

PACT-Youngstown

Newsletter

People of All Colors Together
<http://www.angelfire.com/oh4/PACTYoungstown/>

March 2002

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Nominations, Please

—Tom Copeland

PACT has been asked by Outwatch to nominate some member of the Youngstown-Warren area to represent us on the board of Ohioans for Pride, Justice, and Equality, a new fund-raising 501(c)(7) organization. Initially OPJG will raise money to oppose HB 234, the newest “Defense of Marriage Act,” but it will remain operative after this emergency. It is intended to appeal to the business community around the state, and its approach to HB234 is to demonstrate how annulling domestic partner benefits is bad for business.

The nominee needs to be a proven leader in the LGBT community, to have an acquaintance with the political process, and to be willing to raise money. Initially the representatives will travel once a month to Columbus, but later on conference calls may reduce the need for travel.

We are asked to consider this matter at our next business meeting, to seek a commitment from our nominee to serve if elected, and to attend a meeting (along with our nominee) of all local LGBT groups on May 4 at 5:00 at the Pride Center, 1105

Elm Street. A vote will be taken at that meeting, and every person present will have a vote.

Please Pass the Aspirins!

—John Vivo, Co-Chair

Ages, another Mardi Gras in St. Louis has come and gone, and everyone had a good time. This year Sterling and I and our friend Dennis stayed at the New Sheridan Inn, and I don’t think they were ready for Mardi Gras goes. They were stuffy, snotty, snobby, and snober. But the worst part was that they were the only place NOT passing out beads. It’s a four-star hotel with ginger ale taste, and they give gays and Blacks the look-over. I’ll think twice before I stay there again. It was convenient for our riders, though.

Since this was the first weekend away after our fire, we wereso looking forward to our escape. St. Louis is a lovely city with its architecture, history, cleanliness, and more than one bar to go to. We explored the city and saw things we had never seen

before. The host chapter didn’t have any anniversary activities planned, so we came and went. We always hooked up with the chapter members, who were the greatest hosts as they always are. We did the bars, the restaurants, the bars, the shops, the bars, the malls and then the bars. We met many new people, and Sterling even got a treat of a deal by the straight bartender at Hard Rock Cafe (flirt). One of the thrills was when a straight (yeah, right) guy came up to me and wanted a strand of my beads. He should be in the movies (X-rated) if you know what I mean. Dick to die for! The parade drew hundreds of thousands as usual, and beads of all kinds were everywhere. Tits were also plentiful. I even got beads for showing mine.

Mardi Gras in St. Louis is always a wonderful time, and like I said before, all should experience it at least once. My brothers out there treat you like family, and when you see them once a year, you know it’s a tear-jerking family reunion. My reservation is already in for Mardi Gras Feb. 7-March 3, 2003. Se ya’ll in St. Louie.



Unity Night 2002

–Van Ford, Co-Chair

The Queen of Hearts, our host bar in Warren, Ohio, invited PACT-Youngstown to Unity Night 2002 on January 19. This event was well attended by our members. However, I found it to be a low-key affair. Many patrons were less receptive to participating in activities than in the past. Bobby and Tristan provided snacks and munchies throughout the night. Thank you all.

Partner Documents

–Glorianne Leck

At the end of the year I sent a donation to the National Center For Lesbian Rights, 870 Market Street, Suite 570, San Francisco, CA 94102, and I received the most excellent packet (to my surprise) that

provided me with copies of all the legal documents and suggestions for legal protection of same-sex partners in Ohio. I highly encourage you to seek these out if you haven't seen them. Of course, this group also deserves our support for having done all that homework for us. The documents are for power of medical attorney, wills, property protection, hospital visitation documents, etc.

We are not protected under Ohio Law without legal

authorizations for our significant others, so please be sure you are taking care of that if you are in a long-term committed relationship.

Superbowl Pot Luck 2002 (A hoot & howling good time)

–Chuck Mauric

PACT's annual super bowl potluck has always proven to be one of its most enjoyable gatherings. This year's gathering proved it to be one of its most boisterous events, too. Imagine a dozen or two of rowdy football fanatics gathering in a cozy little home on a small "want-to-be" farm called Queen Acres, of all things. Now imagine a lot of type A personalities and a little friendly competition between friends with an inclination to cheer for the underdog. What do you have? You have the makings for some old-fash-

Friendly Reminder (Dues are Due)

–Bob Tillman

The PACT treasurer would like to remind all members that 2002 dues are currently being collected (\$15 individual membership and \$25 per couple). Membership dues may seem small and negligible, but collectively they help to keep our small organization solvent and viable.

Thank you for your past and continued support.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/5 PHIL JOHNSTON

3/18 CHUCK MAURIC

3/24 JIM HECK

3/25 BOB TILLMAN

The most important political step that any gay man or lesbian can take is to come out of the closet. . . . It's been proven that it is easier to hate us and to fear us if you can't see us."

–Amanda Bearse

We must declare ourselves, become known; allow the world to discover this subterranean life of ours which connects kings and farm boys, artists and clerks. Let them see that the important thing is not the object of love, but the emotion itself.

–Gore Vidal

When you think a little about it, it comes down to the idea of keeping a needless secret. You're just hurting yourself. Coming out publicly turned out to be the best thing I ever did, from a personal and a professional standpoint. I feel that there's nothing I can't do now.

–Sir Ian McKellen

ioned, foot-stomping fun.

Super bowl 2002 started with friends arriving and carrying delicious home made entrees. Needless to say, the festivities began immediately. By game time, everyone had done their pre-game posturing and had chosen sides (The New England Patriots or The St. Louis Rams). As usual there was a handful of gatherers (myself included) who chose to opt out of the shameful display of machismo. We retreated to the basement to watch the sexy and funny English drama *Like It Is*. In no time we realized that the game wasn't the only competition going on. Little by little we inched the volume up in a futile attempt to drown out the cheering and howling of the

macho men upstairs, who were definitely enjoying the game. By half time, most of the movie goers had given up on deciphering the movie with its English accent and were content with simply watching the half-clad men on screen. A few had even joined the football fanatics upstairs.

Overall, Superbowl 2002 was a great gathering of friends. The game, unlike last year's, was more exciting than the famous half-time show or the infamous multimillion dollar commercials. The underdog, New England, emerged victorious, much to the shock and dismay of John V. (one of the more boisterous St. Louis fans).

Next year the more sedate

movie goers will retreat to the warmth of a blazing fire and the quiet seclusion of Bob's backyard hut, leaving the hoot and howling to the Dawgs.

Social Security for Same-Sex Partners?

–NGLTF Press

January 22, 2002: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

hailed a resolution passed today by the Democratic National Committee that called for equal treatment of same-sex partners under Social Security.

"In taking this historic and precedent-setting step, the Democratic National Committee has committed itself to equality for same-sex partners," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of NGLTF. "Currently, our inability to access survivor benefits costs same-sex surviving partners approximately \$100 million a year. We pay into the Social Security system our entire lives, yet in retirement we are denied funds to which we are entitled."

The resolution was passed at the DNC winter meeting in Washington, DC, states simply that "Social Security would be strengthened if same-sex partners were treated equally." The inclusion of same-sex couples in the program was a policy recommendation of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 2000 when it issued a groundbreaking report on the



public policy issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) seniors. It has since conducted trainings with the DNC, AARP, and other aging policy organizations, and sponsored a Congressional briefing to push for these changes.

"The tragedy on September 11th demonstrated the inequality of same-sex relationships in vivid detail as the surviving same-sex partners of those who died found themselves unable access the same benefits as heterosexual surviving partners," continued Jean. "This discrimination is wrong. Social Security and other programs need to be broadened to include access for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families."

There is significant majority support among the American public for equal treatment of same-sex partners and the number of GLBT elders continues to grow. In a 1997 Princeton Survey Research Associates poll, 57 percent of Americans polled supported "equal rights for gays in terms of social security benefits for gay spouses." One to three million elders in the U.S. are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. According to current trends, this population will double by the year 2030.

Also at the meeting, the DNC approved a resolution denouncing hate crimes and racial profiling by calling for immediate action on S. 989, "End Racial Profiling Act of 2001," and S. 625, "Local Law

Enforcement Enhancement Act" (LLEEA). LLEEA would add gender, sexual orientation, and disability to the federal hate crimes statute and would provide much needed federal assistance to local law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

For more information on issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender elders, copies of NGLTF's report "Outing Age" are available at <http://www.nglftf.org/library> or by calling 202-332-6483.

GLSEN a Partner in Day of Silence, April 12

—Forwarded
by Dick Pohl

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, or GLSEN, announced that it is leading the coordination of the Day of Silence Project, in partnership with the United States Student Association (USSA).

The Day of Silence Project, which will take place on April 10, 2002, is the largest youth-run lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) action in the country. In support, GLSEN has unveiled a new website, www.dayofsilence.org, to help young people in their organizing efforts.

"GLSEN believes in the power of youth to create change," said Executive Direc-

tor Kevin Jennings. "We are delighted to be leading the Day of Silence Project with USSA, and hope that our resources and grassroots chapter network, and the over 1,000 gay-straight alliances registered with GLSEN, will increase the momentum and visibility of the initiative."

First started in 1996 by students at the University of Virginia, the Day of Silence Project is a full-day action in which students take a vow of silence to protest the discrimination faced by LGBT people. Instead of speaking, participants hand out "speaking cards" printed with a message that explains why they have chosen not to talk. The Day of Silence Project now occurs in hundreds of high schools and colleges across the country.

"Our hope is that the Day of Silence Project allows schools to hear the powerful voices of students who protest discrimination against LGBT people," said Chris Tuttle, National Student Organizer. "The Day of Silence Project can be a tremendously powerful launching pad for youth to make a concrete difference in their school communities."

The new website, located at www.dayofsilence.org,

will provide information and updates on the Day of Silence Project as it approaches. The site includes resources for students and teachers, news briefs, and opportunities to connect with other schools embarking on the initiative.



For Information

For information on forthcoming meetings, social functions, or becoming a member, visit our web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/oh4/PACTYoungstown/>, or call (330) 534-5904—Mailbox No. 3. Or return the form below and **return to** PACT/Youngstown P. O. Box 1131 Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1131.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Contributions to the Newsletter

Send articles, letters, notices, reviews, poems to Tom Copeland, 313 N. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44509 (tcopeland@neo.rr.com). **The newsletter needs YOU!** Deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of the month. No articles are refused provided that they are in good taste and not libellous. Authors will be designated by first name and last initial unless they specify otherwise.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the executive board, editor, or chapter.

PACT/Youngstown Statement of Purpose

The Youngstown chapter of People of All colors Together is a gay multi-racial organization that is committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goals of human equality realized. To these ends we engage in educational, political, cultural, and social activities as a means of dealing with the racism, sexism, ageism, ablism, homophobia, and other inequities in our communities and in our lives.



Calendar of Events
(PACT/Youngstown Events in Bold)

PACT/Youngstown
P. O. Box 1131
Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1131

T 3/26 Dine-out, Roadhouse, South Ave., 7 p.m.

Sn 3/31 Happy Easter

W 4/10 General membership meeting, Blue

Note, 7 p.m.

4/12-14 Midland Spring Regional Meeting,

MACT-Chicago

Sn 4/21 Pancake/sausage breakfast, Kiwanis Club of Mill Creek, at the Saxon Club, Meridian Rd., 9 a.m.

W 4/24 Dine-out at Avalon Gardens, 1719

Belmont Ave., 7 p.m. (It's Italian Night.)

Sn 4/28 Anniversary planning meeting and pot luck dinner, John & Sterling's, 724 E. Boston, 330-788-3414, 5 p.m.

St 5/4 General GLBT groups meet together at the Pride Center to vote on representative to OPJG (see first article).

W 5/8 General membership meeting, Blue Note, 7 p.m.

W 5/15 Anniversary wrap-up meeting, Blue Note, 7 p.m.

F 5/17 Anniversary get-together party at John & Sterling's, 724 E. Boston, 330-788-3414, 7 p.m., Annual trip to Warren, 11 p.m.

St 5/18 PACT-Youngstown's 19th Anniversary Picnic Party, at Queen Acres (Bob & Chuck's), 1890 N. Fox North Rd., Hubbard, 330-534-5904. See flyer for details. Bar crawl 11 p.m., Club Blue Note

