

UPDATE

As we begin thinking about this year's meeting of the Caucus, a few reflections about the past year would seem in order.

The Caucus made a splendid showing at the 1980 San Francisco meeting of the APA. Our members and interests were well-represented on the scientific program, we mounted an excellent research exhibit, and had lively and productive social and business meetings. There is no question but that the Caucus made a powerful, positive impact on the APA, and that our members left San Francisco pleased and exhilarated. Sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make APA/SF/1980 such a success.

Unfortunately, all these activities left the organization's treasury bankrupt. It was even necessary to use this year's dues to pay off the debts incurred last May, leaving the Caucus with no money for the current year, and we are still in debt. Our former Newsletter Editor resigned to pursue other interests, and for a variety of reasons it has proven difficult to maintain publication on a regular basis. The geographical dispersal of our present officers and the state of our membership and financial records have provided some of the other realistic constraints since May. This issue of the Newsletter is a belated, non-elegant, but practical attempt to bring members up to date on some important topics.

1981 MEETING PLANS

The Caucus will be standing by its decision in May of 1980 to boycott the APA meeting this year in New Orleans. The Caucus will instead meet in Houston during the convention of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis from May 7 to 10, 1981. The American Academy's meeting will serve as an alternative site for Psychiatrists for ERA and for other groups and individuals boycotting the New Orleans meeting.

All APA members should shortly receive a mailing from the American Academy of Psychoanalysis providing details regarding registration, hotels, and programs. Caucus members should make their own reservations. Details of Caucus meetings will be circulated at a later date. If any Caucus members will be participating in the official American Academy Program, please notify Jim Krajieski. Questions concerning Caucus activities should be directed to Jim, at 2001 Union Street, San Francisco, California 94123

Questions concerning the program of the American Academy can be directed to Vivian Mendelsohn, Administrative Director, 30 East 40th Street, New York, New York 10016.

APA COMMITTEE ON GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL ISSUES

Jim Paulsen reports that the APA Board of Trustees on December 14, 1980 voted full committee status for what had previously been the APA Task Force on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues. This committee will be part of the APA Council on National Affairs, whose Associate Chair is Dr. Jean Bolen (known to many of us also as the Co-Chair of Psychiatrists for ERA).

Jim regards this as a very important step forward, especially because it denotes ongoing stability and financial support on the part of the APA. The charges to the committee are: (1) to investigate problems and issues affecting the mental health of gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals, including discrimination and prejudice; (2) to develop teaching programs to help correct inadequate training of psychiatrists in regard to homosexual issues; (3) to establish liaison with other components with the APA regarding homosexual issues; and (4) to promote the education of APA members as well as the general public on matters related to homosexuality.

Congratulations to Jim and all the others who made this triumph possible.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Jim Krajieski, our President-Elect, has been busy. He called the APA's attention to the unsatisfactory discussion in homosexuality in "Psychiatric Knowledge And Skills Self Assessment Program" (PSKAP-IV, 1979)--and has been invited to prepare a more accurate and comprehensive chapter.

Jim also initiated action which culminated in a decision by the APA Board of Trustees in December 1980 to add the words "sexual orientation" to a section of "The Principles of

Medical Ethics with Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry." This section will now read, "A psychiatrist should not be a party to any type of policy that excludes, segregates, or demeans the dignity of any patients because of ethnic origin, race, sex, creed, age, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation." Jim worked through the Northern California Psychiatric Society Committee on Homosexuality, which he chairs. From NCPS the proposed revision was sent to the APA Ethics Committee, and to the APA Assembly before final approval by the Board of Trustees.

Originally there was concern about the possible use of psychiatric testimony as part of an attempt by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to exclude a gay British journalist from entering the country because of his sexual orientation. From now on, psychiatrists should be more highly sensitized to the appropriateness and consequences of their actions involving sexual orientation issues, and complaints of possible ethical violations can be transmitted to the APA.

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Many Caucus members were present at the annual banquet of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights on July 26, 1980 at which Dr. Judd Marmor received the organization's first Achievement Award. Dave Kessler, in presenting the award, enumerated some of Dr. Marmor's contributions over the years towards a better understanding of gay people and their mental health needs. Dr. Marmor, past-president of the APA, talked briefly about some of his involvement over the years on these issues. Also present that evening were Dr. Marmor's wife, and their son and daughter-in-law, together with many other invited notables from the San Francisco gay, business and political community.

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A significant number of California Caucus members were on hand at the Southern California Psychiatric Society Annual Fall Meeting at Monterey, California on October 24 to 26, 1980, honoring Dr. Marmor on his 70th birthday. One of the many excellent papers presented was "Therapeutic Issues in the Treatment of the Homosexual Patient," by Dr. Joe Gutstadt, a member of the Northern California Psychiatric Society Committee on Homosexual Issues.

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There is more news of interest to the Caucus that will have to wait until our next, pre-convention mailing. Send along any items you have for inclusion.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In the meanwhile: (1) Please let Jim Krajewski know about your plans to attend the Houston meeting; (2) renew your membership, if you have not already done so; and (3) send a financial contribution made out to "CGLBMAPA," and mail to our Treasurer, Bob Schwartz, to help us clear our debts and pay for our activities in the months ahead. The monetary equivalent of one psychotherapy hour has been suggested as a minimum, and a larger amount would certainly be welcomed in furthering the work of the Caucus.

I hope to see you all in Houston.

Dave Kessler, President
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TO: Jim Krajewski
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San Francisco, CA 94123

FROM: Name: _____

Address: _____

I do do not plan to come to Houston.

Phone: _____

TO: Bob Schwartz
5645 Park Oak Place
Los Angeles, CA 90068

FROM: Name: _____

Address: _____

I enclose \$50 for membership renewal

Phone: _____

I enclose \$ _____ as a contribution to further the work of the Caucus.