

California Men's Center Quarterly Activity Report January/February/March 2008

Dedicated to men, their families, and the women that love them since 2003

From January through March we worked closely with Patricia Overberg, founder/director of several large domestic violence related organizations and an icon in the DV industry. Pat may indeed be the first director of such programs to shelter abused men and did so for over 20 years, she has moved to San Diego to work with our Men's Center. Over the next year, primarily working from her new home in North County, Pat will help write grants and proposals for private foundations for various programs we would like to implement, including support groups for abused men, counseling services for survivors of the character disordered, and research, outreach, and education projects.

Don Saxton, NCFM Vice-President and I, in conjunction or separately, spent 100 hours or so, probably more actually, working on grant proposals, including one that involved working with others in Hawaii, England, and Maine in an effort to develop a program to reduce the number of false allegations in family court resulting in restraining orders. The proposals are complete but need to be shaped into formats suitable for various grantors.

Thanks to the heads up, diligence, and belief in our work of NCFM-SD member Joe M. we received our first check from the Federal Combined Campaign in March. About two years ago Joe brought us the application packet so we could apply to solicit donations from federal employees locally through the CFC. It took over a year just to do the various things necessary to position NCFM-SD to be approved. Consequently, we were also invited to make eight presentations to Navy and Marine personnel, SPARWAR staff, and Border Patrol Agents, all of whom were given a handful of our educational materials, doesn't get much better than that. So, please, if you are or know a federal employee(s) in San Diego County help us like Joe and others did, contribute and have others contribute through the CFC. Our CFC number is **17785**.

For those of you who support our center on a regular basis with your tax deductible donations, thank you. Your support helps hundred's of people in need of our services every year, and provides the funds to produce brochures and other materials used to educate tens of thousands annually. Because of you we are making a difference.

January 13, 2008: NCFM-SD members join the CRISPE coach, President Larry Kerkman (NCFM-SD member), and crew for the annual Martin Luther King Day Parade. We had a great time. Ray Blumhorst (NCFM-LA) joined us and led our precession walking backwards taking pictures as we snaked through the streets of East Village San Diego,

our dedicated group out front of the impossible to miss purple 42' CRISPE bus adorned with slogans about the need for equal parenting laws.



January 16, 2008 North County Times published, [It's time for us to boycott talking vaginas](#); a letter to the editor about Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues, by Yours Truly. It's rumored that this article helped fire up the Temecula City Council, that and several hundred complaints about the play being shown in Temecula.

January 19, 2008 San Diego Union Tribune, [Single-family homes and talk-radio hate](#), NCFM-SD member and Chapter President of the Coalition of Parent Support, James Shaw, responds to the article *Plan, then act/Gang panel moves from paper to practice*.

January 25/26, 2008, NCFM Board Member Ray Blumhorst, [CRISPE](#) President Larry Kerkman, and I attended the [Concerned Women of America \(CWA\)](#) Conference in Newport Beach, California. We networked, discussed issues, and handed out brochures and buttons. Everyone one we spoke with seemed genuinely interested in our issues, if not supportive.

January 31, 2008, I was invited to Leadership Training at the Office for Social Ministry Diocese of San Diego. Ken Peters, Director, above, talks with another of the many participants.



February 5, 2008, Larry Kerkman gave a pdf [Power Point presentation on the importance of children having both parents in their lives](#) ("Equal Parenting") before the [Kearney Mesa, CA Kiwanis Club](#). You may download the presentation and use it if you wish, though without changing anything. While the presentation is Larry's brainchild regulars at the Men's Center made numerous contributions; so, it's a group effort. This

presentation helped activists in Virginia secure related reform legislation. Don't be shy showing it to decision makers that can help pass reform legislation in your state.

February 13, 2008, (1) California Men's Center and Children's Rights Council San Diego Chapter (CRC-SD) President Guillermo (Bill) Avad gave a presentation about the CRC before the [Kearney Mesa, CA Kiwanis Club](#) (they like us). (2) NCFM-SD member John Van Doorn attended the San Diego County State of the County Address with several friends who happened to be carrying John Van Doorn for County Supervisor signs. (3) Ms. Cook of Bolander Cook & Associates spoke at our Second Wednesday of the Month Meeting about a number of things including crossover issues related to updated trust and estate planning for single parents. Those of you unable to attend missed a lively and fascinating presentation.

February 15 - 16, 2008, Ray Blumhorst and I attended the [National Family Violence Legislative Resource](#) Center's first international conference on domestic violence -- a true milestone and historic event for equal treatment, truth, and men's rights, thank you Ray for making it possible for me to attend.



Phil Cook presenting Life Time Achievement Award to Erin Pizzey, founder of the first women's refuge, in 1971.



They oversold the conference by about 30 people, There were over two hundred in attendance for this historic event, including a Supreme Court Justice!



Partial panel of renowned international domestic violence experts, researchers, scholars, authors, and program developers.



Harry Crouch with friend Patricia Overberg. Like Erin Pizzey, Pat early on operated domestic violence shelters, one's that helped both women and men.



Richard Davis, one of the many scholars, educators, and authors featured at the event.



Harry Crouch asking a question of the final panel.

February 28, 2008: Ardy Shaw Polanski Children's Center Director of Resource Development was our guest speaker at the monthly NCFM-SD evening meeting. Ardy is a dynamic and gifted speaker who for years had her own radio talk show. She said that

she agrees with our efforts to reform child custody laws in California and volunteered to write a business plan for us, for free even!

February 29, 2008: Californians for Equal Parenting founding (CAFEP) was quietly formed several months by CMC member organizations. Today representatives presented the [initial work](#) to San Diego Assemblywoman Lori Saldana. We based our proposed legislation on the West Virginia model put forth by advocates down south...err, east.

March 6, 2008: Pictures below of the CRISPE crew giving a nice Howdy Do to Family Court Judges in San Diego during drive to work time. Passerbys waived, honked, and gawked at the CRISPE bus and crew in front of the court house. We passed out brochures, answered questions, recruited new members, ate doughnuts, and had a great time. One of the County Sheriff Bailiffs came out and asked where we'd been – said they missed us. Another kept bobbing his head up and down over the roof railing apparently sneaking pictures of us. I hope he had a good camera and telephoto lens...



March 6, 2008: NCFM-SD member John Van Doorn *officially* became a candidate for San Diego County Board of Supervisors, awesome! That is, the Registrar of Voters printed his name on the "Candidates List".



March 15, 2008: CRISPE and crew do the Saint Patrick Day Parade in San Diego. Paul S. and Deborah P. even drove down from LA County to join in the fun!



March 25, 2008: California Superior Court Judge Ronal L. Bauer [awarded the largest Unruh Act judgment](#) in the state's history to NCFM-SD member and men's rights attorney extraordinaire Mr. Al Rava and several co-plaintiffs. This class action law suit cost behemoth Club Med \$400,000 for offering a sex based and discriminatory promotion in which women were offered the same vacation package as men except women went free while men paid.

Throughout this period volunteer Rich A., John Van Doorn, Larry Kerkman, and me; though mostly Rich attended numerous major political party monthly meetings and special events. Rich, an ex-Marine (I know, once a Marine always a Marine) is now the primary area coordinator for one ex-Marine running for CA-State Assembly and regularly talks with another ex-Marine running for Congress (...who is the son of a sitting Congressman from San Diego that this year made a run at the Presidency). Rich is now chummy-chummy with Republican, Democrat, and Libertarian San Diego party bigwigs. Rich has been a huge help volunteering well over 40 hours a week primarily helping CRISPE and networking with politicians. He's also been on his own time and dime been taking classes on fundraising and grant writing. Rich is a great help to our Center and NCFM.

A special thanks goes to John Diaz for setting up a California Men's Center blog. It's still in development but whatever he did is driving traffic to our site and educating many more about men's, fathers, and family rights. Aside from which the news feeds are great to read and directly on topic. There's a link to our blog in the right hand corner of any page at www.californiamenscenters.org.

Take Care,

Harry Crouch

Founder/Director, California Men's Centers

President, National Coalition of Free Men (NCFM)

Secretary/Treasurer, Children's Rights Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally (CRISPE)

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National Coalition of Free Men

<http://www.ncfm.org>

California Men's Center San Diego

<http://www.californiamenscenters.org/>

Children's Rights Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally (CRISPE)

<http://www.crispe.org>

PaternityFraudDNA - find out who Dad really is, contact us for a DNA test

<http://www.paternityfrauddna.com/>

Mensbiz

<http://mensbiz.net/>

Mensbiz Shops (great advocacy products)

<http://www.cafepress.com/mensbiz>

My blog

<http://harrycrouch.blogspot.com/>

Stop talking vaginas:

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/01/16/opinion/letters/1_15_0817_07_01.txt.

Single family homes: http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080119/news_lz1e19letters.html

National Family Resource Center: <http://www.nfvlrc.org/>

CAFEP initial work (new equal parenting legislation):

http://www.californiamenscenters.org/files/080226_SHARED_PARENTING_DRAFT_CODE_Final.pdf

Al Rava v. Club Med Judgement:

http://www.californiamenscenters.org/files/08_Al_Rava_v._Club_Med_Judgement.pdf