



**South Carolina Gay and Lesbian
Pride Movement**
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THE HARRIET HANCOCK CENTER
FOR THE GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SCGLPM E-Bulletin - June 14, 2006

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Editor's Note: SC Marriage Amendment and What You Can Do to Help

Educate Yourselves and Everyone You Know.

You would be surprised how many people, of all lifestyles, do not know about the proposed amendment, what it says, and how it will affect everyone in SC.

What the Amendment Says:

Article XVII of the SC Constitution would be amended by adding:

A marriage between one man and one woman is the only lawful domestic union that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This State and its political subdivisions shall not create a legal status, right or claim respecting any other domestic union, however denominated. This State and its political subdivisions shall not recognize or give effect to a legal status, right or claim created by another jurisdiction respecting any other domestic union, however denominated. Nothing in this section shall impair any right or benefit extended by the State or its political subdivisions other than a right or benefit arising from a domestic union that is not valid or recognized in this State. This section shall not prohibit or limit parties, other than the State or its political subdivisions, from entering into contracts or other legal instruments.

Be an Active Voice to Defeat the Amendment

Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors, including writing letters to editors of magazines and newspapers. See Ed Madden's info below on what to say and how to do it. Don't avoid discussing the amendment because you think you will out yourself. Discussing political issues and the amendment doesn't have to out you; if you can't come out, you are still a concerned citizen who cares about others. Remember straight people are against the amendment too, so just be that.

Be aware of what others are saying about you, your lifestyle, your children and family, and the amendment. Campaigns like this work on increasing people's fear, and writers will create images and say things that do not reflect our reality or that focus on insignificant details and facts, all to increase their readers' and listeners' fears. Only you can correct the misconceptions and misinformation.

Come out to someone if you can. Studies show that the more folks who know about lesbian, gay, bi, and transgendered people the less likely they are to have negative feelings about people who identify as such.

Donate money or time to SCEC, one of the major organizations helping organize efforts here in SC. If you are donating, give it to a SC Organization working on educating South Carolinians. Money is needed for advertisements, TV and radio spots, billboards, etc. Unfortunately, in the political arena, money is most often the key to victory.

Ed Madden's suggestions on writing letters you would like printed and read by the public:

You can email your letter (do not send as attachment but in the body of the email) to the State at stateeditor@thestate.com or fax it to 803.771.8639. You can mail it to Letters to the Editor, The State, PO Box 1333, Columbia SC 29202. Include your name, address, and daytime phone number.

A few points to remember:

- KEEP IT SHORT! 200 words or fewer!
- KEEP IT FOCUSED! Focus on one or two points.
- KEEP IT SIMPLE! Short sentences and short paragraphs.
- KEEP IT TIMELY! Refer to a recent news story or event.
- SEND IT NOW!!

A few talking points for letters or conversations:

- This amendment is about a lot more than marriage. It should more accurately be called a family discrimination amendment rather than a marriage amendment because it defines what kinds of families matter and what kinds of families deserve recognition.
- The first sentence (the first 23 words) define marriage. The other 114 words prohibit civil unions and domestic partnerships and any form of legal protection for same-gender families and their children.
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, South Carolina is fourth in the nation for same-sex couples raising children. These are real South Carolina families, and it is these families and these children who will be devastated by this amendment.
- Media coverage should recognize that this amendment is about a great deal more than marriage. This amendment will make it constitutionally impossible for many South Carolinians to legally protect their families and their children.

Help us educate south carolina and the news media about this amendment! Send a letter today!

Ed Madden

Chair, SC Equality Coalition

For more information visit www.SCEquality.org

Upcoming Events

This Week on Rainbow Radio (Columbia)

Sundays, 10 a.m.

Station: WOIC 1230 AM

If you want more information on this Sunday's program or missed our previous shows, be sure to check it out on the website, www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio.

Rainbow Radio airs every Sunday at 10 a.m. on WOIC 1230 AM, Columbia's Air America affiliate. Or check out the show on the website at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio). Rainbow Radio shows are available online for download or podcast at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio. For more information, contact Rainbow Radio at SCPrideCenter@aol.com.

Equal Time (Charleston)

Saturdays, 9:30

Station: 730 AM

If you live in the Charleston area, tune in to our sister show, Equal Time, hosted by AFFA's Wilhelmina Hein. Equal Time airs Saturdays at 9:30 on AM 730 in Charleston.

First-ever Black/Latino Pride (Columbia)

June 19 – June 25

"Strength in Visibility, Empowered by Diversity"

Mark your calendars for the events that have been scheduled for the first-ever Black/Latino Pride, "Strength in Visibility, Empowered by Diversity".

In a week, we all will be embarking on a historic week of events. Everyone reading this email should give themselves a short pat on the back because it is because of you that we have reached this point.

But bear in mind I said a short pat on the back because it's just the beginning. More to the point, it really hasn't begun yet. I invite everyone to get the word out, invite your friends, family, neighbors (hell your enemies too) to our events next week. This is only the first but it won't be the last Columbia Black/Latino Gay Pride. This is our time!

For news on the week's events, go to

<http://www.freewebs.com/palmettoumoja/blacklatinogaypride2006.htm>

Let's get it together, y'all

Alvin McEwen

Secretary

Palmetto Umoja

Volunteer Training Session & Social

Monday, June 19

South Carolina HIV/AIDS Board Room, 1115 Calhoun St.

6:00 p.m.

There will be a volunteer training session and social, starting at 6:00 pm. It will be held in the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council Board Room, 1115 Calhoun Street.

We will be getting acquainted with each other as well as what our duties are that entire week. And oh yes, we will also be socializing (i.e. eating, having fun, that sort of thing - u know we are gonna feed ya):

Vigil to End the AIDS Crisis

Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 pm

Garden of Grace United Church of Christ, 1020 Atlas Road

There will be a Vigil to End the AIDS Crisis at the Garden of Grace United Church of Christ, 1020 Atlas Road. It starts at 6:00 pm. For more information, call the church at (803) 695-9664.

Kick-Off Party

Wednesday, June 21, 11:00 pm

Club Fusion, 920 Lady Street

There will be a Kick-Off Party at Club Fusion at 11:00 pm on Wednesday, June 21st. Club Fusion is located at 920 Lady Street. For more information, call Club Fusion at (803) 765-1574.

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, June 22, 7:00 pm

There will be a Town Hall Meeting, "State of Emergency in the South Carolina LGBT Communities of Color", It will be held at the University of South Carolina's Law School Auditorium at 7:00 pm.

Mr. and Ms. Columbia Black/Latino Pride

Thursday, June 22, 10:00 pm

PT's Cabaret

A Mr. and Ms. Columbia Black/Latino Pride Pageant will also be held on Thursday, at 10:00 pm, at PT's Cabaret, 1101 Harden Street. For more information, call PT's at (803) 758-6090.

Black/Latino Film Showcase

Friday, June 23, 5:00 pm

Nickelodeon Theatre

There will be a Black/Latino Film Showcase at the Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main Street, starting at 5:00 pm. The films being shown will be "Black Aura on the Angel," "Just Between Us," "Keith and Greg," "DL Chronicles," "Walk in the Light," "Brooklyn's Bridge," and "Strange Fruit." For more information, call the theater at (803) 254-8234

Hot Latino Nights Party

Friday, June 23, 11:00 pm

Club Colors

Club Colors hosts a Hot Latino Nights Party at 11:00 pm. Club Colors is located at 6729 Two Notch Road.

Black/Latino Pride Expo

Saturday, June 24, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

There will be a Black/Latino Pride Expo at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. There will be vendors, local and national entertainment, a Kidz Corner, Pride souvenirs, an Author's Square, a Wellness Fair, free samples, and promotional giveaways.

Pride Worship Service and Picnic

Sunday, June 25, 11:00 am

Garden of Grace United Church of Christ

Black/Latino Pride 2006 will wrap up on Sunday, June 25th, with a Pride Worship Service and Picnic. The Service starts at 11:00 am at the Garden of Grace United Church of Christ, 1020 Atlas Road. The picnic will follow the Service. For more information, call the church at (803) 695-9664.

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Fairness For All Families Meeting (Greenville)

June 22, 7:00 pm

Please attend the next Greenville FFAF (Fairness For All Families) meeting to be held on June 22nd at 7:00 pm. The location is the same location that UpstateEquality meets. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact www.upstateequality.org or alix@upstateequality.org.

The FFAF is spearheaded by the SCEC and our local coordinator is Mike McVicker. This is an great opportunity for everyone in the upstate to get on the same page, as it were, as we approach the elections and firm up our campaign strategy. There will be individuals representing quite a number of different groups within the Upstate (The PFLAG groups, the UU churches, MCC of the Upstate, Upstate Equality, among others).

It is vital that we coalesce as a unified force in order to see this amendment defeated. Please consider attending. While it is not necessary, an RSVP would be welcomed so we know how many people to prepare for.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Alix Pengue

Director of Communications, UpstateEquality

Center To Host Free HIV Testing (Columbia)

Sunday, June 25, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Harriet Hancock Community Center

The Harriet Hancock Community Center, in cooperation with the State of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, will offer free and confidential HIV testing. The Center is located at 1108 Woodrow Street in Columbia. For more information, call DHEC at (803) 898-0749

UpstateEquality Meeting Schedule (Greenville)

Summer Schedule

With Summer approaching, I realize that many of you will be planning your vacations. I just want to give you the meeting dates (the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month) for the Summer so you can mark them down in your calendar now. I will continue to send out reminders prior to each meeting.

June 26; July 10; July 24; August 14; August 28

We are looking to build our membership and welcome any guests that you would like to bring. I'd like to suggest that you put on your thinking cap and review your email addresses for anyone you think might be interested in attending and forward them this email.

As always, if any of you have any questions, or need directions to our meetings, please feel free to email me.

Alix Pengue

Director of Communications, UpstateEquality

alix@upstateequality.org

www.upstateequality.org

Alliance for Full Acceptance (Charleston)

Program Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 5:45 p.m.

Renaissance Charleston Hotel

68 Wentworth Street

Mandy Carter is a life long activist for women's and queer rights and peace. In 1993, Mandy helped found SONG - Southerners On New Ground - to help build allies in Dixie, connecting peoples of different races, classes, cultures, gender & sexual identities. Mandy has devoted most of her life to the social justice movement, educating audiences about LGBT rights. Mandy Carter is a member of the national steering committee of the Freedom To Marry project former board member of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and of the International Federation of Black Prides.

Recently, Mandy was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize as part of the 1000 Women for Peace nominations!

South Carolina Gay + Lesbian Business Guild Meeting (Columbia)

July 13 – Back Porch, 1616 Gervais Street

The next monthly meeting of the Guild will be held on **July 13th** The **Back Porch** is located at **1616 Gervais Street** across from the Clarion Town House Hotel in downtown Columbia.

News from the South Carolina Gay + Lesbian Business Guild

In case you missed the meeting...

The **Business Expo** was informative and fun. Thanks to our participating businesses: