



# Frontlines

NEWS FROM OUTFRONT MINNESOTA

## MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT OUTFRONT

New membership drive will boost political clout

There's not only safety in numbers. There's strength. That's why OutFront Minnesota is launching a new campaign to become a membership organization, representing the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied community across Minnesota.

"Legislators often ask our lobbyist how many people OutFront represents," says OutFront

**Development Director Gregg White. "And they don't just mean, how many GLBT people are there in Minnesota—which of course, is impossible to estimate. Lawmakers want to know how many people care enough to give money and show support for GLBT civil rights."**

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For as little as \$35, individuals can receive all the prerogatives of OutFront membership while strengthening and supporting OutFront's work in places ranging from the state capitol to rural communities.

Year-long household memberships are available for \$50; student memberships are \$20; and a special low-income rate is also available.

### Clout and Out

Although 34 percent of OutFront's \$507,000 budget in 1998 came from donations, fewer than 800 donors helped raise that financial support last year. By creating affordable member-

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



University of Minnesota GLBT Programs Office Director Beth Zemsky (left) was among those who addressed the OutFront 5 conference; at right, Miss Richfield 1981 pals around with OutFront Minnesota Executive Director Ann DeGroot at the Willmar conference.

## OUTFRONT 5 BRINGS TOGETHER 127

Next year's conference set for Rochester

In March, OutFront Minnesota held its annual statewide conference in Willmar; the OutFront 5 conference was a great success bringing together 127 GLBT and allied individuals. The conference provided important education to the local community as well: The West Central Tribune carried a front-page story on the conference in which two local community members discussed their experiences living and working as gay- and lesbian-identified people in Willmar. Acting Mayor Verna Kelley officially welcomed the

group to Willmar on Saturday morning, and local radio stations carried stories about the conference.

On Friday evening the conference began with a look at the multi-issue organizing that is the GLBT movement, a presentation called "Chronicles of a Movement." Other highlights included two powerful keynote presentations, 17 workshops, a media training, and regional planning sessions.

Plan now to attend next year's conference in Rochester, on March 17, 18 and 19, 2000.

# ANSWERS AT THE READY

## OutFront's 24-hour InfoLine can take your questions

A suburban teen calls at 2 a.m., looking for advice on coming out. The 10:35 call is a parent, looking for information on transgender issues for her child, while the call five minutes later is a visitor seeking the nearest women's bookstore. And the 4 o'clock call on Friday afternoon is a pair of newcomers, looking for gay-friendly places to visit.

Where do they call? OutFront Minnesota's InfoLine, the only statewide service that can provide quick, easy voice-automated information for all these callers and more. In development for the past year, the InfoLine has been updated and extensively expanded to include information on gyms and GLBT legal services, coffee houses and counseling services, Pride celebrations and PFLAG meetings.

"In just the last three months of 1998," says OutFront Executive Director Ann DeGroot, "We received more than 13,000 calls. Many of those folks were seeking basic information about our community. Those calls are best served by the InfoLine."

### A wealth of information

The 24-hour line (612-612-822-0127, ext. 0, or in greater Minnesota, 800-

800-0350, ext. 0), is a confidential, easily navigated guide to Minnesota GLBT resources. Although callers in crisis can opt to be connected with specially trained, GLBT-friendly counselors, most people using the InfoLine bypass this option to access the following automated options:

- **A listing of OutFront staff members and services**, including its Anti-Violence, Public Policy, Legal, Development, Volunteer, and Community Organizing and Education programs;

- **Visitor information**, ranging from selected restaurant and hotel listings to suggestions for sightseeing in Minneapolis and St. Paul;

- **Coming-out and support resources**.

From gay men's Alcoholics Anonymous groups to the University of Minnesota's Program in Human Sexuality and Chrysalis Center for Women, a thorough roster of helpful resources;

- **Youth, college, senior, and family programs**. From education to entertainment, there's a wealth of options for all ages and identities here;

- **Listings of community organiza-**

**tions, special events, well-being resources, and religious groups.** You'll find details on welcoming congregations, HIV/AIDS, national GLBT groups and the local Pride festivals among these listings.

### Confidential access

On average, between 100 and 200 people call the InfoLine each week, according to OutFront Deputy Director Doug Federhart.

"If you're in crisis, there's always the option to speak with someone," Federhart says. "But if you're shy or scared of talking with someone about GLBT issues, you can call and get appropriate pre-recorded answers to your questions. And it's available 24 hours a day."

Individuals seeking additional information about a group or program often have an additional option: a seamless transfer to the direct line of that group.

"It's a wealth of information," says DeGroot, "and we hope people—from parents to visitors to longtime community members—find it useful."



OutFront Minnesota is a not-for profit 501(c)4 lobbying organization supported primarily by contributions from individuals. Donations to OutFront Minnesota are not tax deductible.

OutFront Minnesota Community Services in a not-for-profit 501(c)3 direct service organization supported primarily by funding from the United Way, foundations, and select government contracts as well as some fees for services provided. Donations to OutFront Minnesota Community Services are tax deductible as charitable contributions as allowed under federal law.

OutFront Minnesota's mission is to eliminate heterosexism and homophobia in Minnesota.

### OutFront Minnesota Board of Directors

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FRONTLINES

News from OutFront Minnesota

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# CLIP AND RESPONSE FORM



## OutFront Minnesota Annual Membership:

Individual: \$35

Household: \$50

Low Income and Student: \$20

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Effective Educator Trainings:

St. Paul, May 7 & 8

\$30

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Add \$10 late registration fee after April 29

Duluth, May 21 & 22

\$30

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Add \$10 late registration fee after May 10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_

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## NEWS & NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

area law schools. As a membership association of legal professionals and law students working in and for the GLBT communities, the MLBA recognizes the need for GLBT law students and young attorneys to connect with GLBT legal professionals on a variety of issues. Nearly 60 people attended the event. For more information about the MLBA, call 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 103.

### Gay Travel Fair Comes to Minneapolis

Touting guest houses in Florida and Mediterranean cruise ships, more than 100 exhibitors will be on hand to provide details on vacationing in exotic locations at the IGLTA Travel Fair, to be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, at Calhoun Square in Uptown Minneapolis. This event, which is free and open to the public, is being held in conjunction with the annual

International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association convention in downtown Minneapolis.

### Safe Zone at Gustavus Adolphus

Administrators, students and faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter learned about GLBT issues April 12 during a training by OutFront Community Organizer Scott Fearing and Intern Kami Fisher. The first of the two and a half hour trainings was designed for administration, staff and faculty, the second for student leaders, including advisors from the campus dormitories. Nearly 90 individuals went through the trainings, which were the initial event for the new campus "Safe Zone" program, which raises awareness about the gay community.

### Transgender Minnesotans Meet

In February, OutFront Minnesota staff

and members of the transgender community began a series of meetings organizing transgender people around possible legislative challenges. They also discussed ways in which OutFront Minnesota can advocate more strongly for the transgender community. These meetings are ongoing. For further information, call 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 109.

### Maplewood Examines Human Rights

In early April, the Maplewood Human Relations Commission met with OutFront staff, to plan a training that will be offered to community leaders in June. The purpose of the April meeting was to examine the training agenda, discuss attendees for the training and introduce the entire commission to OutFront and its mission. OutFront Community Organizer Scott Fearing was very pleased with the meeting:

## MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ships, OutFront hopes to cultivate a list of supporters that tops 1,000—and eventually 10,000. “A thousand is a just a place to start,” White says.

Membership also has its privileges. OutFront members will receive *Frontlines*, the organization’s monthly newsletter, as well as a wallet-sized card indicating their membership. The card qualifies members for reduced rates on fees for such OutFront programs as Effective Educator Trainings and the annual spring OutFront conference.

Additionally, those who sign up before Dec. 31, 1999, will receive a 12-month subscription to OUT magazine, valued at \$24. Current OUT subscribers will receive a year-long extension of their subscription.

“We feel that OUT covers our community on national GLBT issues appropriately, and we hope our *Frontlines* newsletter will do the same for local issues,” White says.

The new membership campaign is a sign of OutFront’s continued growth and development in recent years, according to Executive Director Ann

DeGroot. Such groups as the Minnesota Family Council and the Minnesota chapter of the Christian Coalition use their membership rolls to influence the Legislature and the media. The Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are among the national organizations that use their membership numbers to their advantage in discussions of issues impacting the GLBT community.

“Signing up members will be particularly significant to my work at the state legislature,” says OutFront Lobbyist C. Scott Cooper. “Being able to tally up members gives OutFront added political clout.”

But membership will also give contributing Minnesotans a sense that they’ve got a personal investment in an organization that fights for GLBT civil rights. “It’s all part of our new image and stepped up political presence in the state,” DeGroot says. “Now community members can belong to OutFront just as we belong to and respond to the community.”

“Maplewood is to be commended for its thoughtful, proactive action, and its desire to be educated about its GLBT community members.”

### Morris Fills with Pride

University of Minnesota-Morris held its annual Pride Weekend on April 16-18. The three-day celebration included a wide variety of events, including a keynote address by Gender Education Center Director Debra Davis, a showing of the film “My Life in Pink,” informative workshops (including one on internalized homophobia offered by OutFront), and a Saturday night cabaret and drag show.

### Millenium March Meeting Scheduled

OutFront will host a community-

wide town meeting with the national leadership of the Millenium March on Washington at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 13. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Sabathani Center, 310 38th St. E., Minneapolis, and will be an open forum regarding the March, which is scheduled for April 30, 2000.

### Thank you! Thank you!

A huge thank you goes out to the law firm of Johnson, Gulling, Heltzer & Burg for their generous donation of a complete set of the Minnesota Statutes Annotated to OutFront. Having this resource at our immediate disposal is much appreciated by all, especially the Legal, Anti-Violence, Domestic Violence and Public Policy programs. Thanks again!

## INFOLINE

Information from, for, and about Minnesota’s vibrant gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities is available 24 hours a day by calling the

**OutFront Minnesota Infoline**

**612-822-0127, ext. 0**

**(800-800-0350, ext. 0)**



### OutFront Minnesota Services

- 24-Hour Counseling
- Public Policy Program
- Statewide Organizing
- Anti-Violence Program
- Legal Program
- Speakers Bureau

### Visitor Information

- Bars
- Coffeeshouses
- Restaurants
- Stores
- Hotels
- Sightseeing

### Support Services

- Coming-out Support
- Counseling
- Transgender Groups
- Recovery Groups

### Community Activities

- Special Events
- Pride Festivals
- Community Organizations
- Political Activities

### Personal Growth Programs

- Youth Programs
- School Programs
- Senior Programs
- Family Programs

### Physical Health Resources

- Medical Providers
- HIV/AIDS Resources
- STD Clinics
- Same-sex Partnerships

### Congregations

## NEWS &amp; NOTES

**Event Celebrates Fund-Raising Effort**

The Committee for a Legislative Voice (CLV), a community-based fund-raising group formed to support OutFront Minnesota's lobbying efforts, held a Legislative Victory Celebration on Tuesday, April 13, at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Held in conjunction with the Center Circle, OutFront's major donor group, the event celebrated a successful campaign to raise political-lobbying funds for the 1999 legislative session. OutFront Development Director Gregg White told the assembled group of nearly 100 friends and supporters, that 82 percent of the \$30,000 needed to keep a lobbyist for the GLBT and allied communities at the Minnesota Legislature had been raised. "Now we just need 108 more people to make donations of \$50 each to reach our goal," he noted.

**Educator Trainings in St. Paul, Duluth**

Anyone who provides information about GLBT issues, whether to school or church groups, to diversity directors or health providers, is encouraged to attend a 10-hour Effective Educator Training presented by OutFront Minnesota. Upcoming trainings are scheduled to be held in St. Paul on May 7 and 8, and in Duluth on May 21 and 22. Each training runs Friday, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Participants must be able to attend both Friday evening and all day Saturday. Class size is limited. Use the enclosed form to register, or call 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 611.

**Twin Cities Pride Has New Hours**

The 1999 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Twin Cities Pride Festival is the largest free festival in the state. It is estimated that more

than 100,000 people will converge on Loring Park in Minneapolis on June 26 and 27. This year's hours are noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The parade will step off at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Plan to meet your friends or grab a cup of coffee or iced tea at the OutFront Minnesota pavilion. It's easy to find, we're the biggest tent at Pride! We will have a complete coffee house, including places to sit and take a break, a message board for those seeking to leave messages for friends, lots of information about OutFront Minnesota and our services, as well as information about the Millennium March on Washington, the Minnesota Lavender Bar Association and the Workplace Alliance. For Pride celebration updates and the dates of festivals all over the country, call 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 622.

**Out in the Valley Meetings**

The St. Croix Valley GLBT citizen's group, Out in the Valley, meets monthly to socialize and discuss issues of local concern. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, and Wednesday, June 16. For more information call the Out in the Valley information line at 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 502.

**OutFront in Northern Minnesota**

A Grand Rapids GLBT and allied citizens group is forming. For more information contact OutFront's Community Organizer Scott Fearing at 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 111.

**MLBA Hosts Student, Professional Social**

The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA), a project of OutFront's Legal Program, held a social gathering on April 9 for local attorneys and students from three

NEWS & NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## INSIDE OUTFRONT

**It's easy to reach  
OutFront Minnesota:**

**By mail:**

310 E. 38th St., Suite 204  
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1337

**By E-mail:**

OutFront@OutFront.org  
<http://www.pclink.com/OutFront>

**By fax:**

612-822-8786

**By telephone:**

612-822-0127  
(800-800-0350)

**InfoLine - Ext. 0:**

for 24-hour-a-day information from, for, and about Minnesota's vibrant gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community

**OutFront Minnesota staff extensions:**

- 107 - Ann DeGroot Executive Director
- 106 - Doug Federhart Deputy Director
- 103 - Joni Thome Legal Program Coordinator
- 102 - Tommie Seidel Anti-Violence Program Coordinator
- 101 - Sheila Scott Anti-Violence Program Advocate
- 104 - Kathy Lee Volunteer Coordinator
- 111 - Scott Fearing Community Organizer
- 109 - Bart J. Cannon Public Policy Coordinator
- 510 - C. Scott Cooper Legislative Lobbyist
- 110 - Gregg White Development Director
- 108 - Maryann Wolters Business Manager

**Community organization extensions:**

- 500 - Millennium March on Washington
- 501 - Workplace Alliance
- 502 - St. Croix Valley group
- 503 - BECAUSE bisexual group
- 506 - Longfellow neighborhood group

**OutFront Minnesota extensions:**

- 611 - 24-hour OutFront Minnesota event registration
- 612 - 24-hour OutFront Minnesota membership enrollment
- 616 - 24-hour OutFront Minnesota address correction mailbox
- 622 - GLBT community events information



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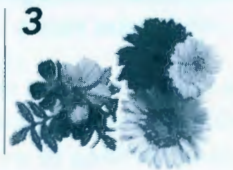
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## Frontlines

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUTFRONT MINNESOTA

### OUTFRONT MINNESOTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mon, May 3, 7 p.m.:** Headwaters Fund Spring Fling, St. Anthony Main Event Center, 612-879-0602  
**Fri & Sat, May 7 & 8:** Effective Educator Training, St. Paul, 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 304  
**Fri-Sun, May 7-9:** Keshet Ga'avah Prairie Lights Sixth Annual Regional Conference of GLBT Jews,  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, 612-374-8638



**Thurs, May 13:** Millennium March on Washington Town Meeting, Sabathani Center, Minneapolis, 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 500  
**Fri-Sun, May 14-16:** International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association annual convention, Regal Hotel, Minneapolis,  
612-379-4697, ext. 306



**Sat, May 15, 1-4 p.m.:** GLBT Travel Fair, Calhoun Square, Minneapolis, 612-379-4697, ext. 306  
**Sat, May 15:** WomenWorks Spring Dance and Beach Party, 612-377-9114  
**Sun, May 16, Noon:** Minnesota AIDS Walk, Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis, 612-373-2411  
**Wed, May 19:** Out in the Valley, St. Croix Valley group, 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 502

**Fri & Sat, May 21 & 22:** Effective Educator Training, Duluth, 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 304  
**Tues, May 25:** GLSEN Twin Cities Graduation Party, 612-729-1575



**Plan ahead:**

**Sat, June 19:** Capital City Pride, Mears Park, St. Paul, 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 622  
**Sat & Sun, June 26 & 27:** Twin Cities' GLBT Pride, Loring Park, Minneapolis, 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 622  
**Sun, April 30, 2000:** Millennium March on Washington, D.C.