

## **Gay Group in A.P.A. Urges Psychologists To Become Political Activists**

The *Division 44 Newsletter*, (Spring, 2004) published by the American Psychological Association's Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues, urged gay psychologists to become activists in supporting gay marriage and domestic partnerships.

Judith Glassgold, the president of Division 44, also urged gay psychologists to oppose any attempts by conservative groups to de-fund sexual orientation or sexuality studies conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

In her editorial, Glassgold says that Division 44 has contacted the APA's Public Policy office to urge them to lobby against President Bush's Defense of Marriage Amendment. In addition, she has encouraged gay psychologists to build allies inside the APA and also with outside gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgendered communities.

She noted that Division 44 is building relationships with Division 19, the Military Psychology section of the APA in order to "oppose unfair and discriminatory policies together."

Dr. Glassgold also observed that the Executive Committee's meeting in Chicago (March, 2004) was to be devoted to a discussion of military issues, family protections and rights, as well as transgender issues.

### **Transsexual Psychologist Urges Change In DSM**

In a separate article in the *Division 44 Newsletter*, a male-to-female transsexual doctor, writing under a pen name, expressed his hope that someday the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual would be changed to normalize transsexualism.

Madeline H. Wyndzen states: "As a psychologist and transsexual, I find that the mental illness label imposed on transsexuality is just as disquieting as the label that used to be imposed upon homosexuality." He said he looked forward to the day when his children will think that it was "unfathomable that I was once diagnosed and treated for 'Gender Identity Disorder.'"

### **Heterosexuality "No Longer Normative"**

Division 44 head Dr. Glassgold wrote a second essay in the newsletter which dealt with the use of psychoanalysis and other philosophies to "reformulate" psychoanalysis and reorder society's view of reality.

According to Glassgold, "Psychoanalysis has evolved and modern psychoanalysis no longer sees heterosexuality as normative and no longer views sexual and gender varieties as pathological; as a result, psychoanalysis and LGBT psychology do not have to be at odds, and can actually be allies."

Glassgold says that psychoanalysis, united with postmodernism and social constructionism, "provides very powerful theories to understand reality; however this potential has yet to be fully realized."

She continues, "Social change as well as new and fluid models of gender and sexuality can evolve from psychoanalytic understanding. Some of the strengths of modern psychoanalysis are its rejection of predetermined goals, its embracing of psychic creativity, and respect for an individual's agency in self-realization." ■