

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1999 !!

◆ AASP ◆

✓ Corporation

- **Changed name of corporation** from Spectrum Institute to American Association for Single People. We obtained a new letter of determination from the IRS confirming our 501(c)(3) status.

- **Reorganized board of directors** and officers to reflect a broad range of marital statuses and living arrangements. The new board includes a divorced mother with a teenage daughter at home, a divorced father who has a teenage daughter, an unmarried woman living alone, a married woman living with spouse and children, a married woman living with her husband, and an unmarried man living with his domestic partner.

✓ Membership

- **Amended by laws** to provide for a class of nonvoting members consisting of adults who make a tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more.

- **Recruited members** from all parts of the nation. We now have 134 members from 20 states. Donations have ranged from the minimum amount of \$10 by many people to one member who donated \$750.

✓ Internet

- **Created a website** which is now the most authoritative source of information about single people and unmarried families on the entire Internet. Our site contains more than 250 pages of information. We publish daily reports on important local, state, national, and international news. The site is updated frequently to share essays written by single people, new books releases, legal and economic information, quotes, and personal profiles of single people. Hundreds of people have visited our website, including people from foreign nations such as China, Russia, France, Malaysia, Italy, Canada, Norway, Germany, England, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Hungary, Sweden, Austria, South Africa, and Argentina.

✓ Newsletter

- **Published a quarterly newsletter**, *Unmarried America*, distributed by mail to AASP members. It is also published on the website. Two issues were published in 1999. The newsletters have contained original articles about the need for AASP and lists of new books for single adults, single parents, divorced people, and widowed people, as well as reports on news affecting single adults in the United States and abroad.

✓ Brochures

- **Three brochures are available** for distribution to potential supporters. A small three-fold leaflet describes AASP and lists many forms of marital status discrimination occurring in various states. A larger four-page brochure describes our purpose and lists many of our educational programs. A new four-page flyer describes our mission statement and outlines our Human Rights Agenda for Unmarried America.

✓ Public Education

- The **American Bar Association** invited us to make a presentation on marital status discrimination at its meeting in Beverly Hills. The **Creating Change Conference** of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force allowed us to make the case for gender-neutral domestic partnership at its conference in Oakland. Many **candidates for public office** have been sent information about AASP as a way to make our cause visible and more understandable to community leaders.

- **Several newspapers** have mentioned or quoted AASP, including papers in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Miami, Detroit, Chicago, Providence, and Seattle. The Los Angeles Daily Journal published a full-page op-ed article about how the Democratic party is snubbing single voters.

✓ Endorsements

- Notable new members of AASP include: **Shiela Kuehl**, Speaker Pro Tem of the California State Assembly; **Ramona Ripston**, executive director of the ACLU of Southern California; **Barry Gordon**, former president of the Screen Actors Guild; New York State Senator **Eric Schniederman**; and child-star actress **Jane Withers**.

◆ Singles Rights Lobby ◆

✓ Corporation

- **Incorporated a nonprofit** organization to lobby for or against specific legislation affecting unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families.

- **Created a board of directors** which overlaps with the board of AASP.

✓ Internet

- **Established a website** to create a political presence on the Internet. The website shares news articles about legislation affecting single adults and domestic partners. The site has links to the websites of major political parties as well as links to federal and state legislative resources on the Internet. It also contains letters we have sent to state and local legislators on various bills, as well as letters we have received from elected officials.

✓ Newsletter

- **Published a quarterly newsletter**, *Singles Rights Advocate*, which is distributed by mail to AASP members. It is also published on the website. Two issues were published in 1999. The newsletters have contained original articles on political issues, a questionnaire for congressional candidates, a list of states violating the privacy rights of unmarried adults, and a list of states that stigmatize children born to unmarried parents.

✓ Lobbying

- **Michigan.** We were able to kill a bill that would have repealed marital status nondiscrimination protections in the state civil rights law.

- **California.** We succeeded in getting heterosexual seniors into the new domestic partner bills which the governor had wanted for gays only. Due to our lobbying, he finally approved a slightly broader approach.

- **Seattle.** Were able to convince the city council to keep the new domestic partner benefits law as a gender-neutral measure. The author was originally undecided on whether to make it a same-sex only bill.

- **Los Angeles.** Our intervention caused some positive changes in the county's new domestic partner registry system.

- **Cook County.** We tried but failed to convince the board of commissioners to amend a same-sex only domestic partner benefits measure to include heterosexual domestic partners as well.

✓ Publicity

- The **Los Angeles Daily Journal** published our full-page op-ed article which questioned the exclusion of unmarried blood relatives from domestic partner legislation pending in Sacramento.

- The **Civic Center News Source** published our op-ed article which called attention to serious defects in a domestic partner registration proposal which was then pending in Los Angeles county.

- Paid advertisements were placed in the Los Angeles Times and the Sacramento Bee calling on the governor and legislature in California to enact inclusive and gender-neutral domestic partner bills.

✓ Endorsements

- **Public officials have praised our work**, including Los Angeles City Attorney Jim Hahn, Cook County Commissioner William Moran, Michigan legislator Elizabeth Brater, and the mayor of Tempe, Arizona.

- **Equality Florida** wrote to us expressing their gratitude for our help in shaping the domestic partner bill introduced in 1999 in the Florida Legislature.