

THE

MATTACHINE

SOCIETY

OF

WASHINGTON

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON is a civil liberties, social action organization, dedicated to improving the status of the homosexual citizen through a vigorous program of action.

The Society's formal Statement of Purpose is:

1. To act by any lawful means:

(a) To secure for homosexuals the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as proclaimed for all men by the Declaration of Independence, and to secure for homosexuals the basic rights and liberties established by the word and the spirit of the Constitution of the United States;

(b) To equalize the status and position of the homosexual with those of the heterosexual by achieving equality under law, equality of opportunity, and equality in the society of his fellow men, and by eliminating adverse prejudice, both private and official;

(c) To secure for the homosexual the right, as a human being, to develop and achieve his full potential and dignity, and the right, as a citizen, to make his maximum contribution to the society in which he lives;

(d) To inform and enlighten the public about homosexuals and homosexuality;

(e) To assist, protect, and counsel the homosexual in need.

2. It is not a purpose of this organization to act as a social group, or as an agency for personal introductions.

3. This organization will cooperate with other minority organizations which are striving for the realization of full civil rights and liberties for all.

The Society maintains that, in the absence of valid evidence to the contrary, homosexuality is not a sickness, but is an orientation not different in kind from heterosexuality. It aims primarily to combat prejudice and discrimination by seeking acceptance of the homosexual as a homosexual, not by "rehabilitating" him or converting him to heterosexuality.

HISTORY

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON was founded on November 15, 1961, as an independent organization cooperating closely with other groups espousing similar goals. Shortly thereafter a Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and officers elected.

In August, 1962, the Society sent letters to all Congressmen and other officials announcing the Society's existence and stating its purposes. Since then, the Society has pursued an energetic program of civil liberties, education, social service, and research.

STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

The Society is governed by four officers and an Executive Board, elected by the membership. The members also determine policy and have a direct voice in the operation of the Society. Regular membership meetings are held monthly. Most of the work of the Society is done through committees. These include:

- Fund-Raising
- Governmental Concerns
- Membership
- Picketing and Other
Lawful Demonstrations
- Program
- Publications
- Publicity and Public Relations
- Referral (legal, medical,
religious, and employment)
- Religious Concerns
- Research

The Meaning of the Word "Mattachine"

In the Middle Ages, the Mattachine were court jesters, permitted -- from behind the masks and costumes which they wore -- to make pointed social and personal commentaries forbidden to others. In the early 1950's, when the first Mattachine Society was formed, public discussion of homosexuality was severely restricted, and so the concept of truth from behind a mask or in hiding, was felt apt, hence the name. In American English, the word has now become a generic one for organizations working to improve the status of the homosexual.

ACTIVITIES

A representative, but incomplete listing of some of the projects and endeavors in which the Society has engaged, or is currently undertaking, follows:

Civil Liberties

1. (a) A continuing program of seeking to confer with public officials about the problems of the homosexual.

(b) A meeting with Selective Service officials regarding problems of homosexual draft eligibles.

(c) A meeting with top Defense Department security officials, concerning security clearances for homosexuals.

2. Letters to public officials about all actions taken by them concerning homosexuals, and about other relevant matters.

3. The encouragement and assistance of resistance by homosexuals to adverse Federal Government action in the areas of Civil Service employment, Armed Forces discharges, and security clearance denials, and of court test cases challenging Government policy.

4. Publication and distribution of leaflets entitled: HOW TO HANDLE A FEDERAL INTERROGATION and IF YOU ARE ARRESTED.

5. Extensive testimony before a Congressional Committee on matters related to homosexuality.

6. Presentation to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission of an extensive statement: DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS.

7. Establishment of an active program of picketing public and private individuals and agencies which discriminate against homosexuals.

Information and Education

1. A continuing series of public appearances (2 in 1962; 5 in 1963; 14 in 1964) on radio, television, and

before various public and private groups, to present information about homosexuality.

2. Public lectures by outside speakers.

3. (a) A mailing to 1,000 clergymen in the greater Washington area, to inform them of our position and to attempt to elicit their assistance.

(b) A series of meetings with local clergymen, intended to eliminate the alienation which exists between the homosexual and the religious community and to enlist the aid of the clergy in the homosexuals' fight for his civil liberties and social rights.

(c) Initiation of The Washington Area Council on Religion and the Homosexual, an independent group.

Social Service

1. Establishment of a referral service, for homosexuals needing professional assistance — lawyers, doctors, clergymen, employment, etc.

2. Initiation, composition, and distribution of a pamphlet: HOMOSEXUALITY AND VENEREAL DISEASES; printed by the Department of Public Health of the District of Columbia.

3. Dealing with local employment agencies, in an attempt to enlist their assistance in resolving unemployment problems among homosexuals.

Research

1. A questionnaire to determine the facts on susceptibility of homosexuals to blackmail.

2. A questionnaire to determine the attitudes of psychiatrists and psychologists to homosexuality and their approaches to the problems involved.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

1. Membership is open to all adults of good will, who support the Society's Statement of Purpose; there are no restrictions as to race, religion, sex or sexual preference or orientation. Two classes of membership exist:

(a) Full Membership -- open to persons living within 50 miles of Washington. Dues: \$12 per year.

(b) Associate Membership -- open to persons living anywhere. Dues: \$7.50 per year.

Visitors at meetings, and potential Full Members must be interviewed in advance by the Executive Board.

2. Membership and mailing lists are kept absolutely confidential, accessible only to the Society's Officers. Members may join under pseudonyms.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society issues a monthly publication (EASTERN MATTACHINE MAGAZINE) in collaboration with the Mattachine Society of New York. THE INSIDER, a newsletter dealing with committee reports, meeting notices, and other internal Society affairs and business is published monthly for members only.

In order to continue and expand its work for the improvement of the status of the homosexual, the Society needs your donations.

Mailings, the publication of our magazine, and other overhead and operating expenditures are largely covered by contributions.

The Society pays no salaries; 100% of money donated goes into activities designed to achieve our stated purposes.

To contribute to the achievement of goals which will make a better life for our country's 15 million homosexual citizens, send your donations to:

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON
Post Office Box 1032
Washington, D.C. 20013

Any amount is welcome.

For further information telephone:
area code 202, 332-5336.

ECHO

In January, 1963, a meeting was held in Philadelphia, attended by representatives of Eastern homophile organizations. Subsequently, these groups formed a loose affiliation called E.C.H.O. (East Coast Homophile Organizations). Meeting monthly, delegates discuss cooperation and assistance among the member groups and plan for an annual public conference. The first, in 1963, in Philadelphia had the theme "Homosexuality -- Time for Reappraisal;" in 1964, in Washington, "Homosexuality -- Civil Liberties and Social Rights;" in 1965, New York City, "The Homosexual Citizen in the Great Society."

Members of ECHO

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Washington, D.C. 20013

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SOME OTHER ACTIVE HOMOPHILE GROUPS:

Daughters of Bilitis, N.Y. Chapter
441 West 28th Street, New York, N.Y.
The Mattachine Society, Inc.
693 Mission St., San Francisco, Cal.
The Mattachine Society of Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 301, Miami, Florida 33101
Mattachine Midwest
4753 N. Broadway, Chicago, Illinois
Society for Individual Rights, Inc.
529 Clayton St., San Francisco, Cal.
