

No More No Less

NEWS FROM THE FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN February 2005

Defending Fairness in Frankfort Anti-Gay Bills Require Watchful and Active Supporters

Local Fairness laws are in severe jeopardy across the state in this year's General Assembly. A bill that would easily allow referendums to be placed at the ballot box was one of the first to be pre-filed before the session starts. If this bill is passed, civil rights laws could be the first targets, highly endangering protections for LGBT people.

The Kentucky General Assembly is meeting in its short, 30-day session this year. We hope the legislators will focus their attention on passing a budget, but there are some new anti-Fairness bills filed that the Fairness Campaign and Kentucky Fairness Alliance will be watching closely and will need your help to organize effective lobby efforts.

Preliminary analysis shows that these are some of the bills to watch.

House Bill 104

Rep. Kevin Bratcher (R-Dist. 29), of south/southeast Jefferson County, has filed a bill that would change the limited way that referendums can now be placed on the ballot. The bill would "allow any public question not prohibited by statute to be submitted to the voters of a city, county, ... or consolidated local government by either a resolution of the local legislative body or a petition." Further, "it would reduce the required number of signatures on a petition from at least 20% to at least 3% of the total number of votes cast for president in the last election."

We oppose this bill because if passed, it will mean an all-out effort by anti-Fairness organizers to mount a signature collection campaign to put Metro Louisville's civil rights ordinance to a popular vote. Other issues, like environmental protections, pro-choice laws, voting rights and others could also be decided by referendum.

House Bill 81

We oppose this bill – the anti-Fairness bill – that would eliminate local civil rights protections that go beyond the state's law. The bill purports to promote "uniform application of civil rights law in the Commonwealth" and would deny any local laws on the subject.

This is the 5th year this bill has been filed. In prior sessions, this bill has remained in the judiciary committee along with the statewide Fairness bill. The statewide Fairness bill is pending and is expected to be filed before the filing deadline on Feb. 7.

House Bill 35

This is an act relating to relative caregivers and among other things requires "the Cabinet for Families and Children to create an affidavit establishing a relative caregiver's authority to provide consent for medical treatment of a minor...." It would require the "Department of Education to create an affidavit establishing a caregiver's authority to make school-based decisions...."

We support this bill because it appears that the use and definition of 'caregiver' would be helpful in assisting LGBT parent partners to gain authority to make medical and school-based decisions for kids when they otherwise might have difficulty being recognized as responsible family members.

An actual anti-LGBT adoption bill has not yet been filed. However, an amendment could be added to these already problematic anti-family bills.

Senate Bill 16: **We oppose this bill** because it may add a recertification of adoptions validated outside of the State of Kentucky.

PLAN TO ATTEND

★ **Lobby in Frankfort** – Theme Days include: Feb. 3 - Family Day; Feb. 10 - Transgender Day; Feb. 23 - People of Faith Day; March 2 - Student & Youth Rally / Ally Day.

★ **Dr. Cate Fosl on the Life of Anne Braden** - March 1, 7 p.m., Crescent Hill Branch of the library, discussion on the life of long-time civil rights activist and Louisvillian Anne Braden.

★ **32nd Annual National Conference on the Black Family in America** – March 10-13, Holiday Inn, 120 W. Broadway, contact Dr. Joseph McMillan at 852-6656 or 245-2272 for more info.

★ **Center for Women and Families 18th Annual Celebration of Service**– March 10, 5:30 p.m., Galt House East, honoring 'Women of Distinction', More info email –contact@cwfempower.org.

★ **Coalition of Immokalee Workers Taco Bell Truth Tour** – March 12, Rally at Yum! Brands Headquarters, 1441 Gardiner Lane. Boycott supporters of all ages gather for a day of music, speeches and colorful theater in a carnival atmosphere.

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

★ **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.

continued on page 2

*Susan Hershberg &
the Wiltshire Pantry
invite you
to a benefit for
the Fairness Campaign
and
the American Civil Liberties
Union of Kentucky*

*You are invited to enjoy
an evening of elegant dining
with a progressive flair
while supporting
the Fairness Campaign
and the ACLU of Kentucky
in their work for equality and
justice for all.*

Friday, April 8, 2005
Cocktails - 7 p.m.
Dinner - 8 p.m.
Gardencourt
1044 Alta Vista Road

You're Invited...

Susan Hershberg and Wiltshire Pantry invite you to join us for the sixth annual fundraising dinner to benefit the Fairness Campaign and the ACLU of Kentucky. The historic mansion at Gardencourt will again be the setting for this grand evening of exceptional cuisine.

The event will be held on Friday, April 8. Proceeds will be used to continue our efforts to defend our hard-fought civil rights victories both locally and in Frankfort. Tickets are available through the Fairness office. Please call 893-0788 to make your reservation.

A limited number of seats have been underwritten by event sponsors to enable Fairness volunteers to attend who may not be able to cover the full ticket price.

If you are interested in utilizing a sponsored ticket, please contact Kisha Sanders at the Fairness office for more information.

Fairness Wish List

HP Laserjet-10A print cartridge,
copy paper, postage stamps,
your volunteer time, paper towels,
toilet paper, floodlight bulbs - 90 watt,
small reflector bulbs - 50 watt

Defending Fairness in Frankfort

continued from page 1

House Bill 30

We oppose this bill because there is language that could be interpreted at least in a general way so that administrative regulations, and interpretation of statute by administrators can create problems. For example, certain folks would take the language "suitability of the applicant to receive a child", and "best interest of the child" to mean the LGBT folks should not be permitted to adopt.

The Fairness Campaign has an organized legislative team with many new members. Goals are to analyze bills, conduct lobby trainings, outreach to citizen lobbyists to attend Lobby Theme Days in Frankfort, and develop a voter identification & mobilization plan to inform more people about what is happening in Frankfort and what they can do about it.

How you can help: LEARN, then ACT

Who is your legislator in Frankfort?

Go to this website for the Metro Address Profiler www.louky.org/fp/map/default.asp and put in your address to find out who your elected officials are. At your "results" page, click on the home page of your state senator or representative. On these home pages you can find the direct phone number and extension to their Frankfort offices.

If you already know who your representative is then find their contact information in the Jefferson County delegation list on page 7.

You can also call the Legislative Message Line to leave a message for any legislator. This message line is toll free 1-800-372-7181 and is open 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. during session.

How can I know what's happening?

- Join the Fairness Action Alert Network. If you are not getting legislative updates by email then join the Fairness Campaign's & the Kentucky Fairness Alliance's email list. To join send an email to fairness@fairness.org with subject "Add to email list."
- Attend a Legislative Team meeting. Just drop in to see what we are planning, every Tuesday 5 p.m.-7p.m. at the Fairness office, 2263 Frankfort Ave. Call for more info – 893-0788.

What can I do?

- Attend a Lobby Training – Thursday, Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m. or Saturday Feb. 19, 10 a.m. - noon
- Come to a Lobby Theme Day in Frankfort – Family Day, Feb. 3; Transgender Day, Feb. 10; People of Faith Day, Feb. 23; Student & Youth Rally / Ally Day, Mar. 2. A carpool leaves the Fairness office at 7 a.m. or drive yourself and meet in the cafeteria in the Annex building behind the Capitol at 8 a.m.

Power Summit Inspires Volunteers

Over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend last month organizers from across the nation traveled to Austin, Texas to the 2005 Power Summit put on by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). The conference was hosted by the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), who much like Kentucky last January, is facing anti-gay marriage amendments.

Roughly 100 people from nine different states gathered for the long weekend to be trained on the strategy, values, and tactics that will build and keep power as a movement. Power is defined as the balance of people and money. This power is important not only for short-term wins, but it is essential to reach and sustain long-term goals. The Fairness Campaign was able to send eight volunteers and two staff members to the training with the support of the Community Impact Fund grant. Fairness attendees participated in each of the offered tracks– advanced team building, field organizing, and fundraising.

There was a good balance of lecturing and action. The conference attendees all put on their walking shoes and found support for LGRL. Not only did they sign up new volunteers for over 400 specific shifts, they also canvassed and identified over 500 Austinites who will be voting No on Texas' anti-marriage amendment. While the advanced and field tracks were busy finding people, the fundraising track raised over \$14,000. Combine the two and you have power.

The training really got the Fairness Campaign's volunteers excited to start work at the General Assembly. Jessica George, a Fairness volunteer who was in the field organizing track, learned how canvassing is a vital tool during the legislative session. "I am energized for the session, and feel like I have the tools necessary to lead us to victory." Since the conference, seven conference attendees have become members of Fairness' Legislative Committee.



Fairness 2004 in Review



2004 Summary of Events

- ★ January: Fairness members join in protests around police accountability after another African-American man, Michael Newby, is shot by a police officer.
- ★ February 29: Leap into Action Day kicks off a year-long effort to identify progressive voters across Jefferson County who support Fairness and justice for all.
- ★ February: Long-time organizational manager Carol Kraemer leaves her position after seven years of caring, dedicated and passionate leadership.



★ Feb. – April: Working with Kentucky Fairness Alliance, we push for statewide Fairness law and to stop anti-gay legislation.

★ April 2: Susan Hershberg & Wiltshire Pantry host the fabulous Gardencourt dinner to benefit Fairness & ACLU.

★ April 13: On the last day of the legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly votes in favor of placing a constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality and prohibit civil unions on the November ballot.

★ April 19: Kisha Sanders-Yager joins the Fairness staff as organizational manager.

★ May 1: With the leadership of Bob Kyser and committee, Derby Benefit 2004 is one of the largest Derby soirees in Louisville and proceeds support the work of Fairness.

★ May: Kentucky Fairness Alliance and Fairness Campaign join together with supporters to form Kentucky Families for Fairness to defeat the constitutional amendment on marriage.

★ May: Sarah Reece, on leave from NGLTF, returns to Louisville as campaign manager for Kentucky Families for Fairness' NO on the Amendment campaign to defeat the constitutional amendment on marriage.

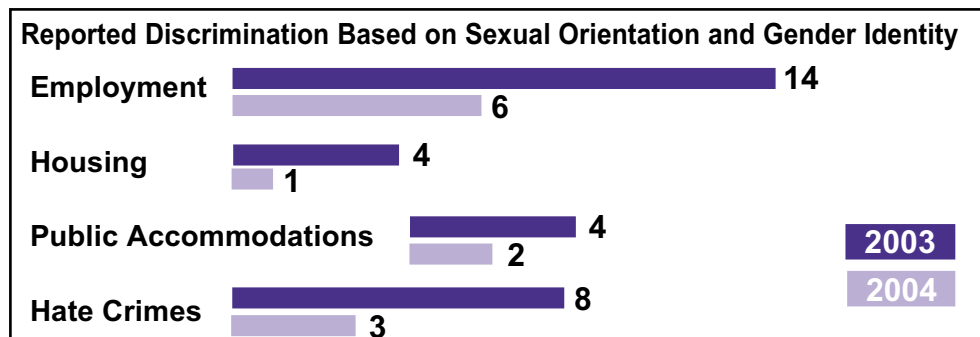
★ May: CFAIR, the political action committee of the Fairness Campaign, endorses ten Fairness-friendly candidates for local office.

★ July: Councilman James Peden announces plans to introduce an ordinance to repeal the Fairness ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

★ August: Fairness supporters join in the grand opening of the NO on the Amendment headquarters on Frankfort Avenue in Louisville. Volunteers continue walking door-to-door talking with voters about stopping the mean-spirited amendment.



continued on page 7



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.



Vision Statement

The Fairness Campaign seeks to dismantle oppression and build an inclusive community where all individuals are valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

We are a broad, diverse community of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people and allies committed to transforming society and building a more just world.

Statement of Purpose

The Fairness Campaign is a broad-based community effort dedicated to equal rights. Its primary goal is comprehensive civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Fairness Campaign accomplishes its goals through public education and advocacy, political activity, community building and reciprocal alliances with others in the social justice community.



2004 Friends of Fairness



Gold Star

\$5,000 or more

Civil Marriage Collaborative, Proteus Fund
Community Health Trust
Derby Benefit
Susan Hershberg/Wiltshire Pantry
Bob Kyser, Allstate Insurance
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
George Stinson
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program
at Shelter Rock
Carla F. Wallace

★★★★★

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Actors Theatre of Louisville
Ed Kruger & Jeff Rodgers
Richard B. Schwarz
Jane F. & James Welch



★★★★

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
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★★★

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★★★

\$250 - \$499

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Dona F. Wells



★

\$75 - \$249

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 Clare Whitley
 Michelle Whitley
 Cherry Williams
 Beth Wilson
 Melody Wolder
 Nan Woods & Elizabeth Lee
 Martha Yager
 Laura Younkin
 Mary F. Zriny



**Friends of Fairness
 (up to \$75)**

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 Ray Schweri & Maria Hines

THANK YOU!
 In addition to gifts to Fairness, many donors also made generous contributions to the NO on the Amendment Campaign. Due to election finance laws, gifts to NO on the Amendment were recorded separately from Fairness.

Photos of vote night and victory celebrations courtesy of:
 Brian Bohannon
 Terry Mickler
 Jeff Rodgers

Year in Review *continued*

★ August: Fairness Campaign volunteers, in partnership with KFA and NO on the Amendment, identify voters at our State Fair booth.

★ September 5: Carla Wallace's Lawn Party raises funds for NO on the Amendment and Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

★ October 11: The Works On Shirts art project culminates in creative, wearable visibility for National Coming Out Day celebrations.

★ October: Fairness sponsors a huge interstate billboard along I-65 carrying the message – *We the People, gay or straight... all Kentuckians deserve equal protection under the law.* Tens of thousands of postcards echoing this message and illustrating the over 1,000 protections provided by civil marriage are distributed to voters across the county.



★ October: African American Leaders Voting No on the Amendment and Fairness bring Rev. Ron Hopson of Howard University to rally people of faith to speak out against the constitutional amendment on marriage. Fairness launches a radio ad campaign advocating for marriage equality and against discrimination.

★ October: Terry Mickler's documentary film *And Justice for All*, which looks at how the constitutional amendment on marriage moved from debates in Frankfort to the ballot and the impact the measure will have on people's lives, is screened at the Kentucky Theatre.

★ November 2: Even though Kentucky's constitutional amendment defining marriage and prohibiting civil unions is adopted, hundreds of new volunteers and thousands of people who support Fairness are identified. 11 of 12 CFAIR candidates are elected the same day.



★ November 11: The Fairness ordinance is introduced at Metro Council. A competing ordinance is introduced to remove sexual orientation and gender identity from the protected classes included in the local civil rights law.

★ November 20: Fairness, Louisville Youth Group, Common Ground, Center for Women and Families and Presbyterian Seminary join in Transgender Day of Remembrance events.

★ December 7: Expert testimony is heard from advocates for inclusive civil rights protections, as well as those opposed to Fairness.

★ December 9: The Kentucky Alliance honors long-time Fairness leader Carol Kraemer and longtime Fairness ally and civil rights leader Roosevelt Roberts at the Unity Dinner.

★ December 9: A bi-partisan coalition of the Metro Council votes to re-enact the existing, comprehensive civil rights ordinance by a margin of 19 to 6!



★ December 10: Mayor Abramson signs the Fairness ordinance into law. A community victory celebration is held at the Fairness office in appreciation of the many volunteers, donors and leaders who helped to preserve our local civil rights laws.

2004 Financial Summaries

Fairness Education Fund

Income:	
Donations	\$ 38,479
Events	9,558
Grants	66,000
Other Income	1,712
<u>Unrealized Gain/Loss</u>	<u>2,842</u>
Total Income	\$ 118,590

Expense:	
Community Building	\$ 12,811
Fundraising	1,379
Media & Communications	35,612
Operations	16,415
Training & Education	3,202
KFA Revenue Share	3,451
<u>Fairness Campaign Cost Share</u>	<u>43,509</u>
Total Expense	\$ 116,378

Surplus/(Loss) \$2,212



Fairness Campaign

Income:	
Donations	\$ 27,436
Events	17,871
Other Income	6,696
<u>Education Fund Cost Share</u>	<u>43,509</u>
Total Income	\$ 95,512

Expense:	
Community Building	\$ 5,200
Media & Communications	4,000
Operations	6,844
KFA Revenue Share	6,705
<u>Payroll & Benefits</u>	<u>69,159</u>
Total Expense	\$ 91,908

Surplus/(Loss) \$ 3,603



Special thanks for the leadership provided by members of the Fairness Coordinating Committee in 2004!

Kristi Papailler Berkley
 Kathleen Campisano
 Aletha Fields
 Rus Funk
 Darnell Johnson
 Tanisha Johnson
 Carol Kraemer
 Chandra Otey-Blacksher
 K.A. Owens
 Jeff Rodgers
 Nikisha Sanders-Yager
 Elizabeth Sawyer

Fairness Campaign

P.O. Box 3431, Louisville, KY 40201

Web: www.fairness.org • Email: fairness@fairness.org

Phone: (502) 893-0788 • Fax: (502) 896-0577

Help Defend Fairness

Jefferson County Legislators

In the Senate by District

10. Senator Elizabeth Tori (R)

2851 S. Wilson Road
Radcliff, KY 40160
(Home) - 270-351-1829

19. Senator Tim Shaughnessy (D)

250 E. Liberty, Suite 103
Louisville, KY 40202
(Home) - 267-5063

26. Senator Ernie Harris (R)

P.O. Box 1073
Crestwood, KY 40014
(Home) - 241-8307

33. Senator Gerald Neal (D)

401 W. Main St., Suite 1807
Louisville, KY 40202
(Home) - 778-1178

35. Senator Denise Harper Angel (D)

2521 Ransdell Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204
(Home) - 417-4900

36. Senator Julie Denton (R)

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37. To be determined – Virginia Woodward
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38. Senator Dan “Malano” Seum (R)

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48. Representative Bob DeWeese (R)

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59. Representative Tim Feeley (R)

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Please contact your legislators when the Fairness Action Alert Network is activated. To join the Fairness email network, go to www.fairness.org

If your legislator's email address is not listed, go to www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/whoswho.htm and select your representative. Use your legislator's mail form to submit an electronic message.

To determine your legislators, go to www.fairness.org – see Electoral/Where to Vote

To leave a message in Frankfort for your legislator call: 1-800-372-7181

To view current bills go to: www.lrc.ky.gov/record/05rs/record.htm



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Fairness puts the FUN in Function

What are your first thoughts when you hear “Fairness”? Justice. Never give up. Equality. Hard work. Fight. What about community? For years now, Fairness continues to work in coalition-building, in justice work, and in impacting our community in positive ways. Speaking of impact, the Fairness Campaign’s Community Building Committee bursts forth with new energy and passion around building community IN the community.

We know how to do work, we know how to rally around and stand up for our rights, we know how to stand with our allies, and now we want our community to know that we are FUN! Fairness is beautifully knit together with so much voice from so many experiences, we believe the time is NOW, more than ever before, to embrace one another in the spirit of fun and good will.

What is on the mind of the committee? Aletha Fields, co-coordinator of Fairness explains, “Every victory deserves celebration, including the celebration of our relationships with each other. We must never lose sight of the incredible power of our hearts and what better way to get to know one another’s hearts than to build community around our need and desire to grow and play together? I look forward to our authoring new ways for our community to perceive us, especially in the realm of fun. For too long we have denied ourselves the opportunity to celebrate outside of a legislative battle or strong issue. Those pieces will always be with us, will always drive us toward our purpose in this community. At the same time, there is so much more to us than work.”

Areas of focus for Fairness through the Community Building Committee include:

- meaningful and intentional conversation with our transgender supporters
- healing circles
- providing safe space for very open, honest dialogue around a variety of timely issues, including religion, racism, and sexuality
- visibility, presence, & co-sponsorship of programs & events at NEW tables in the community
- participation in national organizations’ cutting edge community building trainings

What an exciting time in the life of our organization! Alas, we cannot do this without YOU! Without the true voice of the community, we cannot build anything. Please join us in our renewed commitment to BUILD! Contact the Fairness Campaign today to get your voice and your ideas, your FUN to the functions! Call us right away at 893-0788.