



AGLP
Opening Minds

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Dr. Silver Lectures on Transitional Surgery at AGLP's Saturday Symposium: GENDER IDENTITY AND THE CLINICIAN

APA BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES POSITION STATEMENT FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Dan Karasic, MD

On July 30, 2005, the Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association approved a position statement supporting the legalization of same sex civil marriage, and opposing efforts to ban marriage equality. The position statement had been approved by the APA Assembly in Atlanta last May.

AGLP members played an essential role in the passage to the position statement. There was much discussion on the proposed wording of the statement by AGLP members, including Jack Drescher, Dan Hicks, Marshall Forstein, Margery Sved, Mark Townsend, and many others. The statement originated in the APA's Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues, chaired by Jack Drescher. Through the efforts of other AGLP members, several district branches also endorsed the statement. The statement was revised and endorsed by the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, which is chaired by Francis Lu, MD. (Dr. Lu was honored at the AGLP Awards Banquet in San Francisco in 2003 for his work to promote LGBT equality.) The position statement then was approved by the Joint Reference Committee and sent to the APA Assembly. Drs. Drescher, Sved, Lu and numerous others helped shepherd the statement to passage in the Assembly in May.

AGLP members then contacted their representatives on the APA Board of Trustees, urging that the Board also approve the statement. In the end, the Board of Trustees

Continued on page 4

The Newsletter of the
*Association of Gay and Lesbian
Psychiatrists*

Editor, George Harrison, M.D.

Published quarterly from 4514 Chester Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707.

The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. The sexual orientation of any writer or any person mentioned in the *Newsletter* should not be inferred unless specifically stated. Mailing lists for the *Newsletter* are confidential, to be used only by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, and do not imply sexual orientation.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Persons wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to: George Harrison, M.D., Editor, *Newsletter* of AGLP; UCSF AIDS Health Project, 1930 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. (Phone: 415-502-4818, FAX 415-502-7240, E-mail: gharrison@aglp.org). Submissions should be clearly readable. Submissions on electronic media (5.25 or 3.5 inch floppy disks) in IBM compatible formats are appreciated. A hard copy should be included along with a notation indicating which word processing program was used. Submissions become the property of AGLP and will not be returned unless requested and accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. The *Newsletter* reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Name, address, daytime telephone number, and a short biographical statement about the author should accompany the submission even if the author requests anonymity in publication (which is discouraged). The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is September 30, 2005.

ADVERTISING RATES

The *Newsletter* of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists accepts limited advertising depending upon space and applicability to issues affecting psychiatrists who either are gay or lesbian or treat gay and lesbian patients. The mailing lists for AGLP are confidential and never sold or provided to any vendor.

Full Page Ad	\$250
Half-Page Ad	\$175
Business Card	\$75

Community service announcements are printed without charge, but are accepted only on a limited basis depending upon space limitations and applicability.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

George Harrison



George Harrison, M.D.

As I write this in mid July it is 70 degrees here in San Francisco. This is what passes for a full on summer day here, while just this morning I was cycling in 100 degree heat behind the hills of Oakland. Maybe it's the temperatures or the quiet of the house but I am thinking of how unfocused I become in the summer. My concerns are more local, more immediate. Weekends are spent out of doors with friends. Priorities shift from work and the world to indulging in more sensual pleasures like finding the perfect organic peaches from the farmer's market.

From this frame the convention seems as far away as Atlanta is from the Bay Area. The months leading up to the convention were filled with exchanges of emails preparing for the civil marriage statement for the Assembly. I was focused so much on this one piece of the week I was surprised by all the other great aspects of the convention week. I especially appreciated seeing friends again from afar and embarrassingly, even some from San Francisco whom I rarely get to see. We had a great Saturday seminar on transgender issues. In the spare time I got a chance to see at least a portion of what makes Atlanta the dynamo of the south. And our hosts couldn't have been more gracious if they had stepped out of a novel by Miss Margaret Mitchell herself. The Assembly vote came early in the week leaving more time to concentrate on AGLP affairs and the chance meeting of friends at places like the Richard Meier's High Museum of Art.

From this frame the convention seems as far away as Atlanta is from the Bay Area. The months leading up to the convention were filled with exchanges of emails preparing for the civil marriage statement for the Assembly. I was focused so much on this one piece of the week I was surprised by all the other great aspects of the convention week.

One week after returning home I again participated in the AIDS/Lifecycle bike ride from SF to LA to raise money for HIV services. This was my third year and the many miles of training made the 585 mile journey a lot easier. The week on the bike was a great compliment to the Atlanta experience. The ride is intense and nonstop like the convention week but it is distinctively different in the way that strenuous exercise commands the body and mind to pay attention to the moment, to oneself, and only the immediate surroundings.

My summers now begin with this ying yang of the convention week closely followed by the AIDS ride. Both heighten my attention to the world in which I live, first in a more expansive way centered on my professional life and then more personally to my physical being. It's a lot to absorb in a 3 weeks span of time which may account for my lack of focus here in July. That and the promise of evenings spent eating amazing dinners and listening to the laughter of my friends.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Remaining engaged in the battle against homophobia

Dan Karasic, MD



Dan Karasic, M.D.

In 1994, I was living in the Castro. I had come home late from a Chinese New Year's banquet with a diverse group of friends. Homophobia, or any of the world's social ills, was the furthest thing from my mind. It was late, but I needed to go two blocks to the grocery store to pick up milk for my morning ritual, the latte that always accompanies the morning paper.

As I returned to my apartment with groceries, I was jumped by two young men who had come to the Castro to attack a gay man. I eventually managed to fight them off, but I had quite visible injuries which made it clear that either I'd been kicked in the head a number of times, or I'd had a nose job. In the ensuing weeks before my raccoon's eyes vanished, several people—strangers, friends, co-workers, and patients—told me about their experiences

followers' visceral homophobia is a powerful motivating force.

Politically, we have sustained a number of losses. But even in the signs of resurgent homophobia, there is evidence of our progress.

You may have read about the gay 16 year old in Tennessee who posted on his blog about being his horror at being sent to a reparative therapy program run by the Love in Action ministry. The teen's blog posts ceased after he was sent to the center, but elicited attention from many on the web, including the press.

It is tragic that gay and lesbian children are still sent by their parents to reparative therapy centers. But it is hopeful that media coverage highlighted that reparative therapy has been rejected by all mainstream mental health organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association. Even the reparative therapy center (somewhat disingenuously) claimed to a religious program, and not one providing mental health therapy. Thanks to our efforts, reparative therapy has retreated into the refuge of religious practice, and is less and less regarded as having legitimacy as a mental health treatment.

Our very gains and visibility as a community have made us a bigger target. Reactionaries against social change have found that their followers' visceral homophobia is a powerful motivating force. Politically, we have sustained a number of losses. But even in the signs of resurgent homophobia, there is evidence of our progress.

with homophobic violence. Hearing so many stories of others being assaulted by homophobes was quite distressing. The puncturing of my sense of safety was uncomfortable, and I was not happy about it.

Homophobia again seems distant to me much of the time. I am surrounded by friends and colleagues who not only accept, but celebrate diversity. The far-off cries of politicians decrying same sex marriage as the death knell of Western civilization seem distant and absurd.

It is easy to see why so many LGBT psychiatrists have become less politically and organizationally active over the years. For those of us who don't have to live with overt homophobia on a day-to-day basis, the reminders that it is out there are unwanted intrusions. But ignoring homophobia doesn't make it go away.

Our very gains and visibility as a community have made us a bigger target. Reactionaries against social change have found that their

With conservatives in control of government, the homophobes are again on the attack—trying to ban gay foster parents in Texas, stopping schools from teaching tolerance in Maryland, and banning not only same sex marriage but also domestic partnerships and civil unions in a number of states.

It is more comfortable to stay in our safety zone of our friends and families, and of our psychiatric practices. But we must stay politically engaged as long as our enemies are. I urge you to remain active with AGLP as we fight against homophobia and for a better world for our patients and for ourselves. The stakes are too high for us to do otherwise.

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Civil Marriage Equality Statement

Continued from page 1

overwhelmingly approved the position statement on July 30.

The APA can now file or sign on to amicus briefs supporting the legalization of same sex marriage, and opposing marriage equality bans. Amicus briefs, including the APA's, were important in the Supreme Court reversing the Bowers decision in *Lawrence vs. Texas*, which invalidated sodomy laws. According to Lambda Legal, amicus briefs in the lawsuits over marriage equality are similarly important. Thanks to the hard work of many in AGLP, and our allies in the APA, the APA can now stand with the LGBT community in our fight for marriage equality.

Here is the APA Position Statement:

POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX CIVIL MARRIAGE

AS PHYSICIANS WHO FREQUENTLY EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ABILITY OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN TO COPE WITH STRESS AND MENTAL ILLNESS, PSYCHIATRISTS NOTE THE INVARIABLY POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF A STABLE, ADULT PARTNERSHIP ON THE HEALTH OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS. SUSTAINED AND COMMITTED MARITAL AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE CORNERSTONES OF OUR SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORK AS WE FACE LIFE'S CHALLENGES, INCLUDING ILLNESS AND LOSS. THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT LONG-TERM SPOUSAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT ENHANCES PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AT ALL STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.

THIS POSITION STATEMENT IS ABOUT THE LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX CIVIL MARRIAGE, NOT RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE, AND IT DOES NOT PERTAIN TO ANY ORGANIZED RELIGION'S VIEW OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS HAVE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THEIR EXISTENCE THROUGH CIVIL MARRIAGE, WHICH PROVIDES A STABILIZING FORCE. IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MASSACHUSETTS, SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE CURRENTLY DENIED THE IMPORTANT LEGAL BENEFITS, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIVIL MARRIAGE. SAME-SEX COUPLES THEREFORE EXPERIENCE SEVERAL KINDS OF STATE-SANCTIONED DISCRIMINATION THAT CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT THE STABILITY OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS AND THEIR MENTAL HEALTH. THE CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED GAY AND LESBIAN PARENTS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME PROTECTION THAT CIVIL MARRIAGE AFFORDS THE CHILDREN OF HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES. ADOPTIVE AND DIVORCED LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS FACE ADDITIONAL OBSTACLES. AN ADOPTIVE PARENT WHO IS LESBIAN OR GAY IS OFTEN PREJUDICIALLY PRESUMED AS UNFIT IN MANY U.S. JURISDICTIONS. FURTHERMORE, WHEN UNMARRIED COUPLES DO ADOPT, USUALLY ONE PARENT IS GRANTED LEGAL RIGHTS, WHILE THE OTHER PARENT MAY HAVE NO LEGAL STANDING. THESE OBSTACLES OCCUR EVEN THOUGH NO RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT THE CHILDREN RAISED BY LESBIANS AND GAY MEN ARE LESS WELL ADJUSTED THAN THOSE REARED WITHIN HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS. AS THE POPULATION AGES, THE DENIAL OF LEGAL

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VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Kenn Ashley, MD



Kenn Ashley, M.D.

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) Annual Meeting in Atlanta is a fading memory, the excitement over the APA Assembly passing the position statement in support of same-sex civil marriage has been replaced by some anxiety over how the APA Board of Trustees will deal with the statement—stay tuned, as we will know shortly, the hospital is settling back into the usual routine and rhythms as JCAHO departs later today, and I am hoping for decent weather this weekend.

I am also beginning to think of the upcoming APA meeting in Toronto next May—committee presentations, the AGLP all-day symposium, events for the AGLP Hospitality Suite, and the on-going issue of membership in AGLP.

I encourage all members to speak with potential members about the organization and –membership applications.

Here are a few talking points:

- AGLP creates a welcoming, safe, nurturing, and accepting environment for members.
- Liaison with the APA has played an important role in the support of the APA on various issues of interest to the LGBT community, most recently support of the position statement on same-sex civil marriage.
- AGLP hosts an all-day symposium at the APA Annual Meeting.
- Members receive the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy*, a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that provides high quality scholarly discourse on LGBT mental health issues.
- AGLP is making a documentary video on reparative therapy (for more information on this and to make a donation to the project see the website www.aglp.org).
- AGLP is in the process of endowing the John E. Fryer, MD Award, which will be an annual award and lecture presented at the APA Annual Meeting (for further information on Dr John E. Fryer, the award in his honor, or to make a contribution to the award endowment see the website www.aglp.org).

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Roy Harker

Our Annual Meeting in Atlanta was successful on so many levels. We celebrated with pride the successful efforts of the Committee to pass through the APA assembly the position statement in favor of Same-Sex Civil Marriage. We conducted a successful and informative symposium on Transgendered Issues, adopted new bylaws, and saw a large number of our members presenting on various topics of importance to gay and lesbian issues. And then of course there were the social events highlighting our ever-growing professional and personal bonds.

Our gratitude and thanks go out to all those who dedicated much time and effort in the process. In particular, I would like to thank the Atlanta Local Arrangements Committee: Ed Nix, Chair; Richard



Opening Reception at Dr. Buda's Grand Home

Amar; Yolanda Graham; Sarah Herbert; Bill Martin; Adam Pruet; Maurice Sprenger; Eric Yarbrough; Jack Pelham; Peter Bryg; and Richard Kemp. Thanks are also in order for Kenn Ashley for organizing the Saturday Symposium and the Hospitality Suite. Ed Nix and his partner Ed Byrg hosted an exceptional welcoming reception on Friday. Frank

Buda, M.D., hosted a grand Opening Reception at his Antebellum Mansion in Downtown Atlanta attended by over 150 people. These receptions, scheduled each year to introduce visiting members to the host city, are vital parts of the mission of AGLP in providing a welcoming environment for our membership. Other hospitality events supported with AGLP funds included an AGLP Women's Dinner, an AGLP Board and Council Breakfast Meeting, a Medical student, resident, and early career psychiatrist brunch, and the Annual Awards Banquet held at the Sheraton Midtown.

Now looking to the future...

AGLP FALL BUSINESS MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Plans for the AGLP Fall 2005 Business Meeting are in place and your attendance is strongly encouraged. This important planning meeting is open to all members, although The Board of Directors

FINAL STRETCH FOR FUNDING THE FRYER AWARD – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

We have less than 6 months in which to get the full benefit of the Gill Foundation's \$15,000 challenge grant. Gill will match every dollar our members donate to the Fryer Award, meaning that by collecting \$15,000 from our members we will have a total of \$30,000 toward endowing the award. AGLP's board is aware of another bequest left to us that will soon be coming our way, and we are confident that if we can make this match before the December 2005 deadline, we will be able to fully endow the Fryer Award with the \$50,000 required by APA. We will then have a lasting legacy honoring John Fryer and all the contributors to the award, and we will have an ongoing and highly visible presence at APA meetings for years to come.

We have just \$5,560 to go to get to the \$15,000 mark, thanks to

Gill Foundation
Hire, Richard
Drescher, Jack (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Michaeli, Danni, M.D.
Barber, Mary
Ihlenfeld, Charles
Odom, Linda
Sotsky, Stuart
Volpp, Serena (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Wainberg, Milton
Hohman, Elizabeth (HIRE MEMORIAL)
344 West 23rd Condo
(HIRE MEMORIAL)
Bialer, Phil
D'Ercole, Ann (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Hanin, Edward (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Roughton, Ralph
Scasta, David

Smulofsky, Barry (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Taylor, Ronald
Collins, Kathleen (HIRE MEMORIAL)
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Mitchell, Robert (HIRE MEMORIAL)
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Rahmani, Kamran (HIRE MEMORIAL)
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Sonnenberg, Louise
Goldenberg, David (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Karasic, Dan
Robachinski, Chester
Forstein, Marshall
Pleak, Richard
Sved, Margery (HIRE MEMORIAL)
Karp, Jordan

generous contributions from:

On page 6 you will find a flyer describing the Fryer Award. You may contribute using this flyer, or you may go to the AGLP web site (www.aglp.org) and contribute online.

Let's all band together to make this happen!

Thanks,

Mary Barber
Immediate Past President

...



John E. Fryer, M.D.

THE JOHN E. FRYER, M.D. AWARD

The John E. Fryer, M.D. Award will be given annually to a public figure who has made significant contributions to LGBT mental health. Besides a stipend and award plaque, the award would feature a lecture at the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Annual Meeting. The Award would honor the late John Fryer, also known as Dr. H. Anonymous, whose courageous speech given at the 1972 APA convention was one of the sparks that pushed forward the declassification of homosexuality as a mental illness the following year. The APA has other already-existing awards sponsored by minority-allied organizations. These awards and their associated lectures serve to increase awareness of the leaders and issues of the sponsoring group. Lectures associated with these awards are typically attended by hundreds of psychiatrists and are featured prominently in the Annual Meeting program. This Award would do much to educate non-gay psychiatrists about LGBT mental health issues, and to raise awareness of the concerns of the LGBT community among psychiatrists. Since LGBT patients often seek mental health treatment in areas of the country where there are no psychiatrists or providers with knowledge or expertise on LGBT issues, we believe it is critical to educate a wider audience to ensure sensitive care for these patients.

The Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP) received a \$15,000 challenge grant from the Gill Foundation, the nation's largest funder focused on lesbian and gay organizations and issues. The grant will support the creation of this new American Psychiatric Association award.



Dr. H. Anonymous at 1972 APA Convention

As a challenge grant recipient, we need your help in matching the funds. In order to receive the award, we must raise at least \$15,000 in new and increased donations. It's a great opportunity for us to expand our resources, and further our mission to provide networking and support for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender psychiatrists and education and advocacy on LGBT mental health issues. Your support of this project now is extremely important. Please make your donation today by completing the form below or visiting our website, www.aglp.org.

I wish to make my tax-deductible donation to support the John E. Fryer APA Award

Name Degree

Address

City

State Zip -

Country

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4514 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707
(215)222-3881 - fax

I wish to pay by Check VISA MasterCard AMEX

CARD NO.

EXP. DATE: (Required)

SIGNATURE: _____ (Required)

If paying by check: Make your check payable to AGLP Fryer Award, and mail, along with this response card, to the National Office. Credit card payments may be either faxed or mailed.

MEDICAL STUDENT COLUMN

Eric Yarborough

A good friend of mine recently moved to St. Louis, and since we had been best friends for so long, I decided to make the trip with him and fly back. His partner was a graduating medical student, having matched at Washington University. My friend packed up his life to start a new one miles away. Because the trip would take the better part of a day, we crammed ourselves into his car early one morning and headed out. The trip took us past the house in which he grew up, not far from my parents' house, and we decided to stop by and say one last goodbye to his family. As we toured the property I found myself taking pictures like a tourist viewing a national landmark. I had photos taken with old toys and furniture that elicited certain memories from my time spent there while growing up. Walking around the nearby forest also engaged my senses to remind me of long-forgotten camping trips and talks that can only take place by firelight. Before getting back on the road, one final goodbye was said to his mother. Oddly, a rush of emotion enveloped me that I hadn't really expected. Had it been any mother and son, the same effect would have been sparked, but the vision of them parting for an unforeseen amount of time caused me to reflect on my own future departure and the goodbyes that lay in store.

The trip was faster than expected, and before long, the arch of St. Louis was staring back at us from a crowded interstate. After some careful navigation and a few moments of panic, we weaved our way through the web of roads and arrived at my friend's new home. His partner arrived later, worn from the usual stressful day of an intern. Helping choose a new restaurant to eat at got me excited for them and the new life they were embarking on – the fresh chapter ahead.

Oddly, a rush of emotion enveloped me that I hadn't really expected. Had it been any mother and son, the same effect would have been sparked, but the vision of them parting for an unforeseen amount of time caused me to reflect on my own future departure and the goodbyes that lay in store.

When we were sightseeing the next day, I insisted, as I usually do on vacations, that I visit the main emblem of the city, in this case the arch. There were no protests from my friend and we arrived early as to beat the crowds and buy our tickets for the ride. Unless you've experienced the ride to the top of the arch, it's hard to explain, but it mainly consists of a small round capsule which holds five people as it shifts and turns its way up the narrow passage. Making small talk with the other passengers is the only things that precluded my suppressed fear of heights. A phobia to this day I'm still in denial about, mainly due to my love of spectacular views. At the top, I was not disappointed. The views, seen through tiny windows, were breathtaking. My enjoyment of the views, however, was shadowed by the immense panic and realization of where I was located, and even more frightening, what was not located below me. I carefully paced around the floating chamber, much like the way prey would tiptoe through a sleeping lion's den. The wave of terror and excitement mixed together was an overload of emotion. It was not long, however, before I crept back to the safety of capsules and descended the same path that brought me up.

I feel that the upcoming year, as I apply to residencies and face the unknown, will be much like my recent trip. Saying goodbye to my friends and family will conjure a flood of memories and nostalgia for all my experiences, not only in medical school, but also throughout my life in Alabama. The unnamed city I'll be living in with a new set of responsibilities will surely bring a similar wave of terror like that experienced at the top of the St. Louis Arch. I can barely contain myself as I think about cramming myself into the car with all my memories in the back seat and take a ride to see some spectacular views.

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ASSEMBLY ACTION ON SAME-SEX CIVIL MARRIAGE

Margie Sved

Retiring Representative to the Caucus of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychiatrists



Margie Sved, M.D.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, we will know what the APA Board of Trustees (BOT) has decided to do about the Position Statement in Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage that passed the Assembly in May. There have been a variety of concerns about this Position Statement, so I have been asked to document my understanding of what happened.

Over the past year, the APA BOT has been asked to sign on to several Amicus Briefs related to Same-Sex marriage. This past summer, the BOT asked that since the current APA Position Statement supports same-sex civil union, a document be created about same-sex marriage for its review and approval. This was referred to the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, the Council on Psychiatry and the Law, and the Council on Children and their Families. The Council on Psychiatry and Law and the Council on Children were divided in their support, and the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities (chaired by Francis Lu, MD) asked the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues, chaired by Jack Drescher, MD to write a Position Statement on Same-Sex Civil Marriage. This was done, and many of us were involved in reviewing and perfecting this document. The Position Paper on Same-Sex Civil Marriage was approved by the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, and referred to the Joint Reference Committee (JRC). The JRC passed it, and following their usual protocol, referred it to the Assembly, so that it would be reviewed and approved by both the Council/Committee structure as well as the Assembly before going to the BOT.

Over the past year, the APA BOT has been asked to sign on to several Amicus Briefs related to Same-Sex marriage. This past summer, the BOT asked that since the current APA Position Statement supports same-sex civil union, a document be created about same-sex marriage for its review and approval.

This was then placed on the Assembly agenda as an Action Item referred from the JRC. The Assembly Rules Committee reviewed it, did not put it on the consent calendar (it would have been removed anyway). The Speaker, who sets the agenda, chose to put it on the Assembly agenda for Sunday morning, so that it could be reviewed in all the Area Council meetings during their deliberations on Saturday. Francis Lu, Jack Drescher, Mark Townsend, and I (in various permutations) attended 6 of the 7 Area Councils on Saturday. Area 1, which is mostly New England and some of Canada, said they did not need us to come, since they included Massachusetts. We took this to mean that they would support the Position Statement. There was extensive discussion in all of the Area Council meetings. Most of the discussion was quite positive, and focused on the history of this position statement and why this was necessary in addition to the same-sex civil union position statement. Area 5, primarily the southeast and including Texas, was, as expected, the least friendly. They decided that individuals from that group would call for a vote by strength. (This is a closed ballot vote, where each district branch gets votes proportional to the number of their members. Most Assembly business occurs by voice votes, but controversial topics often get a show of hands or a vote by strength.) I let the Speaker and Parliamentarian know to expect a request for a vote by strength, so they could include this in their planning.

However, on the floor of the Assembly on Sunday morning, a strange process happened. Not only was a call to vote by strength brought forward but Area 1 submitted a substitute motion to accept the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society's original document in support of same-sex civil marriage. They had not reviewed this motion idea with the position statement authors nor had they alerted the Assembly leadership that they would do this, both of which are thought of as usual and customary in the Assembly. This other document had been reviewed in the process of writing the final version of the position

Assembly Action*Continued from page 8*

statement for the APA, and was included in the references. However, the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues, and the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities felt that the Massachusetts position paper reflected the scientific reasons to support same-sex civil marriage, but did not include the civil and human rights issues. The Position Statement as written by the Committee and approved by the Council had both the scientific and human rights aspects.

The Parliamentarian, Ed Hanin, ruled that the Assembly would first vote whether or not to accept the substitute motion. Because of the process in which the request for a vote by strength was brought forward it was applied to the question of the substitute motion. Secondly, he ruled that if this substitute motion was defeated, a vote would occur on the original motion. So, the substitute motion after a long debate was defeated by a vote by strength (both those opposed to same-sex civil marriage and those against substituting the Massachusetts paper voted against it). Because it took a while to tally the vote by strength, the Assembly ran past the ending time, and the Speaker pressed us to vacate the room on time. The original question was called without any further discussion, there was a voice vote on the Position Statement in Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage, and it clearly passed.

Several Assembly members were quite disgruntled by this, felt that this was a very controversial topic, and that there had not been adequate discussion. They still wanted either a vote by strength or a referendum of the membership. There has been discussion on the Assembly list serve and other APA list serves for this to return to the Assembly in November. As I write this, it is not clear what the Board of Trustees will do in their July meeting. The BOT can accept the vote as the will of the Assembly, and pass this Position Statement, or they can ask that it be returned to the Assembly in November, or they can ask for a referendum of the APA membership. A referendum by the membership is still possible if 500 members of the APA submit a petition; however, this is a much more difficult process than it used to be. Hopefully, the BOT will do the right thing and pass the Position Statement in Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage, quickly and easily, so they can focus on the other important issues related to advocating for our patients and our profession!!

Again, I am honored to have served the Caucus of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychiatrists for so many years, and I thank you for your confidence in me as your representative. I learned from those who preceded me, Jim Krajewski, Peggy Hanley-Hackenbruck, Bob Cabaj, David Kessler, Stu Nichols, (and any others I may have forgotten) and from those I served with, Jim Krajewski, Jack Drescher, and Mark Townsend. I know Mark and Phil will follow in the tradition of providing a strong LGB voice in the Assembly.

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Civil Marriage Equality Statement*Continued from page 4*

RECOGNITION OF CIVIL MARRIAGE HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR INCREASING NUMBERS OF OLDER ADULTS IN SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS WHO FACE AGE-RELATED HEALTH AND FINANCIAL CONCERNS. EXCLUDING THESE ADULTS FROM CIVIL MARRIAGE PROTECTIONS OF SURVIVORSHIP AND INHERITANCE RIGHTS, FINANCIAL BENEFITS, AND LEGAL RECOGNITION AS A COUPLE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS INCREASES THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN ASSOCIATED WITH AGING.

THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION HAS HISTORICALLY SUPPORTED EQUITY, PARITY, AND NONDISCRIMINATION IN MATTERS THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH. APA HAS ALSO SUPPORTED SAME SEX CIVIL UNIONS AND THE RIGHT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES TO ADOPT AND CO-PARENT CHILDREN. THIS IS BECAUSE APA HAS A LONGSTANDING INTEREST IN CIVIL RIGHTS AND LEGAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH AS WELL AS A CODE OF ETHICS THAT SUPPORTS AND RESPECTS HUMAN DIGNITY. EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT LESBIAN AND GAY RELATIONSHIPS AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX CIVIL MARRIAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S ADVOCACY FOR MINORITY GROUPS. CIVIL MARRIAGE IS ASSOCIATED WITH A UNIQUE SET OF BENEFITS THAT PROVIDE LEGAL AND ECONOMIC PROTECTIONS TO ADULTS IN COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS AND TO THEIR CHILDREN. EQUAL ACCESS TO THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL MARRIAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE APA'S OPPOSITION TO DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

"IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING AND PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH, THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX CIVIL MARRIAGE WITH ALL RIGHTS, BENEFITS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONFERRED BY CIVIL MARRIAGE, AND OPPOSES RESTRICTIONS TO THOSE SAME RIGHTS, BENEFITS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES."

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AGLP EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COUNCIL MEETINGS MINUTES

Sheraton Colony Square Hotel

Atlanta, Georgia

Executive Board Meeting—Saturday, May 21, 2005

Executive Council Meeting—Sunday, May 22, 2005

Executive Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Mary Barber, MD, President. Members present included Mary Barber, MD; Dan Karasic, MD; Phil Bialer, MD; Kenn Ashley, MD; George Harrison, MD; Mason Turner-Tree, MD; and Roy Harker, Executive Director.

New Business: Funding for this year's Annual Meeting and symposium was discussed. No drug company educational grants have been secured and attendance was markedly low for the symposium, resulting in a probable budgetary deficit for the Annual Meeting. Financing for next year's meeting in Toronto was discussed and challenges in funding the meeting were presented, including the small number of AGLP members in the Toronto area. Recruitment for a Local Arrangements Committee and Chair is a top priority for this meeting to assist with fund raising and expense management. The financial health of AGLP in general was discussed by the Board. With the death of Rick Hire, MD, the office of Development Director is vacant and needs to be filled ASAP. This office was being considered as a Board level position (see below). The Board agreed that a membership needs assessment for the Toronto meeting should be completed.

Membership: Numbers are at a low point currently, and may lead to financial impact if not addressed in a systematic fashion. Dr. Barber proposed having a "town hall" discussion at the general membership meeting to troubleshoot the issue and develop ways of promoting membership growth. Establishment of an "Ally" or "Friend" category was discussed as a means of developing non-MD and/or non-LGBT membership. The Board proposed a general member survey to identify the needs of members, and to discuss perks that might make membership more valuable for individuals.

Journal Editor: A search committee is to be formed to find a replacement for Jack Drescher, MD.

Philadelphia Foundation: This organization is a financial management company that could manage funds for AGLP by establishing an endowment fund and recruiting individuals to contribute to this fund. The target audience is individuals in their 70s, and all members are non-profit organizations. For the annuity program, there is a \$3K minimum, and for the foundation program, there is a \$10K minimum. The company does all of the administration of the fund, including investment, and guarantees a 5% return each year. Of that return, 4% would go to AGLP and 1% to the company for administration. While the returns would be given to AGLP, the principal would be held by the Foundation. Pros and cons of this were discussed and a decision on this issue was tabled for future meetings.

Bylaws Revision: Mary Barber, MD, presented a revised copy of the Bylaws, which will be presented at the general membership meeting for approval. Lawyers reviewed the proposed amendments, and changed the semantics

substantially. Key highlights of the changes include:

- Reduction to one general membership meeting per Annual Meeting
- Implementation of a cabinet structure to the Executive Board with a mix of elected and appointed officers and establishment of the Development Director and Newsletter and Journal Editors as appointed positions to the Board
- Limitation of the President's ability to approve expenditures without Board approval to amounts under \$1000
- Addition of the Caucus and Deputy Caucus Representatives to the Council
- Lengthening of all elected offices on the Board to two years with no term limits, except for the President, which will remain limited to two terms of office

Budget: Due to a projected budget deficit for the Annual Meeting as well as falling membership, Executive Director Roy Harker will plan to pursue more grants for operational expenses, rather than funding for specific projects. The recent Frank Rundle, MD, bequest of approximately \$20K and how to use these funds were discussed. One option is to use this bequest for matching funds for the Fryer Award. The Gill Foundation gave a grant to AGLP for \$15K to partially fund the \$50K needed for the award. They require AGLP to provide \$15K in matching funds by December 31, 2005 in order to receive the full grant. A decision was tabled for a future meeting. In order to balance the budget for next year, a plan was advanced to eliminate print directories in favor of online directories.

Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry: This organization has launched a web-based LGBT curriculum with a link to AGLP's website.

Executive Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Mary Barber, MD, President. Members present included Mary Barber, MD; Jack Drescher, MD; Dan Karasic, MD; Kenn Ashley, MD; Ed Nix, MD; Gene Nakajima, MD; Robert Mitchell, MD; George Harrison, MD; Phil Bialer, MD; Ubaldo Leli, MD; Mason Turner-Tree, MD; and Roy Harker, Executive Director.

GLB Committee Report: Presented by Dr. Jack Drescher. The Same Sex Amendment was scheduled for a vote in the APA Assembly later in the day. This represented one of the greatest accomplishments for the GLB Committee this year.

Journal Report: Dr. Drescher also commented on the status of the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy. He will be stepping down as editor and is actively looking for a replacement. Four issues have been planned already (to cover the next two years), including gay men and prostate cancer; barebacking; crystal methamphetamine; and gay and lesbian psychotherapy issues in the United Kingdom. Dr. Drescher is willing to overlap with the new editor to ease the transition.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes*Continued from page 10*

Nominating Committee: Dr. Bialer presented this report, noting that all officers of the Board have agreed to another term and will be presented for a vote at the general membership meeting. This year's award recipients include Mr. E. Lynn Harris for the Distinguished Service Award; Roy Harker, Executive Director, for the Paulson Award; and Youth Pride of Atlanta for the Nichols Award. Dr. Barber has commissioned a committee to begin the search process for the recipient of the first Fryer Award, which will honor any prominent figure who has contributed significantly to LGBT mental health. Dr. Barber will chair the committee, which ideally will be comprised of both AGLP members and members of the APA GLB Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Robert Mitchell presented this report. Print referral and membership directories will be eliminated in order to balance the budget and eliminate the expected deficit by decreasing print costs by \$6500/year. These directories will be placed online for member reference, after appropriate consents have been obtained for publication of member information online. Website maintenance costs will be increased by \$1000/year in order to account for the online directory costs. Given this year's deficit for the annual meeting, discussion about how to include the Treasurer and Executive Director in the Local Arrangements Committee process was held. Although the Local Arrangements Committee is given a budget, there is little oversight. In order to reduce future expenditures, this will need to be remedied. Further decisions regarding this issue were postponed until future meetings. Dr. Mitchell also expressed concern over the expected income from membership dues for the next fiscal year, projected at \$65K. We will need 570 members to attain this goal. Current membership is at 510 members. Please see below for further discussion of membership issues.

A motion was made, seconded, approved to accept the 2006 Budget as proposed by Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Harker.

Membership Committee Report: Dr. Sved was not present for this report, but the Council discussed membership issues in general, focusing on membership development and retention. Ideas to increase exposure of AGLP and generate interest in membership included publicizing recent successes of AGLP and the GLB Committee, specifically, the Same Sex Marriage Amendment; establishment of a Friend/Ally category for non-MD and non-LGBT individuals interested in supporting AGLP; and emphasizing networking opportunities through AGLP. An article for the next newsletter is planned to address these issues to the general membership and provide talking points on the benefits of AGLP membership, as an aid in recruiting members by other members. It was also noted that this committee will need a new chair, as Dr. Sved is stepping down.

Newsletter Report: The next issue will include interviews with this year's award recipients.

Caucus Report: No one was present from the Caucuses as action was being held on the Statement for Civil Marriage.

Local Arrangements Committee Report: Dr. Nix presented this report. The Annual Meeting calendar was reviewed and everyone was encouraged to sell tickets to the closing banquet, as it has been significantly undersold and AGLP cannot adjust the number of expected guests, and will have to pay any extra costs. The symposium for next year's Annual Meeting was discussed, noting

that while the Vice President is ultimately responsible for planning and execution of the symposium, more local support should be recruited for the next meeting.

Women/Minority Outreach Report: No one was present from this committee. The chair is currently vacant.

International: Dr. Nakajima presented this report, and provided a calendar of upcoming World Psychiatric Association meetings. He noted that 15-20 individuals attended the last meeting in Florence, and presented workshops focusing on HIV and LGBT issues. Dr. Nakajima is trying to advocate for an LGBT section of the WPA to further expand our role there. One symposium is currently planned for the Cairo meeting in September. Dr. Leli also discussed his recent trip to China and workshops he conducted there.

HIV-Affected Members Committee Report: The individual who chairs this committee has chosen to remain anonymous, and did not attend the Council meeting.

Psychoanalytic Committee Report: Presented by Dr. Leli. While he is planning to conduct a workshop on shame at this Annual Meeting, he also noted that attendance at the committee events has been dwindling over the past few years. Discussion was held regarding enlisting the Toronto Psychoanalytic Institute for assistance in event planning at the next Annual Meeting.

LAGCAPA Report: No one was present from this committee.

Members-In-Training/Medical Students Report: No one was present from this committee. Discussion was held among Council members regarding recruitment of more students and trainees into AGLP. Linkage with the LGBT section of the American Medical Student Association for assistance in recruitment of medical students was discussed.

Bylaws Revision: Please refer to the Board meeting minutes above for full details of the proposed changes as presented to the Council at this meeting. The following additional changes were proposed:

- Council members would not have the ability to vote on Board actions and would serve in an advisory capacity only
- Residents and medical students could now become general members and would have the ability to serve on the Executive Council
- Specific categories of membership would not be delineated in the Bylaws to allow maximum flexibility in defining and changing these categories without Bylaws revision. The only membership divisions to be present in the Bylaws revision would be APA and non-APA
- Provision of email meetings for the Board and Council

A petition was circulated and ten signatures obtained to advance these changes, as proposed (prior to semantic revisions to be made by attorney consultation) to the general membership for vote at the next general membership meeting.

Executive Director's Report: As previously described above, Mr. Harker presented information on the Rundle bequest, the idea of applying for operating budget grants, and issues related to cash flow and budgetary deficits.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes*Continued from page 11*

Dr. Barber also informed the Council that she has commissioned two new committees, the Fryer Award Search Committee (to be chaired by Dr. Barber) and the Journal Editor Search Committee (chair TBA).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mason Spain Turner-Tree, MD
AGLP Secretary

AGLP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS MINUTES

Sheraton Colony Square Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
Monday, May 23, 2005, 6:30pm
Tuesday, May 24, 2005, 5:30pm

General Membership Meetings

Both meetings were called to order by Dr. Mary Barber at the times indicated above.

Local Arrangements Committee: Thanks were given to all the members of this committee, which included: Ed Nix, Chair; Richard Amar; Yolanda Graham; Sarah Herbert; Bill Martin; Adam Pruett; Maurice Sprenger; Eric Yarbrough; Jack Pelham; Peter Bryg; and Richard Kemp. Thanks were also given to Kenn Ashley for organizing the Saturday Symposium and the Hospitality Suite. Recruitment for the Local Arrangements Committee in Toronto was underway.

Film Project: At the first general membership meeting, a screening of the film project on reparative therapy was held, with a brief introduction by the film's director, Ms. Anat Solomon. Dr. Alicia Salzer is the film's producer and psychiatric consultant. The film consists of in-depth interviews with several individuals who have undergone reparative therapy for homosexuality. Upon completion of the screening, Dr. Barber requested that AGLP continue raising funds and contributions for the project. Now that a portion of the film is complete, it can be shown to individuals and foundations to enhance fund raising efforts.

Nomination Committee Report: Dr. Phil Bialer presented this report to the general membership. He reviewed the slate of candidates for the Executive Board:

Dan Karasic, MD, President (elected last year)

Kenn Ashley, MD, Vice President

Robert Mitchell, MD, Treasurer

Mason Turner-Tree, MD, Secretary

George Harrison, MD, Newsletter Editor

This slate of candidates was presented to the general membership at the first meeting and further nominations were solicited. No further candidates were

nominated by the close of nominations at the end of the second meeting, and this slate of officers was elected by unanimous vote.

APA Caucus Report: Dr. Margie Sved and Dr. Mark Townsend presented this report to the general membership and led a discussion about this report at both meetings. They reported that the APA Assembly had approved the Same Sex Marriage Amendment, and would forward it to the Board of Trustees, who plan to vote on the amendment in July 2005. It is expected to pass and become a position statement of the APA. They also described the process of getting the amendment passed in the Assembly. Of note, Dr. Sved has been interviewed by a number of press sources. The publicity surrounding the passage of this amendment has been very positive, and the AGLP membership was asked to voice their support of the amendment in the APA in order to insure passage by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Townsend also noted that sexual orientation would be tracked by the APA starting in the second half of 2005.

Bylaws Revision: At the first meeting, the Bylaws revision was presented to the general membership, and the changes were reviewed. Key highlights of the changes include:

- Reduction to one general membership meeting per Annual Meeting
- Implementation of a cabinet structure to the Executive Board with a mix of elected and appointed officers and establishment of the Development Director and Newsletter and Journal Editors as appointed positions to the Board
- Limitation of the President's ability to approve expenditures without Board approval to amounts under \$1000
- Addition of the Caucus and Deputy Caucus Representatives to the Council
- Lengthening of all elected offices on the Board to two years with no term limits, except for the President, which will remain limited to two terms of office
- Council members would not have the ability to vote on Board actions and would serve in an advisory capacity only
- Residents and medical students could now become general members and would have the ability to serve on the Executive Council
- Specific categories of membership would not be delineated in the Bylaws to allow maximum flexibility in defining and changing these categories without Bylaws revision. The only membership divisions to be present in the Bylaws revision would be APA and non-APA
- Provision of email meetings for the Board and Council

Additional suggestions were elicited from the general membership. These were semantic in nature, requiring minimal changes. A motion was made, seconded and approved to change the Bylaws effective immediately, pending attorney review.

AGLP Membership Meetings Minutes

Continued from page 12

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Robert Mitchell presented this report, outlining the details of the 2006 budget. In order to balance the budget for 2005, printing costs will be reduced by transitioning to an online only directory, to be implemented by September 1, 2005. In spite of a small deficit for 2004, we hope to keep dues steady for 2006. Controlling Annual Meeting costs and prioritizing need for the components of the Annual Meeting should help to balance the budget in coming years.

As part of a general discussion on financial matters, Dr. Barber discussed development and membership recruitment. She also encouraged earlier application for drug company grants for Annual Meeting components, starting at the Fall Business Meeting in September. She also presented the need for funding of the Fryer Award by the end of the year (an additional \$7500 needed to match the Gill Foundation grant of \$15K, and a total of \$50K from all sources to fund the award). The award would be given to any prominent figure who has contributed significantly to LGBT mental health.

Membership Committee Report: This was presented as a "Town Hall" discussion, focusing on ways to recruit members. Ideas advanced included:

- Publication of newsletter articles detailing the benefits of AGLP membership
- Completion of a member survey to assess needs and benefits of membership in AGLP
- Instituting a "Member-Get-A-Member" campaign with benefits for individuals who recruit new members
- Greater publicity throughout the APA
- Encouraging more participation from the general membership at the Fall Business Meeting.

In that line, the idea was proposed that AGLP become more active in the APA Institute for Psychiatric Services meeting, including possibly moving the Fall Meeting to that time in order to coordinate participation by members and to have a membership drive at that meeting. Additionally, the overall dynamics of the general membership were discussed, including troubleshooting why meeting attendance has fallen off recently and developing a means of balancing the budget while still keeping AGLP membership attractive.

Newsletter Editor Report: Dr. George Harrison presented this report, requesting feedback from any and all members regarding the issues published during his first year as editor, as well as future ideas for articles. He thanked Roy Harker for his support throughout the year, and reminded everyone that the deadline for the next issue is July 15, 2005.

Journal Report: Dr. Jack Drescher will be stepping down as editor when a replacement is named. Dr. Barber asked the general membership for interest in serving on the Journal Editor Search Committee, noting that two years of issues is already planned. She also noted that our relationship with Haworth Press is improving, and asked that the general membership consider voluntary contributions to the Journal when renewing dues.

AIDS Commission Report: Given by Dr. Marshall Forstein. Dr. Forstein noted that the Commission is connecting with individuals in many different countries and continues to expand. Most notably, an updated APA Practice Guidelines for HIV/AIDS in Psychiatry is being researched and should be released soon. Interested individuals who would like to review and develop these guidelines should make themselves known to Dr. Forstein.

International Committee Report: Presented by Dr. Nakajima. Attendance at World Psychiatric Association meetings continues to be good. He reviewed the upcoming schedule of meetings, noting that the international dinner earlier in the Annual Meeting was well attended.

Psychoanalysis Committee: Presented by Dr. Leli. The *Workshop on Shame* at the Hospitality Suite was poorly attended this year. Dr. Leli suggested changing the format to more of a group process to make the most of the workshop. He also reviewed his recent trip to China, where he lectured on gender and sexuality issues.

Members in Training Committee: Presented by Dr. Andy Tompkins. He discussed membership recruitment, and the need for bringing in more members-in-training. He also described a recent event at his medical school alma mater, New York Medical College, where the LGBT group was disbanded. Discussion followed regarding the ongoing presence of discrimination in medical schools, and the need for AGLP members to be aware of episodes such as this one and respond as appropriate.

Medical Student Committee: Presented by Mr. Adam Pruett and Mr. Eric Yarborough. The ideas of a mentoring program for medical students joining AGLP and recruitment of medical student members through the American Medical Student Association were discussed.

Executive Director Report: Mr. Roy Harker presented this report, detailing previous discussions regarding budgetary issues. As noted, the online directory should be live by September 1, 2005. He will obtain permission to publish names on the website prior to that date. He noted that the website continues to be the biggest source for new members (about 8/month).

Anell Primm, MD, Director of Minority and Cultural Affairs at the APA, introduced herself to the general membership (she appears in the film on reparative therapy sponsored by AGLP), discussed the role of her office at APA, and voiced her support for AGLP. She also introduced Dr. Donna Norris, Area 1/Eastern Canada Trustee, who may be on the ballot for APA Secretary next year.

Future AGLP meetings include the Fall Business Meeting, to be held in Washington, DC, on September 10, 2005, and the Annual Meeting, to be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, May 20-24, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Turner-Tree, MD
AGLP Secretary

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**PHOTO MEMORIES
OF THE ATLANTA
2005 ANNUAL
MEETING**



*Attendees at
the Saturday
Symposium*



*Atlanta 2005
Local
Arrangement
Committee*



AGLP ATLANTA 2005



◀ *Sally Herbert, M.D., lectures on Transgendered Teens*



◀ *E. Lyn Harris receives the Distinguished Service Award from Past-President Philip Bialer*



◀ *Margie Sved acknowledged by President Mary Barber for her years of service to AGLP in the Caucus*



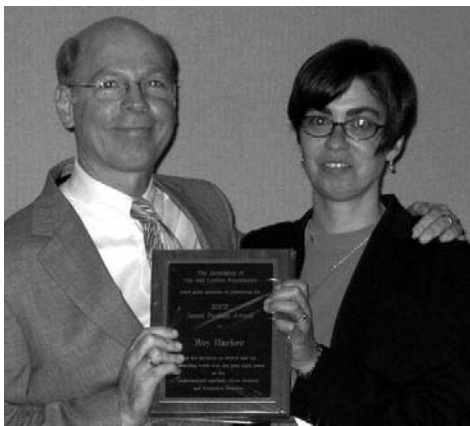
◀ *Women's Dinner Attendees*

AGLP ATLANTA 2005



◀ AGLP Board Meeting

Welcoming Reception at the home of Ed Nix and Peter Bryg in Atlanta ▼



◀ Paulsen Award winner Roy Harker with Mary Barber



ANNUAL AWARD INTERVIEWS

George Harrison

This year our Awards were given out to Mr. E Lynn Harris, an author who has examined the gay issues from an African American perspective, YouthPride, an Atlanta based agency which has been a front runner in providing services to youth and young adults in the LGBT and Questioning Communities, and to Mr. Roy Harker, the person that makes AGLP run day to day, every day. As always, we ask our award winners a few questions to find out a little bit more about them and to get their thoughts about topics that concern all of us.

The James Paulsen Award

This award is given annually to a member of AGLP who has provided outstanding service to the organization and its members. This year our Executive Director, Roy Harker, is the honoree. Roy joined the agency in 1997 as the first paid employee of AGLP. His organizational and design skills have been a hallmark of his work for all of us. He is responsible for revamping the AGLP booth which is our "face" at the APA, coordinates the twice a year meetings of the board, produces the various pamphlets which help spread the word about our organization, authored a CD-ROM used for fund raising, as well as a host of other tasks. As the editor of the Newsletter, I want to pay particular tribute to Roy for his magical abilities to take the columns and photos that are submitted and turn them into an attractive, useful newsletter every quarter which keeps us informed about the activities of our organization.

You have known many of the James Paulson Award winners. How is it for you to be chosen as the recipient this year?

It is tempting to make comparisons with the other recipients of the Paulsen Award that have preceded me. Yet how can I realistically consider a valid comparison beside other Paulsen Award winners such as Marshall Forstein, Jim Krajewski, Bob Cabaj, Terry Stein, David Scasta, Frank Rundle, and Jack Drescher? Each of these extraordinary people has made contributions to AGLP that I can only begin to fathom. They have volunteered time and talents that have come to define who we are as an organization today. These people have offered the shoulders on which we now stand.

And yet here is this wonderful award, hanging proudly over my desk, summoning me to greater effort, greater commitment.

I know certainly that I should not think of this award in terms of comparison with others, but in terms of merited respect. It is recognition for a job well done – recognition that comes from "family"

in the broadest sense. The fact that my name would be indexed with some of the luminaries of our founding makes the whole experience even more humbling, exhilarating, and challenging. Thank you for offering your confidence in this challenge.

You are the Executive Director of an organization of psychiatrists but aren't one yourself. Given this "outsider" status, what are your thoughts about psychiatry and LGBT psychiatrists in specific?

I don't think I've ever thought of myself as an "outsider" in my role in AGLP - I've been through thick and thin with all of you for a number of years now. This being said, I'll admit however – my eyes do often glaze over when trying to read through a passage from the *Textbook of Homosexuality and Mental Health*.

I have personally benefited from the good counsel of psychiatrists and psychologists over the course of my life. I believe whole-heartedly in the healing power that the motivated patient will come to experience. I have also witnessed the ravages of acute mental illness as well as the joy that comes with healing and understanding. And I am aware, as much as a layperson may be, of the particular needs of the LGBT patient and the strong ties between public policy, social norms, and mental health. There is still so much work to be done in breaking down the barriers of misinformation and misunderstanding. AGLP has helped me find a voice in my own personal journey to define a mission about which I feel passionately.

The question you ask struck me as curious: I've often thought that perhaps it is in fact you, the psychiatrist, that feels like the "outsider", speaking a language that demands self-examination and discipline from the hearer. The Cynics of the world often retaliate in frenzied response to any suggestion that we may not always be the masters of our own minds. Public policy often puts psychiatry on the periphery of influence of sound decision-making. One of my roles in this organization will always be one of connecting AGLP to the outside and putting a public face on your efforts. I will always see AGLP as a means to a great end – one that will see a fuller understanding of LGBT issues in a world of acceptance and appreciation.

The Stuart Nichols Award

This year YouthPride was honoree chosen for this award which goes to a LGBT agency in the city hosting the annual meetings. YouthPride was established in 1995 to provide a safe haven for youth challenged by LGBT issues. This agency provides a social environment where young people can meet and find support that may be lacking in other parts of their lives. Besides on going groups, YouthPride provides a learning library of support materials, works with educators, churches, youth groups and parents to advocate for LGBT issues, and provides HIV

AGLP Awards Interviews

Continued from page 17

testing. Edward R. Gray, Ph.D., Executive Director of YouthPride, responded to our questions.



Dr. Gray from YouthPride Receives the Nichols Award

This award recognizes excellence in providing services to the LGBT community. As this year's honoree of the Nichols Award what do you think YouthPride's greatest contributions have been to the community?

In addition to the impact we have had on

hundreds of individual young lives, I believe that we have helped to give youth a much higher and valued place in our community. I think having youth at the table is not widely practiced but that is now changing. Youth are being invited to places in the LGBTQ community in Atlanta that they had not been before.

In the past 10 years that YouthPride has been in existence, the stressors on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth have evolved. What are the most important forces now that demand that a place like YouthPride exists? What are the trends in service needs likely to be in the ongoing years?

Coming out is so different now. I often hear folks my age say, "It's so much easier." That's much too simple. It's not easier just because most youth have a vocabulary available to them along with open adults, peers, and media images to help ease the sense of isolation. A family can still be a lonely place for an out teen. While there is now a cohort of out youth, there is also more open hostility and hatred. As we adults find more and more acceptance in the workplace, youth face more and more hostility in the institutions most important to them: schools, sports clubs, youth organizations, the juvenile justice system, even their own families.

How can gay and lesbian psychiatrist better support their child and adolescent LGBTQ clients?

Volunteer in queer youth serving organizations and in any youth serving organization. Get involved in the local United Way, or local chapters of professional organizations and lend your profession's prestige to all efforts to make coming out shared, celebrated, and safe, as we like to say at YouthPride.

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Executive Director's Column

Continued from page 5

alone have voting privileges. The Bylaws allow the president of AGLP to appoint task forces whose chairs serve on the Advisory Council. If you have an issue that you feel needs to be brought to the attention of the membership, this is your opportunity! Your concerns and suggestions should be made known to Dan Karasic, M.D., AGLP President, at least two weeks before the meeting date to be included on the agenda. (karasic@itsa.ucsf.edu or 415-206-3809.) The Meeting will take place in the JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004, from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday, September 10.

We have a block of rooms arranged this year by the APA Meeting Planning Department at the JW Marriott. You can reserve your room and get other information on the Fall Component Meetings online by going to www.psych.org. Then go to the member's corner and click onto Fall Component Meeting. The room rate is \$199.00 per night plus tax. Deadline for hotel reservations is August 19, 2005.

A Welcoming Reception is being planned for Friday, September 9, at the home of Michael Golder, M.D. His address in Washington is 2113 Leroy Place, NW, which is several blocks north of Dupont Circle along Connecticut Avenue. Leroy Place is the logical extension of 'T' street across Connecticut Avenue, very close to the Washington Hilton. Closest Metro stops are Dupont Circle and Woodley Park/Zoo. If you plan to attend, please contact the National Office at 215-222-2800 or visit our website at www.aglp.org and make your RSVP. More information on this dinner, catered by Meals of Art, will follow.

Please make a point to attend these important meetings. I'll see you in Washington!

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Vice-President's Column

Continued from page 4

- AGLP publishes an annual directory of gay-affirmative therapists.
- Provides networking opportunities.

The Board is interested in feedback from members—what the organization is doing well, what we could be better at doing, new projects/activities you would be interested in. we can be contacted through the website. Just go to www.aglp.org and follow the "Contact Us" link in the left hand menu. This will led to a page with all the board's email addresses. I also recommend that you check the website occasionally to see what is happening in the organization.

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AGLP FILM ON REPARATIVE THERAPY, WORKING TITLE, "CAN I CHANGE?"

AGLP is currently in the post-production phase of our educational video on sexual orientation conversion (so-called "reparative") therapies. The film will tell of the damage caused by these treatments through the stories of people who tried for years to be "ex-gay" and ultimately came to see their struggle as misdirected and harmful. Included in the interviews are a woman in rural Mississippi who spent twenty years in retreats and treatments aimed at "correcting" a lesbian orientation; and a man in New York City who found the reparative therapy community very supportive, yet ultimately an impediment to his personal growth. Further insights into these issues come from a minister in Arkansas who describes his difficult personal journey towards self-acceptance as a gay man; and the transformation of a mother from Arkansas who details how her religious beliefs caused an estrangement from her lesbian daughter who then later went on to committed suicide.

Expert commentators provide a context for these stories. Included in the video are AGLP members Jack Drescher and David Scasta, and psychologist Ariel Shidlo, contributing their knowledge and research of the reparative therapy movement. Also weighing in are officials from the American Psychiatric Association and American Psychological Association discussing the mainstream view that these treatments are not indicated given that homosexuality has not been considered a diagnosis for over 30 years. Robert Spitzer, the psychiatrist who authored the modern diagnostic manual for psychiatry (DSM) whose controversial survey reported to show that some gay people can change created a stir a few years ago will also be included in the final film.

The production team brings to bear experience from the "Montel Williams" show, the PBS newsmagazine "In the Life," years of work on the nationally syndicated "Dyke TV," and previous documentaries.

Mental health professionals and policy-makers might also be interested in the video as a window into what is often considered a fringe treatment; about the scope of its supports; and the harm it causes to vulnerable people.

The AGLP video will target a general audience, including young adults who may be questioning their sexuality, family members of gay or questioning people, as well as helping professionals who may come into contact with gay or questioning people including teachers, clergy, and others. Mental health professionals and policy-makers might also be interested in the video as a window into what is often considered a fringe treatment; about the scope of its supports; and the harm it causes to vulnerable people.

A rough cut of the AGLP film was shown to enthusiastic audiences at the AGLP Annual Meeting in Atlanta. AGLP has been fortunate to receive a second \$10,000 grant from the William A. Kerr Foundation which will go toward postproduction costs. If you would like to help bring this very important piece of work of the AGLP to completion, you can do so by contributing by mail or online. Just go to www.aglp.org and follow the links to the AGLP Film Project. There you can securely contribute on line or print out the document and mail it to the AGLP offices at 4514 Chester Av., Philadelphia, PE, 19143-3707. You may also purchase "Diversity: the American Way" car magnets, which are being sold to support the film.

Mary Barber, MD

Immediate Past President

...

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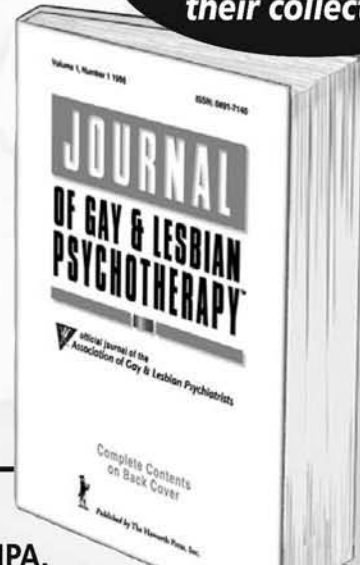
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