



"Ruthann Tucker, Marc Mertens, Al
Zwiers, Linda Garnet"



"Theresa Aspol & Glenn Saunders"
See the new faces report inside

BOARD REPORT

The purpose of this Report from the Board is to provide members with an overview of events at the November 1st Annual General Meeting.

I would first like to welcome the new and incumbent members who were elected to the Board. They include Nicole Sawka, David Hillman, Andrew Pringle, Nancy Panagabko, Gabriel Guenette, Colin Stephenson and Howard Williams. They join existing members Bob Milne (Treasurer), Wally Hiebert (Vice-Chair), Ingrid Olson (Secretary), Norman Brulotté, Jim Aalten and myself, Ted Matthews (Chair). I would also like to thank those Board members, who chose not to run, including Darlene Taylor and Kelli Stajduhar.

Most of the discussion at the AGM focused on the three proposed Special Resolutions. Special Resolutions require the support of 75% of members voting at the meeting in order to pass.

Special Resolution #1 read: *To create a new class of non-voting membership, to be known as associate membership, for employees of the Society and to restrict employees to being associate members.*

While 74% of voting members supported this motion, it did not receive the 75% required to pass. The discussion surrounding the role of staff voting at Annual General Meetings may therefore arise at a future time.

Special Resolution #2 read: *To have the Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society elected by the directors from amongst themselves, rather than being elected by the members at large at the annual general meetings.*

This motion passed with a large majority.

Special Resolution #3 read: *To remove any reference to the PWA caucus from the bylaws and to permit the Victoria PWA Society to appoint one director to the board of the Society.*

Wally Hiebert, Chair of the PWA Caucus proposed this motion. He pointed out that few members participate in the Caucus, and that it should not duplicate the functions of the Victoria PWA Society.

The motion passed with a large majority.

So much has changed at AVI over the past year. We have recently recruited new staff including Linda Garnet, Coordinator Communications & Resource Development, Theresa Aspol, Coordinator Volunteer Services, Al Zwiers, Coordinator Education Services, Glenn Saunders, Client Services Worker and Marc Mertens, Gay Community Outreach Worker. These folks build on the commitment of our longer-term staff and provide another opportunity to introduce new ideas, skills, knowledge and experience. I am absolutely delighted with the energy and professionalism they bring and encourage any of you who have not met them to give them a call to share your ideas with them.

Finally, our next steps on the Board include:

- Conducting a Board Orientation and Planning session
- Establishing and confirming the agency's priorities, and
- Setting Committee tasks and timelines

If you are interested in participating in the work of AVI, please contact Theresa, our Volunteer Coordinator at 384-2366, Ruthann Tucker, Executive Director, me, or any member of the Board of Directors. All the best, and we are looking forward to consolidating the principles of partnership, accountability and communication which have guided us over the past year.

Ted Matthews - Chair, Board of Directors

 **AIDS
Vancouver
Island**

AIDS Vancouver Island

shall confront

Acquired

Immuno-Deficiency

Syndrome,

prevent its spread

through education,

*support all those
infected and affected*

by the disease,

and advocate

on their behalf.



THE NEW FACES AT AVI

Over the last few months we have had a number of new people join the staff team at all three sites of AIDS Vancouver Island. I am very pleased to welcome all of the staff and new and returning volunteers to our agency and look forward to the work we will be doing together over the next year. With all the changes which have taken place at the agency many of our readers dropping by or accessing services will be running into a lot of new faces - both internal to AVI, but also with our partners at VARCS & VPWA and our new volunteers.

While Ted has taken the opportunity to report on the results of the AGM and our new Directors I thought that I would take this opportunity to introduce some of the new staff to you.

AVI's new Volunteer Coordinator, **Theresa Aspol**, brings with her extensive experience in the sector of non-profit volunteer management. Most recently Theresa was working with Volunteer Victoria on the Volunteer Access Project - identifying/integrating new Canadians as volunteers within the non-profit community. In addition to that work Theresa has coordinated volunteers for the Edmonton Fringe Festival - a very successful theatre extravaganza known for showcasing some of Canada's leading alternative playwrights. Theresa's skills and knowledge on volunteer management will be of great benefit, not only to AVI, but also to the Centre as we move towards the reality of integrated volunteer coordination at the Centre. Theresa started working with the agency on October 14th.

With Peter MacDougall moving on to graduate studies at McGill University in Montreal, AVI is very lucky to have **Al Zwiars** join the Education team as the Coordinator of Education Services. Al holds his Masters in Social Work and has been working for the AIDS Committee of Ottawa for the last two years within the Support and Volunteer areas. In addition to the work at ACO Al has been

involved with providing services to youth who are street involved and at risk within the Ottawa area. Al's insight into prevention education and training skills will be of great benefit to the education program. Now if we can only find him a desk where his (very long) legs will fit under... we are working on this Al I promise.

The changes to Education Services staff continues with the addition of **Marc Mertens** as our new Gay Community Outreach Worker. Marc's knowledge of the gay and lesbian communities on the Island will be of great benefit to the Men's Outreach Program. Marc is the editor and publisher of *The Point!* Vancouver Island's gay and lesbian newspaper. Through his work with *The Point* Marc brings a very thorough understanding of MSM social networks as well as an understanding of what rural life is like for gay and bisexual men. In addition to his work at the point Marc was one of the founding members of YouthCo - an agency dedicated to providing HIV/AIDS services and programs to positive youth in the Vancouver area.

Street Outreach Services both in Victoria and the Cowichan Valley have hired a number of new casuals to the team. New staff include, **Cheri Pilotte, Alan Cummings, Margot Izard, and Tracey Poirier.** **Chris Schmidt**, a regular casual in the 1220 Commercial Alley site, has been appointed to the part-time weekend position. SOS is fortunate to have Chris' experience in mental health services as well as addiction services for more hours each week.

Linda Garnet joins the Resource Development and Communications department as the Coordinator. Linda will be guiding our fundraising initiatives over the next period taking over from Erik Ages who has gone on to create his own company Casper Communications. Linda has been involved in the resource development field for a number of years including working with

Greater Victoria Citizen Advocacy, I.D. Crisis and Information Line as well as the Canadian Mental Health Association. Linda is currently the Vice-President of the Vancouver Island Association of Fundraisers. Linda will be managing AVI's portfolio of fundraising events as well as assisting the agency to diversify in these areas.

Client Services in Victoria is also very fortunate to have **Glenn Saunders** join the team. Glenn brings many years experience working within the HIV/AIDS movement including Coordinator of Support for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, as well as working for ten years as a Financial Aid Worker in the downtown eastside of Vancouver.

Carolyn Pickett, Support Worker in Nanaimo, has been confirmed in this position as a regular employee. Carolyn has been working in this position on a temporary basis. While this does not represent a change to the staff complement it does acknowledge Carolyn's tremendous work with Regional and Remote Services. In addition, I would also like to thank **Guy Tohana** for his work as the Island Outreach Education Worker. Guy has been filling in as a relief employee to cover a leave of absence.

I would also like to thank the staff who have worked so very diligently while these transitions were completed. Building on our existing strengths within the pool of staff the new team at AVI is ready, willing and able to meet the challenges in addressing the changes to HIV/AIDS and the impact on our communities.

I would encourage you to drop in and introduce yourself to our staff team who are always please to meet the membership of the agency. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 384-2666 or 1-800-665-2437.

- Ruthann Tucker, Executive Director

The photos for Linda, Al, Theresa, Glenn and Marc appear on the front cover.

9:00pm at SC

6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre



AIDS Vancouver Island

NOVEMBER 1997

DIRECTORY

**AIDS HELP LINE
(VICTORIA)**
384-4554

TOLL-FREE HELP LINE
1-800-665-2437

**ADMINISTRATION
EDUCATION
SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORT SERVICES
VOLUNTEERS**
Tel: 384-2366
Fax: 380-9411

STREET OUTREACH
1220 Commercial Alley
Tel: 384-1345

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(NANAIMO)**
Tel: 753-2437
Fax: 753-4595

AVI WEBSITE
<http://www.avi.org>
E-Mail: info@avi.org

LOCATION OF EVENTS

Events, unless indicated otherwise, occur at AVI's main office
304 - 733 Johnson Street.

M	T	W	T	F	S/S
					1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8 9
	Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre		Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	
10	11	12	13	14	15 16
	Remembrance Day Office Closed	Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre		Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	
17	18	19	20	21	22 23
	AVI Board meeting 6:00pm at The Centre Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	AIDS 101 6-8pm Training Rm. (call Jim Wilton) Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre		Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	
24	25	26	27	28	29 30
	Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre		Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	

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BOOK REVIEW

The 'Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs and Passages of Life' by Michelangelo Signorile (1997). You'll either love or hate this book but you will not be bored by it! Signorile has divided his book into two parts: *Life Inside* deals with the 'cult of masculinity' - *Life Outside* talks about the de-urbanization of homosexuality, postmodern monogamy, and the 'death of the lonely old queen'.

Signorile paints a picture of the quest for the body beautiful, the exclusionary nature of the Cult of the macho male, and the high costs involved both for those who can achieve this ideal and for those who cannot. He portrays the Cult as a doctrinaire religion with gyms as its temples, sex clubs its shrines, drugs its holy communion, and the music men its gods.

The rigid conformity that is being demanded by the new elite of the gay urban scene to look and be a certain way disturbs Signorile. To begin with there are the risks connected with heavy steroid use that involve liver and kidney disease but can also cause one to have 'bitch tits' and wizened testicles, not to mention 'roid rage'. Then, there is the problem of low self-esteem when one is judged by externals only. And finally, the grand-daddy of them all, there is the re-emergence of unsafe sexual behaviour that goes with hot bodies, partying, drugs like GHB and Ecstasy and low self-esteem coupled with a false sense of security brought about by new AIDS treatments. In light of this, it is rather ironic that the focus of health and vitality arose largely out of legitimate concerns about the wasting brought about by AIDS.

The second half of the book is about the diversity of gay life in the 90's, the fact that there are many more choices available in terms of relationships, where one lives or works, how politically active one is or is not, and how avant garde or traditional one chooses to be - all of which has happened due to the political activism of the post-Stonewall era.

In his section on Postmodern Monogamy, Signorile outlines the merits and problems of various forms of monogamy. He notes that there is division in the gay community between those who seek the more fun-loving urban scene and those who yearn for the bucolic (and, dare I say it, heterosexual) pleasures of suburbia and small towns.

In closing, Signorile looks to a promising future for the gay community with continued political gains and higher visibility that will make it easier for the very young to find their way. In order to achieve this, some may have to work around the dictates of the very beautiful - they may also have to learn ways to negotiate safer sex (both of which are covered in the book). In his review, Harlon Davey speaks of a "kinder and gentler new gay age". Amen.

- Caryl Peters

RETREAT REPORT

It happened a few weeks ago and for those of you who missed Victoria Persons with AIDS Society (VPWA) retreat on Bowen Island, really missed out on something special.

From transportation, food and lodging to beautifully sunny days and ocean front views

I couldn't help but melt into a puddle of relaxation.

Tucked away on 3.5 acres, our small group of 20 some people enjoyed 5 minute walks to the marine village, hot tub talks and fireside conversations that dwindled into the early morning hours.

For 5 days many activities including shuffleboard, badminton and crib not to mention catching up on some much needed sleep.

Personally I had a great time, although it followed in the wake of Princess Diana's death, look forward to it again.

Pictures of the retreat will be at the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre for anyone wishing to see, as well as photos of Princess Diana when she was in Nanaimo in 1986.

A big Thank You to VPWA and Jim who was our contact man on the trip.

- David B.

GARDENER'S CORNER

Sometimes Christmas comes early. Here at the Centre the Ministry of Forests donated seedlings for the courtyard. It was a fun trip out to Arbutus Nursery - the help was great and the selection of seedlings was fantastic. Although at a baby stage, like the Centre they will grow and in turn provide a more comfortable courtyard for people making a stop at the Centre.

Humour - Did you know changing mufflers is exhausting?

- David B.

THE UPDATE

The Update is published monthly as a service to members. One-year subscriptions are available for \$15.00. Typed submissions and letters to the Editor are welcome. AVI #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7, or via EMAIL at update@avi.org. The Update will print no sexist, racist or homophobic copy and will cover issues and events from perspectives which will initiate positive change in the work done by and for AIDS Vancouver Island. The appearance of any advertisements, treatment information or letters to the editor do not imply endorsement by AIDS Vancouver Island. Submissions may be edited for conciseness and grammatical correctness. AIDS Vancouver Island will not be responsible for errors or omissions.

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