

# SC GLPM E-Bulletin – August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement & the Harriet Hancock Community Center

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## Editor's Note:

I had a productive and enlightening meeting this week with members of the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CADVASA). The realities of domestic violence and sexual assault are horrific. The state Criminal Domestic Violence laws are written specifically to apply only to heterosexual couples. Very limited statistics exist about the incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault between same-sex couples in South Carolina. All this being said, I want everyone in our readership to know that CADVASA is working to educate all of their member organizations (23 across South Carolina) about LGBT issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. Although the Criminal Domestic Violence law is written to exclude same-sex couples from the same legal protections, protection is still available from CADVASA. Shelters are educated to accept battered lesbians and gay men – and many of the member organizations can work with a battered lesbian or gay man to work out other arrangements if the shelter is not an appropriate refuge. This is not a happy topic, but I think it is important that ALL couples know that violence in an intimate relationship is NOT OK, and there are resources in the state to help if you are in an abusive relationship. For more information, contact CADVASA at (803) 256-2900 (800-260-9293; [www.sccadvasa.org](http://www.sccadvasa.org)) or contact the Harriet Hancock Community Center (803-771-7713; [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com)).

Check Out These Websites for Additional News and Events

[www.scequality.org](http://www.scequality.org)

[www.scqlpm.org](http://www.scqlpm.org)

[www.365gay.com](http://www.365gay.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Local PALSS representative on MTV this Friday

Brian Morgan, a “little guy with a big heart” from Columbia, will be featured on MTV’s *Think MTV* program this Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. The *Think MTV* series seeks to “inform and engage” viewers to take action on domestic and global issues which affect their lives. The programs focus on education, sexual health, discrimination, the environment, or any other relevant issue. The program aims to empower young people to take action on issues which are important in their own lives. This Friday’s program will focus on HIV, which began as an epidemic 25 years ago. MTV hopes to use the program as a “megaphone” for young audiences who have grown up in the shadow of HIV/AIDS.

### “Happy Hour” social/discussion group formed in Myrtle Beach

A social group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, questioning, transgendered and gay-friendly people has started meeting in local bars and restaurants along Myrtle Beach for a social “happy hour” on Fridays. This Friday the group will be meeting at the Dead Dog Saloon, 760 Costal Grand Circle, Myrtle Beach. Joseph, organizer of the group, encourages members to bring donations to go toward the SCEC matching grant campaign which will end on August 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information, contact Joseph directly at [LANEWAY@aol.com](mailto:LANEWAY@aol.com) and please include “Friday” or “happy hour” in the subject line.

### Third Monday Workshop (Columbia)

Is the Conservative Right and the campaign FOR the amendment getting you down? Has the end of summer vacations left you with the post-partum blues? Is the 90 and 100 degree heat finally getting to you? If one or all of these questions apply, maybe you need a good laugh. This Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the Third Monday Workshop will be a viewing of an “oldie but goodie” movie about (some of) our lives. Most have probably seen it before – but if you haven’t, it’s sure to make you laugh and you shouldn’t miss it!

### UNITY Alliance Meeting (Aiken)

The first meeting of UNITY Alliance for the 2006-2007 academic year will take place on September 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:15 to 1:15pm in room 201 in the H&SS Building on USC Aiken campus. Cindy Gelinias, director of the USCA Counseling Center, will discuss USCA resources for gay/lesbian/bisexual students, faculty and staff on campus. Students are especially encouraged to attend and step forward for leadership positions in the organization.

### SC Equality Coalition to host Activist Training Summit Aug 19-20<sup>th</sup> (Columbia)

The state-wide summit will be held in Columbia over the August 19-20<sup>th</sup> weekend, and is meant to train people on SCEC's message, as well as the elements of grassroots organizing. Professional national trainers from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the Highlander Research and Education Center will be presenting workshops. According to leaders of SCEC, the ultimate goal is to draw people from all across the state so they can return to their own communities prepared with the skills necessary to effectively organize and create a base of social justice work in South Carolina. Speakers will include Suzanne Pharr and Mandy Carter. Pharr, a longtime activist who has worked to eliminate sexism and racism, became the first woman director of the Highlander Center in 1999. Carter, who has also been a life long activist, helped found Southerners on New Ground (SONG) in 1993 and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. For more information, visit [www.scequality.org](http://www.scequality.org).

### Rainbow Radio (Columbia)

Sundays, 10 am            Station: WOIC 1230 AM

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](http://www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio)). Rainbow Radio shows are available online for download or podcast at [www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio](http://www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio). For more information, contact Rainbow Radio at [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com).

### Equal Time (Charleston)

Saturdays, 9:30am      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.

### Upstate Equality Meeting Schedule (Greenville)

Next meeting: Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

Meetings for Upstate Equality will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. Upcoming meetings are July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>. Reminders will be sent out to members of Upstate Equality prior to each meeting. For more information or for directions to meetings, visit Upstate Equality at [www.upstateequality.org](http://www.upstateequality.org).

Upstate Equality is looking to build its membership, and welcomes any guests or visitors.

### Alliance for Full Acceptance Meeting (Charleston)

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

AFFA is a social justice organization achieving equality and acceptance for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. We meet every month on the second Tuesday. Program meetings are held the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. They begin with a social time at 5:45pm in the Renaissance Hotel on Wentworth Street, Charleston. For more information, call (843) 883-0343 or visit [www.affa-sc.org](http://www.affa-sc.org).

### SC Gay + Lesbian Business Guild Meeting (Columbia)

Next meeting: Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>

New location at the Back Porch in the Vista (1616 Gervais St).

Next month's Program is:

Social Hour begins at 6pm, Program begins at 7pm.

The South Carolina Gay + Lesbian Business Guild is a not-for-profit organization supporting the needs of South Carolina's gay and lesbian members of the business community and our allies.

### PFLAG (Columbia)

Next meeting: Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

PFLAG Columbia meets at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at St. Martin's in the Fields Episcopal Church in the Community House which is located next to the parking lot behind the church. The address is 5220 Clemson Avenue (just off Forest Drive about 1 mile east of Richland Mall). For further information call Harriet Hancock at 803-781-0515 or visit our web site at [www.pflagcolumbiasc.org](http://www.pflagcolumbiasc.org).

If you're not in Columbia and you would like more information about your local area PFLAG group, contact the Harriet Hancock Community Center at (803) 771-7713 or at [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com).

### OutSmart (Columbia)

OutSmart has new office hours! OutSmart will host open house at the Harriet Hancock Community Center (1108 Woodrow St, Columbia) on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm.

Next meeting: Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

OutSmart has regular weekly meetings for LGBTQ youth ages 16-22 every Friday at 6:30pm. For more information, contact [info@outsmart.org](mailto:info@outsmart.org) or call (803) 779-6586.

### Lesbian Book Club (Columbia)

Next meeting: Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

The Columbia Activity Network's Lesbian Book Club meets the first Sunday of every month. The group meets from 6-8pm at the Harriet Hancock Community Center, 1108 Woodrow St., Columbia. For more information, contact Cindy Wilson at [Cynthia.Wilson@sprint.com](mailto:Cynthia.Wilson@sprint.com).

We had a wonderful meeting and turn out at the book club last night. We had some new faces and that is always a welcome sight! Due to the fact that the first Sunday of Sept is Labor Day weekend, we are moving September's meeting to the second Sunday the 10th of Sept, same time 6pm and same place the Harriet Hancock Community Center. The book that we are reading for the Sept meeting is called Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson. So please come in Sept and enjoy a wonderful time at the book club!

## **SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS**

### SC Equality Coalition Matching Grant campaign extended thru August

SC Equality Coalition is hoping to generate financial support for both the campaign against the Family Discrimination Amendment and for local gay and lesbian advocacy groups. Two generous SCEC donors Linda Ketner and Beth Huntley, have offered to donate up to \$100,000 in funds, matching dollar-for-dollar funds raised by individual local organizations. The funds raised by the local organizations (such as GLPM in Columbia, AFFA in Charleston, etc.) will go towards the campaign to educate state voters about the discriminatory amendment that will be on the ballot in November. At the end of the matching grant campaign, the money donated by each individual organization will be donated back to that organization by Ketner and Huntley.

The two donors hope that the act of donating matching funds back to the local groups for the money each organization raises for the campaign will do more than simply donating their money to the campaign outright. By challenging local organizations to raise funds for the match, these donors are encouraging greater participation from the general community for fighting discrimination in the state. The members and volunteers gained through the matching grant campaign will be an asset to the community as a whole that will far outlast the November election.

For GLPM members wishing to contribute to this campaign, checks should be made out to SC Equality Coalition, with "GLPM" or "the Harriet Hancock Center Foundation" written in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to PO Box 12648, Columbia, SC, 29211. SCEC will then donate, dollar-for-dollar, your donation amount to GLPM using the funds they receive from the generous donors mentioned above. If you have questions about the matching grant, please contact [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com) or call (803) 771-7713.

We're number one...

It has finally been established that the Family Discrimination Amendment will be Amendment #1 on the ballot in November. SCEC will now be working to spread the message "Vote NO on 1" in the coming months. The official number for the amendment should help press coverage of the referendum, giving it an official name other than "marriage amendment" which has been commonly used in the media. Keep an eye out for bumper stickers, buttons and advertisements which say "Vote NO on 1!"

Be Sure to Check Out These Websites for News and Events:

[www.scqlpm.org](http://www.scqlpm.org)

[www.SCEquality.org](http://www.SCEquality.org)

## HELPING OUT THE COMMUNITY:

### Defeating the SC Marriage Amendment

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.*

### What You Can Do to Help Defeat the Amendment

Be an Active Voice

Talk to your family, friends and neighbors.

If people have a face – a friend, neighbor or family member – to identify with the issue, they are much less likely to support anti-gay legislation. Come out if you can, but don't be afraid of "outing" yourself by discussing the amendment. If you aren't comfortable being out, identify yourself as a concerned citizen who believes in fairness for all people. Some of our best allies are our straight supporters!

Write letters to editors of newspapers and magazines.

Read through the talking points and pointers on letters-to-the-editor listed below. It is easy, and the talking points offer a variety of angles.

Be aware of what others are saying about your life, your values, your family, and the amendment. Campaigns such as the pro-amendment campaign in South Carolina work by increasing people's fear. In the coming months, there will be increasing media coverage of the amendment. The pro-amendment's campaign will paint a prejudiced, homophobic view of the LGBT community, and will attempt to misrepresent the amendment as a "definition and defense of marriage." The amendment will do nothing of the sort – it is written to sweepingly wipe out any legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples, and designate the LGBT community as second-class citizens.

When you hear untruths about the LGBT community or this discriminatory amendment, speak up! Write a letter to the editor. Call or e-mail TV and/or radio stations. E-mail the Harriet Hancock Community Center at [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com) and let us know. Don't let discriminatory lies and prejudiced fear stand. Only you can correct the misconceptions and misinformation.

Donate time, money or supplies to SC Equality Coalition.

SC Equality Coalition has established Action Teams across the state. Find out more about the Action Team near you by contacting Melissa Moore at [mmoore@scequality.org](mailto:mmoore@scequality.org). There are various volunteer opportunities from now until November – and beyond!

Financial donations are also greatly needed. Money is needed for advertisements, TV or radio spots, billboards, etc. Our campaign is being led by some very qualified, courageous individuals – but we're up against some very well funded anti-gay activist groups. To donate, visit [www.scequality.org](http://www.scequality.org).

SC Equality Coalition has recently moved into a new office space on Two Notch Road! If you have office supplies or equipment that you are willing to donate, contact Michael Drennan at [ed@scequality.org](mailto:ed@scequality.org).

#### Tips for Writing Letters and Discussing the Amendment

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](mailto: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 because it decides what kind of families matter and what kinds of families deserve recognition.

The amendment would prohibit gay marriage, but it would also prohibit civil unions, domestic partnerships, or any other form of legal recognition and protection for gay and lesbian families.

The amendment would deny any form of legal recognition for straight couples who are not legally married. In Ohio, a similar amendment resulted in a weakening of domestic violence laws. Men who had been convicted of domestic violence against their girlfriends had their charges lessened because the court no longer recognized their unmarried relationship status.

Many Fortune 500 companies offer some form of domestic partnership benefits. This amendment would jeopardize the legality of these benefits. This would impact business relocation in South Carolina and hurt recruitment of highly qualified workers.

Same-sex couples recognized in other states would lose their relationship rights as soon as they enter South Carolina. A committed gay couple traveling through the state on vacation would have no hospital visitation rights or legal recognition if something were to happen to them while in South Carolina.

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](http://www.SCEquality.org)

### Preparing for SC Pride 2007

SC Pride 2007 is now only 10 months away. Preparing for Pride is a year-long effort, and we are currently in the process of collecting sponsorships and planning events and fundraisers. If you are interested in helping, please contact [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com). Updates on upcoming fundraisers and planning events will be added soon!

### Preparing for SC Black/Latino Pride 2007

Palmetto Umoja reminds members and volunteers that it's time to get in the arena again, and start planning for Columbia Black/Latino Gay Pride 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.freewebs.com/palmettoumoja/>.

### **Submission Guidelines**

The SCGLPM E-Bulletin is scheduled to be distributed on Wednesdays. All materials that you would like included in that week's edition must be received at [kategoodrich@hotmail.com](mailto:kategoodrich@hotmail.com) by Mondays at 11:59 pm (midnight). Announcements and articles received after the deadline will be published in the subsequent edition if the article or event is still timely. If you are not sure what to include in your announcement or article, just remember to cover these basics: knowing what, who, when, where, why, and how will let readers act on your request or news, or attend an event. Thank you for your assistance.

Kate

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