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# Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

Serving the Cincinnati LGBT Community since 1996

## STOP AIDS looks forward after Ryan White funding stops

Amy McMahon has her hands full.

McMahon is the chief executive officer of STOP AIDS, an agency that has served people with AIDS and their loved ones for 28 years.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), advised the agency on February 28 that they would no longer receive Ryan White Funds as of April 1st. This action gave STOP AIDS one month to find a place to send their 1,000 clients with HIV/AIDS. (See *Related story this page.*)

Katherine Shumate, administrator of the Ryan

White Program, sent a memo to McMahon.

Shumate wrote, "HIV Care Services at ODH will no longer be able to continue to provide funding for Stop AIDS. This is based on opinions from ODH legal and our Compliance and Accountability Unit (CAU) following reviews of your independent auditor's report and consultation with the GAPP manual. Specifically, the statement in the audit that there is ~substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern" gives pause to ODH, the staff of which are responsible for good stewardship of the public dollar. As it is not clear that there are any special conditions that ODH could place on the grant that would sufficiently minimize the risk associated with granting additional funds to STOP AIDS, our decision was clear."

The action was based on a 2009 audit of STOP AIDS.

McMahon said that STOP AIDS wasn't even given a

chance to object to the ruling.

Fortunately the ODH gave the funding to Caracole, another Cincinnati agency that finds housing for people with HIV/AIDS. The funding could have gone to any agency anywhere in Ohio

McMahon and her staff are assisting Caracole to set up the program there.

Caracole plans to hire most of the case managers who worked at STOP AIDS, McMahon said.

Meanwhile STOP AIDS is looking ahead to see what its mission will be.

In addition to working with people with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones STOP AIDS also has outreach programs.

They will continue their free HIV/AIDS Testing Program and their public education program available to groups and schools throughout their eight-county service area in Southwest Ohio.

STOP AIDS will have to decide on a staff size and is determining what size facilities they will need to operate their programs in the future.

### Attorney Scott Knox says Department of Health broke its own rules

Scott Knox, a local attorney who also is a leader in the GLBT Community says the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) called Stop-AIDS, on February 28 to say that ODH had decided not to grant them the \$715K they would otherwise have received to cover case management and other expenses

beginning April 1st.

Knox said, "Case managers provide lots of support for clients who would otherwise be on their own. For instance, if a client's medical card doesn't work to get her HIV medications, it's the case manager who will find out why the card isn't working,

See *Knox*, Page 7, Col. 4



Equality Ohio Executive Director Ed Mullen, right, leads Summit.

### GLBT leaders meet in Columbus

**Columbus, OH**—LGBT and allied leaders from around Ohio, representing local, statewide and national groups involved in advocacy, politics and providing direct services, met in March for the annual Equality Ohio Leadership Summit.

Purpose of the summit was to review successes and challenges the groups faced during the last year and map out a strategy for moving the GLBT Community's agenda forward in 2011. In particular, the group focused on organizational development and fundraising, working with both sides of the aisle in the current state legislature,

making the political climate more friendly for pro-equality issues, and diversity and inclusion in GLBT organizations and movement.

The group also advised Equality Ohio on its draft strategic plan for the next four years. As a grassroots organization with a mission to serve the entire state, Equality Ohio welcomed the input of such a diverse and insightful group.

K. D. Miller, youth board member from the University of Cincinnati was a participant. Other participants were from Dayton, Springfield, Toledo, Cleveland, Akron, Columbus and several other smaller cities.

### NKY PRIDE

#### co-chairs named

Mykey Hess, manager of the 701 Club and Angel Minton, owner of the Yadda Club have been named co-chairs of the 2011 NKY PRIDE Event.

NKY PRIDE will be Saturday, July 9th in Goebel Park, Mainstrasse Village, Covington.

## Revisionist history again?

Those who choose to rewrite history always amaze me. Students and aficionados of the subject know that history is interpreted and written by the victors.

But to do so in our own GLBTQ community borders on disrespect. Unfortunately, we have few means by which to transmit our past, other than verbally. For the most part, we have no means by which to chronicle our accomplishments other than from activists who have gone before.

Such seems to be the case with the recent awards presented by HRC during their second annual gala on February 26th. I applaud the presentation to Procter and Gamble as the corporate sponsor of the year—P & G has stepped forward to eliminate inequality in the workplace for GLBTQ people

and tower above many of their contemporaries.

However, to revise history by inaccurately singling out individuals who made work place equality and domestic partnership rights happen, begs the question of truth. The movement for company equality at Procter and Gamble began back in the mid 1980s when two men (*one retired, one now resigned*) approached then Chief

Officer of Corporate Diversity, Lyn Battle, with concerns about homophobic treatment at P & G.

One of those men, Michael Chanak, still active in the greater Cincinnati GLBTQ community—and a thorn in the side to those who don't like the correction of fallacy—met with Mr. Battle numerous times, became a consultant on LBGTQ issues, and was credited by Lyn Battle with these words when the inclusionary proposal was signed: "Mr. Chanak, you of all people deserve to know

before the announcement becomes public...that the company will include sexual orientation in its EEO."

Did Michael Chanak achieve this feat alone—no; there were certainly other dedicated queers and straight supporters who joined the fight—but he was a major voice and force in making reality change at Procter and Gamble.

Ah, but Michael is not young and pretty any more, as are those who were championed by the HRC for their accomplishments. It bismirches our community—and our history—to have those who have struggled so valiantly, end up having their names scratched from the temple wall. And, of course then, how can any of us stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and who risked so much?

*(Editor's Note: Dr. Maddux is an associate professor of English in the University of Cincinnati and has been an activist since 1985 when he joined the Stonewall Board.*



Dr. Maddux

## Leaders from the past

Michael Chanak, our associate editor, has from time to time given us glimpses into the past—the history of the GLBT Community in Cincinnati.

His column appeared first in **QCity News** and now, for the last several years, on our pages. Chanak likes to call "old-timers" Dowagers though they might not be activists.

Both of us, though not from Cincinnati, were here when the community started "coming out of the closet."

We both know many of the people who spearheaded efforts on many fronts—in churches, organizations and at work.

As many of you read in our March issue, Chanak attended a gala where he thought the history of efforts for GLBT equality at Procter and Gamble did not meet the real history of the first efforts there since he was a part of them. (*See Dr. John Maddux's story on this page.*)

As we later talked about his experience, I thought it might be a good idea to contact

activists who have worked to promote the GLBT Community down through the years.

We will be contacting people we know both here in the Greater Cincinnati area as well as many who have moved on for various reasons.

Written stories can be found at the Lesbian Archives, located in Clifton United Methodist Church but much of our history has been passed down by word of mouth.

GLSEN and the Public Allies have joined together to tell the stories of current and past GLBT students and the differences in their treatment by others now and then—a great video addition to GLBT history telling efforts.

So, we know numerous leaders from our history in Greater Cincinnati but certainly not all. We will be seeking out and asking those we know to be part of our "history project".

We ask for your help in locating others. You could be one.

Send the activist's contact info to [MAP@ella.net](mailto:MAP@ella.net).

**Worley Rodehaver**

### Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

is published monthly in Cincinnati, Ohio.  
[map@ella.net](mailto:map@ella.net)

MAP Publications, 1727 Highland, Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-241-7539

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Vol. 15, No. 4; April, 2011

Contents © GLBT News, 2011



Paul Delph

### This publication is dedicated to those who have or have died from AIDS or Hate Crimes

It is our goal to record the positive contributions GLBT people make to their community and the local community at large. While AIDS and Hate CRIMES are certainly not positive things, we seek to draw the positive from the negative. We hold up Paul Delph and Matthew Shepard and their families as models of how human beings should or could react to each other and how families should support loved ones whose lives are not in the box right wing religious zealots want them in. Delph, a multi-talented Cincinnati, died of AIDS in 1996. His mother shut down her business to care for him. Shepard died in 1998, victim of a hate crime and his mother worked for years to get passed a national Hate Crimes Bill, which is now law.



Matthew Shepard

### Newsome named to GLSEN National Advisory Council

Steve Newsome was named to the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) National Advisory Council in March.

He was confirmed with great enthusiasm and support at the local board's March meeting and will assume duties along with other leaders

throughout the country in ensuring that the work of GLSEN remains relevant and effective.



Newsome

Newsome is the former fundraising chairman for GLSEN Greater Cincinnati and is active in several other organizations locally including the Human Rights Campaign.

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### Letters

### Chanak is right

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Michael Chanak for saying it like it is.

Well, I agree, cuz I must be post-Gay, too! It's hard to get excited about HRC and all of them.

The Stories Project with Josh Wagoner, yes, because of the Archives

Anyway, this latest column of yours in **GLBT News** is by far one of your finest. I like the personal reflection tone and the history you gave that encompassed so many decades.

May we continue doing what post-Gays do!

Phebe (*Karen*) Beiser  
[phebe@cinci.rr.com](mailto:phebe@cinci.rr.com)  
*(Phebe Beiser is a teacher/tutor and works with the Ohio Lesbian Archives.)*

We welcome Letters to the Editor. If you like or don't like what you read, let us know. [MAP@ella.net](mailto:MAP@ella.net)



Guest Editorial

# Get to the game

By Ron Hirth

I have never been a big sports fan. “4th and down” has always conjured up visions of an Irish pub with four empty shot glasses at a table with two old friends conversing and sharing old times.

I’m savvy enough to know that athletes who want to win need to get in the game and play. To contribute their skills and talent. To make a difference. To support their fellow team mates.

Our fight for equality is similar to a sporting competition where each and every proponent of equality needs to get in the game. Each player serves an integral role as a piece of a larger strategy to win. Just like in football, baseball or basketball, the rules pretty much have stayed the same over the years. The tactics and rules of engagement have evolved, but the fundamentals are the same. Standing in the streets with signs and civil disobedience serves some activists well based on their level of passion, energy and years of maturity.

For others, more philanthropic methods of giving back to the community are appropriate. Either is fine, as are the shades of involvement that preside between the two extremes.

What’s most important is that you engage and get involved. Do something. And recognize, appreciate and respect that your level of involvement and what you’re comfortable with, is just as valid and important as the path of involvement that others have chosen.

Even more important is that you don’t be so quick to pick

apart, criticize or judge how others have chosen to invest their time or resources. Like life itself, your path may be very different than the one someone else chooses.

I’m always dismayed at how quickly and eagerly members of the Greater Cincinnati LGBT Community cannibalize each other. Pick, pick

here. Gossip there. Plant a seed of misinformation and discontent to stain and sully the reputation of someone genuinely trying to do good work to accomplish something for the greater good of the community.

Living, breathing, feeling people who would probably rather spend time with their kids and loved ones were the world perfect.

To all of these naysayers I have one thing to say: “Shut the hell up...and have a nice day.” Do what your mother advised and practice the idiom about saying nothing if you don’t have something good to say. Then get off your butt and go do something that you think is more appropriate. Further the cause. Spend your energy doing something positive instead of tearing down the accomplishments of others.

If your years as an activist are behind you, and your youth was spent working for the community, you have my heartfelt thanks for everything you have done. Your accomplishments and legacy are what today’s victories are built upon. But please, stop complaining. Recognize that methods of activism that opened doors in the past weren’t and aren’t the only way to achieve the equality and the positive recognition in

this society that we all so desperately seek. Those openings allowed access so others could step in where doors were tightly sealed. Your contributions were valid. Just as valid as those of today’s activists, even if the methodology is different.

This is an exciting time for our movement. We need everyone in the game. We all have the opportunity to become part of the greater conversation and to prove our value and worth to our friends, neighbors and co-workers who don’t identify as LGBT individuals. Talk about your life and dreams to everyone who will listen. If holding up a sign and shouting at politicians suits you, go for it. If writing a check is the best you can fit into your busy life, then that counts too. How we get there takes everyone’s contribution. Everyone needs to engage in the way that capitalizes on their own skills, talent, time and/or resources

they wish to invest.

So, in short, be a mentor or a coach - not a critic. There are enough critics on the opposing team. Get in the

game and offer advice and encouragement from which we all can benefit from years of experience. We need to be in the game together, united

as one voice - not picking each other apart.

*Ron Hirth is a Volunteer and Activist in the Greater Cincinnati Community.*



Hirth


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night at Prom and to make sure more youth know about GLSEN Greater Cincinnati's resources, they are giving away the first 150 youth tickets.

*(Important notes: GLSEN will run out of free tickets and they must be reserved in advance. Email GLSEN to reserve: prom@glsecincinnati.com. Limit two tickets per reservation. Must be under age 21.)*

Adults: your support and presence make Prom possible, and we promise you an

amazing evening. Prom will feature the debut of our first Stories Project video. DJ and dancing. Dinner-by-the-bite from Jeff Thomas Catering, cash bar. Tickets remain at \$50 per person.

Friends of Prom packages are also available at the \$300 and \$500 level. Contact GLSEN for more information: prom@glsecincinnati.com or 866-934-9119.

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Seelbach fundraiser  
April 21

Chris Seelbach is running as an openly Gay man for Cincinnati City Council and



brings years of experience in community organizing and political work to the table. He has also been endorsed by the Victory Fund (a national LGBT organization that gives considerable financial support to candidates).

Chris' message is simple, make Cincinnati a great place to live, work and play.

Steve Newsome, Leon Spitz, David Fender and Scott Knox are organizing a fundraiser to support Chris on April 21st at 7:30 p.m. at Knickers XY, 2717 Erie Ave and would like to invite readers to be apart of their Host Committee.

This is a commitment of \$250, \$500 or the maximum

See *Seelbach*, Page 7, Col. 6



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## Little fag Jew boy?

**ST. LOUIS (KMOX)** – A west-central Illinois sheriff says he regrets remarks he made in jest on Facebook. But a statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender group wants a resignation, not regret.

Schuyler County Sheriff Don Scheiferdecker, whose Facebook page has since been deleted, commented on the picture of a young co-worker. The original post read, “Look, I found a fag” to which the sheriff replied, “Yup and his mouth is open, his glasses are off, he’s ready, little fag Jew boy.”

It’s those last four words that have drawn the ire of The Civil Rights Agenda which, in its one year of existence, played a major role in the passage of Illinois’ civil union bill.

This marked the first time the group has called for someone’s resignation, telling the **Jacksonville Journal-Courier** that such jokes are unacceptable when made by public officials.

## Presbyterians voting on Gay clergy again

Ordination of Gay and Lesbian members to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is again being voted on in all local Presbyteries in the country.

The Cincinnati Presbytery, in February, voted Yes—99, No—72 with three absentions to change the denominations policies to favor of Gays and Lesbians.

The final result for Presbyterian Church USA won’t be known until all 173 Presbyteries across the country vote.

As of late March, 74 of the groups had voted in favor, 53 against. A total of 87 are necessary for the change to take effect.

Most recently the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina opened its special meeting with prayers for unity and calls for civility.

The meeting remained civil - emotional but civil - before a vote was called on proposed changes in the policy of ordaining Gays or Lesbians.

The presbytery, a governing body that reflects the wishes of churches across eastern North Carolina, defeated the proposed changes by a vote of nearly 2-to-1.

The final vote was 192 against the changes, 113 for.

The Presbyterian Church USA Book of Order requires clergy candidates to “live either in fidelity with the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.”

The proposed changes would have removed all reference to sexual orientation or behavior, in effect leaving the decision of fitness to serve to the local Presbyteries.

The vote underscored just how divisive the subject of sexual orientation remains in

churches - and society, as well.

Churches find themselves especially torn by the issue. This subject has been a huge problem for Presbyterian Church USA for the last 20 years or so.

The issue of sexual orientation and clergy has hindered, even fractured congregations and denominations.

Perhaps the most public schism came in the U.S. Episcopal Church, where the ordination of an openly Gay bishop in 2003 led to hundreds of churches breaking away from the denomination. The church ordained an openly Lesbian bishop last year.

Two years ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted guidelines that allow congregations to ordain Gay and Lesbian pastors. Since then, more than 600 congregations have left the denomination.

GLBT people are welcomed at the grassroots level in many congregations of many faiths.

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## 'Listings Resource Guide' sales now open

For 21 years, the "Listings Resource Guide" has helped those who wish to buy from Gay and supportive businesses.

Ad sales for the 2011-2012 edition have started at [www.theListingsGuide.com](http://www.theListingsGuide.com). There is no change in ad prices this year — prices are the same since 2009.

Regional non-profits get a FREE community resources paragraph listing, making the book an additionally valuable resource.

If you have not seen the

Listings, it is a FREE full-color book (*also posted online since 2000*) known regionally for its professional look and consistent community presence.

Ten thousand books are printed each year and distributed to more than 175 Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky churches, bars, hotels, stores, restaurants, schools and community organizations or events.

The book also features community organizations, provides AIDS resources (*for*

*English and Spanish speakers*), and provides a "Know your Rights" legal overview for those who are glbt-identified.

Sales for the book end Saturday, April 30th. Late ads are possibly accepted depending on timing and the category location in the book. The Listings premieres the weekend of Cincinnati PRIDE, July 10th.

"Distribution of the current 10,000 copies has been fantastic, although we are practically OUT of books

now." says Listings Project Manager Fred Martens.

Visit [www.TheListingsGuide.com](http://www.TheListingsGuide.com) to order and charge your ad online or find information and printable order forms as well. General questions call Fred at 513-559-9987. Advertising questions call Diana at 860-218-5292.

The Listings Resource Guide is a project of the Greater Cincinnati Gay Chamber of Commerce,

## Of Fairy wands and old media

Clearly, something is wrong. If I possessed a magic fairy wand as some claim I do

— I'd make it so everyone would know everything about calendar, events,

meetings and organizations.

It would be done seamlessly, transparently and without charge. Wasn't this the great promise of the Internet?

People seem to be confused more than ever. How do I know? I'm one of the folks who answers web mail and phone messages for the GLBT Center. One thing Mother

Procter taught me: listen to the consumer. Yes, I dare to make this complaint in an era of Facebook, e-mails, web sites, tweets and such. Smack a smile on that queen's face, she's starting again!

### Mother Says

By Michael Chanak

A Google search might answer some of the questions. But, how do we answer

questions like: Why isn't there publicity out about Cincy PRIDE (*or Northsiders or NKy PRIDE*)? Or these — When is the Listings going to be out? Why isn't the information updated on "their" site? Truth is all we can do is refer those questions back to the owners of the event. No wonder folks feel they are getting the run

around.

Twenty-five years ago, during the ice age called "The Old Media age" with less noise in the ether we sent out press releases via snail mail and faxes at a minimum of four months before a major event.

Today, some feel using one social medium site, posting an event the afternoon before, even multiple times on the same site "gets the job done." Odd claim for some organizations that make vague claims of wanting to "build community = fundraiser."

Another website isn't the answer, glossed up like a pig with lipstick to sell something that already exists. No, dear reader, dear Brutus, in not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings."

**Knox**—from Page 1  
fix it if she can, or find other alternatives to secure the medications. If a client goes without her HIV meds for any period of time, it can mean they'll be resistant to those meds, so this is critical. ODH gave no consideration to the important role case managers play in people's health and even survival."

He continued, "ODH said it based this on a review of StopAIDS 2009 budget (*numbers they'd had for two years!*), which ODH said indicated serious financial problems. ODH said this funding, which would have been for April 1 and beyond, would be released in 24 hours to other organizations, which could be anywhere in Ohio, to apply for the funds. ODH said there was no review process for this.

"Keep in mind this is not

about budget problems — this is money that would go somewhere, just not to StopAIDS."

Knox pointed out that ODH's own rules provide for putting agencies on probation if they seem to be in financial trouble, auditing them regularly, and transitioning clients to other agencies if the problems aren't resolved.

That process ensures a thoughtful transition for clients at a rational pace, not this absolute rush to try to get people into new case management in a couple weeks. He said, "That's what the rules are for, and ODH summarily ignored them, at great risk to the clients. The clients deserved better than that."

Knox emphasized, "This isn't about whether StopAIDS ultimately should or shouldn't have been defunded. It's about the thoughtless process ODH used to address any financial problems they saw in StopAIDS. ODH based a sweeping decision that would defund an agency in existence for 28 years with no review and with no time to make sure more than 1000 clients

receive continued care. And ODH knew that StopAIDS had extremely low turnover in case managers and that their case managers were a model for great case management in Ohio. None of that mattered — in its haste to defund StopAIDS, ODH failed to follow its own rules for removing funding from financially insecure agencies, which would have resulted in a more

orderly transition.

Knox concluded, "Fortunately, Caracole, at great expense, stepped up to make sure these clients will continue to receive case management — if it hadn't been for Caracole's commitment to these clients, they would have been left without help until some other agency somewhere else in the state could get a program up and running in Cincinnati. ODH clearly has drifted far from its mission: 'To protect and improve the health of all Ohioans.'"

### Caracole

Caracole's mission is to provide safe, affordable housing and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. Founded in 1987, Caracole House was the first licensed adult care facility in Ohio for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Today, Caracole provides direct care services and housing to people with HIV/AIDS and their families along a continuum of care. More than 1,200 people have been housed through Caracole's programs.

### Seelbach

—from Page

of \$1,100. General admission to the event is \$75.

If you would like to learn more about Chris please visit his website, [www.seelbachforcouncil.com](http://www.seelbachforcouncil.com) and watch his introduction video.

Please also feel free to share this event with your network to ensure a common sense candidate is elected to council.

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