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## news notes: u.s./world

compiled by Lainey Millen :: *qnotes* staff

### Vet from North Carolina has history-making moment

A North Carolina veterinarian became the first openly gay president-elect for the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) last July and he has been speaking to LGBT vet students about their concerns.



Dr. Joe Kinnamey of Reidsville, N.C., was elected by his peers at its House of Delegates meeting.

The 153-year-old association has typically elected straight, white men to the leadership post, but more recently has begun to elect a handful of women. AVMA's gay and lesbian professionals were celebratory over the news.

He shared with the association's news site that he did not see himself as a pioneer. "It's just my life. It's who I am," he shared.

Kinnarney, who hid his relationship with his partner and now husband while campaigning for the post, has since become a more vocal advocate of LGBT vets and students.

AVMA Associate Director for International and Diversity Issues Dr. Beth Sabin has stated that Kinnarney's example stands as an illustration of why inclusion is a core value of the association.

Supporting veterinary professionals is a

top priority of the association and has been so since it was founded by Dr. Ken Gorczyca.

### Psychiatric association condemns conversion therapy

On March 23, the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) called for an end to the discredited practice of "conversion therapy," which is linked to serious harms, including depression, substance abuse and suicide.

The world's largest organization of mental health professionals represents 200,000 people in 118 countries.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) #BornPerfect Campaign Coordinator and Staff Attorney Sam Ames lauded the statement issued by the WPA. The statement stated that the WPA saw no sound scientific evidence that innate sexual orientation can be changed. It went on to say that such treatment can create a setting in which prejudice and discrimination flourishes and can potentially be harmful. The WPA added that using conversion therapy was wholly unethical.

The announcement comes less than a year after the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights released a groundbreaking report calling for all member countries to end conversion therapy. That report followed the United Nations Committee Against Torture's historic decision to raise the issue as a potential violation of human rights

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