Black people. The suffragette movement followed on

the tails of the abolitionist movement just as the Women's Movement of the 1960's followed Black Power. There was an integral relationship between these struggles and it was through their model of courage that Black people created for women of all races the vision, the quest for their own freedom. Until I read this book, I didn't really understand or acknowledge how precious and how vital is the gift that Black people have given me by fighting for their lives, their survival and their freedoms. I believe it was and it has been the courage of Black men and women fighting for freedom that has been the inspiration behind all the struggles for liberation in this society -- women, gays, the differently-abled, the hearing impaired, the vision impaired, the aged (if I have missed you, let me know).

The second insight for me personally was to realize how much I owe to Black women in particular for teaching me by their example how to be strong. It has been Black women who have shown me the truth that when push comes to shove, I have to stand up alone and do what I need to do. I had not learned this lesson as a white woman. I was always protected, sheltered and lead to believe that I didn't have to take responsibility for doing the really hard things -- being brave, fighting. Clearly it has been Black women in my life who have taught me what it means to be brave, to have the strength to be who you are and defend what you believe in when no one is supporting you and when you may be in danger. Angela Davis is, not withstanding, for me one of the most courageous women I have ever known. If you don't know about her life or her work, it is worth your finding out. She is showing us all by her life how to believe in ourselves and how to take our own power.

Fighting the racism within us as members of this society involves a willingness to re-educate ourselves about hers/history. This book, Women, Race and Class, is a gift to help us and it an excellent beginning.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Bob Schwartz

Income/Expense Statement for the period ending 4/30/84

INCOME	ACTUAL	PERCENT
DUES	6,000.00	85.96
CONTRIBUTIONS	425.00	6.08
INTEREST INCOME	554.86	7.94
TOTAL INCOME	6,979.86	100.00
EXPENSES		
OFFICE SUPPLIES	10.00	.14
POSTAGE	61.35	.87
COPYING	46.40	.66
PRINTING & TYPING	104.20	1.49
ADVERTISING	1,085.77	15.55
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	174.28	2.49
TRAVEL & MEETING	856.38	12.26
NEWSLETTER COSTS	1,311.85	18.79
ENTERTAINMENT	3,817.20	54.68
MISCELLANEOUS	153.35	2.19
	7,620.92	109.18
NET LOSS	640.92	9.18

Announcements and Editor's Comments:

Enclosed with this issue is a copy of the new membership application form and Caucus Referral Service form. Please use it yourself if needed, and/or pass to a colleague who you think would be interested. If you are associated with a local or national group and would like copies to mail to your members, please let either Terry Stein or Bob Cabaj know and we will forward you enough copies. If you would like a copy of the Referral List, or can recommend someone or someplace we should send it to, please contact us.

Hopefully, this will be a reminder to pay your dues, as soon as possible. If you do not wish to pay as a member but have been receiving this Newsletter, please consider

sending a tax-deductible contribution to help defray the cost of the mailings and publication.

American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR) will have its annual symposium in combination with NCGSTDS in Chicago, IL, August 22-25, 1984. For further information, contact AAPHR, P.O.Box 14366, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Apologia! After receiving praise for the *Newsletter* at the annual meeting, it seems as if I am trying to negate it by this long delay between publications. I have been struggling with a new word processor and have had a little difficulty getting material. Regular publication will resume. I must again ask your help in forwarding to me any and all information, news, comments, letters, activities, reports, etc., that any of you may have that may be of any interest to Caucus members. Is that general enough?

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June 1, 1984**

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