

NEWS

Coalition Considers Change in Structure

BY ELENA TAYLOR-GARCIA

In an effort to improve communication with other organizers and ordinary gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender folks across the state, the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights will make some changes in its organizational structure this winter.

The Coalition will actively recruit representatives from various GLBT organizations throughout Vermont to serve on its board of directors. In the past, individual members served on the board.

"We need to have comprehensive mechanisms in place to coordinate resources, stop duplication, and utilize what we each have to offer," reflected Coalition co-chair Keith Goslant. "When the by-laws change and we look at, for example, work on the freedom to marry, we can ask ourselves, 'What can I do in my own community to be supportive?'"

Much of the impetus for change came from a leadership summit held for GLBT organizers at Goddard College in July of 1998.

Another reason for the change is to distribute the work of the Coalition in a more realistic and practical way, according to co-chair Virginia Renfrew. "I've been involved on the board for the past four years. It seems to me that individuals come to the Board with great ideas but are

often too busy for follow-through. Another problem is communication. This gives us an opportunity to find out what each

statewide conference and say, 'This is something I want to attend.'"

While the structure and com-

"We remain committed to building a mechanism for representing GLBT interests in mainstream politics and especially in Vermont state government."

organization is doing and for each organization to find out what VCLGR is doing on the mainstream political end of things. If someone from a certain organization is on the board, they can say, 'we're doing this,' and then we can figure out how VCLGR can support that."

Labor and money issues are forcing the Coalition to make tough decisions about how to spend their time and resources. Renfrew surmised that the new members might choose to drop the conference from the Coalition's agenda in the future because of the heavy workload and expense. "We have been spending more money on it than it has been bringing in," she noted. "A lot will depend on what happens in the next four months. If the churches pour money into the state to fight legal same-gender marriage, that might spark people up to have another

position of the Board is changing, VCLGR's mission remains the same. Both co-chairs expressed their commitment to representing GLBT interests in mainstream politics. "Some organizations have identified that they may not accept an invitation to send a representative to the board simply because mainstream politics is not a part of their mission. And that's fine," said Goslant. "However, we remain committed to building a mechanism for representing GLBT interests in mainstream politics and especially in Vermont state government. We believe that VCLGR and street activists can work in coalition together."

In addition to members representing different GLBT organizations, the board will also continue to welcome individual members who are not affiliated with any particular group. ▼

Benson Seeks to Even Tax Burden

continued from front page

Mountain Council of the BSA regarding access to and uses of the property on Lake Sunrise. The Select Board must approve it before it is sent on to the scouts for answers.

"I expect them to use the private club answers to specific questions about gays. With that, we can place them on the Grand List to be taxed again," said Fedor.

The last assessment done on the Camp Sunrise property was

in 1968, when it was valued at \$97,200. Though an accurate figure won't be available until camp buildings are examined, a recent estimate values the property alone at almost \$1 million. That would mean at least an additional \$13,000 in taxes for the Benson coffers.

Neither the potential increase in revenue nor the opportunity to call the Boy Scouts on the private club smokescreen is enough to get

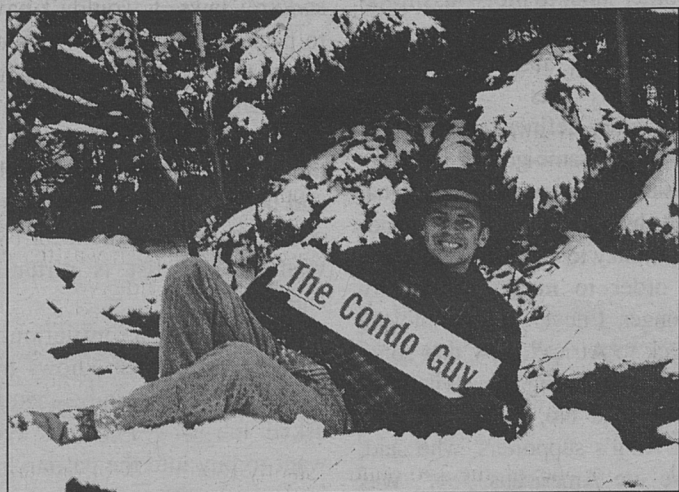
some Benson residents to support the taxation. They fear that the Green Mountain Council might opt to sell the property, which could drastically increase lakefront development. The town does not currently have zoning laws to prevent the land from being sold in small lots.

Representatives from the Green Mountain Council of the BSA could not be reached for comment. ▼

Whether You're Looking For A Home In The Country Or A Townhouse In The City, Give Bill A Call.



Bill Desautels
RE/MAX North Professionals
802-655-3333 X17
800-639-4520 X17



**FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION AT...
The Spa**
— A WOMEN'S PLACE —

- Sunday through Saturday
- Daily swim lessons for kids
- Adult Aquasize
- One massage per mom
- Family ski area 5 miles away

\$975 for 1-2 kids (ask if more)

Other amenities available at \$20/half hour:

- Extra massage
- Ear candling
- Fitness evaluations
- Private training sessions

RICHMOND • 434-2037
THE SPAVT@AOL.COM

THREE OLD BATS
Antiques, Collectibles & Useful Things

JANUARY JAMMIN WITH THE BATS
HOT! HOT! HOT!

802-860-1488 207 FLYNN AVE.
HOURS: TUES-SAT 10-6, BURLINGTON, VT
SUN 1-5, CLOSED MONDAY BY THE TRACKS

- SHOP ON SUNDAYS, AND GET A FREE TROPICAL FRUIT -

tell them you found it at
THAT BOOK STORE...
(now on Railroad Street)
USED AND ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS

BUY • SELL • TRADE

USED AND OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS • POSTCARDS
PAPER EPHEMERA • VT AND NH BOOKS

usually... Monday - Saturday 10:00 - 8:00, Sunday 11:00 - 8:00
80 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819
802 748-1722 • e-mail: TBS@PLAINFIELD.BYPASS.COM
BOB STREETER • DAVE WARDEN

Elizabeth Campbell
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

15 E. Washington St., Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 773-4030 Elizabeth@sover.net

Serving the Vermont Community

(Located in the same space as Jerome the Florist)

The Jeweler's Bench

Patricia Palumbo
Designer ~ Jeweler

Custom Design
Jewelry Repairing
Fine Handcrafted Jewelry

260 North Main Street, Barre, VT 05641 ~ 802-479-1496
vt toll free: 877-557-7236 ~ email: ppalumbo@sover.net