

The Lobby Report

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas
July, 1990

LGRL COUNTDOWN: 1,991 MEMBERS BY 1991!

LGRL has passed mid-year 1990 and is looking forward to a challenging fall as we gear up for the 1991 legislative session.

The Lobby continues to expand our programs as the Texas lesbian/gay community becomes more politically aware and sophisticated. As we have become more visible and active; however, the requests and demands for services and attention to pressing community public policy concerns has heightened.

The Board of Directors and staff recognized the need to meet these challenges and has voted to hire an additional staff person (see story page 2).

While this is exciting news for our community and our movement, it comes not without costs. We are now barely making expenses of our office and current staff member. In order to have the new outreach to the lesbian community, we must raise additional funds.

LGRL is funded in large part by funds from membership dues. We hope you continue to support our vital work with your dues each year.

Additionally, you can help by doing the following:

- Check the label on this newsletter's envelope to be sure your membership dues have not expired.
- Become a sustaining monthly contributor.
- Send a special donation.

SIGN UP ONE ADDITIONAL LGRL MEMBER!

Do you know what it would mean financially if each of LGRL's current members signed up only one additional member?

The salary of our new staff person who will do community organizing within the lesbian community and lobby at the legislature would be raised for an entire year.

LGRL cannot continue with its current programmatic goals without this additional person. Help make sure it happens by finding one friend to join!

- Pass on the enclosed brochures to two friends and ask them to join the Lobby immediately.

- Plan a fundraising party in your home. Invite 10-20 people and ask each to join the Lobby. Glen Maxey, Executive Director of LGRL, will be glad to attend any such event to talk to your friends about our work and programs.

- Make a tax-deductible donation to the Allan G. Calkin Human Rights Education and Research Fund.

Members invited to summer Board Meeting

Our Summer, 1990 meeting of the LGRL Board of Directors will be held on Sunday, July 29th at the Austin Public Library, 4th floor, beginning at noon.

All members of the Lobby are always welcome to attend these meetings to hear the discussions of the Lobby's projects and internal affairs.

LGRL to hold At-Large Board election

LGRL is now taking applications for members who are interested in running for our four At-Large seats on the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors of LGRL is made up of organizational representatives and four At-Large members who are elected from among the members of the Lobby.

Persons interested in running for the positions are requested to submit their names in writing to the LGRL office by August 1st. Please send a statement of 100 words or less about your candidacy which will accompany your name on the ballot.

Ballots will be mailed to members during August. The two men and two women who gain the highest vote totals will be elected to serve on the Board beginning September 1 for a two year term.

LGRL seeks second staffer

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has announced that it is currently seeking a second staff person to serve as a Lobbyist/Community Organizer.

The Lobbyist/Community Organizer will be responsible for the development and implementation of a community outreach program specifically targeting the lesbian community throughout the state of Texas. The chosen applicant will be responsible for working closely with the Executive Director to carry out the various programs of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby, as articulated by the Board of Directors.

The qualified applicants should have knowledge of issues of concern to the lesbian community. Previous experience working with grassroots organizations or political organizations is helpful. In addition, previous experience working with the Texas Legislature is beneficial, although not required.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Lobbyist/Community Organizer

The Lobbyist/Community Organizer is responsible for the development and implementation of a community outreach and research program specifically targeting the lesbian community throughout the state of Texas. The Lobbyist/Community Organizer will be responsible for working closely with the Executive Director to carry out the various programs of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, as articulated by the Board of Directors.

The Lobbyist/Community Organizer is responsible to the Board of Directors and is supervised by the Executive Director.

Job Tasks and Responsibilities:

The Lobbyist/Community Organizer is responsible, either directly or through delegation for the following:

Legislative Issues:

- Develops, in consultation with the Executive Director, legislative strategy for Regu-

lar and any Called Special Sessions of the Texas Legislature.

- Seeks actively the passage or defeat of legislation according to the direction of the LGRL Board:

a. draft specific legislation for introduction.

b. solicits bill sponsors and co-sponsors.

c. develops background information on proposals.

d. educates legislators about proposals.

e. educates the Texas lesbian/gay community about proposals by:

1. implementing a district legislative contact network

2. soliciting and monitoring constituent pressure on legislators

- Assists local political groups during the legislative interim with educational materials on elected official's actions and voting records during the legislative session.

- Coordinates with the lesbian and gay legal organizations on responses and strategies for litigation of concern to the lesbian and gay community.

- Assists local groups in building grassroots support for issues on the state and national level.

- Evaluates district and statewide elections of interest to the organization.

- Evaluates legislation after adoption and monitors all interim activity relating to implementation.

- Monitors and participates in regulatory and rule-making hearings of concern.

- Monitors legislation and makes recommendations for appropriate legislative responses where necessary.

Community Organizing Issues:

- Coordinates and facilitates inclusion of traditionally under-represented communities in LGRL's work — particularly the lesbian community and lesbian/gay people of color.

- Builds coalitions with non-gay groups whose statewide issue agendas are in agreement with those of LGRL.

- Coordinates educational outreach to non-political lesbian/gay groups.

Public Relations:

- Serves as a statewide public spokesperson on matters of concern to the gay and lesbian community.

- Develops media strategy concerning leg-

islative and agency issues including:

a. speaking on behalf of LGRL to the media when appropriate.

b. developing media background information on issues.

- Works to educate the media and press on LGRL issues of concern and respond to relevant issues when appropriate.

Miscellaneous:

- Develops research materials dealing with specified topics affected by legislative or administrative or administrative policies of governmental bodies.

- Monitors state agencies and communicates with appropriate persons the concerns and desires of the lesbian/gay communities of Texas.

- Provides monthly reports to member organizations and the LGRL Board members.

- Assists with LGRL fundraising activities as needed.

- Represents LGRL at functions of interest around the state, as decided by the Executive Director.

- Performs directives of the Board of Directors in the furtherance of the purposes of LGRL.

Qualifications:

1. Must have a valid Texas drivers license, a car and be willing to travel around the state as needed. Travel costs are reimbursed at a rate determined by the LGRL Board.

2. Knowledge or experience working with the Texas Legislature is beneficial, but not required.

3. Previous experience working with community grassroots organizations or political organizations is helpful.

4. Must have knowledge of issues of concern to the lesbian community.

5. Must have excellent communications skills with the ability to articulate issues of concern.

6. Must have ability to work with a broad range of individuals and groups.

7. Experience working with volunteers is helpful.

8. Computer skills are required, with Macintosh experience preferred.

Application procedure: Submit resume and salary requirements to: LGRL, P. O. Box 2579, Austin, TX 78768 Targeted Hiring Date is October 1 with Starting Date of November

1. **Closing Date:** August 1, 1990

Texas Lesbian/Gay Community Meeting 1990 set for July 28

Your attendance is encouraged!

On Saturday, July 28th, a statewide "Texas Lesbian/Gay Community Meeting 1990" will be held in Austin at the University Teaching Center, 21st Street at Congress (next to the Perry Castaneda Library), on the the University of Texas Campus. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am and continue through the afternoon.

Any interested individual is welcome to attend this "town meeting" to discuss the future agenda of the lesbian/gay community in Texas. This event is not "sponsored" by any particular group. However, it has been called after dozens of organizations across Texas endorsed the concept in a survey last month.

A variety of topics will be discussed, with a focus on opening lines of communication among various groups and organizations across Texas. This meeting will begin the important process of empowering individuals and community groups and breaking down barriers between us.

Join us to discuss what we have in common, while learning of our diversity. You are invited to attend and play a vital role in defining the direction and focus of future statewide lesbian/gay activities.

The meeting will be facilitated by Deborah Johnson of Los Angeles.

A registration donation of \$5 will be requested to underwrite expenses of the meeting, but no individual will be turned away for inability to pay. Registration will be done at the door beginning at 8:30 am on July 28th.

Registration is not required in advance. However, we would like to

know if you are coming. Please RSVP to: Community Meeting 1990, P.O. Box 2579, Austin, Texas 78768 or call 512/474-5475 and leave your name and address.

This meeting will be made possible in part through a generous grant from the Live Oak Fund For Change. Additional coordination and funding made available by the University of Texas Gay/Lesbian Student Association, Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and Texas Human Rights Foundation.

"Visibility Project" of Equity PAC gives visibility to gay and lesbian money

In 1990, we have the opportunity to elect candidates who are sensitive to our needs and issues to almost every statewide office, including U.S. Senator, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Supreme Court and State Treasurer.

Hundreds of gay men and lesbians will be giving donations to these supportive candidates. "The Visibility Project" of the Equity PAC, Texas' statewide lesbian/gay political action committee, is giving visibility to our monetary donations to political campaigns.

It has been a recurring complaint in our community that candidates have no way of knowing that individual donations were coming from gays and lesbians.

When you write a check to your

Equity PAC filed to serve as political arm of LGRL if needed

LGRL has established a new political action committee which was chartered as the "Equity PAC". This PAC will be the political arm of the Lobby and is registered with the Texas Secretary of State's office.

LGRL is a 501(c)4 public lobby group, and as such, cannot endorse candidates for public office. State and federal law allows, however, for an affiliated political action committee to be created to do such partisan work if desired.

The Board of Directors has decided not to become involved in such activity during 1990. Having the PAC filed gives us ready and accessible ability to begin raising political funds if an occasion arises which calls on the community to be involved in electoral politics.

For example, this fund could be used to support a local referendum issue for which the statewide community wished to raise funds. Another example would be a targeted legislative race, such as that which was planned to oppose homophobic State Representative Brad Wright before his announced retirement this past spring.

favorite candidate this fall, by sending it to the Equity PAC "Visibility Project" to be forwarded to the candidate, you make the candidate aware of concern for gay/lesbian issues.

The check will be forwarded with a cover letter stating that the donor wished for the candidate to know that the donor supports the legislative agenda of the gay and lesbian community.

Brooks endows LGRL account and Calkin Fund with \$5000 gift

LGRL Board member Peter Brooks of Dallas has made a generous \$5,000 donation to be split between LGRL and the Allan G. Calkin Human Rights Education and Research Fund.

Brooks, the longtime companion of the late Allan Calkin, founding Board member of LGRL made the bequest in Calkin's

memory.

Al Calkin was a founding member of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates which preceded LGRL. He had a strong commitment to achieving social justice and equality for gay men and lesbians through the legislative process. He was also a longtime Democratic party activist.

Brooks has stipulated that half of the gift be placed in LGRL's general fund as a revolving account to seed fundraising projects. The other half will go to the Calkin Fund.

Brooks has requested that further memorial gifts in Calkin's memory be made to the Calkin Fund.

LGRL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND DISCLOSURE

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas is completely dependent upon individual donations and fundraising by community groups across Texas. The Board of Directors adopts a budget each year for our operations. Because we feel strongly that you, as a contributor to this effort, deserve a full accounting of expenditures, a full financial disclosure is reprinted on this page of the newsletter. If you have questions about the items listed here, please write us. Our books are open for inspection for any member of LGRL who desires to view them. We do, for obvious reasons, protect the confidentiality of all of our contributors.

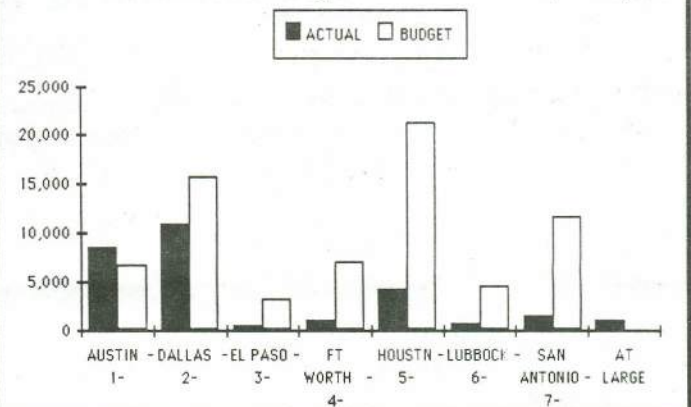
1990 expenditures through 7/13/1990 vs. 1990 budget

	1990 Budget	1990 Actual
BANK BALANCE 7/13 - \$1,375		
PERSONNEL:		
MAXEY: \$3,000/MO. x 12 MOS.	36,000	12,027
FICA	2,754	918
NEW POSITION: UP TO \$2,500/MO. x 4 MOS.	10,000	0
FICA	765	0
RENT: 177.00/MO. X 12 MOS.	2,124	1,264
TELEPHONE:		
LINE CHG.—\$42.41/MO. x 12 MOS.	509	271
LONG DISTANCE—\$75/MO. x 12 MOS.	<u>900</u>	<u>237</u>
SUBTOTAL PHONE:	1,409	508
POSTAGE:		
\$50/MO. X 12 MOS. + \$60 BULK FEE	660	455
TRAVEL:		
1 AIR TRIP EACH—DALLAS, HOUSTON, LUBBOCK, EL PASO, & FT. WORTH	702	0
AUTO TRAVEL—2,000 MILES x \$.20/MI.	<u>400</u>	
SUBTOTAL TRAVEL	1,102	0
NEWSLETTER—4 EDITIONS/YR.:		
PRINTING	400	170
POSTAGE	600	175
LABELS	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>
SUBTOTAL NEWSLETTER	1,025	345
DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN (40,000):		
PRINTING	2,500	3,854
POSTAGE	5,630	3,000
ENVELOPES	2,760	1,936
LABELS	100	0
RETURN MAIL COSTS	<u>1,000</u>	<u>475</u>
SUBTOTAL DIRECT MAIL	11,990	9,265
OTHER:		
AFFILIATION WITH NGLTF, ETC.	150	175
MASTER CHARGE & VISA EXPENSES	175	92
BANK DRAFT FORMS	100	0
OFFICE SUPPLIES: \$20/MO. X 12MOS.	240	175
MISCELLANEOUS PRINTING	1,000	330
ADMINISTRATION	<u>500</u>	<u>548</u>
SUBTOTAL OTHER	1,690	1,320
CONTINGENT FEES	481	279
TOTAL EXPENSES	70,000	26,381*
*Payables due -\$3,000 salary and \$229 FICA for June		

1990 regional budget & fundraising goals

The budget of LGRL for 1990 is applied to seven regions of the state based on percentage of population applied to the total LGRL budget. The resulting figures are the fundraising target amounts for those regions.

REGION 1	—AUSTIN	\$ 6,640
REGION 2	—DALLAS	15,648
REGION 3	—EL PASO	3,128
REGION 4	—FT. WORTH	6,986
REGION 5	—HOUSTON	21,270
REGION 6	—LUBBOCK	4,570
REGION 7	—SAN ANTONIO	<u>11,757</u>
TOTAL 1990 Budget		\$ 70,000



Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, Inc. (LGRL)

is a statewide organization dedicated to the elimination of social, legal and economic discrimination based on sexual orientation through a public education program and a lobbying program directed toward the Texas Legislature, Executive Offices and other state agencies. LGRL is composed of individuals and organization members and cooperating groups. It is governed by a Board of Directors composed of organizational representatives and At-Large individual members.

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