



The Newsletter

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NOVEMBER 1986

The Membership Speaks Out:

November Meeting to Focus on By-Law Changes, Other Member Concerns

In an unusual departure from our normal procedure, the entire November CCBA membership meeting is to be devoted to discussion of various issues of concern to the membership of CCBA. There will be no dinner or cocktail event scheduled, and of course no admission charge will be asked.

Among the items on the agenda at this meeting, to be held on November 11th in Meeting Room #1 at the main Milwaukee Public Library downtown, will be various changes to the By-Laws of CCBA proposed by a special panel appointed some time ago by the Board of Directors to consider possible improvements in our organizational structure. These include revision of the committee structure now provided in the By-Laws; the elimination of Board membership for the At-Large Representatives; and the direct election of officers. A number of other changes are being suggested, most of a comparatively minor nature.

In addition, the Board members sincerely hope that this meeting will serve as a forum for all of our members to speak out: ask questions or express concerns on any matter(s) involving CCBA itself, or our community and CCBA's role within it. While reasonable standards of civility will prevail, every member is welcome to share their real feelings and opinions on matters which are relevant to CCBA as an organization.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, in order to allow everyone to have their dinners beforehand. See you there!

(In order to give the members a clearer picture of the structure of CCBA and the proposed changes, The Newsletter this issue will focus on the various officers and committees of CCBA: their roles and functions, as they understand them.)

CHANNEL 10 TO AIR PBS AIDS SPECIAL

The AIDS Show: Artists Involved with Death and Survival, a one-hour television special examining the impact of the AIDS epidemic on the gay male community, is currently scheduled to run on Channel 10 Monday, November 17, at 9:00 PM.

The AIDS Show (an acronym for "Artists Involved with Death and Survival") is based on a long-running San Francisco stage production of that name: a series of comic, dramatic, and musical sketches about AIDS. This program, by award-winning filmmakers Robert Epstein and Peter Adair, combines excerpts from the stage show, interviews with its creators, backstage activities, and narration by filmmakers. "Rob and I had talked for a long time about doing a documentary that looked at the impact of AIDS on our community," Adair says. "Not a medical film, but one that would address the more intangible effects." Epstein says, "We were very moved by the powerful interplay of humor and drama in the show, and were struck by how accessible it was for very diverse audiences. Peter and I saw a chance to capture its spirit on film."

I saw excerpts from THE AIDS SHOW on the local PBS station....I thought [it] was excellent... but I also thought it was "high context" (understanding depends on familiarity with the gay community and the issues surrounding AIDS.) The straight woman with whom I watched the PBS excerpts was impressed by the show, however. To my knowledge, she was completely ignorant of the gay community and had no consciousness about AIDS before she saw it. She did not freak out, as I'd feared." — Linda Frankel, *Seahorse Sanity* #26. (Ms. Frankel is a Bay Area writer)

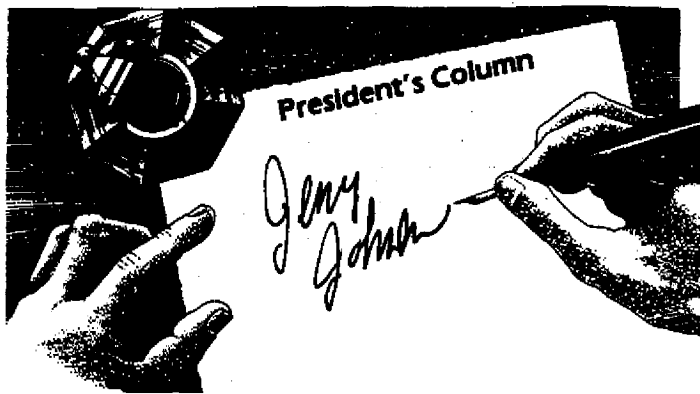
PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR A MILWAUKEE GAY AND LESBIAN CABLE NETWORK

Several independent gay/lesbian cable television producers are interested in promoting our community's diversity, color, and talent through a regularly produced news-format program for cablecast on public access channel 14 (Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority--MATA). We'd like to hear from you if you are a certified MATA producer, or would like to be one (free training if you live or work in the City of Milwaukee), or if you have an interest in journalism, writing, sports, advertising, fundraising, or any other areas of television and studio production. Central to our interest is becoming associated with New York's weekly Gay Cable Network (GCN), an hour-long program of local and national news and entertainment. Nothing is carved in stone! We are open to your ideas! However, this endeavor will cost money, and more importantly, precious time, energy, and commitment. From you. We especially need people who have the time and interest, regardless of race, age, sex or background! Let us share our vision with you at an open meeting:

DATE/TIME: Monday, Nov. 10, from 7-9 pm

PLACE: 1046 N. 12th St., Second Floor (S.E. corner of 12th & Highland); parking in lot just south of building.

RSVP Please! Mark Behar, 277-7671 (leave message on machine)



It is necessary for any organization from time to time to review and revise its bylaws. The Board of Directors has spent a significant amount of time doing this. By the time you read my column, all of you will have received by mail the proposed changes. I might add that if for some reason you did not receive your copy, please contact me and I will see that the matter is rectified.

While many of the changes are simple word additions or deletions, there are several major amendments proposed. One such is that (if accepted) the elections of Board members will be open to the entire membership. As part of this process, a nominating committee will present a slate of officers to the membership; but additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

I would recommend this change to you, as it will give you, the members, the power to do what you cannot do now: elect the full Board. This is, in my opinion, an expansion of the democratic process which will be of considerable benefit to the entire organization.

A second major change involves decreasing the membership of the Board from its current 15 members to 11. To do this, all At-Large positions will be eliminated from the Board. The responsibilities currently carried by the At-Large Board members will devolve onto the Membership Committee.

I recommend this change to you for three reasons. First, the positions have proven difficult to fill. Second, for many who volunteered to do the job, the work proved onerous. The proposed change would spread the duties out among a number of persons. Finally, people who have accepted the position of At-Large Representative have often resigned from the Board, often in frustration. The proposed bylaw changes would address these problems.

A third major change related to the Executive Committee. As you know, this Committee is presently made up of Board officers and meets once a month to set the Board agenda, discuss policies and other matters of importance.

In my opinion, the elimination of this committee as proposed by the By-Laws Committee is quite important. The full Board should be making policy decisions. These matters should not be brought to the Board by officers acting under the guise of a separate committee (which, in any case, was not provided for in the present bylaws).

It is not my intention to elaborate on every change. One thing, however, I would like to emphasize. That is the thought and work that has gone into developing these amendments. Board members Peter Johnson (who chaired the committee) and Karen Gotzler have done a wonderful job of researching and wording the proposed changes.

I cannot urge upon you too strongly the necessity of your attending the November meeting where the new bylaw changes will be discussed and voted upon. The meeting will be held in the Downtown (Main) Library, which is convenient; and it will be free.

In addition to the bylaw changes, we will have a "town hall" type session where members can make suggestions, ask questions, and in general discuss CCBA. What are you happy and unhappy about? What further changes would you like to see? In which direction(s) would you like to see CCBA go? Are there specific goals you would like to see the Board accomplish?

It should prove to be an interesting and informative time, both for you and the Board. I needn't tell you how important a large turn-out is; so plan to be present, and express your views. Your Board will be listening.

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THE OFFICERS AND STRUCTURE OF CCBA

President

The President is the chief officer of CCBA: coordinates the activities of all other officers of CCBA; presides over Board and Executive Committee meetings; and is generally responsible for the well-being of the organization. She or he is *ex officio* a member of all committees.

Vice-Presidents

The current By-laws state that there will be two Vice-Presidents. Each presently has distinct duties: one primarily internal and one addressing outreach interests.

I. VP-Membership Services

This VP works directly with the At-Large Representatives, keeping them abreast of Board decisions and changes in the organization, and coordinating the At-Large members duties to the membership.

II. VP-Administration

This VP oversees the positions of Divisional Coordinators and the committee chairs. There are four Divisional Coordinators: Membership, Public Relations, Affiliated Organizations, and Development. Each of the coordinators may have committees under them, although this is not mandatory.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for accounting for the finances of the organization; preparing financial statements; and the handling of accounts payable and receivable. The Treasurer also helps in the preparation and evaluation of budgets.

At-Large Representatives

The At-Large Representatives are supposed to be the communications liaisons between the Board and the membership, transmitting information to the members and receiving suggestions, recommendations, and complaints, which are then relayed to the officers.

Development Coordinator

Perhaps a better term might be "Activities Coordinator", as the purpose of this division is to develop a variety of programs and activities that would be of interest to the membership, such as theater parties, bike trips, sports outings, the proposed gourmet dining group, etc.

Membership Coordinator

With the Membership Committee, coordinates membership recruitment and retention efforts and (together with the At-Large Representatives, under our present structure) works to maintain communications between the membership and the leadership. In the absence of a paid secretarial service, the Membership Coordinator is also responsible for directing the maintenance of membership records.

Public Relations Coordinator

With the Public Relations Committee, facilitates internal and public communications for CCBA. This includes press releases, media contact, and *The Newsletter*.

Affiliated Organizations Liaison

Serves as CCBA's liaison with CCAF, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, and related programs sponsored by either group or by CCBA directly. (Especially important of late has been the CCAF's "calendar" program, to coordinate activities and schedules among the various lesbian and/or gay male groups of southeastern Wisconsin.) The principal function of the liaison is to serve as a conduit between the Board of Directors and the groups with whom CCBA has established a liaison-type relationship. The Liaison is a member of the Board of Directors, and (like all other Board members and officers) performs such other functions as may be assigned by the Board as a whole.

Women's Group

Purposes: to recruit more women into CCBA; to increase the attendance of women at CCBA events; to increase the involvement of women in CCBA; and to offer events of interest to women at minimal cost.

Wine-Tasting Group

Open to all members of CCBA, this is a social and educational group whose purpose is to learn about and compare wines. Meetings are the Sunday after the CCBA general meeting. The host selects the wines to be sampled, and costs (usually \$5-\$10) are divided among those attending.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER CCBA COMMITTEES AND GROUPS, BOTH PERMANENT AND SHORT-TERM; NOT ALL COULD BE LISTED IN A BRIEF SURVEY ARTICLE SUCH AS THIS.

Member News Needed

Elsewhere in this issue, as in every issue, you may read articles about other CCBA members (Business, Charter, Individual, even Associate). Those articles could be about you! Why haven't they been? Because it seems we're always the last to hear.

Have you received an honor in your field (or has your business)? Have you been written up in a business or trade publication? Have you been promoted, or appointed to a new post? *The Newsletter* would love to run the good news; but we can't if you don't tell us. Please, let us know.

STEVEN J. MURRAY

TAX REFORM

Over the past few months, you have undoubtedly heard much about TAX REFORM. In the next few issues, we will be giving you suggestions on how to use the new laws to your best advantage, and the effects it may have on you.

This, our first column, will focus on the general effect of the TAX REFORM ACT. TAX REFORM, in effect, will make it easier for you to prepare your tax returns if you have had few deductions in the past. However, if you have numerous deductions and shelters, it may be much more difficult for you to plan for your tax future.

A general rule of thumb to follow in 1986 is to move deductions into this year and defer income to next year. This should be done because of the elimination of some deductions and the decrease in the tax rates over the next few years due to TAX REFORM.

A deduction you can take advantage of immediately is to prepay your CCBA Membership Dues. Professional and Membership Dues are a deduction that is going to be eliminated due to TAX REFORM. Prepayment of these fees will allow you to take advantage of the deduction while it is still available. The same applies to Tax Return Preparation fees. This deduction will also be eliminated in the future. Prepayment of these fees will allow the deduction this year. This applies only to personal deductions. Corporations will be affected differently.

Another area affected is other

Mil-wo'ke

itemized personal deductions. Sales Tax and Consumer Loan Interest will no longer be deductible personally. Any major purchases should be made, if possible, in 1986 to take advantage of the Sales Tax and Consumer Loan Interest deduction.

These are some of the effects TAX REFORM will have on the individual taxpayer. The next issue will feature the deduction of "passive losses" and Investment Vehicles still available after TAX REFORM.

RALPH NAVARRO IMPORTANT NEWS

What should be of great concern to lesbians and gay men is that while focus is only now beginning (at a national level) the past year has been particularly bad regarding gays and insurance needs.

Here is the present state in the Insurance Industry: **THEY ARE PETRIFIED!**

Recently the industry gave \$100,000 to a national AIDS education organization. The statistics of losses due to AIDS and ARC are beginning to overwhelm the industry--and with the future number of persons with AIDS doubling, tripling, etc., you can only imagine the fear.

In Wisconsin, it is very probable that within the next three months, testing for the presence of the anti-body through a panel of tests (ELISHA, ELISHA AND WESTERN BLOT) will be allowed when someone apply for any insurance. You should know that many companies are now searching for possible AIDS in many other tests

that they don't tell you about---tests that are less reliable and presently legal. bottom line: the probable new guidelines will help us more than hurt us.
What do you need to know?

1. Use a lesbian/gay supportive insurance agent or financial planner in all your work--they will watch out for the homophobia that is rampant right now and fight for you!

2. If you have had any form of VD in the past 5 years you can almost forget getting any of the insurances. If you have had treatment for drug or alcohol problems in the past 5 years you can almost forget about insurance.

3. Is your employer a "self insured" plan? This means that an insurance company might administer, but the company pays. If this is your situation, and the plan does not say specifically that it will cover AIDS related diseases, they can drop you at any time or not cover AIDS. These plans are not regulated by the Insurance Commissioner of Wisconsin but by weak Federal laws.

4. When applying for life insurance (whether through a company plan or on your own) put as your beneficiary: ESTATE OF your name. After issue, about 2-3 months, put in for a change of beneficiary--but don't list another male as a beneficiary at this time, unless it is a buy/sell business insurance plan.

5. Get the proper coverages. Being sick and not having the right coverage, whether health or disability, is a very sad thing. Get to a gay/lesbian insurance agent or financial planner to review all of your plans, even company plans.

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CALL 273-4444 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION DETAILS

THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRATION FEE

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PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT YOUR BOARD AND OFFICERS. THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION, AND WE ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND A BOARD MEETING, JUST CALL THE PRESIDENT WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. HE'LL BE GLAD TO HELP.

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MICHIGAN EMPLOYER MUST PAY \$16,000 FOR AIDS DISCRIMINATION

On September 30 it was announced that a court-appointed arbitrator had ordered a \$16,000 award in an AIDS-related employment discrimination suit, as compensation for civil rights violations. The lawsuit, one of the first in the country to go to court, was originally filed in May 1984 in Oakland County, just outside Detroit.

Tim Trueman, an insurance agent for Advanced Underwriters, was summarily fired after his boss learned that Trueman had AIDS. Trueman then sued Advanced for lost wages and violations of his civil rights. Although he died in February of 1985, the suit was continued by his estate. Ironically, the owner of the agency, Howard Camden, has been trying to collect \$100,000 from a "key man" life insurance policy he had taken out on Trueman's life. The lead counsel on the case, David Piontkowsky, has pledged to oppose Camden's efforts to collect the policy proceeds.

Steven J. Murray

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CCBA Events of Interest

November

- 4 Business Enhancement Steve 344-7278 or Ralph 445-5552
- 5 Executive Committee Jerry 372-2773
- 9 Lesbian/Gay Cable Meeting Mark 277-7671
- 11 Membership Meeting; Main Library, 7:00 PM
- 13 Theater Party Cliff 962-0012
- 16 Wine Tasting Club Ci 278-0328
- 18 Full Board Meeting Jerry 372-2773
- 20 Women's After Work; Fannie's Tavern 5 PM

December

- 1 Executive Committee Jerry 372-2773
- 2 Business Enhancement Steve 344-7278 or Ralph 445-5552
- 3 Women's Planning Meeting Pat 265-6531
- 7 Christmas Party; Busby's Good Time Emporium
- 14 Wine Tasting Club Ci 278-0328
- 16 Board Meeting Jerry 372-2773
- 18 Investment Club Leonard 963-1990

January

- 6 Business Enhancement Steve 344-7278 or Ralph 445-5552
- 7 Executive Committee Jerry 372-2773
- 14 Annual Dinner Meeting Steve 344-7278
- 18 Wine Tasting Ci 278-0328
- 20 Full Board Meeting Jerry 372-2773

CCBA MEMBER IN \$6 MILLION PROJECT

Architect Dan Thompson, a CCBA member, is one of three partners engaged in a six million dollar project involving remodelling a 96-year-old riverfront warehouse building at 412-20 N. Plankinton Avenue. The project is presently expected to be completed in 1987.

Perhaps the most dramatic change to the old building, which Thompson said was long overdue, will be the addition of a riverwalk and two-level deck overlooking the riverfront. He said that he planned the riverwalk and deck based on work that he did on the plans for Milwaukee's proposed riverwalk system, during the five years that he worked for the Department of City Development.

The warehouse conversion is Thompson and his partners' second major Downtown project. Last February they bought the former Theater X building at 1245 N. Water Street, gutted it, and converted it to new offices and a restaurant.

GAY OFFICIALS, POLITICAL ACTIVISTS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON NOV. 20-23

The second annual political conference of lesbian/gay elected and appointed officials, prospective candidates, & political activists has been announced, to be held Nov. 20th-23rd in Washington, D.C. The program includes: a lobbying afternoon; issues caucuses; workshops; a briefing for Congressional staffs; a press conference; "speak-outs" for national groups, leaders, elected officials, and appointed officials; an AIDS teach-in; and a banquet honoring 25 years of gay/lesbian activism in D.C. For more info: National Association Conference; 1742 Massachusetts Ave. SE; Washington, DC 20003.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

A special board meeting was held on October 6th. Peter Johnson and Karen Gotzler presented recommendations for By-Law revisions, which were discussed at great length.

Summary of the regular meeting:

Committees: **Public Relations** continues to meet on a frequent basis, and has formulated suggestions for improving *The Newsletter*. **Membership** would be meeting later that week; renewal notices will be sent to all persons whose memberships have expired. **Business Enhancement** is soliciting advertisement for the next edition of the CCBA Business Directory, the *Ad-Vantage*.

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with volunteer secretarial responsibilities should contact Sally at 962-5940. The transition from the paid secretarial service is proceeding according to plans. Much time was spent on the proposed By-Law revisions, and the format for the November membership meeting. Board members are currently gathering appropriate information for the new CCBA Policy and Procedure Manual.

A formal acceptance of bid will be sent to C.J. Printing for the printing of *The Newsletter*.

A letter will be sent to all local Lesbian/Gay organizations to solicit nominations for the Hall of Fame.

A letter will be sent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, which will indicate CCBA's desire to serve on planning committees.

COPIES OF THE FULL MINUTES FOR MEETINGS OF THE CCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO OUR MEMBERS, ON REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY.

CLAVIS PARTY SET FOR NOVEMBER 13

CCBA plans a theater party for Thursday evening, November 13th, to attend the Clavis Theatre's production of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*.

The drama, based on the playwright's own experiences with the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center in New York City, was described by the *Milwaukee Journal* as "one of the two most important plays of the decade." Barbra Streisand has shown interest in acquiring the film rights for her own company.

The play is powerful, perhaps searing, as those who attended CCBA's October dinner meeting had a chance to see for themselves when Neal Brenard, producer of the Clavis, presented a brief excerpt from the play. At that time, he announced that 10 percent of gross receipts from the production would be donated to the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Tickets for the party are \$8.50, and are on a first come, first served basis. Those interested in attending the theater party should contact Cliff Heise at 962-0012. *The Normal Heart* runs through December 7 at the Enclave Theatre, 900 South 5th Street.

CCBA NEWSLETTER

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We welcome your views and comments regarding CCBA or other issues of interest to our community. All letters will be acknowledged and considered for publication. Each letter must signed by its author, and becomes the property of *The Newsletter*.