

JANUARY 6, 1988

FELLOW E.C.M.C. MEMBERS!

IN 1989 E.C.M.C. WILL CELEBRATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY!!

WE PREDATE THE STONEWALL REBELLION (1969) FOUR YEARS!

NONE OF THE GAY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH EXISTED AT THAT TIME ARE STILL FUNCTIONING - THE MATTACHING SOCIETY FOLDED AT LEAST 10 YEARS AGO, AND THE WEST SIDE DISCUSSION GROUP ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO.

E.C.M.C. IS THEREFORE PROBABLY THE OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION IN THIS AREA TO HAVE CONTINUED TO EXIST SINCE BEFORE STONEWALL.

SINCE STONEWALL, A NUMBER OF GAY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN FORMED, SOME OF WHICH HAVE IN THE MEANTIME DISBANDED. AS WE GAYS HAVE HAD NO TRADITION OF SUPPORTING OUR OWN ORGANIZATIONS, DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MINIMAL, BECAUSE OF WHICH GAY ORGANIZATIONS ARE OFTEN NOT EFFECTIVE IN REACHING THEIR GOALS.

IN THE PAST, E.C.M.C. HAS MADE SPORADIC DONATIONS TO SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, USUALLY IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE WHO HAS PASSED ON, OR, WITH THE ADVENT OF THE AIDS CRISIS, TO SOME AIDS-RELATED ORGANIZATION.

WE HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT IN OUR TREASURY, MUCH OF WHICH WE WILL NEED IN PLANNING AND EXECUTING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE CLUB ESTABLISH GUIDE LINES (OR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT?) WHEREBY EACH JANUARY (AFTER OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY) A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF OUR COMBINED ASSETS IS EARMARKED FOR DONATIONS TO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, DESIGNATIONS AND AMOUNTS TO BE DECIDED BY A COMMITTEE, AND EVENTUALLY VOTED ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP.

I AM PRESENTING THE ABOVE AT TODAY'S MEETING UNDER 'NEW BUSINESS', AND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS. I AM SURE THAT ALL OF US ALREADY MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE AIDS CRISIS, AND THE EROSION OF OUR RIGHTS, IT BEHOOVES US TO SUPPORT GAY ORGANIZATIONS FINANCIALLY.

YOUR INPUT IS APPRECIATED.