

CHAMBER *News*

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

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For membership information,
call (713) 523-7576

GHGLCC

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

New Year Begins with Dinner / Travel Seminar

President Coy Tow Hosts Travel Seminar/ Drawings for Door Prizes

Monday, January 6, 1996, Allen Park Inn

6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner/Program

The Chamber's January Dinner/Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 1997 at the Allen Park Inn located at 2121 Allen Parkway, just east of Montrose Boulevard (next to KHOU, Channel 11 TV Station).

This month's program will consist of a panel discussion on *Gay and Lesbian Travel Options for 1997 and beyond!* President Coy Tow will moderate the discussion. The panel will consist of four

travel industry business owners within the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, in addition to one representative from Go Go Tours, Planet RSVP. Participants include **Coy Tow**, Uniglobe First Choice Travel, **David Greiss**, Advance Damron Vacations, **Sandra Wilkins**, The Travel Partnership, **Tim Gibson**, All Around Travel, and Go Go Tour representative **Warren Diana**, Planet RSVP. Each panelist will briefly discuss the many issues and options concerning Gay and Lesbian Travel. Topics will include discussions on gay travel to functions like The Gay Games in Amsterdam, and Gay Ski Week in



Aspen, Colorado; planning an RSVP Cruise, Exotic Travel Voyage, and/or Budget Travel. A Question and Answer session will follow each speaker. Drawings for door prizes will be held. Come join us for an exciting and informative evening! Who knows.... *you may win a grand prize!*

The cost for dinner and program is \$20 for members; \$25 for guests. Parking is free. It is required to RSVP for all who wish to attend this meeting. Please call the Chamber hotline at (713)523-7576 by Thursday, January 2, 1997 to RSVP. Please note that if you make reservations for guests who do not show for dinner, you are responsible for payment of those dinners. Guests who join the Chamber of Commerce that night prior to dinner will enjoy the discounted member cost of \$20 for the dinner. If you need, or would like a special entree (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, low fat / sodium, etc.), please indicate so when making your reservation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC) fosters and promotes the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities for its members. Promoting a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens, and to further strengthen our position in society, the chamber provides opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.

Committee Reports

Social

Green/White Advisors is hosting a Social/Mixer at their offices on Thursday, January 23, 1997 from 5:30 til 7:30 PM. Stop by their offices at 1225 N. Loop West, Suite 1030. Call Bill Green at 713.869.1144 for detail or directions.

Mark Your Calendars!

The November Mixer at Mortgage Associates was the start of the Holiday parties! The attendance was great with many members in attendance along with several guests. John Frels along with his fabulous associates were wonderful hosts. Thank you, John! The food was catered by James Ainesworth and was exquisite! *(Several people tried to talk James out of his Artichoke Dip Recipe, but he would not divulge his secret!)*

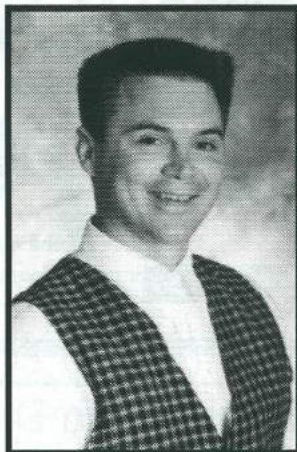
Remember, we are always looking for members to host our monthly mixers/socials. The event format is totally up to the hosts. This is a great opportunity for members to meet other members and community leaders. If interested, please contact Helene Rouse at 713.524.1850.

Internet

Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Amy Looper at 7-Seventeen Group, Inc. The URL address is <http://www.echonet.com/ghglcc>. Contact Amy Looper at 7-Seventeen for information regarding the Web Site.

Newsletter

The Newsletter Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 22 to discuss improvements with the layout and design of our monthly publication. We will continue to meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. If you'd like more information or have any questions or comments, please contact Matthew Pennington at The Houston Voice 713.529.8490 or Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics 713.528.7654. *The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month).*



President's Message

By Coy Tow

The new board is eager to get the new year off to a great start and the program committee wants to assure that the January meeting is well attended. The January dinner meeting will feature the Chamber's own expertise in the world of travel. This should be a great meeting with lots of important tips about gay and lesbian travel opportunities in 1997 and beyond!

Much behind the scenes work is being accomplished by our committees and board members to assure the Chamber members continue to receive value from the organization. We are currently gathering phone numbers, addresses, and contact names for the community partnership program so that we may form a true community wide coalition for communication, planning and promoting the gay and lesbian community. The directory committee will meet in January to begin putting an excellent marketing piece together that can be distributed around the world. The membership committee is working on renewals and needs all of our help in growing this organization and sharing the news that the Chamber is the group to belong to for promoting the business and social welfare or our Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian community.

New leadership roles are developing as we continue to grow and take on more projects. We are forming a Business Exposition committee which will be under the leadership of Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney. The bottom line is that there is a place for all of us to make incredible contributions and receive personal rewards if we only step forward and become involved. Like any organization, the greatest rewards will come to those who participate in an active manner!

The board and committee chairs and anyone else who would like to be involved in the planning process for 1997 will be in retreat on January 18, 1997 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions, please join us or forward your comments to the chamber address. Together we will all build a better place to live, work, and share the gifts that life allows.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year!

Business Expo
January Business/Dinner Meeting
January 6, 1997
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Reserve Your FREE Expo Table
by calling Dan DiDonato at
Preferred Graphics
713.528.7654

(Limited Space!)



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Minutes from the Board

Minutes of the Board Meeting for November 18, 1996

Location: The Lovett Inn

Time: 6:00 PM

Board Members present: Tom Fricke, Patrick McKee, Sandra Wilkins, James Coy Tow, Jackie Doval, Suzanne Anderson, Greg Jeu; **Committee Chairs present:** Matt Pennington, Laura Hudman, Dan DiDonato, Bill Green, Ken Council, Ron Shelby, Kevin Davidson; **Guests present:** Anita Renterita, Debbie Phinney, Joyce Gayles, Tony Carroll.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mr. Coy Tow, President

A motion was made and approved to accept the Minutes of the October 21, 1996 meeting.

Treasurer Report - Tom Fricke

The Treasurer reported income and expenses with a Total of \$5,806.54 in current assets.

Membership Committee Report - Laura Hudman

Laura reported that she would begin her Committee Report at the general meeting with welcoming new members and guests. The Committee is composing the renewal letter to Charter Members and a form for resubmittal of membership fees.

Program Committee Report - Dan DiDonato and Bill Green

Dan and Bill reported that Marcia Carlton would be the entertainment for the December general meeting. Also, the information for the Toy Drive for AFH would be disseminated among the membership. The Committee is researching new meeting space for the Chamber. Tom Fricke requested that he review the contract and that a board poll be taken prior to contracting the association.

Newsletter Committee - Matthew Pennington

The Newsletter Committee reported that the newsletter was on schedule.

Social Committee - Helene Rouse

The Committee reported the success of previous mixers and reminded the board of the Mixer in December planned for December 12, 1996 at Suzanne Anderson's home.

Benefits Committee - Ron Shelby

Ron presented a letter that would be submitted to the membership regarding benefits. (Letter attached to Secretary Minutes) The goal of the committee was to have no conflicts of interest with committee members. The Committee submitted its goals and plan report (Attached to Secretary Minutes) regarding research of retirement plans and discount card program activity.

Business Development & Corporate Policy - Harold Shultz and Rick Schroeder

The Committee submitted a written report to the President. A recommendation was made for Corporate Membership fees to be \$500.00 and offer sponsor positions. Multiple objectives and plans were submitted in the report.

Old Business

Tom Fricke was charged with developing Year-end Awards. Tom discussed the awards, and indicated that Certificates of Appreciation would also be awarded to Past Board Members and Committee Chairs.

New Business

Committee Structure for 1997 was discussed. A Board Retreat is planned for January 18, 1997 at 9:00 A.M.

Anita Renterita presented information regarding the Chamber participation and leadership in developing and managing a Business Expo. Anita agreed to Chair the Committee for the Chamber.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Committee Reports

Membership

Everyone on the membership committee wishes each and every member of the Chamber a very happy and prosperous new year!!! Becoming more involved in committees in 1997 could mean a more prosperous year; through your participation you will likely find an increase in your business. I personally have found it is an excellent way to meet and get to know more members than I would otherwise. So... if you're interested in participating on the membership committee, please join us at our next committee meeting at Jalapeno's Restaurant on Wednesday, January 15 at 11:30 AM or give me a call at 713.520.7237. Thanks! Laura Hudman of OutSmart magazine.

Benefits

The Benefits committee is now compiling a list of businesses willing to offer discounts to members. If you fall into that category, or want to help on this committee, please call Ron Shelby at 350-4731.

Program

We are continuously working to improve our programs, striving to meet the needs of our membership. We are looking for a few good people to join our committee to help facilitate these new ideas/changes. If you also know of any entertainer who might consider entertaining our membership for our monthly dinner meetings on a "pro gratis" basis (free meal would be provided), please contact the program committee chairs. In January, we begin our free Mini-Business Expo for the 6:00 PM social/cocktail hour prior to the dinner meeting. Call Dan DiDonato to RSVP your expo table.

Please come by our next Program Committee meeting which will be held on the first Wednesday following the dinner meeting (January 8, 1997) at Baba Yegas at Noon. Please contact the Program Chairs Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics (713.528.7654) or Bill Green at Green White Advisors (713.869.1144).

January, 1997

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Dinner Meeting Allen Park Inn Downtown 6 PM</i>	7	8 <i>Program Com. Noon, Baba Yegas Directory Com. 1:00, Baba Yegas</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 <i>Membership Committee Jalapeno's Rest 11:30 AM</i>	16	17	18 <i>Board Retreat</i>
19	20	21	22 <i>Newsletter Committee 811 Westheimer Suite 202 6 PM, 528-7654</i>	23 <i>Green/White Advisors Mixer 811 Westheimer Suite 202 5:30 - 7:30</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Happy Holidays
from the Newsletter Staff

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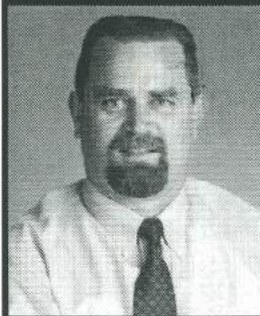
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes From the Board

The Board of Trustees is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the Board at a Board meeting, call the hotline at 523-7576, and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a Board meeting, which are held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The Board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at (713) 667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

Welcome New Members!

Synchronized Montrose Chiropractor
Today's Health Center
Muscle Mechanics Inc.
Memorial Oaks Funeral Home
Newbart Products

Stephanie McGhee, DC
Daniel A. Boudreaux, DC
John Aaron Villarreal
Kimberly D. Short
Jim Bartley

Birthday Celebration This Month

Fred Walters	1/1
Linda Landry	1/7
Lance Looper	1/8
Stephanie McGhee	1/11
Patrick McKee	1/15
J.C. Michalek	1/16
Linda Gibbs	1/16
Debbie Phinney	1/17
William Johnson	1/21
Joyce Gayles	1/23
Clyde Williams	1/28

Volunteers Needed!

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce needs YOU! We are looking for individuals to get more involved with our committee system. If you would like to see improvements or change within our organization, we invite you to participate. Programs, social events, and Chamber policies are all decided at either the committee level or at the Board level. Your participation is what makes us a viable, growing, and ever changing entity!

GHGLCC

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, TX 77006



Address Correction Requested

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Dan DiDonato

Joyce Gayles

Patrick McKee

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS

Dan DiDonato

Newsletter / Marion Coleman

Public Relations / J.C. Michelak

Internet / Dan DiDonato

Directory / Greg Jeu

MEMBERSHIP

Todd Partridge

PROGRAM

Joyce Gayles

Tony Carroll

SOCIAL

Kenneth Council

Helene Rouse

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual...\$100 Business...\$175

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1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

February's Program - Marketing 101

How to Successfully Market Your Self and Your Business

Todd Partridge hosts Panel of experts

Monday, February 3, 1997, Allen Park Inn 6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner

Please RSVP by Thursday Evening January 30

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce February Dinner/Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 1997 at the Allen Park Inn which is located at 2121 Allen Parkway, just east of Montrose Boulevard (next to KHOU, Channel 11 TV Station). Social hour begins at 6 PM followed by Dinner and Program at 7 PM.

The cost for dinner and program is \$20 for members; \$25 for guests. Parking is free. It is required to RSVP for all who wish to attend this meeting. Please call the Chamber hotline at (713) 523-7576 by Thursday, January 30, 1997 to RSVP. Please note that if you make reservations for guests who do not show for dinner, you are responsible for payment of those dinners. Guests who join the Chamber of Commerce that night will enjoy the discounted member cost of \$20 for the dinner. **If you need, or would like a special entree (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, low fat / sodium, etc.), please indicate so when making your reservation.**

GHGLCC Board Presents Special Awards



At our January 6th Chamber meeting, the Board presented special recognition awards for 1996. From Left to Right: **Laura Hudman** (OutSmart Magazine) was selected as "Outstanding Member", **Dan DiDonato** (Preferred Graphics) was honored with the "Membership Development" award, **Richard Wiederholt** (Basic Brothers) received the prestigious "President's Award" for vision and leadership, and **Susan Upchurch** accepted the "Community Service" award for PFLAG Houston.

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Committee Reports

Communications

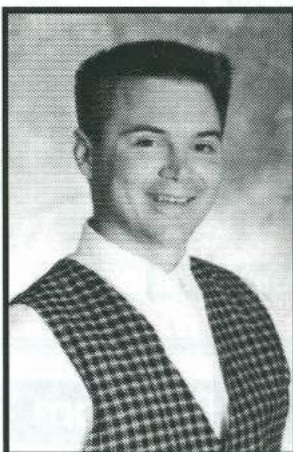
The Communication Committee is a new committee formed from many hours of discussion at the 1997 GHGLCC Retreat. This committee is chaired by Dan DiDonato/Preferred Graphics and its primary function is to oversee the operation of 4 subcommittees related to the dissemination and collection of information to our membership and the general public. The committees are as follows:

Newsletter. Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. ***Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month).***

Internet. Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL address is <http://www.echonet.com/ghglcc>. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the Web Site.

Resource Guide/Directory. Chaired by Greg Jeu (Up & Out Communications). This committee's primary responsibility is to produce a quality directory/resource guide for the Gay / Lesbian Communities in Houston and around the nation. Please contact Greg at 713.520-7237 for additional information.

Public Relations. This revived subcommittee is chaired by Houston Voice editor J.C. Michelak. The first committee meeting for 1997 is scheduled for February 20. If interested, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713.529-8490.



President's Message

By Coy Tow

At our January meeting we recognized the outstanding contributions of many of our members and board during our first year. It is essential for all of us who dedicate the extra time, resources, and energy to know that it is appreciated and is contributing to the overall mission of the chamber. I am very proud of Dan DiDonato for leading the chamber in membership recruitment, PFLAG for all they continue to do for this community, and Laura Hudman for her overall dedication as our "member of the year".

The President's award was given to Richard Wiederholt for his huge contributions toward the vision and organizational structure over the past year. Richard was not only a founding board member but had been gathering information, bylaws, and other resources from similar organizations around the world for quite some time. When we all gathered to begin the process of forming the Chamber, Richard already had many of the answers and provided us with examples of mission statements, other organizations benefits, fees, etc. The following words are excerpts from a letter I received from Richard after he received his award:

"The Chamber board has done a remarkable job during the first year and I want to commend you all for your efforts. Your diligence, persistence, and organization is paying off, and I believe when you look at this Chamber in two more years, you will be amazed at what you have created.

The Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has long been a dream of mine and I thank all of you for making this dream a reality. There are many wonderful organizations that exist in our community, but I believe the Chamber of Commerce will be the only viable one which brings everyone together and which will show the city of Houston what an impact we have on its economy and spirit. We need to always remember to show a diversified and united front as we grow in numbers and work on our goals."

- Richard Wiederholt

These words capture the very spirit of our organization and the reason we must all be dedicated to promote the Chamber to everyone we know who share our mission and goals! The Chamber is positioned perfectly to lead the community to economic empowerment and to influence the leaders of our city in regards to policy making concerning business, tourism, or even politics. We owe it to ourselves to build an environment that achieves unity and promotes our own community!

Business Expo
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1997 Off and Running!

On January 18th, the Board hosted a dynamic day long retreat to review the Chamber's performance in 1996, and develop a plan of action for 1997. All participants agreed that the Chamber had a remarkable first year. The Chamber benefited us most by providing strong and flexible leadership, projecting a positive and professional image to the community, unifying diverse sectors of our community, enthusiastically recruiting quality members, and achieving great results with large corporations by recognizing their gay and lesbian employees. Other areas identified as most needing improvement were program development, media coverage, and active, effective committees. To address these needs, it was decided to reorganize the committee structure, in addition to creating two new committees. The committee structure for 1997 (and leadership) is as follows:

Membership Committee	Todd Partridge, Chair
Finance Committee	Bill Green, Chair
Program Committee	Tony Carroll / Joyce Gayles, Co-Chairs
Social Committee	Helene Rouse / Ken Council, Co-Chairs
Communications Committee	Dan DiDonato, Chair
Community Affairs Committee	Cheryl Conner, Chair

At our February 3rd Chamber meeting, a description of each committee's responsibilities will be provided so that individual members can identify which committee would most benefit from their personal and professional contribution. The Board strongly invites all members to have a voice in the direction and development of GHGLCC in 1997, and urges each member to complete the Comment/Suggestions Form, and fax it to our administrator, Kevin Davidson, at fax 713/669-0452, by February 3.

What I most want from my GHGLCC in 1997 is:

To achieve this, I suggest:

I am willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal

☐ yes ☐ no

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Committee Reports

Membership

I am elated to announce that Todd Partridge, realtor with Gary Greene has enthusiastically come forward to serve as new Chair for the Membership Committee. His desire to serve was evident from the start of his membership with the Chamber, as he immediately became a part of our committee! I have greatly enjoyed serving as the Chair since June of this past year. I would urge you, too, to get involved in one of our many committees this year as the professional and social relationships can be truly rewarding. There are many new goals for 1997 that can better be met with your help! If you are interested in the next Membership Committee meeting it will be held at 11:30 a.m., Wed., Jan.29 -(Note:bring your lunch with you!). If you have any questions regarding your membership or the location of the upcoming meeting please contact Todd Partridge at (713)660-8222.Thanks! Laura Hudman.

Social

Remember, we are always looking for members to host our monthly mixers/socials. The event format is totally up to the hosts. This is a great opportunity for members to meet other members and community leaders. If interested, please contact Helene Rouse at 713.524.1850.

Program

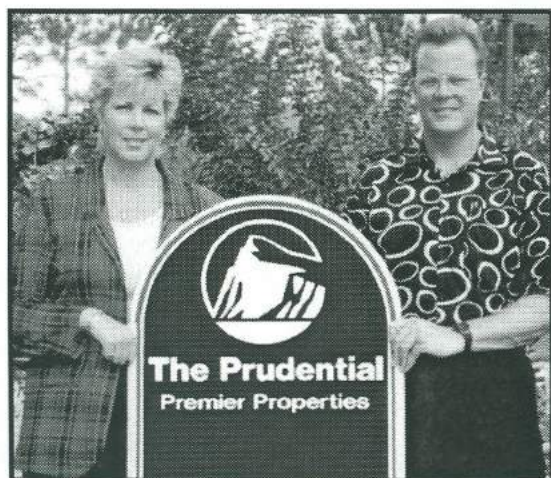
We are continuously working to improve our programs, striving to meet the needs of our membership. We are looking for a few good people to join our committee to help facilitate these new ideas/changes. If you know of anyone who would consider entertaining our membership for our monthly dinner meetings on a "pro gratis" basis (free meal will be provided), please contact the program committee chairs.

Please come by our next Program Committee meeting which will be held on the first Wednesday following the dinner meeting February 8, 1997) at Baba Yegas at Noon. Please contact the Program co-chairs Joyce Gayles or Tony Carroll if interested.

February, 1997

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 <i>Dinner Meeting Allen Park Inn Downtown 6 PM</i>	4	5 <i>Program Com. Noon, Baba Yegas</i>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Board Meeting 6:00 PM</i>	18	19 <i>Communications 811 Westheimer Suite 208 6:00 PM</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

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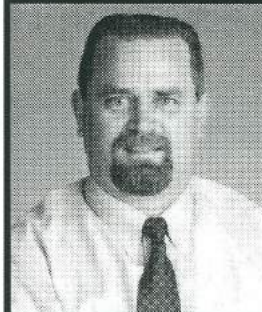
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Notes From the Board

The Board of Trustees is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the Board at a Board meeting, call the hotline at 523-7576, and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a Board meeting, which are held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The Board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at (713) 667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

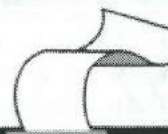
Welcome New Members!

Peter Foley
Doug Winnie
Don Burnett

Dean Witter
N3 Consulting Inc.
The Genesys Group

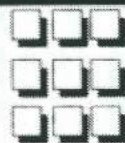
Birthday Celebration This Month

Jim Bartley	2/1
Stephen Nally	2/2
Louann Henderson	2/2
Jim Manen	2/13
Linda Marshall	2/15
Al Ferriulo	2/19
Sandra Hall	2/23
Tammy Manning	2/25



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Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS

the impact network

APRIL, 1997

VOL 2 ISSUE 4



GREATER HOUSTON
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Dale Englefield

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Individual \$100.00

Business \$175.00

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For membership information call

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Guest Speaker/Author Dan Baker to Address Gay Issues in the Workplace

Dan Daker, Author, *Cracking the Corporate Closet*, 1995
Deputy Director, Gay Games IV 1994, New York City
Editor in Chief, *Quotient*,
The Newsletter of Marketing to Gay Men & Lesbians

Monday, April 7, 1997

Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main Street

6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner



The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce kicks off our second quarter with a dynamic program and a new meeting location, The Wyndham Warwick Hotel. This dinner meeting begins at 6:00 pm with a networking social hour, followed by our seated dinner and guest speaker, Mr. Dan Baker.

Dan Baker began his career as a gay activist while attending graduate school at the University of Hawaii in the early 1970s. He organized the 1st Gay Pride Parade in Honolulu in 1975. Moving to New York in the 80s, Dan was treasurer of ACT UP/New York in 1989 and 1990. In 1994 he served as Deputy Director of Gay Games IV, managing a full-time staff of over 100 people, plus several thousand volunteers, and received a standing ovation at the Opening Ceremonies for his efforts. Later that year he joined with Harold Levine to found *Quotient*, a newsletter about marketing to the gay and lesbian community.

In 1995 Dan, along with Bill Henning and Sean Strub, authored *Cracking the Corporate Closet*, (published by HarperCollins), a groundbreaking study of corporate policies that affect lesbians and gay men. The book was based on an extensive survey of corporations as well as interviews with corporate policy-makers and gay and lesbian employees.

On April 7 Dan will share his extensive knowledge and experience in a lively talk about the continuing progress our community is making in the corporate world with non-discrimination policies, and domestic partner benefits. He'll also discuss how our community is moving forward in the areas of acceptance and validation of gay and lesbian people everywhere.

We are so pleased to bring such a quality program to our members and their guests. Please make plans to attend, and bring friends and associates who are potential new members. We're up to something good, with our snappy new look, upscale meeting location, and dynamic committees, working to bring you exciting plans and programs throughout the year. Please join us in welcoming Dan Baker to Houston and to our community.

RSVP is required by April 3 to (713) 523-7576. The cost for dinner and program is \$20 for members; \$25 for guests. It is required to RSVP for all who wish to attend this meeting. Please note that if you make reservations for guests who do not show for dinner, you are responsible for payment of those dinners. Guests who join the Chamber of Commerce that night will enjoy the discounted member rate of \$20 for the dinner. *If you would like a special entree (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, low fat / sodium, etc.), please indicate so when making your reservation.*

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.

Committee Reports

Communications

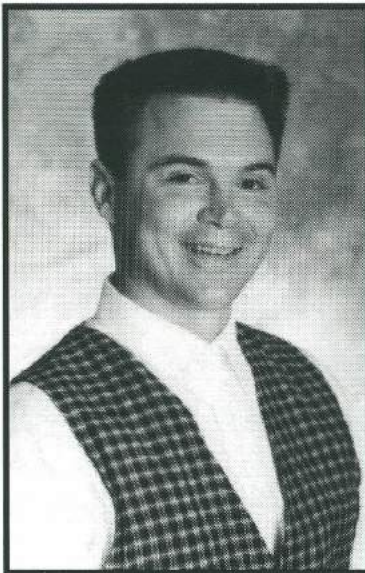
This committee is chaired by Dan DiDonato/Preferred Graphics and its primary function is to oversee the operation of 4 subcommittees related to the dissemination and collection of information to our membership and the general public. The committees are as follows:

Newsletter. Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713.523.2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. *Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month).*

Internet. Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL address is <http://www.GHGLCC.org>. The new e-mail address is: info@GHGLCC.org. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the Web Site.

Resource Guide/Directory. Chaired by Greg Jeu (Up & Out Communications). This committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Communities in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the Marketing Brochure, please contact Greg at 713.520.7237.

Public Relations. This revived subcommittee is chaired by Houston Voice editor J.C. Michelak. The next Public Relation committee meeting is scheduled for April 24. Call J.C. at 713.529.5490, if you'd like to help out.



President's Message


By Coy Tow

The last several months have been such a treat as the board and committee chairs have assumed responsibility and began to truly enhance the Chamber in so many ways. We all have so much to look forward to as the Chamber forges ahead with additional benefits, educational and networking opportunities, and enhanced exposure to our local community and the World!

Like any organization we can only hope to be successful if each member takes ownership and becomes involved to assist the individual chair persons to accomplish the many tasks at hand. We hope to deliver as promised an excellent marketing piece about our local community and specifically about our Chamber, including your advertising and your business information. We plan to have an incredible Business Expo in the Fall, and we plan to continue our efforts to deliver excellent programs and mixers. None of these things can happen unless all of our members participate along the way!

Special Kudos go out to the newsletter and program committees for the great work they are doing to deliver excellent communication and beneficial programs that will enhance the overall image of the Chamber.

Remember that we are at the Wyndham in April and with our fantastic speaker all of us must invite as many prospective members as possible. This is a dynamic time to be Gay or Lesbian in a world that is slowly recognizing our presence and power. Come out, Come out, Wherever you are!



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GHGLCC Marketing Committee

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Vice-President's Message

By Sandra Wilkins

I am bursting with pride and excitement about the giant leap forward our Chamber is making in 1997. I'm sure you'll share my enthusiasm about the fabulous new look of our newsletter, and just wait until you see the re-designed Membership Applications. We owe this achievement to Marion Coleman and her talented team, so remember to say thanks next time you see her.

All of our committees are working non-stop to make this a great year. During our dinner meeting next week we'll have some very exciting announcements about the publication of our resource directory in the summer, and the business expo set for October.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding benefits of my GHGLCC involvement is making so many new friends these past 18 months. It is a joy to me to be connected with such bright, motivated and caring individuals. As I sit in on various committee meetings, I am amazed by the energy and talent that each of you bring to our Chamber. We are well on our way to becoming a model organization of our kind in the USA, and worldwide.

It will be a special treat for me to share with all my new friends, my lifelong friend, Dan Baker, as our guest speaker for the April meeting. Dan and I were college sweethearts at UT many years ago, and discovered years later that we were both gay. One of America's most respected gay leaders, Dan has for many years been on the cutting edge of all the issues that affect our lives. I treasure our 25+ year friendship, and am grateful for the inspiration he's given me, and the admirable example he sets for all gay people to follow. Please do make definite plans to attend this excellent dinner meeting. You'll leave informed, refreshed and inspired!

What I most want from my GHGLCC in 1997 is:

To achieve this, I suggest:

I am willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal

☐ yes ☐ no

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Committee Reports

Membership

This enthusiastic committee is looking for eight more members to help us meet our goal of increasing the benefits and services that come with a Chamber membership. If you really want exposure for yourself and your business, join us at the next membership meeting. Contact Patrick McKee at Advantage Capital Corporation (713.668.6069) or Scott Garrison at Merrill Lynch (713.840.4816) for more details. Coming up soon - look for a Membership Drive with a contest... more details to follow.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We currently are looking for leadership for the Pride Parade subcommittee to facilitate our participation in this year's Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at (713) 432-0705 if interested. Next committee meeting time/location to be announced.

Social

April's Mixer is scheduled for Thursday, April 24. Location to be announced. The next Social Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, at 7:30 PM at Cafe Adobe.

Program

We are continuously working to improve our programs, striving to meet the needs of our membership.

May's program is planned to consist of information concerning Domestic Partner Policies among businesses and June's program will focus on Downtown Houston's Redevelopment Project and how it may affect our Montrose businesses.

The next Program Committee meeting is on Wednesday, April 9, 1997 at the River Cafe on Montrose Blvd. at 12 (Noon). If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact Joyce Galyes at 713.667.6047 or Tony Carroll at 713.522.3045.

New Committee Chairs



Left to Right: J.C. Michelak (Media Relations), Anita Renteria (Business Expo), and Patrick McKee (Membership)

New Board Members

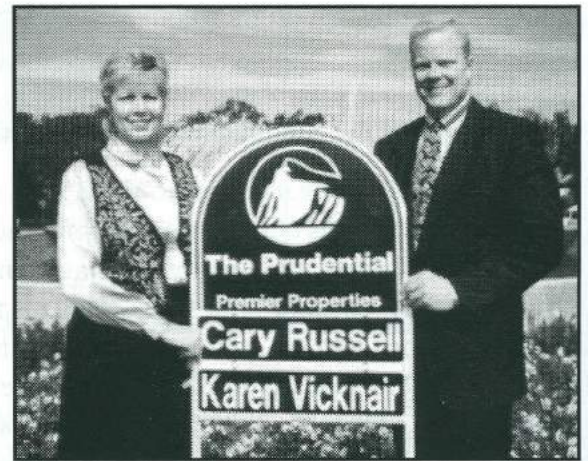


Left to Right: Dan DiDonato, Laura Hudman, Bill Green, Marion Coleman, Tony Carroll. New board member not in photo: Joyce Gayles.

"Siblings Selling Dwellings" Marketing Houston Home Buyers and Sellers

Since Cary Russell of Caryco Real Estate merged with the Prudential Premier Properties 18 months ago, Cary Russell and his sister Karen Vicknair have had a tremendously successful response to marketing themselves as "Siblings Selling Dwellings".

Russell states, "I asked Karen to come into the Real Estate business with me as a working partner three years ago because she has strengths that I do not have and I have strengths she doesn't have. It has been a perfect match and we thoroughly love working together". Russell further states, "Karen was leaving a highly successful, but stressful 20 year career in advertising and was looking for new challenges. That's when I asked her to give Real Estate a try. I am so glad she did! We both have an intense passion for working with buyers and sellers of Real Estate". Vicknair says, "I really do enjoy working with buyers because it is my personal challenge to find them what they want. Plus, I get such satisfaction out of helping them do just that". Vicknair further says, "Cary on the other hand works very well with sellers. His desire and passion to work with sellers shows by his successful listing record - especially with FSBO's (for sale by owner)".



"The response to their "Siblings Selling Dwellings" marketing approach has been received by buyers and sellers as an added bonus because with "Siblings Selling Dwellings" you get *two for the price of one*, states Russell. Russell goes on to explain, "We both work on each deal together from start to finish. We know exactly where each deal stands at any given time. Our buyers and sellers absolutely love this approach because whether they have me or Karen on the phone they know that they can rely on both of us knowing the status of their transaction and that we can answer any question or help them through any concern".

Russell is celebrating 20 years in the Real Estate business. He became a Real Estate agent after graduating with a BBA in finance from Sam Houston State University in 1977 Cary then became a Real Estate broker in 1979 and has owned his own company since the recent merger with the Prudential Premier Properties in July 1996.

New Member Opens Practice

Dr. Daniel Boudreaux, more commonly referred to as *Dr. Daniel* recently opened his office located at 506 Heights Boulevard. *Dr. Daniel* says, "Joining the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has been one of the best things I have done in years." He further states, "I appreciate Cary Russell for inviting me to Chamber functions during the later part of 1996. That enabled me to see what the Chamber was all about and after I attended a couple of functions, I knew this was the group for me."

Cary Russell met *Dr. Daniel* when he sold him a home in Garden Oaks during the summer of '96 and Cary also has become one of *Dr. Daniel's* best and loyal patients.



Business Expo Update

The Business Expo, tentatively named *Empower '97*, is starting to come together, and we are very excited about the progress we're making! The planned date is October 11, 1997, which is National Coming Out Day. The GHGLCC has applied for the use of the George R. Brown Convention Center, and has verified availability for that day. The goal is sale of 185 booths, with an additional 15 donated to community organizations such as the MDS Foundation of Houston. With over 200 members in the GHGLCC, and booth space priced at under \$300, this goal should be easily achievable. The committee is also organizing sales material for interested exhibitors, sponsors and underwriters. The goal of the Expo is to provide a focused forum for organizations interested in doing business with the gay community -- it is not restricted to gay-owned businesses. The market we are trying to reach, however, is the gay market, so plans are in the works for nationally recognized keynote speakers and entertainers to attract gay consumers to the show. Cochairs Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney will be giving an update at the April meeting. We will accept booth reservations at that meeting!



Lovett Inn Hosts Shell Gay & Lesbian Group

The Lovett Inn recently hosted a workshop for members of Shell's Gay & Lesbian community. The workshop, sponsored by Shell Oil, was attended by 15 members of Shell's Gay & Lesbian employee group SEAShell (Support, Equality, and Awareness at Shell). The focus of the first day of the workshop was to help SEAShell establish a clear mission and a concise series of achievable goals. The second day provided Awareness training for attendees on issues pertinent to the Gay community.

The workshop was facilitated by Liz Winfeld of Common Ground, a Massachusetts based consulting firm specializing in workplace education specific to sexual orientation. Common Ground works with all types of organizations to incorporate these issues into their diversity education and management programs, help employers investigate and implement domestic partnership benefits, and offer HIV/AIDS education to a variety of workplaces. Liz Winfeld, along with the partner, Susan Spielman, wrote the book "Straight Talk About Gays In The Workplace".

Members Dine at Local Eatery

Joyce Gayles, Bill Green, and Cary Russell were seen lunching at Renata's Restaurant. Cary Russell drew the business cards of Bill Green and Joyce Gayles at recent Chamber meeting.

Joyce, Bill and Cary said it was a great opportunity to get to know fellow Chamber members and learn of each others interests, backgrounds, careers, and hobbies.

Joyce Gales is a Psychologist, Bill Green is a Financial Planner, and Cary Russell is a Real Estate Broker. They all urge other Chamber members to take advantage of the "Draw a Card and Meet a Member for Lunch" Program.



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April, 1997

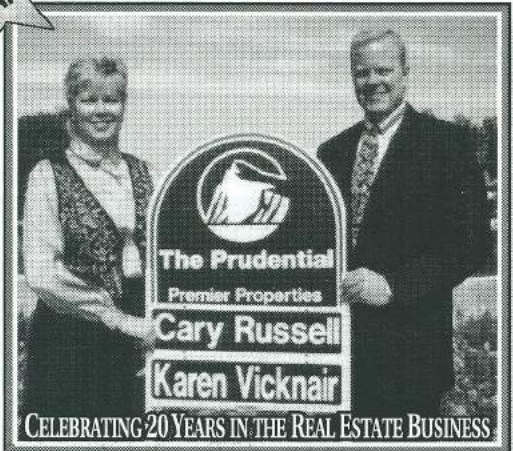
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Dinner Meeting Wyndham Warwick 6 PM	8	9 Program Committee Noon, River Cafe	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Communications 713.528.7654 for info Board Meeting 6:00, Lovett Inn	22	23	24 Public Relations Call 713.529.8490	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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Sightings...



Bill Green and Sandy White of Green/White Advisors host Social



From Left to Right: Cary Russell (Prudential Premier Properties), Bill Green (Green/White Advisors), Marion Coleman (House of Coleman), and Trudy Denney attend mixer at Green/White Advisors

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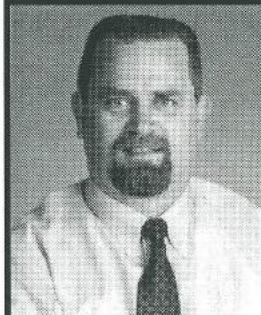
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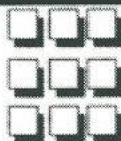
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New Format to Newsletter

The newsletter committee (chaired by Marion Coleman) is designing a new look to our monthly newsletter. Would you like to advertise? Reserve your space now! Call Marion Coleman (House of Coleman) at 523-2521, or Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) at 528-7654 for rates.

Welcome New Members!

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GHGLCC NEWS

the impact network

MAY, 1997

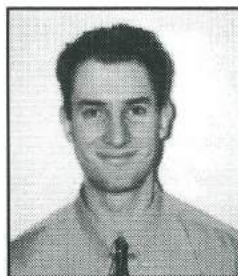
VOL 2, ISSUE 5

Carpenter, Levy, McKittrick

A D Y N A M I C T R I O



Dale Carpenter



Glenn Levy



Melanie McKittrick

Monday, May 5, 1997
Wyndham Warwick
Hotel
 5701 Main St.
6:00 pm Social
7:00 pm Dinner

Rapid Rising Champions of Gay/Lesbian Workplace Concerns Speak at May Meeting

Sharing both impressive undergraduate backgrounds (Yale, Rice, and Duke) and high profile professional affiliations (Vinson & Elkins, Rice University, Texas Commerce Bank), Dale Carpenter, Glenn Levy and Melanie McKittrick are passionate about diversity in the workplace and gay-lesbian rights in that setting. These movers and shakers will address the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce at its May 6, 1997 meeting.

Dale Carpenter, an associate at Houston's prestigious Vinson & Elkins, has recently guided that law firm through the adoption of its domestic partner benefits program. Carpenter, who has also gained a great deal of recognition as State President, Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, has published several legal pieces related to gay-lesbian rights, and writes a monthly column for *The Houston Voice*.

Glenn Levy is currently helping create a program at Rice University to develop leadership skills in undergraduate students where he has also sponsored several gay and lesbian student groups. He is co-chair of the newly-established Corporate Network Group, and has recently organized a public panel discussion on diversity and the gay and lesbian community.

Melanie McKittrick, Texas Commerce Bank National Association's Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Diversity, is also a guest lecturer on business ethics at Rice University. She also sits on the Board of Directors of Leadership Houston, was Director of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, and was active in the Texas State Bar Committee for Providing Legal Services to the Poor.

RSVP is required by May 1st to 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE: If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate our number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for the Warwick on Fannin.

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.

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Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$100.00

Business \$175.00

Corporation \$500.00

For membership information call

713.523.7576

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
 Houston, Texas 77006

Committee Reports

Communications

This committee is chaired by Dan DiDonato/Preferred Graphics and its primary function is to oversee the operation of four subcommittees related to the dissemination and collection of information to our membership and the general public. The committees are as follows:

Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713) 523-2521 for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber meeting (3rd Monday of each month).

Internet

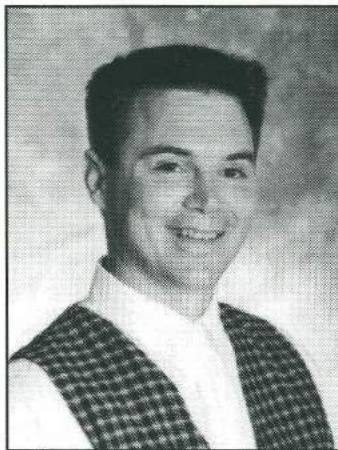
Connect to the Chamber Webpage on the world wide web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL is <http://www.GHGLCC.org> and the new e-mail address is info@GHGLCC.org. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the website.

Resource Guide/Directory

This committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional marketing brochure for the Gay and Lesbian communities in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact Greg at (713) 520-7237.

Public Relations

This revived subcommittee is chaired by The Houston Voice editor J.C. Michelak. The next public relation committee meeting will be announced. Call J.C. at (713) 529-8490 if you'd like to help out.



President's Message

by Coy Tow

Today is the day to become more involved in your Chamber of Commerce! Soon we will all have opportunities to share the exciting events of Gay Pride and unite with the community to demonstrate a community of success, progress and hope. The Chamber has the ultimate responsibility in our mission to promote and build the Greater Houston

Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to be a leader in this and all community efforts.

We are going to have our kickoff event for the Community Partnership effort on June 26, 1997 at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall of Bering United Methodist Church. All community leaders of gay and lesbian clubs, events, organizations and causes will be invited to meet and share information in order to better serve the community as a whole.

The Gay Pride Parade is another opportunity to promote the Chamber and take part in the celebration. The board is currently seeking volunteers to assist in this effort.

If you have not been an active part of the success of the Chamber growth thus far, perhaps now is a perfect time to become more involved and build the relationships that result in new customers, friends and fun! We need your contributions toward growth in membership, increased exposure, and long term success.

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

To achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ Email _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____



Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

Have you had your shots? If not, you're in serious danger. If you haven't caught "Chamber Fever" yet, you're going to! Some marvelous source has lit a burning fire under the seats of your board members and committee chairs. We're moving at lightning speed to make our Chamber a model for the country.

Membership, Program, Newsletter and Internet Committees are cooking with nitro. You'll want to read each of the committee reports in the newsletter to catch up on all the exciting things that are happening.

Of special interest is the exciting project of producing a dynamic guide to gay Houston, sponsored by GHGLCC. Under the leadership of Greg Jeu, this committee will produce a publication that will be slick, upscale and provide and impressive overview of Houston's gay and gay friendly community. The theme throughout the piece will be that Houston's way cool and gay cool! It will highlight art, theatre, restaurants, night life, shopping, sports, and our leaders in the gay and lesbian community. We're shooting for national advertisers like Calvin Klein and Kenneth Cole to dress a local gay celeb and purchase a full page ad! There will be great opportunities for all local, gay friendly establishments to advertise in the guide as well. Of course, Chamber members will enjoy special rates to place their own ads.

In tandem with this project is the production of a hard cover Membership Directory which will include photos of all Chamber members (if so desired), as well as all their personal and business contact information.

It's an exciting time for GHGLCC as we move forward with a myriad of projects to benefit our membership and show off our organization. Please take a moment to think about how you might make a contribution of your personal skills and talents, and work with a committee that interests you most. You'll find the committee chairs and telephone numbers provided in each committee report. Get involved and make a difference!

**Would you like to advertise your business
to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities
as well as the
Houston Area Community?**

A New Marketing Resource Guide
is being developed by the
GHGLCC Marketing Committee.

Committee Reports

Membership

Co-chaired by Scott Garrison & Patrick McKee, the Committee mission for 1997 is threefold

1. Attract new members
2. Demonstrate value of membership
3. Retain current members

We will accomplish these goals by encouraging existing members to work with the Committee in sponsoring new members through the Membership Incentive Program. For every new member who joins and uses an existing members' name as their primary sponsor, the members' renewal will be credited \$10.

Also, members voluntarily working with the Committee will act as Ambassadors at the monthly dinner meetings to greet and introduce guests to other members.

The Committee is developing a membership packet to be sent/given to potential new members that will include the membership brochure/form, newsletter, and a one-page statement of quotes from existing members of the "Top Ten Reasons Why I joined the GHGLCC".

The Membership Committee encourages any Chamber member to join or assist the Committee. If you are interested, call Scott at 840-4816 or Patrick at 668-6069.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We currently are looking for leadership for the Pride Parade subcommittee to facilitate our participation in this year's Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at (713) 432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.

Program

The Program held their April meeting on Wednesday, April 9th. We are looking forward to some interesting programs and events for the summer months and beyond. June's program will feature a presentation on Downtown Redevelopment and its impact on the Montrose area and gay/lesbian businesses. Don't miss this one! July's meeting will be a fun and informal opportunity to network by the pool, while enjoying a buffet style dinner and entertainment at the Lovett Inn.

The next Program Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7th at 12 noon at River Cafe.

Member Profile

Stephanie Y. McGhee, D.C., Synchronized Montrose Chiropractic

Stephanie McGhee graduated in 1993 from the TEXAS CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE in Pasadena Texas, with a six week rotation in Neurosurgery. She has a thriving practice in the Montrose area and is a certified member of the American Red Cross Protect your Back program. Stephanie provides an array of services to the community such as volunteering at the Montrose Clinic with the indigent program to name one. She is also a member of the Log Cabin Republicans and a member of the Executive Womens Golf Association. Her favorite pastimes are her family, helping in the community and golf. Stephanie, married for six years and divorced for four years,

has two wonderful children Ryan, age seven and Raegan, age five.

As a member of the GHGLCC she sits on the Social and Memberships committees and is involved with the outreach program for new members. Her future media plans are to write a health column for the *Houston Voice*.

On a personal note, after meeting and interviewing Dr. McGhee I found her to be one of the most outgoing and friendly people I have encountered. Her charm, wit and devotion to her clients and the community gave me the feeling at she could accomplish anything set in front of her.

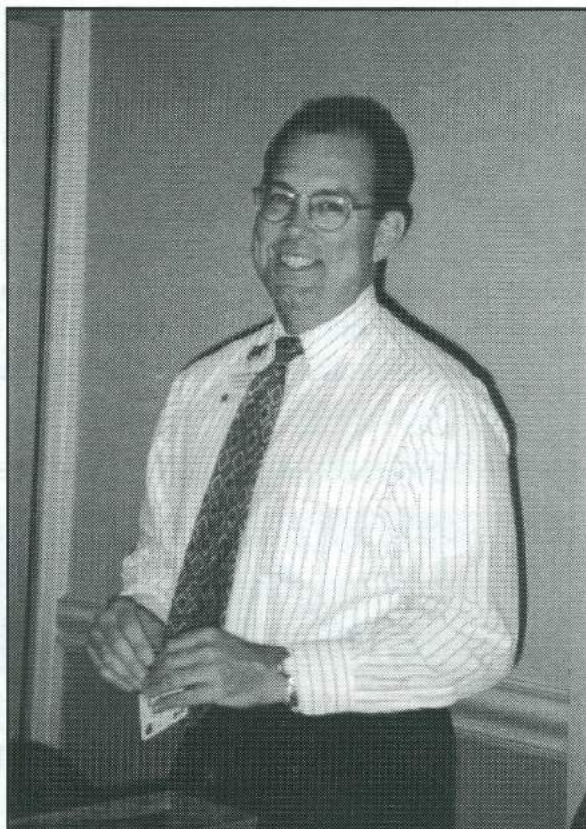
Chamber Sightings



From left to right, guest Catherine Carpenter, PFLAG member Blake Weissner, Kim Arlinghaus and guest Lin Wilkins.



Empower '97 Expo Co-chairs Anita Renteria (l) and Debbie Phinney (r) welcome guest Jimmy Wilkins (c).



Hard-working Membership Co-chair, Patrick McKee.

Business Expo Moving Forward

The Business Expo, named **Empower '97**, has begun to move forward and we are excited about the progress we're making! The date for the Expo is October 11, 1997, which is National Coming Out Day. The GHGLCC has already secured the use of the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The goal is the sale of 185 booths, with an additional 15 donated to community organizations such as the MDS Foundation of Houston. With over 200 members in the GHGLCC, and booth space priced at under \$300, this goal should be easily achievable. The committee is also organizing sales material for interested exhibitors, sponsors and underwriters.

The goal of the Expo is to provide a focused forum for organizations interested in doing business with the gay community -- it is not restricted to gay owned-businesses. The market we are trying to reach, however, is the gay market, so plans are in the works for nationally recognized keynote speakers and entertainers to attract gay consumers to the show.

Co-chairs Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney will be giving an update at the May meeting...and yes, they will be accepting booth reservations at that meeting! For further information please call 462-1354.



Anita Renteria, Co-chair of Business Expo.

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More Chamber Sightings...



April Guest Speaker Dan Baker with Sandra Wilkins, Bruce Smith, Tony Carroll and Kim Arlinghaus.



Anita Renteria, John Frels, Debbie Phenny, and Marion Coleman at The Dianas.

M A Y

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

				1	2	3
4	5 Dinner Meeting Warwick, 6 PM	6	7 Program Committee River Cafe, Noon	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Communications 528-7654, Noon Board Meeting Lovett Inn, 6 PM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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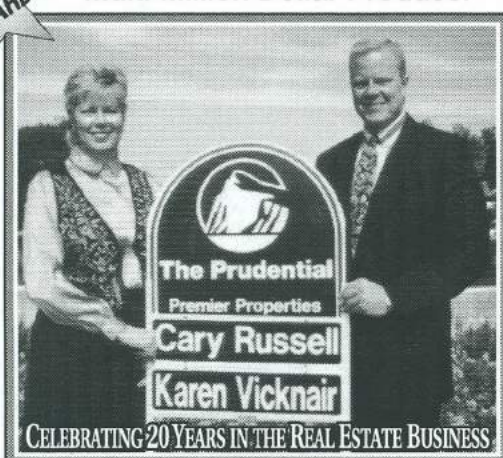
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Off The Wire...

AOL Refunds?

HOUSTON (AP) Houston attorney Jim H. Pearson wants America Online to put up or shut up when it comes to its offer to refund customers their \$19.95 monthly flat fee.

In a novel move, the class-action attorney filed a \$19.95 million refund request Friday for Texas AOL customers. He estimates that between 500,000 and 1 million AOL users live in the Lone Star state. The \$19.95 million figure applies to the lower estimate.

Make that check out to the Harris County District Clerk's Office, the request says.

First City Towers

HOUSTON (AP) Crescent Real Estate Equities has signed a contract to buy a major stake in the 49-story First City Tower in downtown Houston for nearly \$80 million, according to realty sources.

The proposed deal has been made with FirstCity Liquidating Trust, the seller.

FirstCity Liquidating Trust was created to sell off the assets of the former First City Bancorporation. The liquidating trust owns a two-thirds interest in the 1.35 million-square-foot First City Tower.

Crescent's primary strategy is to invest in office and commercial properties in energy belt cities that are expected to make great gains in the years to come.

Last year, Crescent pulled off one of the biggest realty deals in the city's history _ the \$206 million purchase of the Greenway Plaza office project.

Possible Tax Overhaul

AUSTIN (AP) Lone Star businesses are waiting to exhale as Texas Legislators consider how to recoup revenue lost by a reduction in property taxes. House lawmakers spent last week considering the biggest change in the state's tax system since a sales tax was imposed in 1961.

The overhaul would shift the emphasis from property taxes to more business and sales taxes. The plan also would eliminate dozens of exemptions and subject more companies to a state business tax. It would increase the number of goods and services that will have to have a sales tax, as well as boost other taxes. That means more money out of the pockets of many businesses or more charges passed along to customers.

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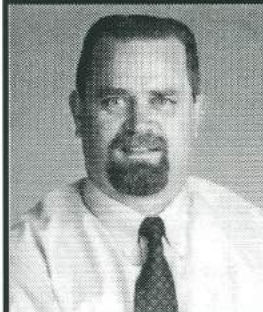
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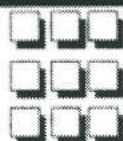
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Announcements

Notes from the Board

The Board of Trustees is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the Board at a board meeting, call the hotline at 523-7576 and as to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting which are held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The Board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at (713) 667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

New Format to the Newsletter

The newsletter committee, chaired by Marion Coleman, is designing a new look to our monthly newsletter. Would you like to advertise? Reserve your space now! Call Marion Coleman at the House of Coleman at 523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 526-5190.

Welcome New Members!

Steven C. Foster RocketBoy Communications
C. Patrick McIlvain .. C. Patrick Ground Transportation
and Services
Tom Williams Fox Diner
Carlos Berlin Fox Diner
Mark Babbitt Houston's Laff Stop
Shirley A. Pettis Alliance for Affordable Healthcare
Dennis Draper Alley Theatre

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GHGLCC

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Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS

the impact network

JUNE, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 6



GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
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Corporation \$500.00

For membership information call

713.523.7576

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006



Diann L. Lewter

Downtown Redevelopment and Its Impact on the Montrose Area and Gay/Lesbian Business

Diann L. Lewter, of Central Houston, Inc. and Houston Downtown Management District, is the featured speaker for the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce meeting on June 2, 1997. Diann, a mover and shaker in the downtown redevelopment initiative, will give Chamber members an overview of the redevelopment process and will welcome questions related to its impact on our community and its businesses. According to Diann, "the revitalization and prosperity of downtown goes hand-in-hand with the renewal of our inner-city neighborhoods."

Diann is Director of Business Development for Central Houston, Inc., a non-profit

corporation established to support businesses and institutions with interests in the downtown area. She is also responsible for Economic Development for the Downtown Management District. She notes that ... "with more than \$800 million in development projects scheduled to be underway this fall, downtown is poised to become the premier place not only to go to work each day, but also to enjoy the arts, do your shopping and call home".



RSVP is required by May 29th at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE: If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate out number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost fore the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

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Internet

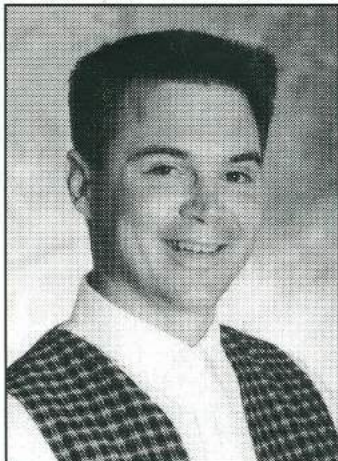
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Resource Guide/Directory

Chaired by Greg Jev (Up & Out Communications), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Committees in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact Greg at 713-520-7237.

Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.



Presidents Message

by Coy Tow

What do we as Chamber members expect out of our membership? This is an important question that all of should ask whenever we commit our time or money to any endeavor. The Chamber board continuously monitors the value equation to each of our members and seeks to continue to add benefits or services that will ultimately justify each members time and money.

As a member of this growing organization we hope that you will consider some of the following added benefits as our attempt to continue to reward your membership decision.

Community Partnerships is an organized effort to provide opportunities for communication among all Gay and Lesbian organizations and groups.

Benefit? The community becomes better organized and all of us as individuals share in better opportunities for communication, networking, and overall clout.

Improved programs and meetings that offer educational opportunities and networking.

Great career and community growth opportunities.

Exposure to the community at large through our Fall Business Expo at George Brown Convention Center.

Incredible community exposure to drive sales and identify new customers.

Our promotional piece that is currently being developed will offer advertising opportunities for not only the Houston market, but to other markets throughout the world.

Exposure to broad markets of consumers, prospective tourist, Gay and Lesbian clientele who are considering moving to Houston, plus great resource information about our diverse community.

Remember the greatest reward comes to those who invest themselves into the organization! We value your talent, ideas, questions and concerns!

We need most of all your participation in adding value to the Chamber so that we may continue to accomplish great things!

To your continued success!

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

To Achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal:

h Yes h No

Name _____ Email _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____



Vice Presidents Message

by Sandra Wilkins

I'm sure those of you who attended our May 5th meeting will agree it was one of our best yet. The Wyndham Warwick Hotel and its friendly, professional staff are working very hard to make our meeting space and our dinner absolutely first rate. We enjoyed the Versailles Room, with a beautiful view from the 12th floor, plenty of space for our Member Exhibit Table, a roomy sign-in

area and cash bar. We appreciate Ruth Rendon and her staff for such generous accommodation.

In addition to the setting, the program presented by Texas Commerce Banks' Melanie McKittrick, Director of Corporate Diversity, was outstanding. Melanie captured the entire audience with her talk about TCB's journey toward being a model corporation for gay and lesbian employees. We learned just how dedicated TCB is to their goal, from the very top of the organization. So impressed with Texas Commerce's efforts, our hard-working President's Award recipient, Richard Weiderholt, immediately got on the phone and contacted his banks to inquire about their non-discriminatory policies. He now plans to switch on of his accounts to TCB as a result of this meeting.

All of us need to look diligently at the various industries with whom we do business. It is our responsibility to place our trust and hard earned dollars with those companies who respect our community and our basic civil rights. Look at your bank, your accounting firm, your investment company, your medical providers, your mortgage company, your car dealership, your grocery store, dry cleaners and retail suppliers, and ask, "are they working as hard as Texas Commerce Bank to respect me as I am?" If not, then perhaps the power of the gay dollar will go a long way as we trek out the door to find those companies who do have non-discrimination policies in place to do our business with. Make the phone call. If they don't have such a policy, ask if you can refer them to Corporate Network Group, who will help them develop such a policy. If they have no interest in doing so, cancel you business and find someone who does! Our Chamber is about COMMERCE! Let's all take a pro-active attitude toward making real change occur.

**Would you like to advertise your business
to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities
as well as the
Houston Area Community?**

**A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed
by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee**

Call 713-520-7237

for advertising information.

Committee Reports

Membership

The membership is coming up many new and different ideas to enhance the Chamber as a whole. In development right now are: a subcommittee to review corporate Chamber benefits, monthly breakfast meetings (for those who can't always attend the Monday night general meetings), and a Toastmasters-type meeting to improve speaking and presentation skills.

Also under consideration are enhanced methods of advertising and disseminating info for Chamber members. Committee co-chairs Scott Garrison and Patrick McKee have also been contacting members to encourage them to renew and refer new members. And don't forget, for every new member you sign up, your renewal will be \$10 less!

The next membership committee meeting will be Wednesday, June 11th at 11:30 am. Location TBA. For more information, call Scott Garrison at 840-4816 or Patrick McKee at 668-6069

Community Affairs

The Community affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittee: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We are currently looking for leadership for the Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.

Program

The Program is holding their committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 noon at the River Cafe.

Member Profile

SCOTT D. GARRISON Financial Consultant, MERRILL LYNCH



Scott Garrison

Scott D. Garrison attended both the University of Delaware and the University of Maryland where his course of studies included government and politics with a concentration in Russian culture. He is currently working as a financial consultant for Merrill Lynch and is actively involved in the Gay community.

Some of his professional accomplishments include being on a campaign management team for an African-American female pro-choice Republican congressional candidate, who received an increased percentage of votes because of the teams efforts. He has also been in the financial service industry for eight years due to the fact that it is challenging and allows him to

help people. Scott says he will always go the extra step for his clients and wants to do the same for the GHGLCC, where he serves as the membership co-chairman.

Scott moved to Houston in 1992 and is now comfortable with the idea of being "out" to his co-workers. He has five year old daughter who lives with her mother in New Jersey. He enjoys spending time with his other half Jim, who he has been with for three years now. They met while bowling, a hobby he still enjoys as a member of the Montrose Monday Night Bowling League. He is also a member of EPAH.

He is currently working towards providing more visible value added service and benefits for chamber members through the membership committee. After listening to Mr. Garrison, it becomes apparent that he is an affable and intelligent man with a strong sense of community combined with a dedicated work ethic. These qualities are helpful not only to the GHGLCC, but to the whole community in general.

Sightings



Seen at the May Chamber dinner meeting, from left to right, Richard Clark, Harold Shultz, Paula Andries, Elizabeth Polk, Melanie McKittrick, Richard Bielec.



Regis Donaghey and John Copous of In-Crate-Able gift crates and Richard Silva of Oursmart magazine.



Annise Parker

Is Diversity Equal Rights or Special Rights? Is Diversity Acceptance or Tolerance

by Cary Russell

What does diversity mean to you? The GHGLCC members that attended the May '97 monthly meeting were treated to a thought provoking quest speaker that spoke on diversity.

Many thanks go out Melanie McKittrick of Texas Commerce Bank as well as the other Texas Commerce Bank staffers that make up the Diversity Committee. Their work has very much been needed in the workplace and I hope other companies will take Texas Commerce Banks lead in diversity.

Diversity to me is not special rights and it is not tolerance. It is equal rights and acceptance. I used to think that tolerance was a good idea, but it is not at all. When you tolerate someone, something or a situation it means you are not seeing things as they are, rather you are biting your lip and being stubborn. You are allowing those barriers to be rigid and stern. It is similar to tolerating a toothache, broken toe or tax audit.

Acceptance is actually seeing the other persons point of view and accepting that persons point of view. You may or may not agree with that persons point of view, but you can accept that person, their view, and who and what they are.

Texas Commerce Bank is demonstrating acceptance for all, not just gays and lesbians, but to all walks of life whether red, yellow, black, white, gay, straight, mentally challenged, physically challenged and more...

I thought that Melanie McKittrick rose to the occasion of being the only speaker on the dais and everyone who attended walked away with a good feeling of diversity and acceptance.

Top Energy Merchants Grow Fast to Gain share of Deregulated Market

HOUSTON (AP) _ The top energy merchants have set off a flurry of deals that is transforming some of Houston's largest natural gas and power marketers. With an estimated \$210 billion in annual sales, the lure of garnering a share of the deregulated power market, has spurred mega-deals such as: Enron Corp.'s pending acquisition of Oregon-based Portland General Corp., NGC Corp.'s agreement to take over Destec Energy, PanEnergy Corp.'s pending takeover by Duke Power Co.

"Size and scope are really the name of the game _ that's why you are seeing these combinations," said Ronald J. Barone, a stock analyst at PaineWebber in New York. Competition is so fierce that newcomers are already too late to the game of selling power to utilities or municipalities. "Those companies that haven't built up power marketing aren't going to at this point," said Carol Coale, senior natural gas analyst at Prudential Securities in Houston.

Two of the largest transactions, led by Enron and NGC, were examples of major gas marketers acquiring companies that will give them broad electric power generation capacity. That's not to say competition _ and consolidation _ won't continue. In theory, natural gas companies should be able to use the people and computer technology they've developed trading natural gas, Ms. Coale said. But making that move is much more difficult in reality.

"Still, a lot of the gas marketers haven't done much on the power side," Coale said. "If you're going to recruit someone with power marketing experience, you're going to pay up." PanEnergy, El Paso Energy Corp. and Coastal Corp. are still relatively small players in the power marketing arena.

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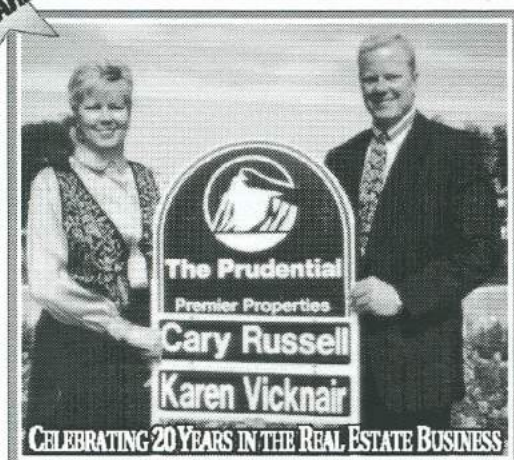
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2 Dinner Meeting Warwick-6pm	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Membership Committee 11:30am-TBA Program Development Committee 12 noon-River Cafe	12 Networking Breakfast Mixer 7:30 a.m. Location TBA Call 713-668-6069 for information	13	14
15	16 Board Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	17	18	19 L.I.B. featured speaker, Carla Jay Renaissance Hotel 6:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Community Partnership 7 pm Bering United	27	28
29	30					

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Want to Exhibit your Company at the June 2nd Meeting?

Tables will be provided to GHGLCC members who wish to exhibit their company's goods and/or services. Contact Joyce Gayles at 667-6047 or Tony Carroll at 522-3045 to reserve your place. Limited to 12 members. Advance reservations required.

Dale Carpenter Testifies for Bill Outlawing Employment Discrimination

For the first time in Texas history there was a hearing before the House of Representatives' State Affairs Committee for a bill that would outlaw employment discrimination against gay and lesbian people. Monday, May 1997, Dale Carpenter, of Houston's Vincent and Elkins, was slated to testify early in the day before the committee; however, the number of bills under consideration delayed his testimony until just past midnight when it was well received by the legislators, both Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. Carpenter expressed his interest in speaking to the Chamber in the near future.

Empower '97 Picking Up Steam

The Empower '97 Committee has met and is actively working to sell booths for the October 11th event. Booth sales are brisk; remember, chamber members get a discount, but there are limited booths available, and all prices go up as of June 15, so buy yours now! (corner booths are getting scarce!)

The George R. Brown is the confirmed venue. The expo will be from 10am-6pm on Saturday in order to focus attendance. Entertainment is planned throughout the day to keep attendees interested in spending National Coming Out Day with us. We have contracted GES Services to provide the booths, which will come with back and side rails (draped) and identifying signs. They will design the floor layout and provide registration desks. If you need more information about buying your booth space today, call the Empower '97 Hotline at 713-462-1354. Advertising opportunities are available too!

We're very excited at the response we've been getting from companies we've approached about participating in Empower '97. We have strong interest in sponsorships from such quality companies as Texas Commerce Bank, Continental Airlines, Girlfriends magazine, Wells Fargo Bank, and Common Concerns Long Distance company, just to name a few. The Chamber is proud to have the Human Rights Campaign and the AIDS Foundation of Houston working in cooperation with us to produce this event.

We get calls everyday from interested companies, so act now. Don't miss out on the premiere event of the Chamber's 1997 calendar!

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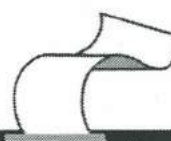
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Announcements

Notes from the Board

01/11/95
The Board of Trustees is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the Board at a board meeting, call the hotline at 523-7576 and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting which are held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The Board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at 713-667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

Newsletter Advertising

The newsletter committee, chaired by Marion Coleman, is designing a new look to our monthly newsletter. Would you like to advertise? Reserve your space now! A one month business card size ad is only \$30. If you reserve between 3-6 months the rate is only \$25 and if you reserve space for 7-12 months your rate is only \$20. Call Marion Coleman at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

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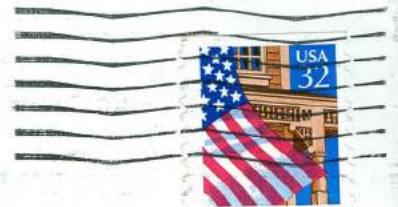
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GH GLCC NEWS

the impact network

JULY, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 7

An Informal Evening of Fun and Networking with **JUDY FROW**

Chanteuse, Comedienne, Business Person, Motivator

July 7, 1997 at 6 pm

The Lovett Inn • 501 Lovett Boulevard



Judy Frow

An informal evening of fun and networking will feature one of our favorite entertainers, Judy Frow and her accompanist, Jim Benton, doing their energetic stand-up routine. Judy has appeared locally with Stages Repertory Theater, Theater under the Stars and the Texas Renaissance Festival, and was the original Artistic Director of Bering and Friends. Realizing long ago that she was a terrible waitress, Judy turned to the business world to supplement her income as a performer. She has held starring roles as receptionist, file clerk, administrative assistant, executive secretary, and most recently trust officer with a national investment management and trust company.

She is the owner of Judy Frow's Show Business, a contract theatrical company whose mission is to rescue Houston's corporate and professional community from dull seminars, boring meetings, and other potentially harmful business func-

tions. Her unique approach to corporate entertainment has been featured in Houston Business Journal and D.B.A. Houston.

With over twenty years in professional theater and an equal amount of time in the corporate world in both the U.S. and her native Canada, Judy is uniquely qualified to end the era of the boring business meeting.

This evening will provide the perfect opportunity for you to bring guests who may be potential Chamber members. There will be lots of time to meet and greet people, thus increasing our membership. Prizes will be given to the persons who bring the largest number of guests.

Please call to make reservations for yourself and your guests, and remember there is a \$5.00 charge for members who arrive without reservations. The reservation number is 713-523-7576.

• • •

RSVP is required by June 30th at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE: If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests.

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The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.

Committee Reports

Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month)

Internet

Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL address is <http://www.GHGLCC.org>. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the Web Site.

Resource Guide/Directory

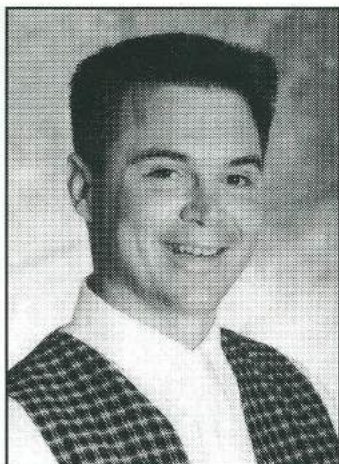
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Committees in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at 713-529-8490.

Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We are currently looking for leadership for the Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.



Presidents Message

by Coy Tow

I am very excited about the progress the Chamber is making in increasing benefits and business opportunities within our community. I would like to specially recognize the members who are devoting a great deal of time to committees which will continue to improve the Chamber by increasing benefits, activities, educational opportunities, membership, and eventually business and commerce for the City of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

Many of you are still watching and waiting to see what the Chamber of Commerce is going to do for you. Well my fellow members, we are all "The Chamber of Commerce" and the value comes from our participation through active work and positive constructive input. I can promise that the more you put in, the more you will directly see the benefit of new relationships, new ideas, new opportunities, and possibly more to your bottom line.

What are your bottom line needs? What does the Chamber need to do to push forward and fulfill the obligations and expectations that each of us expect from our membership? We would love your input and your involvement in helping us to achieve our mission! Together we can represent the true needs which are diverse in nature, but united in the spirit only Houston's gay and lesbian community can embrace.

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

To achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ Email _____

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Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

Our GHGLCC has another six months of progress under our belts, and one of the driving forces behind our rapid achievement of goals is Board Member Emeritus, Richard Weiderholt. You see him everywhere, a whirling dervish of vision, energy and commitment to the goals of our Chamber.

Richard is especially dedicated to two immediate goals: bringing more large corporations on board to join or support GHGLCC, and developing our mentorship program. On July 20, 1997 Richard's company, Basic Brothers, will host an open house to celebrate 15 years as an "out and proud" clothing store in the Montrose community.

To help achieve these goals Richard has generously offered to donate 15% of Basic Brothers' sales that day to fund these projects. The dictionary defines mentor as "an experienced and trusted adviser." When asked how he saw a mentor, Richard said, "a person who helps another grow personally and professionally."

GHGLCC wants to take these concepts and provide support, information and guidance not only to small businesses, or our younger, less experienced members, but also to work with large corporations to encourage them to underwrite mentorship programs to make it easier for their corporate employees to come "out" on the job. We recognize that corporations don't necessarily want their employees to come "out" for no reason, but if by doing so they become more productive, then that would be an enormous benefit to the company. Our goal in working with corporations would be to put programs in place that would help facilitate this process for the employee who chose to do so.

These ideas embody so much of what our Chamber is all about. People helping grow and prosper. To this end we would like to form a new committee to guide GHGLCC's Mentorship Program. This committee will define the goals and develop procedures for their implementation. If you would like to contribute to this effort and serve on this committee, please give me a call at 713-526-4471.



Board Member Emeritus,
Richard Weiderholt

Committee Reports

Membership

The membership committee has focused its efforts on bringing all of the terrific ideas under development of fruition. Among these are: networking breakfasts, see the related article in this issue, presentation workshop, similar to Toastmasters, enhanced message dissemination, i.e., fax and email, corporate membership benefits, and member recognition programs.

Also, don't forget our recruitment incentive program: for every new member listing you as their sponsor, you receive \$10 off your membership renewal. If you know a business willing to have membership applications on display, please contact either Patrick (713-668-6069) or Scott (713-840-4816) to set them up.

The next committee meeting is Wednesday, July 9 at 11:30 am at Jalapeños Restaurant (Kirby near Westheimer).

Program

The Program is holding their committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 noon at the River Cafe.

Would you like to advertise your business to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities as well as the Houston Area Community?

A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee

Call 713-529-8490
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Member Profile

Cheryl Conner of RefCheck Investigative Service Company



Cheryl Conner

Cheryl Conner has attained many achievements in her life. Indeed, the Sam Houston State University graduate's resume speaks volumes. Having obtained her degree in Education, she embarked on a lengthy career with the State of Texas from 1982 - 1995, first as Enforcement Office Supervisor for the Comptroller of Public Accounts (1982-1991), followed by a stint as Director of Programs for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (1991-1995).

Conner left her employ with the State of Texas to start her own investigation business, RefCheck Investigative Service Company. As proprietor, Conner's business encompasses all venues of investigations. RefCheck utilizes their computer databases to track, gather and report information on individuals and corporations. The information gathered can pertain to lost heirs, criminal background checks, bankruptcies, missing persons, etc.

Conner is a founding board member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC). Conner's background in Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity Training along with her Leadership skills have served the board well. "We have always been committed to doing business with other businesses in the Chamber," said Conner.

In addition to her impressive professional credentials, Conner's resume should note her personal benevolence. She is supportive, thoughtful and always pleasant in demeanor. Moreover, she is a caring and giving member of the community. Her outlook on life is equally refreshing.

"I am most proud of my loving partnership with Stephanie Hamilton," said Conner. "We recently celebrated our seventh anniversary in our newly purchased home in the Westbury area. We are both active members, and participate in the leadership, of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church on Harold Street in Montrose."

The couple has three "lovely (or not so lovely) children" - two dogs and one cat. Their life centers around their relationship with God, one another, their families and friends. "We love to party, camp, dance, travel, sleep and socialize," said Conner. "Not necessarily in that order."

RefCheck is located on 5959 West Loop South, Suite 525 in Bellaire.

...

Sightings



Tony Carroll, Suzanne Anderson, Bruce Smith and Deborah Bell.



GHGLCC Pride Float '96.



Helene Rouse, David Scott and Laura Hudman.

Alley Summer Line-up Features Family Fare with Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest*

The door opens and an unexpected guest arrives in Agatha Christie's mysterious thriller *The Unexpected Guest*. When a stranger comes in the Llongelert House out of a dense South Wales fog looking for help for his ditched car, he finds a woman standing over her dead husband's body. Dame Agatha knows the recipe for an exciting murder mystery: a corpse, a host of shifty suspects, some misleading clues and a determined inspector. Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* is part of the Alley's SummerChills series, the annual summertime series of fun, lighthearted productions, at popular prices, for the entire family to enjoy.

The Unexpected Guest opens on July 11 and runs through July 27. For more information call 713-228-8421.

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We have a private office 11' x 13' for lease on the ground floor of a very nice office building on the West Loop near Bellaire Blvd. This has a separate entrance, separate suite number, excellent customer parking, very nice nice image for a small business. \$250/month. Please call Rob Schmerler at (713) 661-7700.

Chamber Networking Breakfasts are Back!

Those of you who have very good memories will remember the last Chamber breakfast. For everyone else, we will be having the networking breakfasts each month. On Thursday, June 12, several Chamber members met at the Marriott on the West Loop at 7:30 am to re-start the morning meetings. Each member gave a brief introduction of his/her business and described what would be good referral for their business from other Chamber members. Then, we brainstormed about what other topics and subjects would be appealing in order to draw more Chamber members to the breakfasts in the future. One member present stated that he would really appreciate the ability to talk with other business owners about issues and problems that he faces, since he does not have peers at his place of business he can talk to. After describing his business problem dilemma, he asked us for feedback. Of course, we each had our own "advice" and ideas.

The conclusion of those at the breakfast was that this "forum" would be a good part of future breakfasts. We look forward to seeing more Chamber members at the next networking breakfast on Thursday, July 10 at 7:30 am at the LePeep Restaurant, 4702 Westheimer near Loop 610. You can most definitely invite and/or bring non-member guests. If you have any questions/comments, please call Patrick McKee at 713-668-6069.

Breakfast Mixer Perfect Timing for Insurance Agent

by Dale Englefield

One of the challenges of owning your own business is that you don't really have peers "on premises" to help you keep you "on track." It's difficult to know whether you're getting heartfelt advice from an employee, and then what employee really wants to witness, much less participate in, a demonstration of proprietary self-doubt just before the rent is due?

By the time I arrived at the breakfast mixer on June 12 I had been agonizing over a big decision since the beginning of March. Though I had solicited advice from several people (none of them business owners), the hard and fast answers I had been hoping for had given way to "warm fuzzies" and expressions of personal support. Nice people, but they just didn't "get it."

Making an awfully deep sigh, I decided to go ahead and reveal to all these coffee-drinking, muffin-munching business people--right here in the middle of everybody who might ever want to do business with me--that, well...I was clueless. Without missing a beat, three of them spoke up and said how they knew exactly what I was going through and what I should do about it and how it would work out in the end and that it didn't really matter that much because I was already doing a great job anyway and please pass the cream. By the end of the conversation, the agony had stopped and the spring was back in my step. Thank you all.

Come to the breakfast mixers. Bring your questions and advice. And...if you see me there, you can ask me how to solve at least one problem you might have.

Image... *Nathan E. Coleman*
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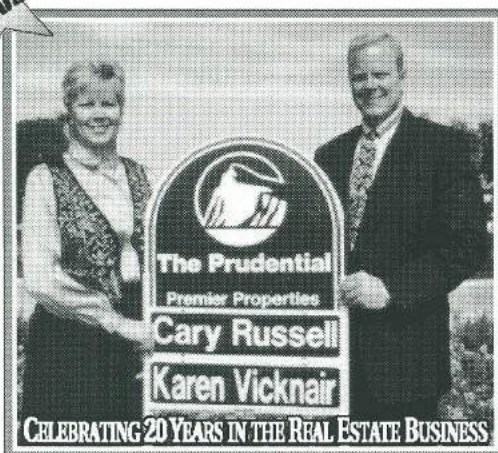
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6	7 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> Lovett Inn-6pm	8	9 <i>Membership Committee Meeting-11:30 am</i> Jalapeños Restaurant on Kirby near Westheimer	10 <i>Networking Breakfast Mixer 7:30 a.m.</i> LePeep-4702 Westheimer Call 713-668-6069 for information	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>Board Meeting</i> Lovett Inn-6pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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Membership Drive Is The Focus Of The July Meeting

The July meeting of the GHGLCC, at the Lovett Inn, will be a festive celebration of the summer holiday where we will welcome members and their guests. All previous guests of the Chamber who have not as yet become members will be invited. It will be a great opportunity for current members to visit with prospective members and encourage them to join. The Chamber will award prizes, offered by Chamber members, to the member who brings the most guests and to the member who signs up the most new members at the meeting/party. Also, any member who brings 5 guests will attend the meeting/party free of charge.

Entertainment will be provided by Judy Frow, a comedienne who will make us all laugh. Lea Bogle will share her knowledge of trade show participation and how to get the best results for our business.

Let's all become ambassadors of the Membership Committee for this Chamber event and spread the word about the many benefits (networking, advertising, mentoring, EXPO, etc.) of becoming an active, participating member of the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

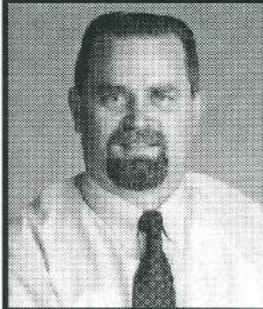
EMPOWER '97 Update

Booth sales are picking up! For those of you who have decided to participate and buy a booth for your business at this major marketing event but haven't sent in your check yet, the wait has cost you. Prices for booth space have gone up as of June 15, as advertised in this newsletter, at meetings, and on booth reservation forms. All booth prices have been raised by \$50.00, and will continue to go up as we near August. Send in your check now to avoid future price increases and secure your space. Choice spots are going first-come/first-served basis, and corner booths are almost gone (only 5 left).

As a reminder, we have secured the George R. Brown for Saturday, October 11th, National Coming Out Day, from 10 am to 6 pm. The latest sponsors and exhibitors include Gallery Furniture, Texas Commerce Bank, and the Alley Theater. We are working with two major Houston radio stations for participation as exhibitors and advertising avenues. Start telling your customers, friends and family about this event to help us draw a huge crowd. Again, the format of EMPOWER '97 is exhibits by any business (not necessarily gay owned) interested in doing business with the gay community. Admission for attendees will be a food donation to Stone Soup Pantry. We are presenting EMPOWER '97 in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign and the AIDS Foundation of Houston. The entertainment committee is working hard on filling the day with exciting performances and speakers. We hope you saw the interview on the GHGLCC and EMPOWER '97 with Debbie Phinney, EMPOWER '97 co-chair, in the June 6 issue of the Texas Triangle. Look for a feature article on EMPOWER '97 in the July issue of OUTSMART magazine, and for promotional material during Pride Week!

Don't forget that advertising space is available, too. The EMPOWER '97 program will include a listing for all exhibitors, and display ad space is available. Call the EMPOWER '97 hotline for more information at 713-462-1354

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Announcements

Notes from the Board

The Board of Directors is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the Board at a board meeting, call the hotline at 523-7576 and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The Board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at 713-667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

Newsletter Advertising

The newsletter committee, chaired by Marion E. Coleman, has designed a new look to our monthly newsletter. It's a great time to advertise! Reserve your space now! A one month business card size ad is only \$30. If you reserve between 3-6 months the monthly rate is only \$25 and if you reserve space for 7-12 months your monthly rate is only \$20. Call Marion at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

Welcome New Members!

Aaron Cortez Coldwell Banker United Realtors
Norma Saenz Michael W. Kemper Salon
Denise Rindhage Neptune Pool Cleaning Service

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Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS

the impact network

AUGUST, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 8



GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
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Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$100.00

Business \$175.00

Corporation \$500.00

For membership information call

713.523.7576

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

CHRIS BELL

City Council Member and Friend to our Community to Address Chamber at August Meeting

Monday, August 4th, 6pm

Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

Chris Bell was elected to the Houston City Council, At-Large Position 4, on February 15, 1997, in a special election to fill an unexpired term. Chris is an attorney with Bell & Henry, LLP and is a graduate of South Texas College of Law. While attending law school, Chris worked as a reporter for KTRH Radio and, in 1991, was awarded Best Radio Reporter by the Texas Associated Press.

Being an award winning radio reporter and an attorney makes Chris an interesting and dynamic speaker. He has from the beginning of his pursuit for public office been a strong and open advocate for the gay and lesbian community, and



Chris Bell

continues to champion equality and diversity within city government. Council Member Bell is a warm and open person who is approachable and forthcoming with information and opinions.

Chris will discuss issues that are pertinent to our business and professional community, and is looking forward to exchanging ideas and answering our Chamber members' questions.

We anticipate a good attendance for this important meeting, so please call in your RSVP early, and no later than Friday, August 1st to the GHGLCC hotline, (713) 523-7576.

...

RSVP is required by August 1st at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE: If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate our number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.

Committee Reports

Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month)

Internet

Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL address is <http://www.GHGLCC.org>. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the Web Site.

Resource Guide/Directory

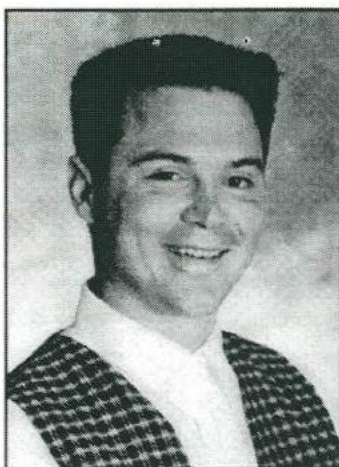
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490.

Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnership, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.



Presidents Message

by Coy Tow

Have you bought your booth for Empower '97?

Have you signed up to help make this event a terrific success?

National Coming Out Day in Houston, Texas will showcase the economic strength of our community at the George R. Brown Convention Center. With a combination business Exposition and community celebration we hope to truly bring out the entire gay and lesbian community!

The Chamber membership must be the strength behind this event and it will indeed take all of us to make it a terrific success! Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney have worked hard on behalf of all of us to get top rate entertainment and to pack the day with great speakers and community events.

Please get involved by telling your friends and signing up to take part in this fantastic day to be gay!

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

To achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to

achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ Email _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____



Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

By sponsoring Expo '97, The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce will make a powerful statement about the size, clout and personality of our community. This event has the ability to show the City of Houston what a successful and diverse group our membership represents. The success of this event will have enormous repercussions for the future growth and recognition of GHGLCC as a dynamic organization, leading the progress of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

It is incumbent on every single member of GHGLCC to support this event, and actively work to ensure its success. What does this mean? It means that you and your business or profession must purchase a booth and be visible at Expo '97. It means that you must get on the phone and tirelessly solicit friends and associates who are not Chamber members to participate as well. It means that for the next 10 weeks you will talk about the event with enthusiasm to everyone you come into contact with.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney, Co-Chairs of Expo '97, we are guaranteed exceptional media coverage of this event. People will know that this will be a Saturday in October to remember. We already have the support of highly visible Houston entities, like Texas Commerce Bank and The Houston Press. Nationally recognized entertainer, Judy Tenuta is confirmed. Community support is coming from AIDS Foundation Houston and Human Rights Campaign.

This event has overwhelming national implications for our Chamber. We must make it a resounding success. To do so will require the effort and dedication of each and every member of GHGLCC. Get your booth reserved, call and ask how you can help volunteer time and energy to support this most important undertaking.

Call the Empower '97 Hotline at (713) 462.1354 to register and receive additional information.

**Would you like to advertise your business
to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities
as well as the Houston Area Community?**

**A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed
by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee
Call JC at 713-529-8490
for advertising information.**

Committee Reports

Membership

The committee has refocused its efforts on the bottom line: bringing in new members! To this end, each committee member is being challenged to bring in three new members in the next three months. But we'll accept new members from anyone else, too!

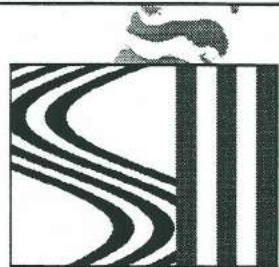
And don't forget our membership renewal incentive program. Ask Scott (840-4816) or Patrick (668-6069) to tell you about it!

But in our continuing efforts to try and be everything to everyone, a Speakers Training Forum will be held in September (details next month); Networking Breakfasts will continue to be held monthly (the next at LePeep at Shepherd/59, Tuesday, August 12 at 7:30 a.m.); and existing programs are presently being reviewed and enhanced.

We could always use your help at programs and functions, not to mention as committee members. Please let us know of your interest.

Program

The Program is holding their committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 noon at the River Cafe.



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713.521.7741

Member Profile

MARK GREINERT Manager, Midtowne Spa of Houston, Inc.

Mark Greinert, originally a native of New York where he was born and raised, now calls Houston his home.

His contributions to the community are many, as he has served for a year in the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Log Cabin Republicans and is also the manager of the Midtowne Spa of Houston. In the later role he has also been able to do something for the community by organizing benefits for both Montrose Outreach Program, and Aids Foundation Houston. He is also instrumental in help-



Mark Greinert

ing coordinate education and outreach programs concerning the prevention of HIV.

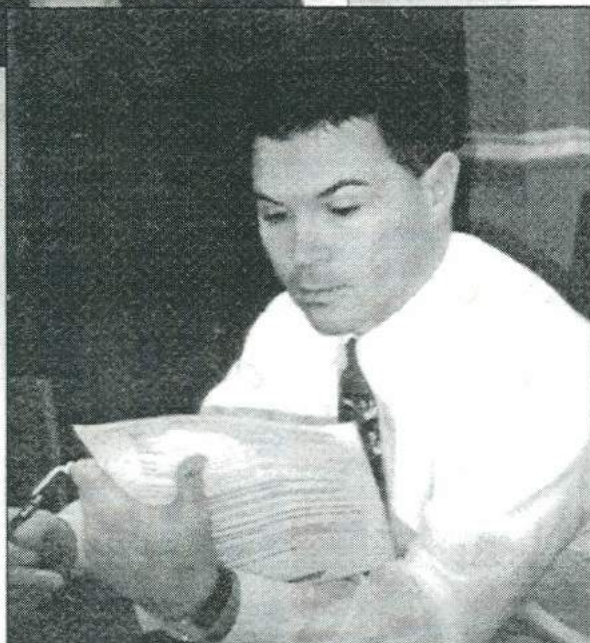
His Family life is a stable one consisting of a three year relationship with his lover Jon, as well as the care and raising of their "children," Chuckie, Ryan, Vanna and Kitten.

In his professional life he has worked in the computer service field for twelve years and in the health and fitness field for the last eight. His motto for living is "do everything to the fullest extent of your abilities and do what you can to make the world a better place."

Sightings



Board Vice President
Sandra Wilkins and
Secretary Laura
Hudman



Board President,
Coy Tow

OFFICE SPACE SUBLEASE

We have a private office 11' x 13' for lease on the ground floor of a very nice office building on the West Loop near Bellaire Blvd. This has a separate entrance, separate suite number, excellent customer parking, very nice nice image for a small business. \$250/month. Please call Rob Schmerler at (713) 661-7700.



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Last Call For Booths!

EMPOWER '97 Update

LAST CALL FOR BOOTHS! August 15th is the deadline for buying your booth space at EMPOWER '97 to be held on October 11, 1997 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. By the time you read the next issue of this newsletter, it will be too late. Our committee is very excited and proud to announce we have booked JUDY TENUTA as the feature entertainer for EMPOWER '97. Remember, this event will be free to the public (with a donation of a canned or dry good food item for Stone Soup Pantry). We have also gotten a commitment from KHM 96.5 to do radio promotion for the event. Last month's Gay Pride parade pulled an estimated 50,000 people. With radio and print promotion and Judy Tenuta as entertainment, we are expecting a huge turnout! The word is already getting out about the event—look for articles in This Week in Texas and in the Houston Voice! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to showcase your business to the target gay, lesbian and supportive market. Ad space is also available—call the hotline for more information at 713-462-1354.

Newsletter Notes!

The newsletter committee is now accepting articles from members. If you'd like to write an article describing your business and how it can be valuable to other members and businesses, please do so and send it to either Marion E. Coleman at House of Coleman (713) 523-2521 or to Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® (713) 526-5190.

We also want your input! If you have a location where you would like to see this newsletter distributed, or if you own a business and you would like for us to leave you some for your customers, please call us with your suggestions.

The Chamber Networking Breakfast

Tuesday, AUGUST 12 at 7:30 am

Le PEEP Restaurant • 3810 Farnham in Shepherd Plaza
One block north of 59 between Shepherd & Greenbriar

Invite and/or Bring Non-member Guests. Be prepared to describe a good referral for your business.

Bring any business problem or Chamber issue on your mind to the breakfast.

A GREAT networking opportunity!



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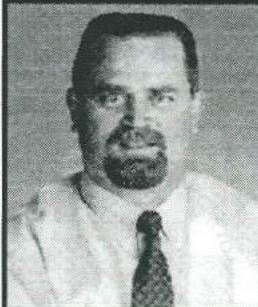
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Why EMPOWER '97?

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian community represents an estimated 400,000 people in the Greater Houston area (based on 10% of population figures). The economic impact of single or dual income households, typically with no children, is tremendous.

As a business owner or representative, EMPOWER '97 offers your company an opportunity to meet and network with other businesses, but more importantly, to access the gay and lesbian consumer market. According to the **Wall Street Journal** (10/25/95), "Throughout Texas, homosexual men and women are choosing to patronize businesses that seek out and cater to the gay community. And they don't have to look far. More gay and straight businesses are aggressively pursuing gay customers--advertising in gay and lesbian publications and promoting themselves as either gay-owned or operated, or "gay friendly."

SPONSORS (as of 07/10/97)

Houston Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages
OutSmart Magazine
Houston Voice
Houston's Laff Stop
This Week In Texas
Computer Factory
Premier Paging
Mortgage Associates of Texas
Mortgage Credit Reports, Inc

Exhibitors (partial list)

Houston Press
Texas Commerce Bank
Uniglobe Travel
Suzanne Anderson Properties
Pack N Send
Basic Brothers

EMPOWER '97 at 713.462.1354

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

1109 Hyde Park #178
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 523-7576
Fax: (713) 864-8523

GHGLCC

EMPOWER '97

*An event to promote the
Economic Strength of
OUR Community*

**Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce**

**1109 Hyde Park #178
Houston, Texas 77006**

GHGLCC EMPOWER '97
Business EXPO Oct 11, 1997
10:00am-6:00pm

GHGLCC presents EMPOWER '97, an event to promote the economic Strength of OUR community. EMPOWER '97 will include:

- **Trade Show:** George R Brown Convention Center with 200+ exhibitors
- **Keynote Speakers:** Invited guests include Hon. Willie Brown Mayor San Francisco, Dan Butler (star of TV's Frazier) representing HRC, Dan Baker- Co-Author "Cracking The Corporate Closet"
- **Panel Discussions and Seminars:** Topics to address issues significant to gays & lesbians
- **Program:** 24 page Color Advertising supplement to promote event
- **Highly Publicized Event:** Radio/Print/Multi media advertising translates to HIGH traffic for exhibitors
- **Entertainment:** Nationally recognized head liner entertainment featuring **JUDY TENUTA**
- **Community:** Fund raising events for AIDS Foundation's Stone Soup and Human Rights Campaign
- **Accessibility-** FREE event to the community

EMPOWER '97 HOTLINE
713.462.1354

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

EMPOWER '97 will produce a min. 24 pg 8X11, 4 color cover, advertising supplement and guide to compliment the EXPO. Each exhibitor will receive a **free listing**. Display ad rates are as follows:

Color

back cover	\$2000
inside bkcover	\$1000
inside fr cover	\$1000

Black/white

full page	\$700
1/2 page	\$375
1/4 page	\$199

Rates based on camera ready art. Color/design/special placement available for additional fee. To advertise or for additional information contact Marion Coleman

@713.523.2521 **HURRY!**

Deadline for ads August 15, 1997.

Please Note: Booths must be paid in full before **free listing** is placed.

**EXHIBITOR RESERVATION
FORM**

Name_____

Company_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone()_____

Booth Size: 10x10 w/ backdrop/3' side drapes/IDsign (tables & chairs available for minimal charge)

10X10 reg_____ \$275. (Member)

10X10 reg_____ \$375. (Non-member)

10X10 Corner_____ \$325. (member)

10X10 Corner_____ \$425. (non member)
(limited quantity)

Dbl. Booth_____ \$475 (member)

Dbl. Booth_____ \$650 (non-member)

Dbl. Booth Corner or end cap add:
\$50. (member) \$100 (non-member)

Speciality booth sizes & placement available on first serve basis. **DEADLINE August 15, 1997.**

Reserve your booth today! Makes check payable to GHGLCC 1109 Hyde Park # 178 Houston Tx 77006

Alley Actors Lead Forum For Students to Explore Great American Classics

Alley actors Shelley Williams, Bettye Fitzpatrick, Ruddy Cravens and others will lead five consecutive discussions about two classic plays to be staged at the Alley next season: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller and *Long Days Journey Into Night* by Eugene O'Neill. The forums—for students age 16 and older—will create a thorough understanding of the literature, while studying the background of the playwright, the works' social significance and other relevant issues.

Participants are encouraged to read the two scripts prior to attending the forum; copies may be checked out at any branch of the Houston Public Library (call 713-236-1313) for the branch nearest you).

The forums will be held on August 2, 9 and 16 at the Henington-Alief Regional, Houston Public Library at 7979 S. Kirkwood. The forum is free and open to the public however, reservations must be made as seating is limited. To make reservations, call the Henington-Alief Regional Branch Public Library at 281-568-3330.

Two One Acts Presented by EZ Credit Theater

On August 1 & 2, Dos Chicas Productions and EZ Credit Theater in conjunction with Zocalo Theater present a night of drag in two one act plays by Charles Busch; *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and *Sleeping Beauty or Coma*. The plays feature Seth "Stallion" Adelson, Francesca "ChaCha" Castaldi, Paul "Big Girl" Drake, Alan "Headhunter" Hall, Bob "Morgasm" Morgan, Bill "Scapegoat" Payne, and Anne "Little Girl" Zimmerman with live music by Matt Meeks.

The audience is encouraged to come dressed in drag and participate in a post-show fashion event with the cast with winners receiving a really tacky prize.

Tickets are \$5 and reservations can be made by calling 713-862-1626. The show starts at 9 pm at the EZ Credit Theater, 314 Main Street, downtown between Preston and Congress. A portion of the proceeds from this production will be donated to Steven's House, an intermediate care facility for people living with HIV/AIDS.


Local Dancers Headed for Gay Games in '98

From August 1-August 8, 1998, Bob Pavey and Lee Ingalls will be participating in the Ballroom Dancing sport of the Gay Games in Amsterdam Netherlands representing Houston, TX. If you would like to offer your financial support, contact either Bob or Lee at 713-877-8458

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Announcements

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Welcome New Members!

Steve Baker & Russell Byrd	TriAngle Video Productions
Mark Hoyer	American Express Travel
William Allen Wirth	Attorney at Law
Gary Brewton, MD	OnCol Medical Associates PA
Marc R. Archuleta	Home Loan Corporation

Special Rates for CHAMBER MEMBERS

Our new COLOR ads...
...add up to more GREEN \$\$\$.

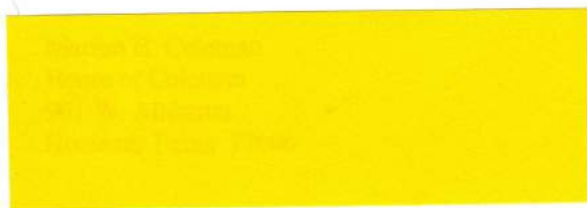
OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

713/520-7237

GHGLCC

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006



Address Correction Requested