

FAIRNESS

C A M P A I G N

August
2008

Investigation Seeks Source of Anti-Gay Mailer

The Fairness Campaign and its political action committee, CFAIR, continue to search for the source of the hatred-filled campaign mailer directed at Metro Council candidate Ken Herndon and to help heal the wounds it caused in the GLBT community.

In June, the CFAIR board of directors approved a proposal to hire a private investigator whose purpose would be to find the source of the mail piece that was delivered to residents in the Sixth Metro Council District during the weekend immediately preceding the May 20, 2008 primary election. CFAIR will release the results of the investigation to the media and through the Fairness website and newsletter once it is completed.

CFAIR endorsed the incumbent and long-time Fairness ally, George Unseld, in the Democratic primary for the Sixth District Metro Council seat. The contest presented a multi-layered decision process for CFAIR, as Mr. Herndon is one of the founders of the Fairness Campaign and a long-time community activist. Mr. Unseld prevailed in the primary with 2,093 votes to Mr. Herndon's 1,981.

The anti-gay mail piece, which contained altered photographs, misleading information and attacks against Mr. Herndon, was delivered through the U.S. mail. Language on the mailer stated that it was paid for by the "Citizens for Family and Moral Values." No address or treasurer for the organization was given. A search on the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance (KREF) database returned no matches for the group.

The KREF is a state agency that administers Kentucky's campaign finance laws. Certain individuals and organizations, as defined in state statutes, are required to file reports of campaign contributions and expenditures. Failure to follow the campaign finance laws can cause individuals and organizations to have civil and criminal penalties imposed against them.

The volunteer leaders of the Fairness Campaign Coordinating Committee first learned of the mailer on Sunday, May 18, 2008, and CFAIR's board was notified the following day.

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Join Fairness at the State Fair

Interested in going to the Kentucky State Fair? Want to get in free? With the Fairness Campaign you can – by volunteering just 4 hours of your time at the Fairness booth. When you volunteer at the booth sponsored by Fairness Campaign and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance you'll have a chance to interact with the visitors of the fair and increase Kentuckians awareness about issues of civil rights and justice such as marriage equality and the need for a statewide Fairness law. Volunteers will engage voters through discussion and a survey. The Kentucky State Fair runs from Thursday, August 14 through Sunday, August 24, 2008. Volunteer shifts are available mornings (9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.), afternoons (1:30 - 5:30 p.m.), and evenings (5:30 - 9:30 p.m.)

And why not bring a group of friends to volunteer with you! Join our friends and allies such as Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Central Presbyterian Church, Louisville Youth Group, ACLU, KY Jobs with Justice, Third Lutheran Church and Kentucky Fairness Alliance who have taken full days at the Fair in the past. Volunteering at the State Fair is always interesting. You will meet a variety of people and there is always a chance for a good conversation or debate.

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PLAN TO ATTEND

★ **Kentucky Social Forum planning meeting** – Aug. 10, 3 p.m., Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. For more info, email kyjwj@kyjwj.org.

★ **Volunteer Training for State Fair** – Aug. 12, 6 p.m., Fairness office, call 893-0788 for details.

★ **Fairness at the State Fair** – Aug. 14-24, volunteers needed daily, free admission to Fair, call 893-0788 to volunteer.

★ **Carla Wallace's Annual Lawn Party** – Aug. 31, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., to benefit Fairness and Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, see www.Fairness.org for details.

★ **Reproductive Freedom Project Celebration** – Sept. 6, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Woodland Farm, Goshen, go to ACLU-KY.org for more information.

★ **Jobs With Justice Solidarity Dinner** – Sept. 16, call 582-5454 for details.

★ **SONG's Homecoming Weekend** – Sept. 19-21, Durham, NC, a celebration of "15 years of LGBTQ Living, Loving and Organizing in the South," more info at southernersonnewground.org.

★ **JustFundKY's Justice for All** – Sept. 20, 8 p.m., Lexington Center, a revolutionary evening of dinners & dancing, see justfundky.org for details.

★ **Louisville AIDS Walk** – Sept. 28, The Belvedere, 5th & Main Street, walk steps off at 3 p.m., more info at louisvilleaidswalk.org

★ **Louisville Youth Group** – support and social group for LGBTQ youth 14 – 21, weekly meetings. Call 499-4427.

You're Invited to Carla's Lawn Party

Be part of celebrating a community building tradition at Carla Wallace's 11th Annual Lawn Party on Sunday, August 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friends of Fairness from throughout the county and beyond will share time with old friends, make new ones, relax under the canopy of the oak trees and enjoy the delicious buffet prepared by Wiltshire Pantry. More than one party-goer has remarked that this event is the highlight of their summer months and regulars return year after year.

In a continuing tradition that honors the long-standing relationship in the work for equality and justice, the Lawn Party benefits the Fairness Campaign and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Everyone is invited and you should receive an invitation to the event soon. Your RSVP will be greatly appreciated. Please call the Fairness Office for more information at (502) 893-0788 or to receive a formal invitation for a friend. We look forward to seeing you at the Lawn Party later this month.



Fairness at the Fair

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The State Fair booth is important to the Fairness Campaign's mission because 1) it provides a forum for volunteers to interact one-on-one with other individuals to dispel our society's flawed thinking regarding LGBT people, discrimination and racism, 2) we have the opportunity to outreach to individuals who may be unaware of our organization and our advocacy work, and 3) the booth provides a great venue to gain new Fairness volunteers from across the state to help spread the word about equality and justice.

If the idea of engaging voters through discussion and survey is not the job for you, you can still volunteer on Wednesday, August 13 for the load-in.

If you are interested in volunteering at the State Fair this year, please contact the Fairness office at 502-893-0788 or by email at fairness@fairness.org. We'll see you at the Fair!

Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee Welcomes New Leaders

The Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee is pleased to report the addition of six new board members – Yana Baker, Mark Baridon, Kat Crawford, Carol Kraemer, Sam Marcossion and Aubria Williams. The new members of the Coordinating Committee, the leadership body that guides and directs the work of Fairness, are already hard at work to implement the Campaign's strategic plan adopted last fall. Each member will take an active role in promoting and supporting the Campaign's mission and provide leadership for various committees, community 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: Aletha Fields, Lauren Heberle, Cyd Iyun, Terry Mickler, K.A. Owens, Jeff Rodgers, Dorene Stein and Nick Wilkerson. We're always eager to hear ideas from Fairness supporters across the community.

Yana Baker is from Louisville and has a long history of community organizing. As a youth in 1999 she lobbied County Commissioner Russ Maple in support of the Fairness Ordinance. Yana was the show director for Onyx night at the Connection for 4 years and has competed in the National Entertainer of the Year Pageant twice. She is seen as a mother/mentor to many youth in the African-American LGBTQ community. Yana has served on the board of CFAIR since 2006. In 2007 Yana founded TECK (Transgender Education Center of Kentucky) whose mission is to empower and edify the transgender community while educating the broader community on transgender issues. Yana's passion stems from the core values of the Fairness Campaign: *To build an inclusive community for all people to reach their full potential.* Working from this belief she has translated Fairness literature to Spanish with other translations planned to follow in the near future. She looks forward to working toward a more just world where every person is valued and individually respected.



Mark Baridon has been a minister for twenty years and is currently serving as Co-Pastor at Central Presbyterian in Old Louisville. Mark is a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and UNC-Greensboro. Since college days he has been active in numerous peace and justice groups that promote equality for everyone and work to alleviate hunger and poverty. Mark hopes to be a liaison between the Fairness Campaign and the faith communities and to help with hospitality at events.



Kat Crawford grew up in Louisville and currently resides with her partner of 7 years and their 3 children. Kat has been a teacher for 23 years and currently teaches Math at Highlands Middle School. Kat stated that "teaching is activist work and each year I am struck at how powerful it is to be in the classroom with young people. Authentic teaching, based in relationship, creativity, and justice, is truly a passion of mine." Kat played a major role in lobbying the Jefferson County Public School Board to adopt anti-discrimination language in their policy manual. Through this experience, Kat found tremendous support, courage and conviction from the Fairness Campaign and its allies; helping her deal with the hatred, homophobia and personal attacks that the media and protesters threw at her and the community. Kat strongly believes in the core values, mission and vision of the Fairness Campaign. "I believe it is so important for LGBTQ people to be out and visible in our community. While that may take time for some and look different for everyone, each time we come out to a family member, a colleague at work, someone in our neighborhood or church, we have an opportunity to change minds and hearts."



Carol J. Kraemer is a native Louisvillian and began volunteering with Fairness at its inception. She joined the Fairness Campaign Coordinating Committee in 1996 and served for 6 months before being hired as the Campaign's Organizational Manager where she worked until 2004. She is currently the director of the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, which provides grants for student activists. Carol serves on the Carl Braden Memorial Center Board as well. In addition to LGBT rights work, she has been an activist and cultural worker for twenty years in local progressive movements, racial and economic justice and peace. "I believe that Fairness is crucial to bringing together



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Administrative Coordinator Erica Dolinky

The Fairness Campaign is pleased to announce that Erica Dolinky has joined our staff as the Administrative Coordinator. In this role she will be in charge of office and database management, constituent communications and bookkeeping. In addition, she will work to foster volunteer engagement and membership recruitment.

Erica recently relocated to Louisville from a rural town in southern Colorado, where she completed a position leading a mentoring team for at-risk students on a small college campus. She became actively involved in the close-knit town of 8,000, working as the advisor to Students for a New Left and Model United Nations, advocating campaigns for voting issues that would extend benefits to same-sex domestic partnerships and taking a stand against a referendum targeting undocumented immigrants. Prior to this, Erica worked for Boys and Girls Clubs in Scottsdale, AZ where, for ten years, she had the opportunity to work for a diversity of programs, ranging from education to art to immigrant outreach.

Erica holds a degree in Fine Arts, as well as a minor in Women and Gender Studies, from Arizona State University. She notes that she found it important to create art work within a broader social context using performance, audio, video, and fiber arts to look at feminist issues surrounding the body, domesticity and traditional gender roles.

Erica shared, "The empowerment of people has always been of the utmost importance to me and in each of these positions I was able to give people a voice, and to help provide a forum for that voice. Through each pursuit, I worked with great teams and developed lasting relationships with fellow staff and program members."

She continues, "I am excited to have found an organization that works so tirelessly for the rights of the LGBT community, as well as for the dismantling of racism, all of which will serve to elevate society as a whole. I admire the strides that the Fairness Campaign has made so far and look forward to being a part of these efforts in the coming months. I welcome the opportunity to meet and speak with all of you who take action for a more just world in the name of Fairness."



Investigation Seeks Source of Mailer

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Jeff Rodgers, a co-coordinator of the Fairness Campaign, contacted both Mr. Unsel and Mr. Herndon's campaigns on May 19, 2008, in an effort to cooperate on responses to the mailer. Fairness and CFAIR issued statements to the press and to Fairness members condemning the mailer that same day. Mr. Unsel also held a press conference and issued a statement condemning the mailer. He also denied having any part in producing or distributing the mailer.

Fairness included a call for credible evidence about the source of the mailer in the June issue of this newsletter and condemned the mailing as part of an op-ed piece in the Courier-Journal. Some Fairness Campaign members and supporters of Mr. Herndon remained upset by the mailer and perceived a lack of response from Mr. Unsel, Fairness and CFAIR. The Coordinating Committee and CFAIR held a community dialogue on June 24, 2008, at Central Presbyterian Church to discuss the mailer and the primary election. About 35 people attended the meeting and expressed both concerns, anger and hope for the GLBT community to move forward in a positive way.

Volunteer leaders from the Coordinating Committee and CFAIR listened and spoke at the meeting. Those who attended expressed the need for a formal investigation into the source of the mailer and asked for enhanced communication between the Coordinating Committee, CFAIR and Fairness supporters. Fairness leaders acknowledged that we did not meet everyone's expectations around this issue. We continue to evaluate responses to the mailer and are committed to improving the organization's ability to quickly and publicly respond to the type of last-minute hate attacks that occurred in the 6th District primary race.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, none of the members of the Coordinating Committee or of CFAIR has been informed of any complaint or investigation into the hate mailer other than our own. A Kentucky political blog reported that Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Stengel would be investigating the matter, but Fairness has been unable to confirm this.

The Coordinating Committee and CFAIR welcome comments and information concerning issues important to the GLBT community. Members of both organizations may be reached by calling the Fairness Campaign at (502) 893-0788 or by visiting the website at www.fairness.org.

New Coordinating Committee Members

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people across lines of difference in common struggle for equal rights for all. This kind of work gives me hope that one day each person can live with full dignity and equality and that there truly is enough justice and enough resources for everyone."

Sam Marcossan has lived in Louisville since 1996 when he moved here to teach at the law school at U of L. Before that he worked in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He has worked with the Fairness Campaign in various ways; including speaking at hearings and writing op-eds. Sam believes it is important to help advance the cause of equality for LGBT people in Louisville and across the state. He has worked with national organizations including the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, to name a few, and he hopes to use his legal background and training to continue to help the Fairness Campaign as a member of the Coordinating Committee.



Aubria Williams grew up in California, but has spent a significant amount of her life moving around; she attended High School in Switzerland and college in North Carolina. Aubria moved to Louisville in 2005 as her partner continued school. Aubria currently works in Social Services as a Child Welfare Specialist, supervising visitation of CPS cases and teaching parenting skills. Aubria currently attends ITT Tech working towards an associate's degree in visual communications. Aubria has always been an activist in her community in some way, whether through community service or lobbying. Aubria has been a volunteer with the Fairness Campaign since 2005. She was actively involved in lobbying the Jefferson County Public School Board to adopt anti-discrimination language in their policy manual. Aubria is also very active in her church, Third Lutheran Church, and currently is a member of the board.



If you would be interested in serving as a leader on the Coordinating Committee, please contact the office at 893-0788.



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Please make your check payable to
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I prefer my gift remain anonymous.



a bridge of hope since 1993

Louisville AIDS Walk

The 16th Annual Louisville AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, September 28, 2008 starting and ending at The Belvedere at 5th and Main in downtown Louisville. The Walk is Kentucky's largest fundraiser to support direct services for those who are HIV positive.

Please plan to join this year's AIDS Walk. Whether you walk to honor the memory of a loved one lost to this virus or on behalf of those affected by HIV or AIDS, your presence and your contributions make a difference. You can register on line now at LouisvilleAIDSWalk.org. Pre-walk entertainment and presentations will begin on The Belvedere at 1 p.m. with the walk and 5K run stepping off at 3 p.m.

If you'd like to do more, consider volunteering for pre-event and day-of-event activities. It's as simple as calling the Louisville AIDS Walk at (502) 574-5947. It's a rewarding experience!

**Look for exciting upcoming news
about a new collaborative project
of Kentucky's LGBT groups at www.fairness.org.
Working together, we're building
a fairer Kentucky for all citizens.**