National Day of Action for Marriage Planned

*Have a Heart* Rally Planned to Support Marriage Rights

The Western Pennsylvania Freedom to Marry Coalition and Greater Pittsburgh chapters of the National Organization for Women will stage a rally at the State Office Building, 300 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh PA at 5PM on February 14 as part of a National Day of Action in support of same-sex marriage, according to Scott Safier, Organizer with the Western PA Freedom to Marry Coalition. The rally is part of a national campaign coordinated by NOW.

“We stand united to challenge the discrimination faced by loving, committed couples who are denied the rights and responsibilities of marriage,” said Mary Litman, chapter President of Squirrel Hill NOW. “We’re asking legislators to have a heart this Valentine’s Day and support their many lesbian and gay constituents, as well as their allies.”

“Religious political extremists unsuccessfully tried to use same-sex marriage as a wedge issue during the last election. Fair minded voters re-elected every single courageous Congressmember who voted in favor of same-sex marriage and was up for re-election, including Pittsburgh Congressman William Coyne,” said Scott Safier, a representative of the Marriage Coalition.

“This national campaign is an opportunity for all community activists to speak out publicly and act together to show support for lesbians and gay men and to oppose sex-based discrimination,” added Safier. “We are organizing this rally to highlight the injustice of anti-marriage laws like Pennsylvania’s, and the need for equal marriage rights for lesbians and gay men in loving, committed relationships.”

**WHAT:** Rally in Support of Marriage for Same-sex Couples  
**WHERE:** State Office Building, 300 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh PA  
**WHEN:** Friday, February 14, 1997  
5 to 6 pm

Michael Rizza for their help with the Valentine’s Day rally and dealing with the City’s Bureaucracy. Thank you to Squirrel Hill NOW for helping with the PA system for the Rally.

Thank you to Bob Arlia and Harry Logan for speaking publicly many times in support of marriage rights. We can always count on them.

Thank you to Cindy Klink and Rita Drapkin for being interviewed by City Paper in their January 30 edition.

It was the help of these people and many more that made 1996 a successful year for our marriage coalition.

**Electronic Activism**

**Using the Internet to Support Marriage Rights**

With the growing popularity of the internet, many people now have access to a valuable resource in the fight for equality in gay and lesbian relationships. Unfortunately, being able to tell a bulletin board from a mailing list from a newsgroup can be a daunting task. There are many gay and lesbian resources available once you get past the jargon.

*Usenet* is a collection of sites which allow users to share ideas with many readers. Like a library, it provides topic-specific information for anyone to access. Unlike a library, anyone can be an author and post information. *Usenet* is like a community forum where many readers can share and exchange ideas with many writers. Each forum on *usenet* is called a *newsgroup*. One of the principal gay and lesbian newsgroups is *soc.motss*, where *motss* stands for *members of the same sex*. *Soc.motss*, like all of *usenet*, is international, and has an estimated 100,000 readers, although only a few hundred people post. Two regional *motss* newsgroups exist: *pa.motss* for all of Pennsylvania, and *pgh.motss* for Pittsburgh. The *motss* groups are primarily social, although news about marriage rights is often posted there.

Similar to *usenet* is *alt.net*. *Alt.net* has less stringent rules about what forums exist than *usenet*, although this distinc-

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**Belated Thank Yous**

**THANK YOU** to Stacey Eisner and Pat Liddy for organizing our successful fund-raiser on December 10. *You are wonderful!* Thanks also to 239 Atwood Street for hosting the fund-raiser. Special thanks to the Inn on the Mexican War Streets and everyone else who donated prizes for our fund-raiser, and COPA for their participation in the event.

Thank you to the *Lambda Foundation* for their generous grant for our newsletter! Thank you to Terry McIntyre and Duane Williams for their generous gifts.

Thank you to Chris Biancheria and
Electronic Activism

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tion is irrelevant to the casual user.
Alt.politics.homosexuality is the forum
on altnet where the politics surrounding
the marriage issue is discussed.

To read altnet and usenet, you need
newsreading software like newswatcher,
or an integrated world wide web browser
like netscape.

Electronic mail, or e-mail, is a more
personal way to exchange information
about the issue of marriage for same-sex
couples. By subscribing to a mailing list,
many writers can exchange information
with many readers, similar to a
newsgroup. However, unlike a
newsgroup, messages sent to a mailing list
are not as public and can only be seen
by other people on that mailing list.
Numerous gay rights mailing lists exist,
and several discuss the issue of marriage
for same-sex couples. First and foremost
is the marriage mailing list. Two
other lists, queerlaw and queerpolitics
also discuss marriage, but discuss other
topics as well.

Membership on mailing lists can be
controlled, and users who violate the eti-
quette of the list can be removed, unlike
a newsgroup. Most mailing lists only
have several hundred subscribers. You
subscribe to the marriage list, queerlaw
or queerpolitics, or any mailing list, by
sending an e-mail message to an auto-
mated program called majordomo. The
address of the majordomo server for
these three lists is majordomo@qrd.org.
Each of these lists has several hundred mail
messages each week. Lists with a
smaller volume of mail that is filtered
to be topic specific exist for the three
lists, and an example of how to sub-
scribe to those is provided below.

The last major set of resources for
same-sex marriage are private web sites.
Like either mailing lists or newsgroups,
large numbers of people can read a site
on the world wide web (or www for short).
Unlike newsgroups or mailing lists,
only one person or a small group of
people maintain what is available at
any site. A web browser like netscape
is necessary to view websites. The West-
ern Pennsylvania Freedom to Marry
Coalition maintains a website and links
to other marriage information. Our ad-
dress is http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/
user/scotts/ftp/wpaf2mc. Type this in
for the location, and begin to surf the
net.

To: majordomo@qrd.org
From: user@telerama.lm.com
Subject:
——

subscribe marriage-edit user@telerama.lm.com
subscribe queerlaw user@telerama.lm.com

Example: How to subscribe to two mailing lists

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http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/user/scotts/wpaf2mc

Edited by Scott Safier

Western PA Freedom
to Marry Coalition
Homepage

http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/user/scotts/ftp/wpaf2mc is the address on
the world wide web for the Western PA Free-
dom to Marry Coalition. This site pro-
vides a large number of resources to the
marriage activist, and chronicles the his-
tory of the freedom to marry in Penn-
sylvania. The page links to the other PA
Freedom to Marry Coalitions, which
also have homepages, as well as the
National Freedom to Marry Coalition
homepage.

Other resources include the transcripts
of the state house debate on PA’s recently
enacted anti-marriage law, and the US
House of Representative’s and US
Senate’s debate on the Defense of Mar-
riage Act.

For a historical religious view of mar-
riage, John Boswell’s translation of The
Passion of Saints Serge and Baccus is
linked to the page.

Of course, a user can also access in-
formation about the coalition, including
organizational members of the coalition,
all our newsletters and all our brochures.

The next time you are cruising the
internet, stop by our site!

Important Dates

February 11 Coalition meeting and
rally preparation: Gay and Lesbian
Community Center, Forward Ave,
Squirrel Hill 7PM

February 14 RALLY for the Freedom
to Marry, 5PM State Office Building,
300 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh

February 27 Lecture: Same-Sex Mar-
riage from the Jewish Perspective, fea-
turing Rabbi James Gibson. Carnegie
Mellon University 7:30 PM (call
cmuOUT at 268-8794 for more info)

March 11 Coalition Meeting, Gay and
Lesbian Community Center, Forward
Ave, Squirrel Hill 7PM