

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Asheville, NC

Serving the Southern Appalachian Gay/Lesbian Community

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Asheville Gay and Lesbian

Information Line:

253-2971

A project of the Asheville Gay and Lesbian
Community Council

Gay and Lesbian Youth Hotline:

1-800-347-TEEN

Thurs.-Sun. 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

To report anti-gay/HIV+
discrimination/violence:

Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council:

253-1656 / 252-4713

U.S. Department of Justice toll-free:

1-800-347-HATE

Lesbian Health Fund Awards Historic Research Grants

SAN FRANCISCO, CA-- The Lesbian Health Fund (LHF) has awarded its first round of research grants to three important studies addressing the health issues of lesbians and their families. The research addresses such key issues as alternative insemination methods, the impact of stigma on children of lesbians, and health practices of lesbian physicians.

The grants, totalling \$28,000, were announced at an Oct. 30 reception in San Francisco at which LHF made its official public debut. LHF is the only American or Canadian funding entity, solely dedicated to supporting lesbian-specific health research.

"The funding of these research grants is an historic occasion. Lesbian healthcare is an area of medical care that has been seriously neglected," said Patricia A. Robertson,

MD, the San Francisco obstetrician/gynecologist who heads LHF's grant review committee.

LHF was formed to support a broad area of medical research focused on lesbian areas of interest, including the rates and risk factors for cancers, infections, and diseases among lesbians; mental health concerns of lesbians and their families; and issues of access to the healthcare system for lesbians. Another goal is to promote the education of healthcare workers about lesbian health needs and the education of lesbians about risk reduction and early diagnosis of health problems.

Tax-deductible contributions made payable to the Lesbian Health Fund can be sent to AAPHR, 273 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114. For more information about AAPHR, call 414/255-4547.



(Gay Mens Chorus performs at their annual Holiday Concert at All Souls Episcopal Church in Biltmore. About 125 people attended the event. Their next performance will be on Sunday, February 13th at 7:30 p.m. at All Souls.)

First South Carolina Statewide Meeting Attracts Over Thirty Activists

COLUMBIA, SC-- The call to defeat anti-lesbigay legislation currently before the South Carolina General Assembly brought together over thirty activists from around the state in December 4 meeting. The meeting, held at the newly-opened South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Columbia, SC drew individuals and organization representatives from Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, Anderson, Columbia, and other locations.

The attendees spent the morning in a training session about the South Carolina General Assembly. Speak-

ers included Susie Nickles, a veteran SC lobbyist with over ten years experience; State Senator Ernest Passallaigue, Jr. of Charleston; and Mandy Carter, a North Carolina native, now an organizer for the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

After a working lunch, a strategy discussion dominated the afternoon session. The attendees discussed various ideas for defeating anti-lesbigay legislation when the General Assembly reconvenes in January. Current bills targeted against the state lesbigay community include the following:

H3649--Would ban bisexuals, gay men and lesbians from being foster or adoptive parents

H3569--Would ban bisexuals, gay men and lesbians from serving in the SC National Guard

H3932--Would ban "practicing homosexuals" from donating blood

H3938--Would expand the state's "buggery" law to ban more sexual acts

H3649 and H3569 have passed out of the House committee and are on the House contested calendar. They will likely be considered early in the legislative process. The other

two bills have not received House sub-committee hearings yet.

South Carolina citizens should contact their state representatives and senators at home or work by phone or letter. Anyone needing addresses and phone numbers or needing to find out in which district they live should contact their county voter registration office.

At the end of the meeting, attendees agreed that the day had been productive and encouraging. In what may be the beginning of a statewide coalition, they also decided to meet again the first weekend in March at a meeting near Greenville.

For more information, call Roger Bell at 803/843-1070.

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