

## BAYMEC

The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) is the closest thing I know of to a Gay PAC. Founded in 1984, the organization has lobbied in behalf of lesbian/gay populations on a variety of issues and campaigns in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Monterey Counties.

The impact of their efforts is inestimable. Besides lobbying elected officials on the issues that affect our lives, BAYMEC provides meaningful endorsements—and funding—to candidates whose civil rights position ~~reflects~~ a positive integration with lesbian/gay concerns.

The process that begins with a simple inquiry—or a candidate's request for BAYMEC's endorsement—is followed-up with a frank review of the candidate's position on issues, legislative goals, history and current practices, e.g., ~~requesting~~ lesbian/gay advisors or other staffers. (While I have always found BAYMEC's representatives to be direct, good-tempered, professional, accessible and thorough, I hear that these question-and-answer interviews can be intense, requiring from a candidate the kind of clarity and commitment we should expect our leaders to show.) An on-going effort, once elected those officials, like others within BAYMEC's auspices, are held accountable...

Putting it on the line, BAYMEC:

- Fights for civil rights,
- Strives to end discrimination against lesbians and gays,
- Educates public officials about our community,
- Elects gays and lesbians to public office,
- Provides a voice for gays and lesbians in local politics.

There was an informal reception for BAYMEC on Friday, May 20, 7:30 to 9, at 830 Rosita Road, Del Rey Oaks. Speakers included Leslee Hamilton, VP of Political Action, who presented BAYMEC's current endorsements for political office. We ~~hope~~ to begin to develop a network of concerned individuals in Monterey County. there are quite a few possibilities to involve oneself here in both behind-the-scenes and face-to-face political contact, depending on your personal time and interests.

For more information, please contact Jane Wynn at 455-1794 or Matt and Bruce at 899-2263.