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from
the
Chair
By
Vivienne
Kramer**

We are so excited to bring you this next issue of NCSF Notes, coming just off the heels of our annual Coalition Partner meeting in St. Louis. Over 30 people attended the weekend-long event including 17 Coalition Partners, a number of volunteer staff members and our founder, Susan Wright. Wonderful volunteers courtesy of St. Louis Leather and Lace were on hand to help with the logistics and entertainment.

We held the meeting in St. Louis in an effort to gather participation from more CPs across the country. NCSF is a national organization, addressing the needs of the entire country, coast to coast and everything inbetween. Being in the heart of the Midwest, the site of the successful "Beat Me in St. Louis" seemed a perfect place to gather with pride.

The energy in the room was palpable and everyone left energized and refreshed, ready to tackle today's issues of sexual freedom. We reviewed the year's activities and broke out into small groups to work on major policy issues such as outreach, fundraising, and CP requirements and guidelines. NCSF also held elections and a new Board was voted in effective Sept. 15, 2003.

I continue my role as chair. Elected for another term were: Allena Gabosch, Seattle, WA (Outreach and ED Liaison); Glenda Rider, Baltimore, MD (Fundraising); and Joansie Kokindo, Washington, DC (Treasurer). New board members: Lisa Vandever, NY (Secretary and Media), James Huesmann, IL (IT) and Anita Wagner,

Baltimore, MD (Swing and Poly Liaison). A big "Thank you!" and "Congratulations!" to all that attended and participate in what continues to be a growing, dynamic critical organization.

In other news, I am delighted to announce four new groups applied for Coalition Partner status: Alternative Hedonistic Source - Kansas City, MO; National Leather Association - OKC, Oklahoma City, OK; Locus Esti, Sandy, Utah; and BDSSMS - Boise, Idaho. In addition, Group With No Name (GWNN) in Austin Texas has recently rejoined the CP ranks. Welcome to everyone.

I hope the next few months keep you all safe. Please continue to support NCSF in any way you can - volunteer a few hours, make a donation, hold a fundraiser, tell two friends about this organization, link us to your website - it all helps and is important. You do make a difference.

Personal Meets Political

"I don't want to stand up and be counted. I am not an activist. I just want to play."

We know. And we applaud you BECAUSE you want to play. Unfortunately, in this climate of extreme prejudice and restriction, where a handful of religious and political extremists can use the media to influence the uneducated public and alter the rights of private citizens to assemble, peacefully and privately, just playing is considered an act of radical politics.

We know that going to Black Rose or Fetish in the Fall or any other social event is about your interest in playing! It is about learning new techniques, practicing your skills and perfecting your style.

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