

FLORIDA FAMILY ASSOCIATION

January
2007

FLORIDA SENATE “SEXUAL ORIENTATION” QUESTION WILL NOT BE APPROVED

Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt was considering the “*Revision of the Gubernatorial Appointment Biographical Questionnaire*” which contained the following new proposed question:

14. Have you ever been the subject of a complaint or investigation that included allegations that you discriminated against or harassed someone in the workplace, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, or discrimination based on color, race, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, familial status, marital status, or sexual orientation?
Yes ___ No ___ If “Yes,” explain:

See page 4 ... Sexual Orientation Question

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COLLECT MARRIAGE PETITIONS AT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Your Help Could Put Marriage Petition Over The Top

Florida Family Association is organizing a group of volunteers to collect petitions for the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment during the Strawberry Festival.

The Strawberry Festival will be held from March 1 through March 11, 2007. The Strawberry Festival is in Plant City, Florida off of Interstate 4 Exit 19, State Road 566. Directions to the Strawberry Festival are provided at the end of this article.

Florida Family Association is focusing on many of the concerts which take place at 4:00 PM and 7:30 PM as

Continued page 4 ... Volunteers Needed

FLORIDA FAMILY ASSOCIATION TAKING A STAND IN NUMEROUS JURISDICTIONS

Florida Family Association (FFA) is involved in numerous jurisdictions with the goal of influencing public policy that will reduce the negative impact that pornography and sexually oriented businesses are having on families. Florida Family Association’s efforts include:

PHILADELPHIA: *A.C.L.U. vs. United States Department of Justice (DOJ)*. The A.C.L.U. and other groups filed a lawsuit to prevent the United States Department of Justice from enforcing the *Child Online Protection Act (COPA)*. *COPA*, enacted in 1998, requires web sites to block children’s access to pornographic materials by requiring the use of a credit card, password or other age verification technique.

Florida Family Association created custom software called *PornCrawler* that identified close to 300 million unrestricted porn links on internet. The software summarized the 300 porn million links in a report that concluded just 20 companies in the United States were responsible for posting 70 percent of the pornography found on the internet. The United States Department of Justice Civil Division requested use of the Florida Family Association *PornCrawler* report to help defend the *Child Online Protection Act* in federal court.

The United States District Court issued an order preventing the Department of Justice from enforcing *COPA* until a full trial was convened. After seven years of appeals and legal wrangling between the ACLU and the DOJ, the trial finally began on October 22, 2006 before Senior U.S. District Judge Lowell A. Reed Jr. The trial was expected to last six to eight weeks. Florida Family Association is waiting for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to rule.

Continued page 3 ... Taking A Stand In Numerous

**STAYING THE COURSE AS PROVEN IN THE PAST
WILL MAKE US SUCCESSFUL IN THE FUTURE**

NEW YEARS GREETINGS to you and your family.

We hope and pray that you will stand with us as we pursue our mission to improve and protect our moral environment in 2007.

We have invested several years and substantial resources in many of our long term goals. We have learned from Our Past Victories that we must be diligent and patient if we are to achieve more success.

Television monitoring and writing advertisers, the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment and many other efforts will prove to be successful only if we are faithful to see them through to completion. Our eighteen years of efforts have proven that staying the course for a period of years is often required to achieve Victory.

Your prayers and support are important to our continued success.

Please help all of our efforts to start the year strong by sending a gift in the enclosed envelope. **THANK YOU.** God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

David Caton

Executive Director



DAVID E. CATON
Executive Director

**FLORIDA FAMILY
ASSOCIATION**
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Fax 1-813-264-0658

Email:

ffa@floridafamily.org

Many supporters have opted for the convenience of having their CREDIT Card, DEBIT Card or CHECKING Account make automatic monthly contributions.

If you would like to have your credit or debit card or checking account make an automatic monthly contribution to help keep our efforts strong each month simply complete the information below, sign and return this form in the enclosed envelope. FFA accepts all bank checking accounts but only VISA and MASTERCARD.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit or Debit Card # _____

Expiration (MM/YY) _____ Monthly Contribution \$ _____

Checking Account Debit (only) - Please attach a voided check.

Your signature _____ Date signed _____

Service can be cancelled within 24 hours by calling or emailing FFA.

CONTRIBUTION POLICY

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND CONFIDENTIAL. Florida Family Association is a non-profit 501C3 tax exempt corporation that is devoted to educating citizens on what they can do to defend, protect and promote traditional, biblical values. Checks may be made payable to Florida Family Association or FFA. Contributions are tax deductible and confidential. Florida Family Association will never sell or give away any contributor's name to anyone else, will never solicit contributions by phone, and will never report a contributor's gift or bequest through a Will or Trust in any publication.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

TAKING A STAND IN NUMEROUS JURISDICTIONS

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA: *Daytona Grand, Inc. d/b/a Lollipop's Gentlemen's Club and Miles Weiss VS City of Daytona Beach.* United States District Court Judge John Antoon II ruled on March 7, 2006 the **City of Daytona Beach's** ordinance prohibiting public nudity was unconstitutional. The judge also ruled that other Daytona Beach City codes were unconstitutional in their enforcement against nude businesses. The City of Daytona Beach appealed the ruling to the Eleventh United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia.

Florida Family Association joined with other pro-family groups to participate in an Appellant Brief written by the *Alliance Defense Fund*. The Appellant Brief was filed with the Eleventh United States Court of Appeals to support the ordinances enacted by the City of Daytona Beach.

SARASOTA COUNTY: *Cheetah Lounge, et al vs. Sarasota County.* Esther Rachwal, Florida Family Association's former Associate Director in Sarasota County, lead the effort to influence the Sarasota County Commission to adopt an ordinance on November 12, 1996 that prohibited public nudity at all commercial establishments. Florida Family Association also worked to influence the board to enact the public nudity ordinance.

However, the former owner of Cheetah Lounge threatened to sue the county if they did not exempt his business from the ordinance. So Sarasota County Commissioners gave Cheetah Lounge until November 11, 2006 to comply with the restrictions.

Florida Family Association launched an email campaign on September 20, 2006 that urged Sarasota County Commissioner to stand their ground and enforce the nudity prohibition starting November 12, 2006. Cheetah's new owner filed a lawsuit in the United States Middle District Court of Florida on October 5, 2006 to prevent Sarasota County from enforcing the nudity prohibition against their business.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY: *State of Florida vs. J. Galardi.* Mark Ober, State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, filed criminal and civil RICO charges against the owner and managers of four nude clubs in Hillsborough County for profiting from organized prostitution.

Florida Family Association participated in an email campaign in June 2003 which generated over ten thousand emails that called on Mark Ober and other officials to enforce Florida Statutes against live sex shops in Tampa. Criminal charges (Case 03-CF-022433) were filed against the club owner and managers in December 2003. Civil RICO charges (Case 04-CA-000216) were filed in January 2004.

A hearing on the Civil RICO trial is scheduled for January 17, 2007, 9:45 AM by Circuit Court Judge Charlene Honeywell, Hillsborough County Courthouse Annex, 801 East Twiggs, Tampa, Courtroom 522. The sentencing hearing on the criminal charges has been scheduled for April 11, 2007, 8:30 AM by Circuit Court Judge Debra Benke, Hillsborough County Courthouse Annex, 801 East Twiggs, Tampa, Courtroom 52A.

PLANT CITY Florida Family Association asked the Plant City Commission to consider enacting a Public Nudity Ordinance and other legislation that would restrict the crime inviting activities of live sex shops during a public hearing in August 2005. Kenneth Buchman, City Attorney for Plant City, informed Florida Family Association that the city planned to pursue FFA's proposal. Plant City recently hired Scott Bergthold, the lead attorney at adultbusinesslaw.com, to draft new legislation to restrict public nudity and other adverse activities that occur at live sex shops. Hopefully, Plant City commissioners will consider these proposals soon after a thorough review between Mr. Buchman and Mr. Bergthold.

Florida Family Association will continue to closely monitor our interest in these cases and communicate with the appropriate officials.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COLLECT MARRIAGE PETITIONS

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well as Saturdays and Sundays to ask patrons to sign the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment petition.

Hundreds of thousands of likeminded people attend the Strawberry Festival every year. This presents a premium opportunity to collect signatures fast from many people who are very willing to participate.

The petitions collected during the Strawberry Festival could put the effort over the amount needed to qualify it for a place on the November 2008 ballot.

If you can volunteer a few hours, several hours or days to help collect Florida Marriage Protection Amendment petitions at the Strawberry Festival from March 1st through March 11th, please call 1-800-357-7128 extension 1 or send an email to ffa@floridafamily.org or send a note to Florida Family Association, PO Box 46547, Tampa, FL 33647-0105. Please include your name, phone number, and days and hours you can volunteer.

DIRECTIONS TO THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL from Tampa:

Take I-4 East towards Orlando
Take the Thonotosassa Rd. Exit. Exit 19 SR 566
Turn right on Thonotosassa Rd. and follow to red light
At red light go straight onto Lemon St. and follow to 4 way stop at Oak St.
Turn right on Oak St.
Ticket Office is approximately 2 blocks on the left.
(Sign out front)

Are you receiving FFA's Email Alerts?

Thousands of citizens have signed up to receive email alerts from Florida Family Association (FFA). Citizens participating in FFA's email campaigns have helped to influence numerous victories. To sign up, simply log onto www.floridafamily.org, click on the button labeled "Email Updates" in the left hand column. Complete the small form and click the signup button. An email will be sent to you to confirm your registration.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION QUESTION NOT APPROVED

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The inclusion of the "*sexual orientation*" category meant that if homosexual extremists have ever filed a complaint or law suit against a person who opposed the radical homosexual agenda that person could have been disqualified from consideration for a job in the new Florida governor's administration.

When asked how the "*sexual orientation*" category made it into the question, Florida Senate President staff said "*a staffer was asked to research all of the categories protected under Florida Statutes and include them in the question.*"

However, Florida Statutes do NOT include "*sexual orientation*" as a protected category in any section dealing with discrimination or sexual harassment.

Ironically, this proposed question may have prevented incoming Florida Senator Ronda Storms from being considered in the Governor's administration because homosexual activists complained about her opposition to a pro-homosexual display in public libraries. An individual also filed a lawsuit against her for the same reason.

If this rule of questioning had been approved for the Florida Governor's administration by a Republican controlled Florida Senate, what could have been next, adding "*sexual orientation*" to the *Florida Civil Rights Act* thereby creating a gay rights law?

Florida Family Association send out an email alert in November that encouraged people to send emails calling for the removal of the "*sexual orientation*" category from the questionnaire.

Thanks to the many people who sent emails to the then incoming Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt the proposed policy question containing the "*sexual orientation*" category will NOT approved. Thanks to everyone who sent emails to Senator Ken Pruitt. Republican leadership should have never allowed the "*sexual orientation*" category to be included in this question in the first place.