

From: Council Representatives List [mailto:COR@LISTS.APA.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Dr. Carol Goodheart

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 12:15 PM

To: COR@LISTS.APA.ORG

Subject: [COR] Manchester Statement

Dear Colleagues,

Last Friday, I participated in a conference call to discuss the concerns expressed by Council members and some Division leaders about APA's contract with the Manchester Grand Hyatt for the 2010 Convention in San Diego. The call included Board members Armand Cerbone and Jean Carter; CEO Norman Anderson; Terry Gock, Div. 44; Sari Dworkin, incoming Chair, LGBT Caucus; Rhea Farberman, ED, Public & Member Communications; Nancy Moore, ED, Governance Affairs; and Clinton Anderson, Director, Office of LGBT Concerns. The group had open and frank discussions and reached consensus on key points.

First, there was recognition that many of our members have very substantial concerns about patronizing the Manchester Hyatt because of the financial contributions by its owner, Doug Manchester, to efforts to pass California's Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in the state. Those concerns have generated discussion about boycotting the hotel to demonstrate opposition to Mr. Manchester's actions.

It was also clear that we on the Board did not act with sufficient clarity to communicate about this situation, after our meeting in February. The briefing on the issue occurred in the midst of grappling with the budget crisis and the location of the San Diego meetings got lost in the discussion of the potential financial threat. I and the Board apologize that this contributed to confusion related to where Council and the Board would meet next year.

I am asking, on behalf of the Board of Directors, that APA Divisions and governance members **not** boycott the Manchester Hyatt during the APA Convention in San Diego in 2010. Because of APA's contractual obligations, boycotting the hotel would have minimal impact on the owner's revenue but would have serious financial repercussions for APA. Any penalties incurred would result in further negative adjustments to our budget.

APA signed a contract with the Hyatt in 2004, long before Proposition 8 was an issue. APA adopted policies supporting same-sex marriage in 2004 and submitted an amicus brief in the California court case that made marriage legal for lesbian and gay couples in 2008. Then, in November 2008, Proposition 8 overturned that court decision. The issue is now before the Federal court.

APA policy states that the association "honors its meeting contracts except in situations where fulfilling the contract would endanger the health or safety of APA staff and/or members or where the terms of a governing force majeure provision apply." (See below.) If we were to cancel the contract now, APA would incur a penalty of over a million dollars (\$1,037,000). The contract also commits APA to filling 80 percent of the agreed room block. If APA fails to meet that commitment, the association would have to pay for all unsold rooms to meet the 80 percent minimum. So, for example, if attendees fill only 50% of the required rooms, and the hotel is unable to sell those rooms to other customers, APA would have to pay the Manchester Grand Hyatt \$558,000.

The Board and I hope APA can turn this situation into a positive educational opportunity regarding the issue of same-sex marriage by harnessing APA's considerable resources and skills to educate local, state and

national audiences on the relevant scientific data.

From our discussions on the call last Friday, multiple positive strategies and actions are being explored and developed. They are designed to provide the APA, elected leadership and individual members opportunities to show their support for the critical principles at stake for LGBT members and communities.

Proposed actions under consideration include: development of briefing papers for the media and programs to educate the public about LGBT issues, particularly on same-sex relationships and marriage; holding symposia and developing CE programming to educate convention attendees about LGBT issues; coordinating protest actions, such as a petition, message buttons and online communications; and reaching out to the local LGBT community.

In addition, we are exploring a number of other possibilities with the hotel and convention center that will highlight and affirm APA's values and policies concerning LGBT issues.

Instead of boycotting the Hyatt, which would hurt APA but probably not Mr. Manchester, we ask that you and your Divisions join us in our efforts to turn this into something positive through the strategies and actions we are planning. In addition, please consider what you can do by way of positive outreach and provide us with any recommendations for what other actions APA might take.

Thank you for your continued support of our association, and feel free to contact me directly with any further questions or ideas.

Carol

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APA Hotel and Meeting Contract Policy

In general, APA honors its meeting contracts except in situations where fulfilling the contract would endanger the health or safety of APA staff and/or members or where the terms of a governing force majeure provision apply. For those cases in which meeting attendance poses no risk but there are other potentially problematic issues, APA will make every effort to share all available information with members and staff. When a political, labor or force majeure issue emerges involving a meeting city or facility, APA will strive to keep members and staff fully informed in a timely manner or as soon as it becomes practical to do so. If available, APA will share information from expert and neutral sources. If neutral expertise is not available, APA will seek to give members and staff access to information that will allow them to be informed on all sides of the given controversy but APA will guard against taking sides or appearing to take sides on the issue.