

AASP Progress Report

March 1999 - April 2000



Locations: We now have members in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Publicity: We have been mentioned in newspapers in Illinois, Michigan, Florida, Rhode Island, Washington, and California. Los Angeles Times Magazine ran a story about unmarried couples on April 9, 2000 and AASP was prominently mentioned. KCET public television in Los Angeles aired an interview with AASP executive director Thomas F. Coleman on its "Life and Times" series on April 19, 2000.

Newsletters: We have published three quarterly newsletters for AASP and three newsletters have also been published by Singles Rights Lobby, keeping members up to date on news affecting unmarried adults and summarizing some of our educational and political activities.

Website: We maintain a large website – www.unmarriedAmerica.com – which is the most authoritative source of information for and about single people on the Internet, with more than 300 pages of news, essays, statistics, book listings, and advice for solo singles, unmarried couples, single parents, and unmarried families. A new and improved site will be unveiled in May 2000.

Outreach: We have sent information about AASP to hundreds of elected officials and political activists, dozens of news writers, every bureau of the Associated Press, and authors of all books published in 1999 for single adults, unmarried couples, single parents, divorced or divorcing people, and widows or widowers.

Education: Our executive director has participated in panels at educational conferences sponsored by the American Bar Association and by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He was invited to testify as an expert witness in the Vermont Legislature as it considered passing a domestic partnership bill. As a result of his input,

the Legislature passed a "reciprocal beneficiary" law giving some new protections to unmarried blood relatives. This provision was added to the new "civil union" law for same-sex couples, sections of which were suggested by us. In 2001, Singles Rights Lobby will encourage lawmakers to open up these new laws to unmarried heterosexual couples who may prefer a 'civil union' to a traditional marriage.

Advocacy: Through our Singles Rights Lobby, we defeated a bill in Michigan which would have stripped unmarried adults (whether individuals or couples) of current legal protections against marital status discrimination in employment, housing, and business transactions. We succeeded in stopping California's new domestic partnership registry from being limited to same-sex couples, by convincing the Governor to include unmarried heterosexual seniors too. We would have preferred a more inclusive bill, but at least we were able to have some opposite-sex couples included. We helped two of our members who filed lawsuits seeking to gain domestic partner benefits for unmarried heterosexual couples (Bell Atlantic (NY) and the City of Chicago). We have given advice to groups in Florida and New Jersey as they have drafted and prepared domestic partner bills in those states.

Application

I would like to join AASP.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for:

\$10 \$25 \$50 other _____

American Association for Single People
P.O. Box 65756, Los Angeles, CA 90065
(323) 258-8955 / www.unmarriedAmerica.com