

# YEAR IN REVIEW 1992

By the end of 1991, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported 206,392 U.S. AIDS cases and 133,233 U.S. AIDS deaths. A year later, the CDC figures had risen to 242,146 cases and 160,372 deaths. Additionally, at the end of 1992, the World Health Organization reported 501,272 cases, estimated 2,000,000 cases, and estimated 1,000,000 deaths worldwide.

The most significant AIDS development for 1992, according to *AIDS Treatment News*, was not medical or scientific—it was the election of President Bill Clinton, but “maybe not for the reasons people think.”

“The hostile Reagan-Bush administrations provided an excuse for the AIDS community. With leaders like those, we were free to defend against the latest attacks as they occurred, without responsibility for setting our own agenda or for getting results,” *ATN* said.

In this context of expanding devastation and hostile national leadership, Mobilization Against AIDS pursued the task of setting the agenda and getting results. This report is a brief summary of our activity during that period—1992.

## JUST SIGN IT

At a press conference outside the Republican National Convention in Houston August 17, MAA announced that it had collected 22,000 postcards slamming then-President Bush's poor AIDS leadership. MAA collected the cards through its “Just Sign It” postcard-signing program. MAA also released a strongly-worded letter signed by the executive directors of 20 major AIDS organizations from across the country, expanding on this criticism.

Because the Bush Administration did not accept delivery of the postcards in Houston, MAA delivered the cards at the first Presidential Debate at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Two dozen students stood silently outside the auditorium entrance holding the sacks of postcards and an MAA banner that said “1,000,000 Americans with HIV don't support George Bush.” MAA sent 3,000 additional cards to St. Louis ahead of time urging the debate's panel of media professionals to raise the issue of AIDS during the debate. Indeed, midway through the nationally televised event, John Mashack of the *Boston Globe* asked then-President Bush to defend his AIDS policies against the accusations of his critics. Then-Governor Clinton followed Bush's response with his own comments on AIDS. The exchange represented a significant victory for postcard

signers and AIDS activists in general.

MAA delivered 6,000 postcards to Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) in Washington, DC September 9, thanking him for his strong leadership on AIDS and urging him to continue to champion the issue. Harkin chairs the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

MAA also sent California Gov. Wilson 18,700 cards urging him not to cut state funding for AIDS. The cards were delivered by the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE/AIDS Lobby) in continuous batches until the Governor signed the state budget. Although the budget was slashed severely in many areas including health services, AIDS funding held steady.

## JUST SIGN IT.

Just Sign It program coordinator Adrienne Blum estimates that the 50,000 cards collected in 1992 were signed by residents of every state. She collected most of the cards in person, at tables and booths at busy streetcorners and at lesbian/gay pride events in San Francisco, Guerneville, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Fresno, Los Angeles, Redondo Beach and San Diego. She also received cards by mail from locations across the U.S. Volunteer assistance was the key to the campaign's success.

Thanks to another friendly MAA postcard campaign, the holiday mailbags of California's two new senators were filled with greetings from people who care about AIDS issues.

Aides to senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer confirmed that hundreds of these cards flooded their offices during the holiday season. Now that both women have been elected, MAA seeks to ensure that they keep AIDS issues at the tops of their agendas. ♦



**Participants in the Wellington, New Zealand AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization carry 176 torches, commemorating the 176 New Zealanders who had died of AIDS**

*“There are certain areas which, when the goals of science collide with moral and ethical judgment, science has to take a time out.”--Assistant Secretary for Health James Mason, M.D., speaking on the Bush Administration's AIDS policy*

*“When you're fighting a fire, you control it from the outside and let the center burn. The same holds true for medicine.”--William Grigg, spokesman for Assistant Secretary for Health James Mason, M.D., speaking on the same policy*

*“Let's stop AIDS before Magic gets sick.”--Vice President Dan Quayle*

*“I did nothing wrong yet I'm being made to suffer this way.”--Kimberly Bergalis, person with AIDS (italics added)*



**MAA Board Member Don Sloan presents Senate candidate Dianne Feinstein with an AIDS PAC check**

## AIDS PAC

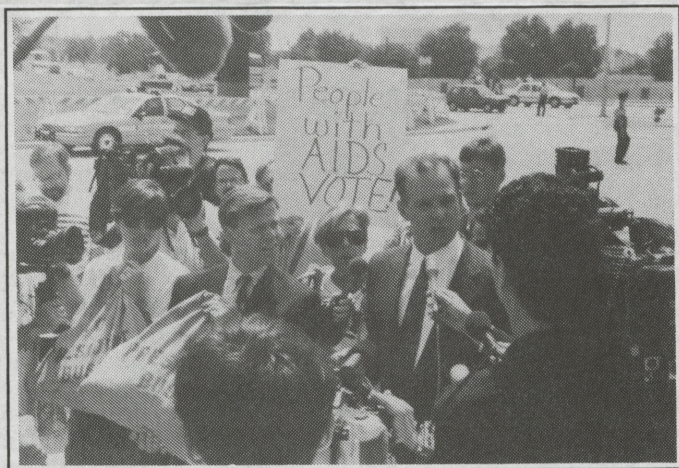
MAA formed the nation's first AIDS political action committee (PAC) to contribute money to candidates for federal office who support strong policies in AIDS education, treatment and research.

“Because elected officials control the budget, make policy, and set the tone of the nation's attitude toward the AIDS pandemic, the potential for an AIDS PAC to effect change is great,” AIDS PAC Chair Ted Fang said. “By supporting candidates who work hard for sound AIDS policies, we're helping to ensure this nation remains on course in the fight against AIDS.”

The PAC made its first contributions to successful candidates for U.S. Senate Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Each candidate received \$1,000, the maximum contribution permitted by law. ♦

## FUNDRAISING

In March 1992, the MAA Dance-a-Thon raised a record \$865,000. 65% of the proceeds were distributed to other Bay Area AIDS organizations. ♦



**MAA Executive Director Paul Boneberg speaks outside the Republican National Convention in Houston. To his right: GMHC Director Tim Sweeney, MAA's Adrienne Blum.**



## INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL AND MOBILIZATION

The 1992 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization took place in 100 U.S. cities in 45 states and 103 international cities in 43 countries. For the first time, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela joined President and Mrs. Bush and Bishop Desmond Tutu as participants of the world's largest annual AIDS event. Mandela, in Oslo, Norway on the day of the event, lit a candle at his hotel. As in past years, President and Mrs. Bush placed lighted candles in the front windows of the White House. Bishop Tutu led the AIDS Candlelight Memorial at the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. George in Grahamstown, South Africa.

In Moscow a gay group, TEMA (Russian slang for "homosexual"), held a candlelight vigil at a hospital where people with AIDS are treated.

In New Zealand giant flares were lighted atop 20 mountains from the North to the South Island. Dame Catharine Tizard, Governor-General of New Zealand and Patron of the New Zealand AIDS Foundation, helped to rally support for the event.

Romania's first and only gay and lesbian



**Bishop Tutu addresses the AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization in Cape Town, South Africa**

organization, Total Relations, sponsored the country's first AIDS Candlelight Memorial--which was also the country's first gay event--in Bucharest. ♦

## THE LOBBY TEAM

In January the Lobby Team--MAA's grassroots letter-writing machine--directed letters to Centers for Disease Control Director William Roper, M.D. protesting the CDC's defunding of HIV prevention programs for people of color--particularly gay people of color. MAA activated on this issue after the budget of the only national organization targeting gay people of color was slashed 43% by the CDC.

In March, MAA directed Lobby Team members to write to Rep. Leon Panetta, Chair of the House Budget Committee, urging him to work for increased AIDS funding.

In November, MAA's Lobby Team targeted Vernon Jordan, Chairman of President-Elect Clinton's Transition Board, urging him to include AIDS experts and activists on the transition team.

In December, the Lobby Team again targeted Leon Panetta, congratulating him on his appointment as Director of the Office of Management and Budget and urging him to recommend full funding of the Ryan White CARE Act.

MAA activates the Lobby Team four to eight times a year. Each time, MAA provides Team members with kits explaining the issue, providing the name and address of the target, and including sample wording for a letter. ♦



## DIRECT LOBBYING

In the first three months of 1992, MAA lobbied members of the Budget and Appropriations committees seeking increases in Federal AIDS funding. Subsequently, the House Budget Committee recommended increased AIDS funding. Also during the Spring, MAA Executive Director Paul Boneberg facilitated a meeting in Washington, DC on the lesbian/gay/AIDS activities being planned for the Democratic National Convention. In March, MAA met with Bristol-Meyers Pharmaceutical Corp. to discuss expedited drug development and access. In May, MAA was honored at the Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner, along with Hillary Clinton and Geraldine Ferraro. In September, MAA lobbied the Senate Appropriations Committee. Subsequently, the AIDS funding increases recommended by the Senate surpassed those recommended by the House of Representatives. In October, Paul Boneberg, MAA Field Organizer Adrienne Blum and MAA supporters met with candidates for the Congress and Senate to urge them to prioritize AIDS as a campaign issue. Following the elections in November, MAA was a strong participant in a national meeting of AIDS activists held at the request of the Clinton transition team. At that meeting, MAA raised the issue of forming a global AIDS policy. Later that month, MAA further articulated the importance of global AIDS policy at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force conference in Los Angeles. Throughout November and December, MAA maintained extensive contact with other organizations on transition issues. In addition to being the only AIDS group in the nation to prepare a position paper on global AIDS policy for the Clinton transition team, MAA also had significant input into other transition team documents. ♦

## NEW BOARD, STAFF

1992 saw a much-needed expansion of MAA's staff and board. Following is a brief profile of the new faces of '92:

Development Director Kerry Enright once worked in Washington, DC as a page for Rep. Dan Rostenkowski. She worked on both of President Jimmy Carter's campaigns. In 1984, she ran the state of Arizona campaign for the Mondale/Ferraro ticket. After moving to San Francisco, she worked for the United Savings Bank, the Florence Crittenton Services, and the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic before joining MAA.

Field Organizer Adrienne Blum joined MAA to coordinate the Just Sign It postcard program, the Lobby Team letter-writing campaigns, volunteer coordination and on-street outreach.



**Kerry Enright**



**Adrienne Blum**

Adrienne has worked for several management, financial and brokerage firms. Prior to joining MAA, she applied her corporate skills to the AIDS Walk and AIDS Dance-a-Thon fundraisers in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Board member

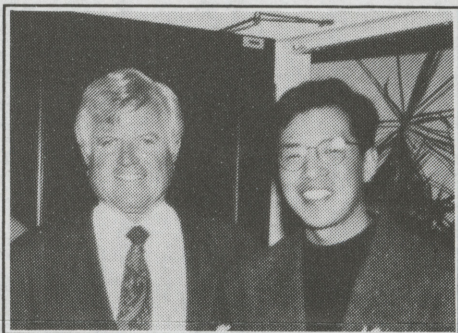
Ted Fang, the youthful publisher of the *San Francisco Independent* newspaper, also serves

on the boards of directors of the Chinese-American Democratic Club and the California Newspaper Publishers Association, and is the Northern California Co-Chair of the California Free Press Association.

Board member Steve Morey, who had an early career as an art director for television, brings entrepreneurial skills to MAA. He's now Vice President of Marketing for a major gift and toy company. With his life-partner of 17 years, Steve is also co-director of Origins, an experimental theatre company.

Board member Martha Nissen is fund developer for the United Cerebral Palsy Association. "For some time, I've been frustrated by a feeling of powerlessness over AIDS," Martha told us. "Mobilization was the most empowering form of action I could find."

Board member Don Sloan, a partner at the law firm Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, also serves as Co-Chair of the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance, California's largest lesbian/gay political action committee; and is on the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian/gay PAC. ♦



**Ted Fang meets Sen. Edward Kennedy**

## NATIONAL AIDS LOBBY DAY

In the U.S., the AIDS Candlelight Memorials were followed on May 18 by National AIDS Lobby Day, when people with HIV and AIDS met with over 40 Congresspeople in 20 states to lobby for increased funding for AIDS research, education and treatment. MAA created the National AIDS Lobby Day program in 1992.

The event was strategically timed to influence members of the House Appropriations Committee when they traditionally make their most important decisions regarding the funding of competing programs. MAA provided participants with a packet of information about current AIDS legislation, tips on lobbying, and contact

information for other participants in their area.

MAA held the second National AIDS Lobby Day on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. MAA chose the date for two reasons: first, linking the National AIDS Lobby Days to well-known, worldwide events such as the Candlelight Memorials and World AIDS Day "leverages" the public focus on AIDS that accompanies those events. Second, the elections on November 3 created an unusual opportunity for AIDS activists to advance their message. Redistricting and a high turnover in Congress caused many representatives to take a fresh look at the concerns of their constituents. ♦

## Expert Foresees 1 Billion AIDS Cases

## GLOBAL ACTIVISM

MAA met with international AIDS groups throughout the year. In April, MAA met with South African AIDS activist John Pegge. In July, MAA Executive Director Paul Boneberg attended the International Lesbian/Gay Association (ILGA) conference in Paris, where MAA was elected as ILGA's backup Financial Secretariat. Paul also attended the 8th International Conference on AIDS in Amsterdam, where he met many of the activists who coordinate the AIDS Candlelight events in their countries. Also in July, MAA met with Filipino AIDS activists. In August, MAA met with Occur, a Japanese group. In October, MAA met Australian AIDS activists. In December, MAA met with Japanese gay AIDS activist Teishiro Minami. ♦