



ISSUE #20

MAY 88

Newsletter

THIRD ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

The P.W.A. Coalition is holding its Third Annual Walk-A-Thon on Sunday, June 26th., around the Sea Wall.

Registration will begin at 10:30 AM, in front of the English Bay Bath House. We will begin our walk at 11 AM, walking clockwise around Stanley Park and finishing at Devonian Park. This is a 10 km. walk, and the idea is to get your friends to sponsor you per km. Beg them if you have to!

Please call the P.W.A. Coalition office at 683-3381 for pledge sheets and advance registration. Let's all get out there and show our stuff!

WALK-A-THON

SUNDAY JUNE 26

REGISTRATION 10:30AM

WALK BEGINS AT 11 AM

FROM ENGLISH BAY BATH "

HOUSE.

10-KM. WALK

TO RAISE FUNDS

FOR THE VANCOUVER

PERSONS WITH AIDS

COALITION.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: report by Warren J.

The Finance Committee presented the budget for 88/89 to the Board of Directors at its meeting April 18th.

This budget, much increased from last year, was approved by the Board. This budget is contingent upon receipt of operational funds from the Federal Government (proposal submitted December 15, 1987) and from the City of Vancouver (proposal submitted April 20, 1988).

In addition, we have set a fundraising target of 109,000 dollars for ourselves. We hope to meet and exceed this target in 1988.

The Walkathon, in June, and Starry Night, in November, sponsored by the Arts Club Theatre, are our major fundraising events each year.

The balance of the fundraising target comes from the community.

I want to thank those individuals and organizations who raise money on our behalf. Without them, our programs and activities would be sharply reduced. Many donations come in from individuals, for which we are grateful. Thank you to all our community for keeping us in your minds and hearts!

The committee also made a presentation to the Finance Committee of the Vancouver City Council, on April 15th., to request free use of the Orpheum Theatre for our November fundraiser, STARRY NIGHT III, in conjunction with the Arts Club and the actor community. No decision was made at that meeting. The City Council as a whole will take a decision at its next meeting. I hope it will be in our favor.

With the Orpheum, the talents of producer David Harrison, and our Vancouver entertainers, we can expect a benefit show to remember!

Fuel tax/ICBC rebates

PWA/ARCs who are considered handicapped can apply for a refund of the full amount of the provincial gasoline tax (approx. 10¢/litre) paid on purchase of fuel. If you still have them, you can submit receipts for purchases from the time you became handicapped. A doctor's letter or proof that you receive the provincial handicapped pension (GAIN) will be required to apply. To get the rebate application form and information bulletin, write to the "Ministry of Finance and Consumer Relations, Fuel and Tobacco Tax Section, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 2L9" or phone them at 660-4524. Once your eligibility for a fuel tax rebate has been established, you can use this to request a rebate on your car insurance from ICBC. A doctor's letter would also constitute proof for ICBC. Even if you have already paid this year's car insurance premiums, you could apply for a rebate of 25%.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: report by Kevin B.

AZT update: the Coalition is playing a "wait and see" game, at present, in its battle to halt the Health Ministry's policy to bill PWAs for AZT. We have phoned and written to every person or organization who could possibly help us. We are encouraged that so many allies are lobbying strenuously on our behalf. B,C. Civil Liberties has stated that if the Health Ministry does not change its billing policy, it would be willing to launch a court case against the Ministry. We will keep our fingers crossed - the next move is up to the B.C., Health Ministry!

The Living Faces of AIDS: the Coalition is working on a photographic essay called "The Living Faces of AIDS". The exhibition of 11X14 portrait photographs will be taken, by our delegates, to the Canadian Conference on AIDS being held May 15-18 in Toronto.

It is our hope that these portraits will be a silent statement to those PWAs who are alive and fighting. We are confident that the "Living Faces of AIDS" will have a profound impact on all the delegates from across Canada attending the conference. Our message: that we, who are living with AIDS, are still waiting for positive action to be taken, especially by the Federal Government, to help us in our struggle for survival.

There is still an opportunity for PWAs to get involved in this project. Phone the office (683-3381) and ask Jackie to sign you up for a photo session.

Phones in St. Paul's Hospital? The Advocacy Committee is working on a project to get phones into the private rooms on 7-A, 7-B, 8-A and 8-B. There are several difficulties yet to overcome but we will keep you posted on our progress. Wouldn't it be nice to make a phone call from the comfort of your own hospital bed instead of that trek to the public pay phone? Keep your fingers crossed for us.

New Therapy Update Book arrives in the office. Our networking contacts in the U.S. have sent the Coalition a special issue of the "C.D.C. AIDS WEEKLY", which contains a complete therapy update of all antiviral and immunomodulators being looked at world wide. The 68-page document makes fascinating reading. Come into our office and check it out - it's available in the Library!

Haircuts available at \$6. for Coalition members. Call Terry: 687-6551.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: report by Benoit L.

17 Coalition members participated in our last retreat, March 28-31. Some activities had been planned, but participants also enjoyed free time to relax or get to know each other. We're already looking for a location for our summer retreat. Suggestions? We'll keep you posted on that.

We're expecting guests from the Seattle AIDS Support Group, on the first weekend of June. Meetings and social activities are being planned. We still need hosts to billet our guests for a few nights. Call the office: 683-3381.

Consult this newsletter to know about activities organized by the Program Committee: support group meetings, healing circle, Tai Chi, potluck dinners, excursions, etc... The Program Committee meets every Wednesday at 11 AM, at the PWA office. You're welcome to attend. For more information, call the office and talk to someone in the Program Committee.

The Coalition is looking for a volunteer with good writing skills and organizational abilities, familiar with health (physical and psychological) issues relating to AIDS, to help produce a "Survival Manual" for the newly diagnosed. The basic material has been written, but more work is needed before it is ready for publication. Interested parties should contact Steve at the office, or at home (682-0740).

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! COME AND JOIN THE FRIENDLY OFFICE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS!!!

The next volunteer training workshop will be held at the office (1170 Bute St.), Saturday May 21st. from 2 PM till 5 PM. Members must take the volunteer training before working in the office. Volunteering consists of answering the phone, helping with office projects and peer counselling. Phone us and sign up for that workshop!!

LEARN TAI CHI WITH US THIS SUMMER

TAI CHI classes will start May 19th. for Coalition members and friends. Classes will be held every Thursday evening, from 7:30 till 8:30, in a private apartment (or on outside patio if weather permits). Phone the PWA office to sign up (it's free) and find out about exact location.

TAI CHI is an ancient chinese technique of "meditation in motion". It's a gentle exercise that helps balance the energy through the body. We used to have TAI CHI classes at the Coalition, until a year ago. Now, Pei Lim has volunteered again to start a new group. Please use this opportunity. Join us!

NEXT POT LUCK DINNER: MAY 21st.

Our first pot luck dinner, in April, was a success: over 15 people showed up for an evening of food and fun. The next one is for May 21st., a Saturday, and it starts at 6PM. Put it on your calendar and call the office to sign up and get the address.

Remember: pot luck dinners are held every 3rd. Saturday of each month. Volunteers are needed as future location hosts.

HARRISON HOT SPRINGS: JUNE 12th.

We're planning a one-day excursion to Harrison Hot Springs (2-hour drive from Vancouver) on Sunday June 12th. Transportation will be provided. Free. You bring your own lunch, and we bring you back in time for dinner. Interested? Leave your name at the office.

Come enjoy the hot springs. Don't forget your bathing suit!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our DROP-IN CENTER is open every weekday afternoon from 1 till 5, and now every Wednesday night from 7 till 9. You're welcome to drop in for coffee, to check our library or have a look at the numerous publications we receive.

UPDATE ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We wish to remind Coalition members that they can apply for funds to cover the costs of products or services that you feel can help maintain or improve your health.

Since the money we give out has been fundraised in the community, we have set rules, which follow:

- 1-Health-related financial assistance is available only to full members of the Coalition.
- 2-Assistance is available only for health-related products or services not covered by government or private agencies and programs.
- 3-Financial assistance will provide up to \$200. per calendar month per person, up to a maximum of \$1,000. per year. Year starts at the date a first request is approved. Requests in excess of the yearly limit will be considered individually by the Program Committee, and/or the Board of Directors.
- 4-Official receipts from previous requests must be turned in before any new request can be considered. Receipts must be for the purchase of item or service requested (no substitute) and must add up to money issued. Receipts must comprise a detailed and itemized list of purchased items, which list must be provided by the supplier. People must apply for exact amount needed. The Program Committee may review irregularities in regard to the above criteria.
- 5-The Program Committee will keep a list of eligible and non-eligible expenses. The Committee will allow the project coordinator to process requests and issue cheques for eligible expenses falling within the established guidelines. Requests for items or services falling in a grey zone, or that are questionable, as well as requests from members who have not met all conditions included in the present policy, will be brought to the Program Committee for discussion and approval or refusal.

As of April 21st.: the following are considered eligible expenses, and are therefore covered by financial assistance: vitamins, herbs and supplements; AL-721; massage therapy; shiatsu (acupressure); naturopathy; homeopathy; meditation workshops; visualization workshops; stress reduction and relaxation workshops; TV sets rentals in hospitals; acupuncture.

Other requests will be considered by the Program Committee.

AIDS Vancouver, in cooperation with the Vancouver PWA Coalition and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, will host:

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

To remember those who have died

to support those who live with AIDS

and to recognize those who care.

You're invited to attend the Vigil on Monday, May 30th./88, at 9 PM,
at Cathedral Square (corner of Dunsmuir & Richards). Candles provided.

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REMEMBER THEM, AND BE REMEMBERED...

It's larger than two football fields.
It weighs more than 8,000 pounds.
And it's growing every day.

This summer, the NAMES PROJECT QUILT will be on display in Seattle,
July 23rd. and 24th.

Panels will be accepted at the Seattle sight, along with any letters and photos accompanying the panel. These contributions will be added to the quilt and taken to Washington, D.C., to be part of a demonstration, next October.

For information on size, material, etc... of the panels, contact Jackie at the office (683-3381).

AIDS Vancouver is arranging a field trip to Seattle to view the QUILT PROJECT. If you are interested in coming along on this trip, please call Ken Mann at AIDS Vancouver (687-2437).

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the PROJECT, write to: "Names Project", 2326 Market St., San Francisco, California 94114.

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Wheatgrass juicer for sale. Call Lim at 685-8992.

ONGOING EVENTS

CHANGE OF LOCATION for TUESDAY NIGHT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS:

Starting May 3rd, the support group meetings will be held in our drop-in center (PWA office), 1170 Bute St.

Day and time remain the same: it's every Tuesday night, from 7:30 till 8:30. Those meetings are open to PWA/ARCs only, and they are facilitated by PWA/ARCs.

Discussion surrounds concerns held by the group at the time of the meeting. There is no specific topic, just a chance to talk in a comfortable atmosphere.

HEALING CIRCLE:

Every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, in Room 113 (Main Floor) of the Cornox Building, 1056 Comox, at St. Paul's Hospital.

This one hour comprises two visualisations and hands-on work. A time for relaxation, healing and getting centered.

After about two years as leader of the Healing Circle, Robert McQueen is leaving us. He is currently playing in "Party of One", at the Comedy Club, and will move to Toronto next winter to be on the cast of the canadian production of "Les miserables". We, at the Coalition, congratulate you, Robert, and thank you for your contribution to the Healing Circle.

A Coalition member will lead the Circle for the summer months.

NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETINGS will be held **MONDAY MAY 2nd.** and **MONDAY JUNE 6th.** at 11:30 AM, at the PWA office.

All members are invited to attend. The four committee chairpersons will give an update and answer questions about each committee's work. Also, an update on the activities of the Board of Directors. Members will be informed and asked to give their input on issues currently being dealt with. We see the monthly members' meetings as an occasion for members to get information and voice their suggestions on the Coalition's projects, activities and services.

DEADLINE for NEWSLETTER is the 20th. of each month. Please bring in articles, information and announcements you'd like to see published.

In NEXT MONTH ISSUE: Report from the Canadian Conference on AIDS, May 15-18 in Toronto. The Coalition is sending 4 delegates to that Conference, thanks to the financial help from the Canadian AIDS Society.