



No More No Less

NEWS FROM THE FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN April 2005

Working to Defend & Expand Fairness

Last December's Fairness victory at Metro Hall was a testament to the strategic importance of continually working to build a broader base of support for equality and justice. While the re-enactment of the Fairness ordinance may appear to some as the end of the Fairness work, we need only look to the anti-gay bills filed in Frankfort this year to know that we must remain vigilant if we are to protect our local civil rights law.

The very good news is that we managed to slip through the General Assembly without passage of any of the bills that could have been so harmful to the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people in Kentucky. It could be that our lawmakers had their hands full with passing the budget or that maybe even a few leaders understand that times are changing and that regressive measures on gay rights don't have the clout it was perceived to have had in the past.

This year once again, the staff of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance led the watch to ensure that no bad bills came out or were heard in committee. Staff from the Fairness Campaign along with a dozen volunteers reached out to meet and educate newly elected and sitting Jefferson County state legislators.

We met with and thanked statewide Fairness bill supporters Rep. Daryl Owens, Rep. Reginald Meeks and Rep. Mary Lou Marzian and Sen. Tim Shaughnessy, Sen. Gerald Neal, Sen. Denise Harper Angel and Fayette County Sen. Ernesto Scorsone.

But what we all know is that it is amazing that this Kentucky legislature did not move on any of the legislation that could have made our lives more difficult. "It is a miracle that neither the referendum bill or the automatic rescinding of local civil rights laws did not pass," says Phoenix Lindsey Hall, a volunteer member of the Fairness Campaign legislative team. "We have a chance to start early to get ready for the 2006 session to make sure we turn our good luck into good strategy."

And that's just what the legislative team has set about doing. Developing new supportive voter contacts along with lobbying Jefferson County legislators all through 2005, this team plans a strategy to defend our local Jefferson County Fairness law. A two-prong approach that focuses on state legislators and their constituents is needed because the state capital is where the attacks on our local laws will likely originate.

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Loves Comes Out to Challenge Spiritual Violence

Love Comes Out, a conference designed to respond to the spiritually violent message of the fanatical religious right-wing, will take place Saturday, April 16 at the Urban Government Annex, 850 Barret Avenue in Louisville in the 1st floor conference room.

The timing of the conference is no accident. On the same day as this pro-LGBT conference, Louisville's Southeast Christian Church will be hosting the notoriously anti-gay, so-called "Love Won Out" conference sponsored by Dr. James Dobson's Focus On The Family ministry. The website for the Dobson-affiliated conference claims that homosexuality "is both preventable and treatable."

David VanderPol, managing editor of The Letter newspaper, himself a 15-year survivor of ex-gay ministries, decided to organize the conference as a way to inform the community-at-large that not all people of faith are anti-gay or endorse the claims of ex-gay or anti-gay ministries. Indeed many of the presenters at the *Love Comes Out* conference will be clergy representing a number of faith traditions.

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PLAN TO ATTEND

★ **Hershberg Dinner to benefit Fairness & ACLU** – April 8, 7 p.m. at Gardencourt, 1044 Alta Vista Road. For reservations, call 893-0788.

★ **Love Comes Out Conference** – April 16, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Urban Govt. Annex, 850 Barret Ave. To pre-register, email: heydave@cyberdial.net.

★ **Derby Benefit for Fairness and the AIDS Project** – May 7, 4-12 p.m. at the Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Ave. Tickets on line at www.derbybenefit.com.

★ **Jobs with Justice Solidarity Celebration** – May 14, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Americana Community Center, 4801 Southside Drive. Keynote speaker - Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ. Tickets: \$15 - \$50. For more info contact 625-3724 or kyjwj@kyjwj.org.

★ **Louisville Youth Group** – support and social group for LGBTQ youth 14 – 21, weekly meetings. Call 454-3300.

★ **Sienna** – Transgender support and social monthly meeting, 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m., 1st Unitarian Church, 4th and York Streets. Call 346-5298 for information.

★ **PFLAG** – Louisville - Monthly meeting, 3rd Sunday, 3 p.m., 1st Lutheran Church, 417 E. Broadway. Call 329-0229 for information.

★ **Fairness Committee Meetings** - Call Fairness to get involved in the work of one of these committees – Fundraising, Community Building and Education, Media and Communications, Discrimination Response Team (DART), Legislative or Fairness Campaign Coordinating Committee.

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In order to advance our strategy, we are committed to building coalitions and diversifying our membership and leadership. We will continue plans to identify 7,500 new constituent supporters that endorse inclusive civil rights legislation. Identifying these new supporters will grow our base and become the cornerstone in building dynamic and knowledgeable relationships with our Jefferson County senators and representatives.

"We want to recruit and involve constituents so that they not only show the political strength of Fairness, but they also become motivated and educated about the power of their own political voice," shares Mike Slaton, one of the architects of the legislative team's strategy and structure.

To keep our eye on the prize, two legislative sub-committees were formed. One committee plans and tracks the voter contact progress we make through specific actions: 1) identifying voters during door-to-door canvass; and 2) recruiting voters and volunteers at other organizational and city-wide events. This committee can also assist in developing Fairness-planned community building and education events.

The second sub-committee will plan and track constituent meetings with all 28 Jefferson County state legislators. This group will organize our newly identified supporters to help us defend our local law and secure support for a statewide Fairness law by building relationships with their elected officials.

Our existing base of supporters, contributors and volunteers — which includes many we gleaned from the NO on the Amendment campaign — will jump start both of these projects.

In addition to these legislative sub-committees, two additional teams will form. A Message Team will examine the far-reaching implications of civil rights laws and other issues such as referendum votes and direct how we can plainly talk with people about these key issues. The Message Team will also work with the Coordinating Committee to identify other issues on which we could and should be identifying voters' support, such as living wage and civilian review of police. In addition, the team will work to frame marriage equality as a human rights issue that clearly concerns all types of families.

A Data Team will plan and implement a system that tracks our identified voters, constituents and volunteers. They will

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Michael Aldridge, Phoenix Lindsey-Hall, Terry Mickler and Monica Roberts join Coordinating Committee

Coordinating Committee Adds New Members

The Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee is pleased to report the addition of four new board members – Michael Aldridge, Phoenix Lindsey-Hall, Terry Mickler and Monica Roberts. Members of the Coordinating Committee take an active role in promoting and supporting the Campaign's mission and provide leadership for various committees, bridge building projects and special events. If you have questions, comments or concerns about the Campaign, please contact any member of the Coordinating Committee that also includes: Kathleen Campisano, Aletha Fields, Rus Funk, Otey-Blacksher, K.A. Owens, Jeff Rodgers, Kisha Sanders-Yager. We're always eager to hear ideas from Fairness supporters across the community.

Michael Aldridge is currently the Administrative Director for Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), a social justice organization headquartered in London, Kentucky that lobbies on environmental, economic development, human rights, welfare and tax reform issues. Previously, Michael was the Finance Director for the NO on the Amendment Campaign. He is also on the board of the ACLU of Kentucky and is a member of the Development Board at Actors Theatre.

Last August, Phoenix Lindsey-Hall became a volunteer, then later a field organizer with the No on the Amendment Campaign. Currently she works on the Fairness Campaign's Legislative committee and on it's field sub-committee. Asked about becoming part of the Fairness Campaign Coordinating Committee Phoenix said, "I am excited to join the FCCC and I look forward to continuing my work with the Legislative committee."

Terry Mickler has been active with Fairness lobbying for equality at city hall and the state capital. She's been co-chair of the Legislative committee for three years and was previously a liaison to Kentucky Fairness Alliance. Last year she completed her documentary film, *And Justice for All*, which looks at how the constitutional amendment on marriage moved from debates in Frankfort to the ballot last November. She also volunteers with Kentucky Digital Media, a video production house. When asked about what motivates her to work for justice she said, "I believe we have a responsibility to fight for the change we want to see in the world."

Monica Roberts, a native of Houston, was a founding member and the first Lobby Director of NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. She has taught Trans 101 seminars to students, government agencies and organizations. Monica writes an op-ed column in *The Letter* on transgendered issues. Monica sees joining the Fairness board as a natural extension of her concern that people of color be represented in the GLBT civil rights struggle. "There is the perception in the African-American community that the GLBT civil rights struggle is a 'white, gay thing' and doesn't concern us. It does when 70% of the victims of the Transgender Remembering our Dead list are people of color and many of their killers looked like them. It does when people are being discriminated against, cast out of their home churches, or shunned by their families for being who they are. As Dr. King so eloquently stated, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' "

If you would be interested in serving as a leader on the Coordinating Committee or taking on a Fairness project or committee assignment, please contact Kisha Sanders-Yager or Kathleen Campisano at the Fairness office – 893-0788.



The Coordinating Committee also includes: Kathleen Campisano, Aletha Fields, K.A. Owens, Chandra Otey-Blacksher, Jeff Rodgers and Kisha Sanders-Yager.

2005 Derby Benefit: El Circo de los Caballos

As Derby Day quickly approaches, it's time to make plans to attend this year's festive Derby Benefit extravaganza **El Circo de los Caballos** (The Circus of the Horses), May 7 from 4 p.m. to midnight at the Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Avenue. Proceeds from the event support the work of the Fairness Campaign and the AIDS Project.

Scheduled throughout the day will be performances of Espana Entertainment's riveting, state-of-the-art presentation *Cirquesa* with lyra (ring trapeze), aerial chiffon, hand balancing and other dangerous acts in their circus repertoire. Espana has performed with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus and have been seen on NBC's *Death-Defying Thrills*.

Of course, no circus entertainment is complete without the big top. So the Derby Benefit will include a huge circus tent where guests can mingle with this year's celebrity guests amongst the jugglers, stilt walkers and glitzy clowns. Later in the evening, the center ring will become a dance party with go-go dancers and music by DJ Jeremy Martorano of Phoenix.

This year's celebrity guest list for the benefit include: Jai Rodriguez and Carson Kressley from *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, singer/actress Deborah Gibson, Tammy Faye Messner, models Kevin Talley (Playgirl April 2005) and Josh Hammers (Instinct), the Village People's cowboy Randy Jones, and the biographer of pop music legends Mark Bego.

In addition, a silent auction with many unique items from celebrities, local artists, and other local sponsors will be available throughout the event.

Tickets for general admission are \$25, if purchased in advance by April 20, or \$30 at the door. VIP packages are also available and range from \$250 to \$1,000 per couple and must be purchased in advance by April 20. All tickets may be purchased by visiting the event's website at www.derbybenefit.com or by calling (502) 957-7880.

Volunteer to help with the Derby Benefit!

Call Kathleen at 893-0788

Hershberg Dinner Benefits Fairness & ACLU

A huge thank you goes out to Susan Hershberg and the Wiltshire Pantry for hosting the sixth annual dinner at Gardencourt on April 8 to benefit Fairness and ACLU of Kentucky. Thanks too for the generous event sponsors who have given over \$20,000 to make this fabulous dinner an enormous success. In addition, special appreciation goes to the organizing committee – Michael Aldridge, Susan Hershberg, Ed Kruger, Maria Price, Jesi Sanders-Yager, Kisha Sanders-Yager, Carla Wallace and Beth Wilson – and the volunteers who make this elegant evening a reality. As in the past the event is expected to be sold out.

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organize and deliver data as needed to any of these projects. "If it sounds like we have it all figured out, well we don't," says Emily Rigdon, co-chair of the Legislative Committee. "But we are determined to keep building on the 15-plus years of work by the Fairness Campaign in Jefferson County. And the swell of new supporters we found during the NO campaign must be contacted and organized now so that they know about the work to be done."

Fairness needs everyone's and anyone's help to add to this vision and have it become a reality. You are invited to drop in on a legislative team meeting every Tuesday from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Fairness office. Constituent meetings, voter and volunteer actions are all being planned, so please call the Fairness office for more information at 893-0788.

Loves Comes Out

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Sessions will feature speakers from around the region, including Rev. Dee Dale & Judy Dale, Rev. Todd Eklof, Rev. Phillip Garrett, Rev. Greg Bullard of Nashville and Jamie McDanniel with Lexington Soulforce.

Conference workshop topics will include: exposing the twisted theology and practices of the ex-gay movement, offering coming out support to family and friends, strategies to confront spiritual abuse, insights into building stronger same-sex relationships, working toward a healthy integration of sexuality and spirituality and getting to the truth about what the Bible does and does not say about homosexuality and marriage.

Registration will be April 16 from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m., with sessions from 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and from 1:15 - 5:00 p.m. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is required. A registration fee on a sliding scale of \$5 - \$10 will be collected at the door. All donations above \$5 will be contributed to Rev. Todd Eklof's legal defense fund. Rev. Eklof was terminated from Kentucky Farm Bureau soon after his opposition to marriage discrimination was made public.

To pre-register, email: heydave@cyberdial.net. Box lunches from Gumby's will be available for \$8.50. When you pre-register please indicate if you will need a box lunch and if you have a preference for a vegetarian or low carb lunch.

Further details will be available online at GayKentuckiana.com and in the April issue of *The Letter*.



*Derby Benefit guests include:
Jai Rodriguez, Deborah Gibson,
Randy Jones, Kevin Talley*



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Join us at the Derby Benefit May 7 at the Olmsted



Renew Your Membership

Please make a financial contribution to the work for equality & justice!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250

Other: _____

Please make your check payable to
**Fairness Campaign, P.O. Box 3431,
Louisville, KY 40201.**

I prefer my gift remain anonymous.

Help Build a Winning Team by Renewing Your Membership Today

Now that the NCAA tournament is over and we've all cried some tears, yelled at some refs, and partied in Kentucky like it's going out of style, we need you to turn your attention to another team with a winning record.

Join "Team Fairness" today and help defend our local civil rights law as we step up our game plan and build an even bigger and stronger team to educate, mobilize and organize in 2005. With an increasingly conservative national and statewide agenda, we know this game is far from over. We also know we have what it takes to win—experience, dedication, and heart. So support your favorite team with a \$25, \$40 or \$75 membership gift today.

Core Values of the Fairness Campaign

- We believe gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have the right to respect, dignity and full equality.
- We believe that dismantling racism is central to our work.
- We believe that all issues of oppression are linked and can only be addressed by working in coalition.
- We believe in non-violent, grassroots organizing that empowers individuals and builds a social justice movement that creates lasting change.

Newsletter contributors: Charlotte Albrecht, Michael Aldridge, Kathleen Campisano, Phoenix Lindsey Hall, Terry Mickler, Monica Roberts, Jeff Rodgers, Kisha Sanders-Yager, Mike Slaton, Sara Todd and Dave VanderPol.