

# the VOICE

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

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## GAY STATE EMPLOYEES MEET

Gay and lesbian state employees, along with a few non-gay supporters, gathered at Camarillo State Hospital on November 19. Over 20 persons employed at Camarillo State Hospital attended the meeting and decided to establish the Southern California Chapter of Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees.

Guest speaker at the meeting was Los Angeles Attorney Thomas F. Coleman. Coleman has acted as an advisor to the Governor's office and to the State Personnel Board on sexual orientation discrimination and sexual privacy matters.

Topics discussed included the implementation of the Governor's executive order which bans discrimination against gays and lesbians employed by the state; how the State Personnel Board's Sexual Orientation Project can help gay state employees; and the legal rights of gay state employees.

The Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees formed its first chapter in Sacramento in early 1979. That group worked closely with the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties in implementing the Governor's executive order and in educating the State Personnel Board about employment problems of gays and lesbians in state government.

Michael Vasquez, a psychiatric technician at Camarillo, is the coordinator of the newly formed chapter. He said the group intends to conduct educational seminars at the hospital in the coming months, encourage more gay employees to join the group, and promote the creation of other chapters throughout the state, particularly at other state hospitals.

To contact the group, write: Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees, Southern California Chapter, c/o Rick Schwimmer, 2296 Chandler St., Camarillo, CA. The Los Angeles phone number for Mr. Vasquez is (213) 464-6666.