

Coalition Notes: Name change and planning long-range

STRAFFORD -- The Vermont Coalition for Lesbians and Gay Men, newly reorganized after last December's Conference in Randolph, has been hard at work since then. The Board has been meeting regularly to develop long-range organizational goals and strategies.

The Coalition seeks to develop an active and involved membership in every county and, through social and educational programs, to be a strong visible and vocal presence in the state. The goal is to bring lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people together as well as influence individuals, schools, organizations, and the legislature to secure and defend civil rights and protections for all represented communities.

In May, after much discussion, the Coalition voted to change its name to The Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The Board discussed including bisexuals and transgender people in the name, and while many felt it was important to encourage participation by these groups in the organization, the members recognized that the common oppression we all experience is homophobia. The fear and

hatred of lesbians and gay men is the cause of much of the discrimination against people who identify as bisexual and transgender. Promoting and defending lesbian and gay social and political rights through education, lobbying, and visibility are effective strategies for improving all our lives and the Coalition's primary goals. By changing the Coalition's name, those goals are made clear. All Vermonters who support these goals - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies alike - are encouraged to participate.

The Coalition has formed the following working committees and encourages you to join one:

The Conference Committee is planning the 2nd Annual VCLGR Conference: A Queer Town Meeting, to be held at Middlebury College on Saturday, November 12th. Help is needed in all areas of planning now as well as help on the day of the Conference.

The Program Committee is working to plan educational and social events in all regions of the state. The Coalition hopes to develop a speakers bureau available to groups seeking information or assistance with lesbian and gay rights

concerns. Suggest an idea for an event in your neighborhood.

The Public Policy Committee will develop legislative lobbying strategies for bills of interest to our communities and organize contact with key legislators to urge their support. This committee will also keep members aware of candidates who support or oppose its efforts.

The Fundraising/Finance Committee raises and manages the Coalition's resources. The Coalition needs community members with experience or skills in grant writing or fundraising to help develop a strong financial base.

The Membership/Publicity/Outreach Committee develops campaigns to recruit new members and to increase Coalition visibility through articles and other publicity throughout the state.

To join the Coalition, volunteer to help on any of the above committees, or get more information, call (802) 728-4121 or 454-8552. Watch for further information on the upcoming November 12th Queer Town Meeting Conference in the October issue of OITM. ▼

Where to Find OITM

Barre

Pen Dragon

Bennington

Bennington Free Library
Bennington College
Bennington Library
Record Rack
Southern Vermont College

Brattleboro

Brattleboro Food Coop
Common Ground
Everyone's Books

Burlington

Burlington College
Chassman & Bem
Fletcher Free Library
Onion River Co-op
Partners in Recovery & Growth
Peace & Justice Center
Pearls
Planned Parenthood

Castleton

STEP Learning Center

Chester

Misty Valley Books Chester

Craftsbury

Craftsbury Public Library

Center Rutland

Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection

East Hardwick

Greenhope Farm

Fair Haven

Fair Haven Free Library

Hardwick

Buffalo Mountain Coop
Galaxy Books

Lyndonville

Jon's Automotive
Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College

Manchester Center

Northshire Bookstore

Middlebury

Addison County Women in Crisis
Ilsley Public Library
Middlebury Natural Food Coop
Storm Cafe

Montpelier

Bear Pond Books
Horn of the Moon Cafe
Rivendell Books
Woman Centered

Morrisville

Morristown Centennial Library

Newfane

Moore Free Library

Northfield

Brown Public Library

Norwich

Social Alternatives for Gay Men

Plainfield

Woman's Study Program

Putney

Putney Library

Randolph

Kimball Public Library

Rutland

PFLAG
Rutland Free Library
United Methodist Church
Grace Cong. United Church of Christ

St. Johnsbury

LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella
Natural Provisions
Regional Library
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Stowe

Food for Thought

Waterbury

Video Exchange

White River Junction

WRJ Books

Williamstown, MA

Upper Valley Coop
Wild Oats Co-op

Or by Subscription mailed right to your door!