

Memorandum

from the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians
Summer 2004 Number 46

March for Life, Lobbying Efforts, and Silent No More Event

It was a mild day for the 2004 March for Life with the temperature topping at about 42 degrees. Joining PLAGAL members were a pacifist, vegan, pro-life straight couple Jeffrey and Summer who had read about our past trouble with the March for Life. They wanted to join us in solidarity and it was really great to have them there. The theme of this year's March for Life was "Unity in the life principles". Maybe Nellie Gray is starting to soften her hard line position on nontraditional proliferers and realize it will take all of us working together. There were no arrests this year and no hint of any trouble. In addition to carrying our PLAGAL members we carried signs that said **1 out of 10 aborted children are gay: Stop abortion. Not all gays and lesbians support abortion. Human Rights Start When Human Life Begins. It will talk all proliferers working together to stop abortion: let's work together.** We did have a few people ask questions especially about the 1 out of 10 aborted children are gay sign. A few people came up to us and thanked us for being there. There were no negative comments made at all this year.



PLAGAL members before the march 2004

While all the usual speeches were going on PLAGAL members had the opportunity to talk with those around us. Among the groups near us was Democrats for Life which is now headed by Carol Crossed who is also a member of PLAGAL. They brought the most interesting prop (for lack of a better word). Jelly Bean who is the Pro-life democratic Donkey. Our executive Vice President Tim Cravens did not let the fact that he is a Log Cabin Republican get into the way of having his picture taken with Jelly Bean and Carol Crossed.

There was a large meeting of Schumer and Clinton from New York with pro-lifers. PLAGAL members Tim Cravens and Maria Krasinski tagged along with Carol Crossed and the Democrats for Life contingency. There were many pro-lifers of many stripes in the room.

Some of these pro-lifers brought up religion as their argument against abortion. Carol Crossed spoke on behalf of Democrats for Life and got one important concession out of Schumer -- she pointed out that the Democratic National Committee has many links, but refuse to link to DFL. Schumer said he agreed that they should link to DFL and promised to try to get it to happen, and agreed to link from his own site. He may have been lying, but for him to publicly say this was something. Tim Craves spoke with Hillary Clinton -- she now knows that PLAGAL exists, his

involvement in it, and why abortion could result in extermination of gays (with the discovery of the gay gene). Tim caught Schumer going by -- he was on a cell phone, but responded when Tim called out his name and took the PLAGAL literature and nodded as he walked by.

Board member Rick Hoffman and Cecilia Brown President learned that you cannot walk in with sealed letters for your representatives. Those doing the screening could have had a more professional approach in the way they handled the situation. Who knew that you could not bring letters that were sealed into the building? It was not like there was a policy that was posted for all to see. All hell almost broke loose when Cecilia went to open the envelope in the building just to show what was inside. They had to go outside and dispose of the envelopes and the banner and enter from a different door. First stop was to Senator George Voinovich from Ohio and he was not in but they left personal letters and some PLAGAL brochures.

Senator Mike DeWine was receiving pro-lifers from the march and even had peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, brownies, hot cocoa and coffee for them. Rick and Cecilia were able to talk with Senator DeWine for a few minutes. They thanked him for his support for pro-life issues but also asked that he keep in mind issues of the glbt community especially ones that effect our families. They gave him personal letters and brochures about PLAGAL and he promised he would read over them. Cecilia was quick to point out her disappointment of the lack of response to previous letters and faxes to his office on this and other issues.



Rick Hoffman, Senator DeWine (R-OH), Cecilia

After our lobbying efforts Cecilia met up with the Silent No More group. Tim and Rick headed to the Supreme Court steps to show support for the women in the campaign. For those unaware the Silent No More it is an awareness campaign by women who have had abortions and have been hurt by them emotionally, physically and spiritually. This year Cecilia did not share her story so that other women who did not participate last year could share theirs. Cecilia stood in the back ground in solidarity with these women holding her sign "*I regret my abortion*". It was a very moving experience to hear women speak about their personal experiences with abortion.

PLAGAL adopts Non-Violence Statement

The PLAGAL board has had on their agenda to write a non-violence statement for some time. With much hard work from the Board of Directors, we have finally voted on the following non-violence statement:

“We, the members of PLAGAL, have this to declare and bear witness to, regarding the appalling violence surrounding the abortion issue.

“Let it be it known, that we value the lives of ALL involved: mother, father, child, doctor, nurse, lover, BORN and UNBORN.

“We utterly reject as False the notion that abortion will be stopped by killing the abortionists and/or those who work/volunteer at abortion clinics. Furthermore, we believe that those who carry out such violent acts are doing so in direct opposition to the spirit and ideals of the pro-life movement, and have neither home nor refuge with us.

“We stand united in the knowledge that abortion, like all bad ideas, cannot be stopped with bombs and bullets, and perhaps not even ballots, but must instead be replaced with better alternatives.

“Towards this end PLAGAL was formed: to challenge the notion of abortion as acceptable, to bear witness to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered (GLBT) community that abortion rights and GLBT rights are not one and the same, and to work towards those alternatives that are life-affirming as well as pro-woman.”

THE CHANGING FACE OF PLAGAL

By Tim Cravens

Tom Sena founded PLAGAL because the pro-life movement was not hospitable to gays and lesbians and because the LGBT community was mostly co-opted by the pro-abortion movement. It was a courageous step, and the world is a better place for it. But the way in which PLAGAL has straddled the two worlds has evolved over the years.

In the early years, before I joined, many in the organization were mostly concerned with acceptance by the pro-life movement. As a result, the "pro-life" part of our name was emphasized more by some than the "gay and lesbian" part. Many PLAGAL members were concerned about "rocking the boat" too much, lest we be criticized too harshly by the pro-life leadership. In particular, there were those who were afraid to be too confrontational at the March for Life, lest we bring disrepute to the pro-life movement.

However, as time has gone on, PLAGALites have been more confident about asserting our LGBT identity and insisting that we will work for the pro-life cause as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pro-lifers regardless of whether others in the movement like it or not. In part, this has resulted from greater acceptance by many within the pro-life movement, particularly from other "non-traditional" groups such as Feminists for Life, Democrats for Life, and others. But the main reason is that we have come to a place of self-acceptance where we are able to recognize that it is not we who seek to add the gay issue to the pro-life issue, rather it is those right-wing groups who insist on adding an anti-gay agenda to the pro-life message who dilute the message.

We represent the future of the pro-life movement. Polls consistently show that the younger generation is increasingly more pro-life while at the same time showing an increasing acceptance of gays and lesbians, even to the degree supporting same-sex marriage. And I believe that the more mainstream Americans realize that not all pro-lifers are allied with the religious right, the more support they will give us. And whatever happens, PLAGAL will be here to ensure that our message is heard.

Abortion Issue Hits Home

By Jackie Malone

For those who don't know me, I would like to share a little bit of background. First, from the writing on of this article, I am 10 weeks pregnant. Second, I was born with a semi-rare birth defect called arnold-chiari malformation (ACM). It's not fatal, but it does cause me a lot of problems. So, here's where the story comes in.

I went in to the hospital to have an ultrasound so they could figure out how old the baby was. In my chart is a packet of information about my birth defect because most nurses and doctors have never heard of it. The nurse that was going to do my ultrasound was reading the information before she took me back. They started the ultrasound and I got to see my baby (9 weeks, 3 days at the time) wiggling his/her arms, legs, and heard the heart beating strong. I was excited.

While she was doing the ultrasound, the nurse asked me some detailed questions about the symptoms I have from my birth defect and how it affects my daily life. When she was done, she said that she would like me to go talk with a genetics counselor, and they were available immediately. I asked her what would be the purpose since ACM hasn't been proved to be genetic (though they've only studied it for 10-15 years). She told me they would give me more info on the possibility of the baby having the same thing. I pushed her again and asked what the purpose would be. She said that a lot of people would consider a termination if the news were bad. It took me a couple seconds to recover from the shock of her even making the suggestion. Then I looked at her and asked if I deserved to die because I had a birth defect. She started to talk and I said that I wasn't perfect, and I certainly wouldn't kill my child for not being perfect. She got really quiet.

I've seen looks that people give me though. I have a 16 month old son and I walk with a forearm crutch. I get disapproving glances (or outright stares) a lot. It's like society has decided that people with any kind of disability don't deserve to have children. I can only imagine that things will get worse as I start to show. I was furious on Friday and I can't say that it's completely gone away.

PLAGAL OPPOSES GAY SPONSORSHIP OF WOMENS MARCH

The Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians planned to hold a counterdemonstration on April 25, 2004 on the corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue to protest the sponsorship of the March for Women's Lives by GLBT organizations. PLAGAL recognizes the work that these groups have done to help secure the rights of members of the GLBT community however, on the issue of abortion members of PLAGAL have to question how does supporting abortion on demand further the GLBT cause? *See March on page 3*

March

Continued from page 2

Unfortunately PLAGAL did not count on 17th and Pennsylvania being closed. Based on all the info we had gathered the corner was to be opened. PLAGAL members did not let the street being closed deter them. While they were not able to meet and stand together in unity some members did take advantage of getting the PLAGAL message out and to also network with other pro-lifers. Below are two members' accounts of their networking.

Rick Hoffman

"Queer Rights are Reproductive Rights." The Task Force (formerly National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), Human Rights Campaign, LLEGO (a national Latina/o LGBT organization), and the list goes on. Major LGBT rights group had officially endorsed the march. We have so much work to do...

On Sunday, April 25th I attended the "March for Women's Lives," which CNN quotes as drawing between 500,000 – 800,000 but which the organizers of the march say over a million, on the National Mall in Washington, DC. As the only board member for PLAGAL who was definitely going to this march, I had been put in charge of rounding up the PLAGALites and finding a spot to counter protest. I started a mad dash to meet the PLAGALites at 11 AM.

Unfortunately, police had blocked off that very area of 17th and Pennsylvania because it was part of the route of the march Having already seen a bunch of "Queer Rights are Reproductive Rights" signs, I was still bound and determined to have PLAGAL represented even if I was the only one and what better way to represent a queer organization than dressing in DRAG! I had discussed this previously with both ACL officers and PLAGAL board members. Both seemed supportive, and the ACLers had even asked about it that morning. Coming from a much politicized, activist college like Oberlin (which incidentally brought 3 busloads and several cars totaling 200 students in support of the march) I see drag not just as entertainment but as a form of protest. I wanted to make a bold statement that not all of the LGBT community supports abortion. I found a bathroom in some mall and made my metamorphosis.

I arrived back to my post with American Collegians for Life and also Silent No More Awareness Campaign (a national campaign for women who have had abortions to speak out about their regret) with signs that said "I regret my abortion." I had made my own sign that said Human Rights Start when Human Life Begins, the PLAGAL web site and the Pro-life voice of the GLBT community.

My friend had chastised me for spending \$132 on a plane ticket to DC because she thinks being only one person I cannot make a difference, but I know my 3-4 hours of standing out there holding my make-shift sign high and proud that I made a difference. Unfortunately I did not have other PLAGALites to carry the banner or pass out pamphlets, but a lot of people read my sign. Some even came up right in front of me and took a picture. A few people doing school projects interviewed me. I could tell by their facial expressions that I was getting people to think.

During that march, my queerdar was on full throttle. I saw HRC equality and rainbow stickers all over the place. I also saw a sign that said "Separate is not equal. Gay marriage is a civil right." I totally agree with that, but what does that have to do with being in support of abortion? It was disappointing but enlightening to see that a lot of queer folk are not just "pro-choice by default" as I call it because they live in a political box, but a lot of queer folk are actively pro-choice. That is why I say we have a lot of work to do. Many LGBT folk see queer rights and abortion rights as inseparable. The gay liberation movement and the pro-choice movement grew up side by side together. Our first step is to get them to think, to get them to question abortion. We have to problematize the relationship of right to privacy between abortion rights and rights involving the queer community. Before they

become pro-life, they have to stop thinking of pro-choice as an absolute value. We also have to educate our pro-life comrades. A lot of them may support us, but that does not mean that they are educated on our issues. ACL people know that a lot of queer people are very liberal and pro-choice, but they do not know the ideological connections that the queer community and pro-choice community make. And so, again, we have a lot of work ahead of us.



Rick at Counter Demonstration

Sharone Belt

I was interviewed by some men from British Television doing a documentary and I had PLAGAL's website on my sign and spoke of being a member of PLAGAL. I also met Randall Terry and took that chance to let him know that I was a pro-life, Christian lesbian, I met several straight pro-lifers and one of them said she had found our website on Saturday night while doing a pro-life search! Cool, huh? What a day. It was great, except for not being able to find the other PLAGALites.

Jackie Malone

I did not participate in the counter demonstration because I was asked to share my pro-life view point and PLAGAL's message at my church. I am a member of Baltimore's Unitarian Universalist Church and the focus of the sermon was how people on both sides of the abortion issue can come together and where we can find common ground. I pointed out that one of the seven principles of the UU church is "The inherent worth and dignity of every person." I tried to challenge my fellow parishioners to make an effort, as individuals and as a church, to work towards helping women who find themselves with unplanned pregnancies rather than automatically assuming that abortion is the best or only option.

Did PLAGAL Get Ink?

When anything appears in the lesbian and gay media discussing the Pro-Life movement, or in any media discussing PLAGAL, Please, PLEASE send it to us. We do not have -- and cannot afford -- a clipping service or subscriptions to the multitude of lesbian and gay media. We are always discovering -- sometimes months after the event -- that we were mentioned somewhere. As has become our custom, we would also like to remind our readers that PLAGAL needs the names (and addresses, voice and fax numbers, and now e-mail addresses) of local gay and lesbian media.

Meanwhile --

Board member Steve Cook was invited to represent PLAGAL by the Republican students, Catholic students, and the Gay and Straight Alliance on campus of Foothill College, Los Altos, CA on March 2, 2004.

Executive Vice President, Timothy Cravens never forgets to mention PLAGAL and his pro-life stance while doing his marriage equality work. He is featured in an article titled *How New York stands on Marriage Debate* in the New York Sun on February 23, 2004 where PLAGAL is mentioned. Also he represented Marriage Equality at a forum at SUNY-Stony Brook on Long Island where he mentioned PLAGAL in his presentation. He was invited to speak on behalf of Log Cabin Republicans at an HRC presentation to the SUNY - Purchase LGBT student group and did not fail to mention PLAGAL once again.

Secretary, Jackie Malone represented PLAGAL at her church, Unitarian Universalist Church in Baltimore Maryland on April 25, 2004. Her pastor asked for her to represent the pro-life position since it was the day of the Women's March. She was then asked to help to set up a group in her church with the purpose of helping women who find themselves with unplanned pregnancies to find options other than abortion.

President Cecilia Brown was quoted in an article titled "*Gay organizations join abortion rights march*" on April 23, 2004 in the Washington Blade. The article can be viewed at <http://www.washblade.com/2004/4-23/news/national/abortion.cfm>. The same article appeared in The New York Blade and the Houston Voice. The articles brought many letters to the editor from both sides of the issue.

PLAGAL contact for Milwaukee Wisconsin, Jim McFarland was quoted in an article in the 3/9/04 NY Times titled *Gay and Republican, but Not Necessarily Disloyal to President* By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK. The article can be viewed at <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/09/politics/09GAYS.html>.

PLAGAL and President Cecilia Brown was mentioned in the Independent Gay Forum by Steve Miller's Culture Watch on April 24, 2004 in a blog titled *Abortion as a Gay Right*. It can be viewed at <http://www.indegayforum.org/culturewatch/2004>.

In a blog that was posted on April 25, 2004 titled *Gays and Abortion* from the blog site titled Right Side of the Rainbow the post by a person named Paul, Makes mention of PLAGAL and President Cecilia Brown and our stance on GLBT communities supporting abortion. You can read the blog at <http://www.rightrainbow.com>.

Results of Stem Cell Research, Cloning, and Invitro-fertilization Vote

By Ken Teise

In December, the Board of Directors of PLAGAL brought to our membership the issue of changing our platform to include IVF, Stem Cell research and Cloning. We were disappointed of the rather low response considering the fact that it would mean a major change in PLAGAL's platform. However, we felt since we did ask for membership involvement that we would go with the consensus of those that had taken the time to respond. We would like to thank all of our members that replied and voted on these issues. PLAGAL would like to thank board members Steve Cook and Ken Teise and all PLAGAL members who made up the Invitro fertilization committee. The committee worked very hard doing research and putting together the proposal for our membership. Below you will find the final results of their findings.

Total involvement from membership was 24.

The first round of voting/discussion at the Annual Membership Meeting resulted as follows:

6 for "1A" 6 for "1B" 6 for "1C" 5 for "1D" 1 abstain
9 for "2A" 9 for "2B" 4 for "2C" 1 for "2D" 1 abstain
9 for "3A" 12 for "3B" 2 for "3C" 1 abstain

The closing round of voting/discussion at the Annual Membership Meeting resulted as follows:

The tie votes for issues 1 (IVF) and 2 (stem cells) places PLAGAL in a "non-conclusive" situation (i.e., hence the motion and vote to go with option "A", no stance with the understanding that we could revisit the issue at another time).

Those who attended the annual meeting voiced concern regarding the tenableness and inconsistency of adopting "3B" (cloning) without Issues 1 (IVF) and 2 (stem-cells). This concern existed because both IVF and stem-cells are more actively linked with embryo killing (given the present practices taking place) than cloning. Hence the motion and vote to allow the PLAGAL Board of directors to review these concerns for a limited period after the Annual Meeting.

The post-meeting period discussion took place the two-weeks after the annual meeting. The PLAGAL Board again voiced concern regarding tenableness and inconsistency. In addition, the Board voiced concern regarding the minimal participation that was received from the PLAGAL membership.

The PLAGAL Board discussions resulted in the following: with some of the board members changing their vote with the understanding that these issues will be revisited in the future:

11 for "3A", 11 for "3B", 1 for "3C", and 1 abstain.

Again, due to the tie vote placing us in a "non-conclusive" situation the Board of Directors motioned and voted to go with option 3A.

In conclusion, PLAGAL will not be changing our platform to add any other issues other than the issue of abortion.



Rick, Maria, Jackie, and Steve, 2004 meeting

PLAGAL To Go Paperless

PLAGAL has always been frugal with the money that has been donated to us by our membership. We had dropped our newsletter down to twice a year to save money. However, the Board of Directors would like to have our newsletter go out more often so that we can keep in touch with our members and friends on a more frequent basis. The newsletter is our biggest expense. The money that is saved would go towards educational and service projects. PLAGAL will still offer hard copy newsletters to those who do not have email or access to a computer. Our goal is to have 75% of our members and friends paperless by December 2004. This is also an excellent opportunity to update our records and remove those from the mailing list that no longer wish to receive our newsletter. Snail Mail addresses still need to be kept so that when PLAGAL plans an event in areas of the country we can contact individuals who may be interested. Please send the following to PO Box 33292, Washington, DC 20033 or email to plagal@plagal.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Yes, Make me paperless my email address is:

No, I still wish my newsletter to come by snail mail

Remove me, I no longer wish to be on the mailing list

PLAGAL Annual Meeting and Board Meeting

PLAGAL held its annual meeting and board meeting at the dignity center in Washington DC on January 21, 2004.

To view the minutes from both meetings go to www.plagal.org

Your new Board of Directors for PLAGAL for the 2004 year are as follows:

Steve Cook, Tim Cravens, Bill Crow, Rick Hoffman, Joe Kovalioff, Maria Krasinski, David Styers, Kenneth Teise, Cecilia Brown Jackie Malone, Susan Peltier and Laurel Harris.

Your officers are as follows:

President – Cecilia Brown
Exec VP – Tim Cravens
Secretary – Jackie Malone
Webmaster – Susan Peltier
Treasurer – Dave Styers
Asst. Treasurer – Bill Crowe
Pride Chair – Maria Krasinski
Newsletter chair – Joe Kovalioff
Speakers Bureau Chair – Rick Hoffman
Media Relations – Tim Cravens

PLAGAL Membership Form 2004 DUES ARE NOW WELCOME

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Status: _____ member _____ mailing list only

Dues and Contributions

Annual dues: \$20.00 _____

Contribution: _____

PLAGAL is a 501(c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. Make checks payable to PLAGAL.

Participation

I am willing to organize a local PLAGAL group.

I am not willing to organize a group but would be willing to join and participate in one.

I can represent PLAGAL by helping out at Pride and other LGBT events in my area.

I can represent PLAGAL by participating in events within the pro-life community.

I am willing to become a local contact for PLAGAL.

I am an articulate speaker and would love to become part of the PLAGAL's speakers bureau.

I am willing to be part of a committee if needed.

I am a fabulous writer and would be willing to write op-ed articles and other things for PLAGAL.

Please return form to P.O. Box 33292 Washington, D.C. 20033-0292 or via E-mail to plagal@plagal.org.



Members at the 2004 meeting

PLAGAL honors NetLink Resource Group, Inc., with special business award

PLAGAL would like to take this opportunity to honor NetLink Resource Group, Inc., for hosting the PLAGAL website at no cost to PLAGAL. In addition they donated countless hours and talent to the design and input of the PLAGAL membership database so that our key officers could access and complete much needed PLAGAL work. NetLink Resource Group, Inc. continues to offer Internet support and security of our national database. PLAGAL has never been more organized and up to date on our membership lists. Thank you again NetLink Resource Group, Inc. Visit them online at <http://www.netlinkrg.com>.

Christopher Hinkle first to receive highest PLAGAL honor -- The Tom Sena Award



Last year the Board of Directors made the decision to design an award in memory of our beloved founder, Tom Sena. Tom founded "Gays Against Abortion" in 1990 in Washington DC and in early 1991 the name was changed to the current name PLAGAL the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians. What started out as one man speaking out for the unborn within the gay and lesbian community is now an organization with well over a thousand nationwide. Tom had the courage to stand up for the unborn in what, at the time, was probably the most hostile community towards the pro-life message. Because of his willingness to be ostracized from his community for the sake of the innocent, he paved the way for open discussion in the gay and lesbian community. More and more gay people are rethinking their position on abortion.

The Tom Sena award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a member of PLAGAL. To receive this award you must show outstanding leadership within PLAGAL and promote GLBT inclusion within the pro-life community while at the same time bringing the pro-life message to the GLBT community. We are pleased to announce that Christopher Hinkle is the first recipient of this prestigious award.

Chris has demonstrated exceptional leadership within PLAGAL. He has served as a board member for several years and has served as secretary and webmaster. He has done much work to promote PLAGAL not just within the GLBT community but within the pro-life community as well.

Chris was presented the award at the annual meeting that was held in January 2004. Congratulations Chris!

"Once you permit the killing of the unborn child...you are setting off a chain reaction that will eventually make you the victim." - Dr. R.A. Gallop, Univ. Of Montana

Cecilia Brown, President PLAGAL receives PLAGAL-PAC honor -- The Joe Beard Award

Last year PLAGAL-PAC made the decision to design an award in memory of one of our beloved cofounders, Joe Beard. Beard was well known as a solid, unwavering pro-gay, pro-life advocate with an undeniable conservative spin. Though a diabetic and HIV positive, he tirelessly worked to advance pro-life sentiment with in the gay and lesbian community as well challenging the exclusion of gays from much of the pro-life movement. Joe also was founder of PLAGAL-PAC.

The Joe Beard award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a member of PLAGAL by the PLAGAL-PAC. To receive this award, a member must show outstanding leadership within PLAGAL. They must promote PLAGAL to their elected officials, the pro-life movement and the GLBT community. PLAGAL-PAC is pleased to announce that Cecilia Brown, President of PLAGAL is the recipient of this award.

Cecilia has demonstrated outstanding dedication and leadership to PLAGAL. She has served as a board member for several years and has been president of PLAGAL for four years. She shares the spirit that Joe Beard had by working tirelessly to advance PLAGAL. Cecilia was presented the award at the annual meeting that was held in January 2004. Congratulations Cecilia!



PLAGAL recognizes our amazing volunteers

PLAGAL is a 100% volunteer organization. All of the work that is accomplished is done so by our volunteer board, president, members and friends who support the cause of PLAGAL. Without the help of these amazing people we would cease to function. At the annual meeting that was held in January 2004 PLAGAL recognized the following individuals for their hard work and dedication to PLAGAL.

Scott Baker, Bill Caldwell, Joseph D'Amour, Mike Ferens, Terri Hudson, Jackie Malone, Jim McFarland, Tony Nalasco, Lorraine Nelson, Susan Peltier, Dennis Sheridan, Marc Zappala, Steve Everett, Laurel Harris and Joyce Shanley

PLAGAL also recognized the following board members for their service to PLAGAL for the year 2003.

Steve Cook, Timothy Cravens, Bill Crow, Chris Hinkle, Rick Hoffman, Erik Jurek, Donna Kearney, Joseph Kovalioff, Maria Krasinski, John Mina, Moses Remedios, David Styers and Kenneth Teise

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication. It is very much appreciated.

Baltimore Pride 2004

By Jackie Malone

This year PLAGAL participated in Baltimore Pride for the 2nd year. With a record-breaking crowd at Pride this year and a prime booth location, it was a set-up for success.

Hundreds of people walked by the booth with some pausing just to read our name on the banner but many stopping to pick up brochures, sign up for the mailing list, and offer a word of encouragement. There were no negative comments made this year and even a few people who announced themselves as completely pro-choice said they were glad to see that a wide range of views from the LGBT community was being portrayed. There were some interesting conversations with individuals from various viewpoints, and overall it was a very positive experience. Thank you to the Baltimore PLAGAL members who assisted with the booth.

Atlanta Pride 2004

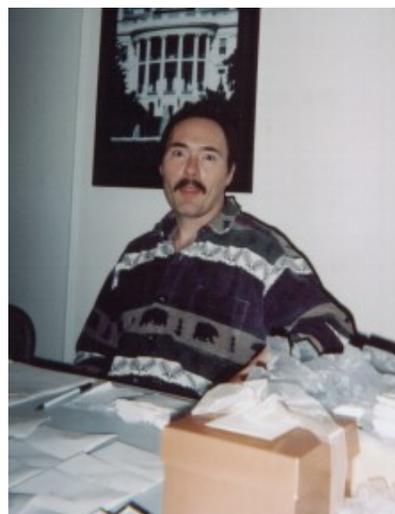
By Rick Hoffman

Thankfully we secured a table this year for PLAGAL at the Atlanta Pride festival, which is around the 3rd or 4th largest Pride festival in the United States. This being a big election year, the festival took on a more political theme with the motto "Equality = Justice." Voter registration was a key element with even singer-songwriter bringing materials for one to register with. This also meant that established allies were out in full force, such as NARAL. The Georgia chapter of NARAL has had booths at Pride before, but they seemed to be more aggressive this year. It reminded me of the March for Choice in April, especially with the anti-Bush sentiment in the air. Two guys approached me at the table who were wearing the familiar NARAL stickers. I politely told them that I was open to dialogue but did not want to be harassed as I could already see how they felt on the issue. They replied that the stickers had just been stuck on them, and that they were open-minded on the issue. Perhaps next year I should walk around randomly sticking PLAGAL stickers on people.

I had absolutely no wholly negative confrontations this year, but that might have been perhaps because I was not at the booth as

long due to rain and hosting my friend from DC, who helped me set up my table and greeted people even though he, himself, is pro-choice. I saw the lady who had come in a huff to argue with me two years ago, but this time she only muttered to herself, "I don't get that." One gentleman asked if we were anti-abortion, and I said, "Yes, that is the issue we focus on." He replied that I said that like I was ashamed of it. He then went on to say that ultimately it was the woman's decision, which I agreed with, but that he did not know what we would do with all the babies. He scoffed at the idea of adoption saying that our society could not handle it but did not explain why not. All my other face-to-face encounters were very positive. Another man knew that his biological mother was trying to have an abortion so he was very passionate about the issue. Too bad he lives in Tennessee. One woman said, "Pro-life, oh yes! I've had kids!"

I mentioned to quite a few folk how I have wanted to start a chapter of PLAGAL in Atlanta for about 3 years but am always going back and forth to Ohio. Since the festival, I have emailed all those who signed up with emails to see if anyone feels called to leadership. Cross your fingers, y'all!



Ken annual meeting 2004

DC Pride 2004

PLAGAL did have booth space again this year at DC Pride. We did not receive the report in time for this newsletter deadline.



Jackie and Steve annual meeting 2004

Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians; Political Action Committee (PLAGAL PAC)

PRO-LIFE ALLIANCE OF GAYS AND LESBIANS - POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PLAGAL-PAC)

Dear PLAGAL Members and Friends:

Thank you to PLAGAL for allowing the PLAGAL PAC to enclose this letter with the annual newsletter. The PLAGAL PAC is a separate entity from PLAGAL; however, the PAC does provide financial support to PLAGAL activities. The PAC also seeks out, endorses and provides critical funds to candidates for political office who demonstrated support to both the pro-life and pro-gay/lesbian cause

Elections for state representatives all the way up to the Presidency will be held this year and your PLAGAL PAC wants to be a force. The goal of the PLAGAL PAC is to raise funds to be used to help finance the campaigns of political candidates who are friends of the gay community as well as friends to the unborn. To clarify further, a check is a message the size of a large billboard that states clearly that not all Pro-Lifers think being gay/lesbian is a sin and that not all gays/lesbians believe abortion on demand is acceptable.

PLAGAL family and friends, we need to make a statement in 2004. This message needs to be seen by members of the Human Rights Campaign, the March for Life, Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Christians, Jews and all religions that we are here, and deserve to be heard.

In recent history, some of the campaigns that PLAGAL PAC have assisted included Paul Snatchko (Candidate for PA State Senate), Congressman Mike Ferguson (R., NJ), and Suzanne Terrell (Terrell lost in a close race for the US Senate in the state of Louisiana). We want to make a bigger impact on the 2004 election year which means we need your help.

This is a request that every member and friend of PLAGAL make a contribution to the PAC. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for the 2004 campaign season. We need big donors and many small donors. If you can only afford \$5-10 we would graciously accept your assistance, those who can afford \$100, \$500 or higher contributions are highly encouraged.

We ask every person within an earshot of this letter to contribute in some way. The GLBT, the Christian Right, and all communities need take note. PLAGAL is here, we vote and our opinion counts. Attached is our contribution form that contains the definition and mission of PLAGAL PAC. Please make your contribution today.

Sincerely,

Michael Ferens
Chairman



PLAGAL-PAC seeks out, raises funds for, and endorses pro-life gay-friendly candidates for elected office. Founded in 1998, the organization works to dispel both the myth that being pro-life must make one anti-gay and the myth that being pro-gay makes one pro-choice.

Why should gay rights activists be pro-life?

Most gay rights activists believe that homosexuality is genetically determined. If this is the case, when the "gay gene" is found, parents, doctors, the state, and others who are opposed to homosexuality will have the opportunity to abort the lesbian or gay unborn child and try again for a "normal" child. Or the good liberal parents who have no objection to homosexuality but do not want their child to face the problems gay people face will have the opportunity to exercise "compassion" by sparing their lesbian or gay unborn child the pain by ending the child's life through abortion. Think this is far-fetched? It's already happening to unborn children discovered to have certain genetically detectable conditions, such as Down's syndrome. And James Watson, the 1953 Nobel laureate who discovered the structure of DNA, stated in 1997 that he does not object to aborting a child likely to be gay or lesbian.

Why should pro-life activists be pro-gay?

As genetic science advances, more and more lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people will realize the threat to their very existence that abortion represents. However, much of the current pro-life movement is dominated by those who also oppose basic civil rights for the gay community, and gay people who oppose abortion may be discouraged from participating. In addition, the perceived exclusion of gay people is a turn-off to many moderate non-gay citizens who might otherwise be brought into the pro-life movement. Pro-legal abortion organizations have certainly exploited this for their own gain. By expanding the base of those traditionally thought to be pro-life, the movement can challenge the rhetoric used by the other side and reach out to the vast majority of Americans who oppose abortion on demand.

What can I do to help?

There are three very important things you can do to help **PLAGAL-PAC** in our mission:

1. Talk to your elected officials -- let them know you are both pro-life and pro-gay, and let them know about **PLAGAL-PAC**. (Another organization, the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians, www.plagal.org, has a lot of helpful literature on these issues.)
2. Spread the word about **PLAGAL-PAC** among your friends -- let them know that we exist, that you support us, and why.
3. In order to make contributions to candidates and produce materials to promote a pro-life, pro-gay political position, we need money. Please consider making a generous contribution to the organization. We would also be happy to assist you in holding a house party to spread the word, raise money for **PLAGAL-PAC**, and have fun in the process.

Yes, please sign me up to join PLAGAL-PAC's important mission!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip _____

Email and Phone _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____.
(Contributions are NOT tax-deductible.)

Please send to: Timothy W. Cravens, Secretary-Treasurer, PLAGAL-PAC P. O. Box 504, Peekskill, NY 10566; twcravens@verizon.net