New directors, agenda for Right to Privacy

ight to Privacy Political Action Committee is starting the New Year with several new members and a new agenda. At the organization's annual retreat, held this year in Lincoln City, the 1989 political scene as well as future goals were discussed.

Goals outlined at the meeting are as follows:

- 1) Establish constructive linkages to other political and social organizations so that we are aware of one another's goals and can assist each other in achieving them;
- 2) Target specific 1989 Oregon legislative agenda items for the attention of our supporters including: introduction of a Gay and Lesbian Omnibus Civil Rights Bill, monitoring AIDS testing and discrimination legislation, adding sexual orientation to the Hate Crimes Bill, fighting Oregon Citizen's Alliance attempts to prohibit gays and lesbians from being foster parents, use OCA's contention during Ballot Measure 8 campaign that "sexual orientation is not a job related factor" to our advantage, and monitor efforts to limit the amounts political action committees can contribute to campaigns;
- 3) Hire a staff person, at least part time, to assist the board in implementing its evergrowing agenda and work load;
- 4) Host two to three fundraising events during the year in addition to the Lucille Hart Dinner, and raise \$250,000 by year end through these events and through direct contributions of our supporters.

The following are the members of the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee Board of Directors: Kathy Gillette, Scott Lucas, Bill Buren, Fred Neal, Elaine Walsh, Jim Hanches, Sanford Director, Harriet Merrick, Keeston Lowery, Liz Dann, Steve Fulmer, Rick Kelso, Karen Keeney, Don Powell, and John Baker as Chairperson. The organization still has two openings on the board for persons outside the Portland metropolitan area.

Right to Privacy, PAC is undertaking the formation of a Right to Privacy Foundation in order to meet the challenge of broadening the base of understanding and tolerance for sexual minorities in Oregon. The passage of Ballot Measure 8 last November convinced the PAC board that the gay and lesbian community must undertake an aggressive effort of public education and policy advocacy. Because of the limitations put on PACs, the need for a foundation has become evident. State law limits political action commitees' activities to raising money for candidates and endorsing candidates and that is all. A foundation would allow the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee to better serve the community. It would also allow the organization to lobby and to hire a staff and maintain an office.

Right to Privacy would like to invite members from other gay and lesbian organizations as well as members of the general public who support us in our efforts to attend our meetings. We will keep you posted as to upcoming events. Right to Privacy would also like to encourage supporters to attend a rally to inform the community of what is happening in the state legislature, February 15 at MCC at 7 pm.

- Rick Kelso

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