



# Frontlines

NEWS FROM OUTFRONT MINNESOTA

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Ann DeGroot

A few months ago, I was interviewing a potential candidate for OutFront Minnesota's board of directors. I was explaining the various programs and projects we carry out, as well as our role in dialogues, across the state, when I noticed a look of surprise on the candidate's face. "Oh my gosh," he said. "I didn't know you did *all* that."

You too may be surprised by what OutFront Minnesota is doing. Our work, from our statewide outreach and education programs to our lobbying at the state capitol, reaches from Minneapolis to Moorhead. Our legal, anti-violence, and public-policy programs are effecting change on behalf of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community every month. Our 24-hour InfoLine serves people who are seeking information

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March 1999, Vol. 9 No. 1

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## OUTFRONT 5 TO CREATE BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Annual conference to focus on media training, social change, and hometown activism across Minnesota

Straight lines may be the staple of most architectural plans, but when activists from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied communities gather next month to draw up a blueprint for GLBT equality in Minnesota, the resulting sketch is likely to be anything but straight.

Nearly 200 activists, community organizers, lawmakers, church leaders, educators, and everyday citizens are expected to participate in the three-day OutFront 5 conference, an annual weekend of workshops, roundtables, and community-development discussions sponsored by OutFront Minnesota. This year's



To register for OutFront 5, please return the registration form included in this newsletter or call OutFront Minnesota's 24-hour automated registration line at 612-822-0127 (800-8000-0350), ext. 611. Or check out the OutFront 5 Web site at <http://www.pclink.com/OutFront>



GLADD's Cathy Renna

conference will take place Friday, March 26, through Sunday, March 28, at the Willmar Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Willmar, Minn.

"People from all over the state attend the conference," says Scott Fearing, the statewide organizer for OutFront Minnesota. "They network, learn from each other, and leave feeling rejuvenated. They go back to Crookston or Grand Rapids or Woodbury with tools that can help them change their communities."

This year's OutFront conference will feature presentations by media expert Cathy Renna, inspirational speaker Tom Hehir, and Berkeley cultural-studies professor Elias Farajajé-Jones. Renna, director of community relations for the Gay and Lesbian

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## LETTER

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about the GLBT community; our speakers bureau and education programs impact hundreds people every year; and our staff regularly collaborates with other organizations to promote the equality of all Minnesotans. And with OutFront Minnesota's mission to eliminate heterosexism and homophobia in Minnesota, that's just the beginning.

If all that comes as a surprise, it won't in the months ahead. *Frontlines*, our newly launched monthly newsletter, which is edited by former *Q Monthly* editor Joel Hoekstra, will keep you informed of OutFront's progress and victories as they happen. We'll keep you posted on past events, including OutFront's Lobby Day at the state capitol (see page 2), as well as such upcoming activities as the weekend-long OutFront 5 conference (see cover story). Let us know what you think—about our work, and about *Frontlines*. (For contact information, check out page 4.) Or better yet, attend an OutFront event. (You'll find a registration form on page 3.)

Still surprised? Just wait till you see the plans OutFront Minnesota is drawing up for 1999 and beyond. Our activism and advocacy on behalf of GLBT people is changing hearts and minds across Minnesota.

Ann DeGroot  
Executive Director  
OutFront Minnesota

## CAPITOL BRIEFING

# LOBBYING LAWMAKERS

## Legislative leaders hear from GLBT community and allies

Legislators got an earful from GLBT constituents during OutFront Minnesota's third-annual Lobby Day, held March 4. More than 200 people from more than 50 districts descended on the state capitol in St. Paul to speak with legislative leaders regarding issues affecting the GLBT community.

"We often hear lawmakers say, 'Why should we care about your community? I never hear from gay people in my district?'" says OutFront public policy coordinator Bart J. Cannon. "It's important to let people know that they have GLBT people in their district."

Constituents attending Lobby Day met with various Senate and House members to talk about issues ranging from gay marriage to transgender healthcare to education and services for GLBT youth. Among the major issues pressed by many participants, Cannon says, was the importance of preserving the 1993 amendment to the state Human Rights Act, which protects GLBT individuals from some forms of discrimination. "Each year," Cannon says, "right-wing lawmakers attempt to chip away at those protections. Part of OutFront's job is to keep people aware of these assaults on our basic human rights."

A widespread network of GLBT-friendly lawmakers and legislative staff members help keep OutFront abreast of changes at the capitol that might affect GLBT individuals. OutFront lobbyist C. Scott



OutFront Minnesota Board Member Robert Sykora (left) confers with Public Policy Program coordinator Bart J. Cannon.

Cooper and executive director Ann DeGroot visit the capitol regularly to meet with legislators regarding legislation and issues affecting the GLBT community. But professional lobbying efforts can only go so far, Cannon says: "Legislators won't take action until they hear from constituents. One of the most powerful parts of Lobby Day is that it gives people the chance to make that personal connection with their representatives. Sometimes, that's exactly what's needed to make a lawmaker change his or her mind."

Likewise, Cannon adds, it's also important to give kudos to legislators who consistently vote yes on GLBT issues or who go out on a limb on a vote affecting the GLBT community. "Legislators need support," he explains. "They need to be told thank you. It's a reminder that we care when they cast their votes."



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 is 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 is published monthly by  
OutFront Minnesota  
310 E. 38th St., Suite 204  
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1337.  
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FRONTLINES  
News from OutFront Minnesota  
Editor: Joel Hoekstra  
Graphic Designer: Kim Dalros

# REGISTRATION FORM

## OutFront 5 conference, March 26, 27, and 28

GLAAD Media Training <u>only</u> **	** Lunch included, ___(check) for vegetarian	\$60*	\$ _____
Conference & Media Training**	** Meals included, ___(check) for vegetarian	\$135*	\$ _____
Conference <u>only</u> **	** Meals included, ___(check) for vegetarian	\$110*	\$ _____
Conference only Low-income Rate**	** Meals included, ___(check) for vegetarian	\$75*	\$ _____

\* Add \$25 late registration fee after March 10

## Effective Educator Training:

St. Cloud, April 9 & 10	\$30	\$ _____
* Add \$10 late registration fee after March 30		
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		

**Committee for a Legislative Voice Victory Celebration, April 13**      \$50 admits 2    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## OutFront Minnesota Membership:

Individual: \$35 • Household: \$50 • Low Income and Student: \$20

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.

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## NEWS & NOTES

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Anti-Violence Report, set to be released at a press conference on March 22. The annual report, compiled by OutFront's Anti-Violence Program, focuses on hate crimes and violence against GLBT individuals and the impact such actions have on the GLBT community. The 1998 report will include valuable resources for addressing and combating hate crimes, local and national statistics on such crimes, information on OutFront's initiatives on hate crimes, and more. Watch this newsletter and local media for more information about the release of this important document.

**MLBA to host social for students, attorneys**  
 The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA) will cosponsor a social gathering of area law students and legal professionals on April 9, from 6 to

11 p.m., at the home of Hamline University law professor Phillip Miner. MLBA, a project of the OutFront Minnesota legal program that brings together legal professionals and law students working in and for the GLBT communities, will host the event with the GLBT law student groups from Hamline, the University of Minnesota, and William Mitchell College of Law. For further information, call OutFront's Legal Program at 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 103.

### Meet Philanthrofund's new director

Community members are invited to join Philanthrofund Foundation supporters at a reception for the organization's new executive director, Kit Waickman. The event will be held Thursday, March 18, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Intermedia Arts (2822 Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis) and

will include a presentation of Philanthrofund's 1999-2000 Strategic Plan at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 612-827-0992.

### Hollywood 12 moves to Sunday

Dust off those tuxes and tiaras! The Oscar night gala returns on Sunday, March 21, to the Orpheum Theatre and Bravo! Event Center in downtown Minneapolis. This annual event benefiting four local AIDS services organizations is the perfect place to mingle with friends and enjoy the Academy Awards broadcast on a movie-sized screen. Plus, you'll find live entertainment, desserts from 50 area restaurants, and the best people-watching this side of Los Angeles. For tickets, call Ticketmaster at 612-989-5151. Tickets \$25-\$100.

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Alliance Against Defamation, will lead off the conference Friday morning with a training on working with the media. Participants will learn how to develop an effective communications strategy, including tips on creating key messages, handling interviews, writing press releases, and cultivating relationships with media professionals.

Hehir, who will provide the Saturday morning keynote address, is principal of Aspire Consulting in San Francisco, Calif. Through his consulting work with major corporations and GLBT organizations, he has witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by GLBT individuals working in organizations. He will speak on navigating organizational obstacles and strengthening individuals and organizations in the GLBT community.

Dr. Farajájé-Jones will present Saturday evening's keynote, focusing on sexual-minority identities and spirituality. An artist and self-described "thea/ologist," Farajájé-Jones teaches at the Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley, Calif.

OutFront 5 will kick off with a full menu of activities on Friday morning—a departure from previous years, notes Fearing, when conference events typically didn't get under way until the evening. In addition to roundtable discussions for various segments of the GLBTA community—including sessions for youth, people of color, rural residents, and straight allies—the day's lineup will include a welcoming reception and dinner, followed by a briefing on GLBT activism happening across the state, presented by OutFront Minnesota.

Other OutFront 5 activities include:

- "Chronicles of a Movement": Reflecting on the rise of GLBT activism in recent decades, Minnesota organizers will offer a

wealth of perspectives and stories on coming out and effecting change.


- Workshop sessions: A variety of discussions and panels on sexuality, education, politics, fundraising and grant writing, health and wellness, legal issues, trans- and bi-activism, gender, the arts, and more.

- Talk with OutFront Minnesota: Learn more about the brand-new organization that is actually 12 years old. OutFront staff and board members will be on hand to answer questions about the organization's mission, strategy, and agenda.

- Community socializing and entertainment: Get to know other GLBTA individuals over a cup of coffee or a cocktail. Or, on Saturday night, trade quips with Miss Richfield and rock out at the community dance.

- Regional breakouts: A chance for citizens from the four corners of Minnesota to meet with other people from their regions and discuss strategies for addressing GLBT issues.

The conference will culminate with the development of a statewide plan for addressing GLBT concerns, based on suggestions that emerge from the regional breakouts. This plan will serve as a blueprint for OutFront and other organizations as they work together to address the needs of the gay community across the state.

Still not convinced you should attend OutFront 5? Fearing says many participants find the most attractive part of attending the conference is the opportunity it provides to rub shoulders with other members of the GLBTA community. "Year after year I hear that people liked the lectures, the panels, and the workshops, but that the most important element was making personal connections," says organizer Fearing. "It's the one-on-one connections that make the difference." 

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
- Coffeehouses
- 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

## NEWS &amp; NOTES

**Educator Trainings scheduled**

If you ended up on the waiting list for the Effective Educator Training offered in February, there's good news: OutFront Minnesota will offer a St. Cloud area training on Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10; a second Twin Cities training on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8; and a training in Duluth on Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22. The trainings provide tips on confronting bigotry and educating others on GLBT issues. The cost for attending the 10-hour Effective Educator Training is \$30, with a late fee of \$10 for registrations received less than 10 days before the session. To register for this event, use the form included in this newsletter or call OutFront's 24-hour automated registration line at 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 611.

**Victory Celebration planned**

The Committee for a Legislative Voice, a community-based fundraising venture formed to support OutFront's legislative lobbying efforts, will hold a Victory Celebration on Tuesday, April 13, to celebrate its successful campaign to raise political-lobbying funds for the 1999. Held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the American Swedish Institute (2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis), the event will feature a special guest speaker, as well as an insiders' update on capitol goings-on by state Sen. Allan Spear, Rep. Karen Clark, and OutFront lobbyist C. Scott Cooper. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Tickets are \$50 and admit two (a great opportunity to bring a friend or family member). CLV members and OutFront's Center Circle members will receive their tickets in the mail approximately two weeks prior to the event.

**OutFront in northern Minnesota**

A Grand Rapids resident contacted OutFront late last year after an area church sponsored a "Halloween Hell House" that included an anti-gay vignette. Following up on the matter with its contacts in northern Minnesota, OutFront helped facilitate several community meetings in which participants identified needs for GLBTA networking, education, and visibility in Grand Rapids. This fledgling group will hold an initial, "by invitation only" meeting later this spring, with the aim of creating several working groups that can address issues facing the area's GLBTA community. For further information, call OutFront statewide organizer Scott Fearing at 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 111.

**River citizens form Out in the Valley**

In September, OutFront held a community meeting to discuss the quality of life for GLBT and allied individuals living in the St. Croix Valley area. More than 60 people attended, and from that evening gathering has sprung Out in the Valley, an organization of GLBT and allied individuals who live in the St. Croix river valley stretching from Taylors Falls to Hastings. The group gathers monthly for social and educational events and is forming working groups to address school and community issues. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, and Wednesday, April 21. For more information, call Out in the Valley at 612-822-0127 (800-800-0350), ext. 502.

**Anti-Violence report set for release**

Violence affecting transgender individuals is the subject of a special segment within OutFront's 1998

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## 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  
OutFront 5 conference Web site  
<http://www.pclink.com/OutFront>

**By fax:**

612-822-8786

**By telephone:**

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

**Ext. 0 - InfoLine:**

for 24-hour a day information from, for, and about Minnesota's vibrant gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, dial ext. 0.

**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 - Amy Krupinski Anti-Violence Program Advocate
- 104 - Kathy Lee Volunteer Coordinator
- 111 - Scott Fearing Statewide 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 - Millenium 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
- 622 - GLBT community events information
- 608 - OutFront 5 Conference information

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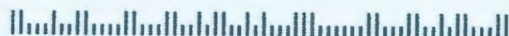


# OUTFRONT MINNESOTA

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## OUTFRONT MINNESOTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# MARCH 1999

- 4 - OutFront Minnesota's GLBT Community Lobby Day: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., state capitol, St. Paul **4**
- 12 - Walker After Hours: 8 p.m.-midnight, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
- 14 - 12 years ago, AIDS activists found ACT UP
-  17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 17 - Out in the Valley meeting, sponsored by St. Croix Valley GLBT group, time and location TBA
- 18 - Philanthrofund's Meet the Executive Director: 4:30-6:30 p.m., Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis
- 21 - Hollywood 12: 6:30 p.m., Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis
- 21-27 - Week of "Equality Begins at Home" campaign activities launched nationwide
- 22 - 1998 Hate Crimes Report press conference, State Office Building, St. Paul
- 26-28 - OutFront 5 conference, Wilmar Convention Center, Willmar



### Plan ahead:

- April 13 - Committee for a Legislative Voice Victory Celebration: 5-8 p.m., American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis
- April 16 - 18 Midwest Trans Institute's "Transcendence": U of M's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Minneapolis
- April 23-25 - BECAUSE Bisexual Conference: Metropolitan State University, St. Paul