

CAFÉ Lately
July 2007, Vol. 2, No. 6



Planning begins for CAFÉ's future.

With the May **Summit** behind us, the eyes of those of us in attendance at the July 7th general membership meeting turned full square toward the road in front of us as an organization. We heard the call to provide a service to the glbt community in Colorado by creating a mechanism by which to facilitate the transmission of information to others across the state. Clearly this poses challenges to CAFÉ.

The Colorado Alliance for Family Equality or CAFÉ was born on December 6, 2003, when an enthusiastic group of two-dozen or so glbt activists and our allies met under the auspices of a newly-formed civil rights organization called Civil Rights Now, led by Abby Coven and Teva Sienicki. CAFÉ was chartered as “an organization of organizations” dedicated to advancing marriage equality in Colorado on the heels of the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling on November 18, 2003, that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation with regard to whom can marry is unconstitutional. Since that time, CAFÉ has operated as the primary grassroots organization dedicated to making marriage inclusive of same-sex couples.

With the defeat of the domestic partnership referendum and passage of a marriage exclusion amendment last November, together with the expressed will of the 160 participants at the recent CommUNITY Summit for help with educational efforts and networking across the state, CAFÉ is now at a crossroads. Many of those who have a long history of activism with CAFÉ do not wish to relinquish our original mission of working for family equality. Yet, we also feel we need to satisfy this new demand to act as a convener and facilitator for future educational and communications activities.

Therefore, we are announcing today that CAFÉ has launched a new initiative which should allow member organizations to “spread the word” about upcoming activities and events, share documents with other Colorado glbt organizations, and facilitate communications generally. The committee of five (Chris Hubble, James Roy, Judy Trompeter, Arthur Powers and Pat Steadman) reported at our July meeting that they had focused in on Google Tools and Groups as a way to develop FREE resources that we could all utilize to convene a virtual online community. This initiative is one small component of an ongoing effort to realize the feedback we heard expressed at the CommUNITY Summit. CAFÉ is now moving forward with a beta-test version of the **Colorado Queer Network**. Look for additional updates and future training opportunities. Contact Christopher Hubble (cahubble05@yahoo.com) if you'd like to get involved with the beta-test team.

Obviously, we welcome any and all who would be interested in helping with this re-visioning process. (Many hands make light work.) Our next general meeting—to which all are warmly invited—will take place on Saturday, August 4th, at 10 AM at The Center, 1050 Broadway, Denver. Y'all come, ya here?

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[The following is a message from one of our member organizations, the GLBT Caucus of the Jefferson County Democratic Party. If your organization is a member of CAFÉ and you would like to see your group's message here in the future, send an email to ljt236@aol.com with “Editor, CAFÉ Lately” in the subject line. Please limit your piece to 300 words. Some editing may be done for brevity or clarity.]

Hello to the CommUNITY!

We are the GLBT Caucus of the Jefferson County Democratic Party. We are proud to have helped support the recent CommUNITY conference.

Since 2001, our group of LGBT Democrats and allies has been meeting monthly. Officially, we're a committee of the Jefferson County Democratic Party. Unofficially, we meet to socialize, talk politics, eat, party, and educate our local candidates. We have no bylaws, collect no dues, and decision making is pretty much by group consensus.

We have an annual backyard party each summer to thank our elected Democratic officials for their support. We raise funds through tending bar at County Party events and through an independent Small Donor Committee.

There is a saying that "All politics is local." We feel that by getting to know our Party's candidates – and they getting to know us – we are able to favorably impact votes in the Colorado State House and Senate, Colorado State Board of Education, CU Board of Regents, the Jefferson County Commission, the Jefferson County Board of Education, plus statewide offices such as Governor. We complement the work of the Colorado Stonewall Democrats, an officially recognized Initiative of the Colorado State Democratic Party.

We welcome everybody to join us at 6:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at Jeffco Party Headquarters, 8745 W 14th Ave, Suite 110 in Lakewood, near the intersection of Colfax Ave. and Garrison St. Our Yahoo Group website is found at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Jeffco-Dems-GLBT-Caucus>. To join our email group, please email Karen at cbachman2@mindspring.com

If you're a Democrat, or our ally, and live in Arvada, Bailey, Conifer, Edgewater, Evergreen, Golden, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, or unincorporated Jeffco, you need to check us out!

Further information? Call Tom at 303-987-2410.

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CAFÉ Lately is the monthly newsletter of the Colorado Alliance for Family Equality. CAFÉ is an organization of organizations—a coalition of GLBT and allied groups working to achieve civil marriage and family equality in Colorado.

CAFÉ, founded in 2003, now has over thirty member organizations, including many churches. Individuals are welcome to attend our Membership Meetings, usually held on the first Saturday of the month at 10am at The Center, 1050 Broadway, Denver.

For more information, visit CAFÉ's Yahoo! Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CAFE-CO/>.