

Q-NOTES

Switchboard, Charlotte (704) 525-6128
AIDS Hotline, Charlotte (704) 333-AIDS
PFLAG Hotline, Charlotte (704) 364-1474
AIDS Hotline, Columbia (803) 779-PALS
Call Line, Wilmington (919) 675-9222

December 1989

■ PRIDE IN PRINT ■

(704) 338-1138

Season's Greetings

In Unity There Is Strength!

Anonymous HIV Testing Unanimously Retained!

By Nancy Campbell
Q-Notes Staff

Last month Q-Notes urged our readers to attend one of the open hearings on the question of anonymous HIV testing across the state of North Carolina. We are happy to report that your activism - your attendance at this hearing and the attendance of others in Raleigh earlier this month - resulted in the unthinkable. North Carolina is now the only state in which HIV positive testing is reportable, that retains anonymous testing! Congratulations, readers!

This story began October 1, when the North Carolina State Legislature made HIV positive status a reportable condition. Before that date, only full-blown AIDS was reportable. Each Health Department in the 100 counties in North Carolina kept only the number of positive tests on record, and no names were attached to the results.

Dr. Ron Levine, the state Health Director, is charged with proposing rules to support new legislation, and submitting the tentative rules to the Health Services Commission, which approves or alters the proposed rules or sends Dr. Levine back to the drawing board. The new legislation added a 58th reportable condition - HIV positive status - to the 57 conditions that already required documentation. It was proposed that confidential testing replace anonymous testing in all but 9

to 15 sites across the state. With confidential testing, a person would have to give his or her name, and the positive results would be reported to the state with names.

Two public hearings were held, one in Raleigh, and one in Matthews, NC, on November 1, which Q-Notes asked you to attend. Dr. Levine began the hearing by characterizing the responses the committee had received so far. Of 131 spoken or written responses at that time, 126 had been firmly in favor of retaining anonymous testing for HIV status.

Among the five negative responses were Rep. Coy Privette, a well-known bigot, and Wake County Senator Johnston. Their contention was that the proposed nine sites for anonymous testing "flies in the face of legislative intent." Those who opted FOR anonymous testing pointed out that legislative interest in health procedures could legitimately address only two functions. One is to statistically track the spread of communicable diseases, and the other is to enact measures to control that spread. This legislation, they pointed out, seemed to be an obvious attempt at punitive measures such as harassment and intimidation. Many speakers pointed out that people would not be tested if anonymous testing were not available.

Dr. Levine allowed the representatives of the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's

offices to speak to the issue first. Both stated their opinions that the provision of sites for anonymous testing flies in the face of legislative intent. They were followed by approximately 30 speakers who favored the retention of anonymous testing in every county. Many of those advocating anonymous testing were representatives from Duke, state level Communicable Disease personnel, local Health Departments, and other health professionals. Others were HIV positive and AIDS patients pleading for sanity in public decisions. All were against confidential testing (and for anonymous testing).

In the end, Dr. Shuford Abernethy, a member-at-large from Hickory, NC, moved that we retain anonymous testing in North Carolina in all 100 county testing sites. It was seconded and unanimously approved by the Health Services Commission. North Carolina is now unique in this respect: HIV positive status is reportable, but without names!

As this article stated in the title, in unity there is strength. Be sure, next time there is an opportunity to attend such a hearing or demonstration, that you attend. Next time, it could be your favorite cause that is involved. Next time, it could be the "Crimes Against Nature" law. Together, we CAN make a difference!

GLAD Conference Honors North Carolinians

By Nancy Campbell
Q-Notes Staff

A number of North Carolinians were honored by appointment to District committees, election to District offices, and other significant events at the fall conference of the Gulf Lower Atlantic District (GLAD) of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the denomination with an outreach to all oppressed peoples, including gay and lesbian persons. There are four congregations of the Fellowship in North Carolina at present, with another in the planning stages, and three member congregations in South Carolina.

Rev. Lynn Guerra, of MCC Charlotte, was appointed head of the District Clergy Review Committee, an appointment made by the General Council and announced by Moderator Troy Perry at the conference. Elected members to the committee are Rev. Bob Darst (New Life MCC in Charlotte) and Rev. Liz Leech of MCC Montgomery, Alabama.

Wayne Lindsay of St. John's MCC in Raleigh, NC, was approved as Student Clergy, as was Mic Hinson of MCC Augusta, North Augusta, South Carolina. Lindsay was also approved as Worship Coordinator for St. John's.



Mr. Gay USA Kimbol Purkerson
Story on page 11

Jay Neely of First MCC in Atlanta, Georgia, was elected District Coordinator (the equivalent of Bishop in most denominations), and Rev. Janet Pierce of MCC Huntsville, Alabama, was elected Assistant District Coordinator. Cassie Wylie from MCC Knoxville was elected District Lay Representative, and Rev. Steve Fund of All Saint's MCC in Atlanta was elected Clergy Representative. Darryl Walker (All Saint's) was elected district representative to the People of Color Commission, and Sandy Under-

wood was elected to the Faith, Fellowship and Order Commission.

It was announced that Rev. Joe Fisher would be moving to Asheville soon, and may be able to start a work in Asheville.

Rev. Christine Oscar of St. Mary's MCC in Greensboro was ordained at the Saturday night service.

More than thirty delegates from Charlotte attended the conference, held in Winston-Salem, the first weekend of November, 1989. The fall 1990 District Conference will be held in Charlotte, NC.

Gay and Lesbian Chorus To Begin In January

This past July, over 2,500 gay men and women from across the United States raised their voices in song in Seattle at The GALA Festival III - Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses. GALA now has 75 choruses in its membership across the country, and 43 of those groups performed in concert at the Festival. In addition, all those voices joined for one final concert together at the Festival site on the University of Washington campus.

It was a week of joyous music, and an overwhelming sense of peace to be together with that many brothers and sisters. The Emerald City of Seattle provided a week of fun and memories for everyone who attended. Plans are already underway for GALA Festival IV to be held in July 1992 in Denver.

Dan, a new Charlotte resident was part of one of those groups - the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus. The incredible feeling that he felt that week has led him to begin the process of starting a gay and lesbian chorus in Charlotte.

Dan recently moved here to take a new job, and misses the comradeship that rehearsals and performances offered from the members of his chorus. He has talked to a few folks in Charlotte who are supportive of the idea of beginning a chorus, has found a musical director willing to help out, is searching for a rehearsal space with a good piano, and is now looking for other interested men and women to join in this endeavor.

There will be a brief informational meeting Thursday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in finding more out about this idea is welcome to attend. The tentative plan is to begin rehearsals in January for four Thursday nights, and at the end of the four weeks those people who attend

rehearsals will discuss if they want to have a chorus in Charlotte or not. All you need to start is to be able to carry a tune, want to meet people, have fun, and commit to attending weekly rehearsals.

People do not have to attend the December 7 meeting to join the chorus. To attend the meeting or to express your interest in joining the chorus, please call Dan at 536-1372.

Christmas Cantata Set for Dec. 17

By Nancy Campbell
Q-Notes Staff

MCC Charlotte will introduce its new choir at a special service Sunday night, December 17, at 7:30 pm, in its "Chapel in the Sky" at 4037 E. Independence Boulevard (next to Camelot Music).

The choir will perform a special arrangement of "Oh Holy Night," arranged specially for the MCC Charlotte choir. The performance will include a narrative retelling of the Christmas story, with hymns by both the full choir and the men's choir. The cantata ends with a solo rendition of "Oh Holy Night."

The choir will be wearing the new robes given by an anonymous donor.

All are invited to join MCC Charlotte for the special service, which concludes with a communion service, and for a reception afterward in the fellowship hall.

Both the regular 11 am worship service and the traditional Christmas Eve service at 11 pm will be held December 24.

On New Year's Eve the church will host a Watchnight party beginning at 7:30 pm, and concluding with a worship service at 11 pm.

BEST BETS

- Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- Dec. 2 Mature Gay Men
- Dec. 5 First Tuesday Meeting
- Dec. 7 7:30 pm Organizational Meeting for G/L Chorus
- Dec. 8 10 pm Closetbusters on Cablevision Channel 33
- Dec. 13 Queen City Friends back at Godfather's Pizza - Park Rd! 7:30 pm.
- Dec. 14 PFLAG/Gay Parents Coalition
- Dec. 17 Christmas Cantata at MCC Charlotte
- Dec. 23 Hannukah
- Dec. 24 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Social / 11 pm Worship Service at MCC Charlotte
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Dec. 31 8:30 pm Yackin Black and White Men Together Social (Spencer, N.C.)
7:30 pm Watchnight social & 11 pm Communion Service at MCC Charlotte

INDEX

- Business Cards Page 11
- Calendar Page 2
- Community Center Survey Page 4
- Lie of Omission Page 5
- News Briefs Page 10
- Organizations Page 2
- Soft Spot Page 6