

Community meeting will address proactive campaign

Basic Rights Oregon is sponsoring a communitywide meeting Aug. 14 designed to address the possibility of launching a proactive campaign to place an antidiscrimination initiative on the November 1998 ballot.



According to Jean Harris, BRO's executive director, the initiative would likely seek to bar employment discrimination statewide based on sexual orientation.

Representatives from various gay and human rights groups are expected to attend, as is Jan Bianchi, executive director of Hands Off Washington, a Washington state grass-roots coalition that promotes gay and lesbian equality.

HOW was instrumental in a recent campaign to collect signatures to place a statewide employment nondiscrimination measure on the November ballot in that state. An estimated 230,000 signatures were submitted to the secretary of state's office July 3. Activists needed to gather 180,000 valid signatures to get the measure on the ballot.

Harris says Bianchi will discuss elements of that campaign.

The forum is slated for 6:30-8:30 pm at MCC Portland, 2400 NE Broadway. It is free and open to the public. For more information, contact BRO at 222-6151.

Northwest bisexuals gather around the campfire

Northwest bisexuals will hold their sixth gathering and camp out over Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 27-Sept. 2, in the Wenatchee National Forest near Mount Rainier National Park in Washington.

The gathering, sponsored by the Bisexual Network of Oregon, will be held at a secluded campground between the Bumping and American rivers, 23 miles east of Chinook Pass.

All bisexuals and their guests are welcome. For more information, contact BiNet Oregon at 622-5401.

Pride Foundation issues summer grants

The Seattle-based Pride Foundation has handed out grants totaling \$65,000 to 19 Pacific Northwest community organizations in its summer 1997 granting cycle.

The selected organizations benefit gay men, lesbians and allied communities in a wide range of areas including youth and family services, AIDS education and support, the arts, advocacy, women's health and other health and community services.

The Oregon groups to receive awards include the Rural Organizing Project, which garnered \$5,000 in general support funding for a program that addresses civil rights and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered issues in rural Oregon. ROP, which is headquartered in Scappoose, ensures that issues of justice and equality are addressed in rural and small-town communities.

The Coalition for Sexual Minority Youth received \$3,500 to assist a new drop-in support group for sexual minority youth in the McMinnville area. The money will be used to help defray the costs of establishing a resource library, setting up a voice mail contact phone number, developing an outreach plan and training volunteers.

Phoenix Rising Foundation, meanwhile, nabbed \$5,000 to help establish a sexual minority youth recreation and support project in Portland. The project will provide an evening and weekend facility specifically for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth.

The Pride Foundation works to strengthen the region's lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual communities. Since 1987, the Pride Foundation has made grants of more than \$1 million to 150-plus organizations.

Combating domestic violence via the golf green

Bradley-Angle House, a Portland-based domestic violence intervention agency, will hold its first charity golf tournament on Aug. 22 at the Cedars Golf Club in Brush Prairie, Wash.

Presented by the Southern Pacific Funding Corporation, the tournament will raise funds expected to help fill the gaps left by recent cuts in government funding.

"We have high hopes for this event. Despite the number of golf tournaments in our area this time of year, this is the only one which directly supports the work we are doing to end domestic violence," says Erika Silver, the agency's executive director.

The event begins at 8:30 am. Entry fees are \$250 for each four-person team or \$60 per person. Hole sponsorship fees range from \$250 to \$500 per hole. Sponsorship includes company signage



at the tee box of the designated hole. Payments are due by Aug. 7 or teams may be ineligible to play.

Since Bradley-Angle House opened its doors in 1975, an estimated 8,000 women and children have utilized its emergency shelter. Bradley-Angle House also provides an array of related services including transitional housing and out-of-shelter support groups.

For more information about the tournament or agency, call 232-7817.

O'Hartigan files suit

Transsexual activist Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan is suing her former employer, the Portland law firm of Vavrosky, MacColl, Olson, Doherty & Miller, P.C., claiming it violated the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 when it failed to provide her with health insurance that covered treatment for a common hormone condition known as hypogonadism—diminished estrogen in the blood—a condition experienced by O'Hartigan as a result of her 1979 sex reassignment surgery.

The suit, filed in early July in U.S. District Court, also charges that the firm fired her in retaliation for a discrimination complaint she filed with the state Bureau of Labor and Industries.

According to The Associated Press, O'Hartigan is "seeking a ruling that her condition caused by the sex change constitutes a disability that should be protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act."

The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

BOLI officials, meanwhile, have found substantial evidence that the firm discriminated against O'Hartigan because of her disability.

The agency interprets Oregon's disability discrimination law in accordance with the federal Rehabilitation Act instead of the ADA.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

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