

Gibbons will address gay GOP group (9:35 a.m., June 9)

Contributed by Jo Mannies in St. Louis

State Senate President Pro Tem Mike Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, is the latest Republican leader to agree to address the Greater St. Louis Log Cabin Republicans, a gay political group. Group president Charles Stadlander says 65 people have so far signed up for Gibbons' June 22 appearance at Bar Italia in the Central West End.

Meanwhile, controversy continues over the scholarship Stadlander has been awarded by Pride St. Louis, the group that sponsors the region's annual parade supporting gays. This year's event is later this month.

The latest edition of EXP, a magazine that covers gay issues, is due out Friday. It includes an editorial by publisher Jeff Balk, who has been critical of the scholarship. Balk writes that he doesn't object to the fact that Stadlander is a Republican; rather, it was Stadlander's support for anti-gay candidates." Among them, writes Balk, are President George W. Bush, Governor Matt Blunt and the late Rep. Richard Byrd, R-Kirkwood.

Pride St. Louis' next board meeting is 7 p.m. Monday at Trinity Episcopal Church. The matter of Stadlander may once again come up, especially since his award has prompted hundreds of missives - pro and con - on the Gaystlouis.com Web site.