



June, 2010 Edition

FACILITATORS GRADUATE



The newest class of GASS support group facilitators has completed their training and are ready to begin duty. The second annual 12 hour course was completed this spring with students attending from several groups in the Northwest including Tacoma T-Men, Centralia College GSA, Ingersoll Gender Center, New Boyz Club, and Evergreen College EQA.

The training is open to all allies of the trans community and covers topics such as Understanding Self-Help Groups, Post Op Transsexual Depression Causes, Ways to Keep Your Self-Help Group Meetings Upbeat, and Keeping Group Members From the Start. The class is split into four sessions held at the Tacoma Rainbow Center and will commence again this year in the fall.

Congratulation to the Class of 2010 and a big THANK YOU for your dedication to making our community stronger.



ENDA: We've Waited Long Enough

By Leslie Gable-Brett, Lambda Legal

Vandy Beth Glenn should not have to wait any longer. In 2007, she lost her job as a legislative editor for the Georgia General Assembly because of discrimination against her as a transgender employee.

And Richard Mitchell should not have to wait any longer. In 2006, he was fired from his job as superintendent of Bremen Community High School District No. 228 in Chicago by a school board that elected a chairperson who opposed hiring him because he is gay.

These two Lambda Legal clients are suing their former employers for discrimination. They have top-notch experienced lawyers and fairness on their side. They have the constitutional guarantee of equal protection on their side, and Mitchell, who worked in Chicago, has a local law prohibiting discrimination on his side. The one thing they do not have is the very thing that every employee should have: equal opportunity on the job guaranteed by a federal law that explicitly

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GASS HITS THE ROAD

Gender Liberty Tour

The much anticipated 2010 Pride season has arrived! GASS has expanded its booth to emphasize and present its empowering message. Join us at one of the five festivals this year to hear and see what GASS offers and how you can make a difference in our community.

2010 Tour Schedule

June 4- Lewis County GLBT Pride

Centralia College

<http://www.myspace.com/centraliacollegegsa>

June 12- Capital City Pride Festival

Downtown Olympia

<http://capitalcitypride.net/joomla/>

June 27- Seattle Out and Proud

Seattle Center

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

July 10- Out in the Park

Wright Park, Tacoma

GASS scholarship to be presented!

<http://www.rainbowcntr.org/outintacoma2010.htm>

July 17- Kitsap Pride

protects against sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

It's time for Congress to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) to prohibit employment discrimination against LGBT people. By passing ENDA, Congress not only would provide a legal remedy for discrimination, but also would make a powerful statement of principle regarding fair treatment of all employees who work hard and perform well.

What does it take to pass a bill in Congress? A majority of votes? We've got that. Public opinion in favor of the bill? We've got that, too. An urgent need and effective remedy? That is what ENDA is all about.

Read the rest of the article at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leslie-gabelbrett/enda-weve-waited-long-eno_b_581734.html

DODT MUST GO *"Seventy-eight percent of Americans say they want 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repealed, and for good reason: It is discriminatory, outdated and costly. The vast majority of people know that it is wrong to discriminate against patriotic men and women willing to risk their lives by serving in the military. Thousands of qualified service members have already been drummed out of the military for nothing other than bias and prejudice, and thousands more live in fear of losing their military careers."*

Rea Carey, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Read the Task Force blog to stay up to date at:

<http://taskforceblog.wordpress.com>

Bremerton Waterfront

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

Inside Out

By Diego

Something inside of me doesn't feel right,
Something is different in the air tonight.
I try to explain how I feel inside,
I feel like a guy but that's not all right.
What would I give to just feel okay,
Maybe I will, maybe someday,
If I could just change to the little boy in me,
If I could just break through this cage and be free.
I would give my world just to be him,
I hope that this feeling isn't a sin.
I don't want to lose all that I have,
But I just cannot take it, I'm going mad.
It can't be the devil, it's just too real,
It has to be me, it's the way that I feel.
I know that god loves me, this isn't a curse,
It's just a challenge I was given at birth.
It's here to help me so that I can help others,
The world calls me a girl but I'm more like my brothers.
Just a little bit longer and I'm at the top,
But if I can't be him, then my soul will just drop.
I'll quiver and shake if it can't come true,
I'll slip and break is all I'll do.
One day, I pray, that I'll be Diego,
That's who I am, that's all that I know.



www.SouthSoundGender.com

The White House Office of the Press Secretary - For Immediate Release May 28, 2010

Presidential Proclamation--Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

As Americans, it is our birthright that all people are created equal and deserve the same rights, privileges, and opportunities. Since our earliest days of independence, our Nation has striven to fulfill that promise. An important chapter in our great, unfinished story is the movement for fairness and equality on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. This month, as we recognize the immeasurable contributions of LGBT Americans, we renew our commitment to the struggle for equal rights for LGBT Americans and to ending prejudice and injustice wherever it exists.

LGBT Americans have enriched and strengthened the fabric of our national life. From business leaders and professors to athletes and first responders, LGBT individuals have achieved success and prominence in every discipline. They are our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters, and our friends and neighbors. Across my Administration, openly LGBT employees are serving at every level. Thanks to those who came before us—the brave men and women who marched, stood up to injustice, and brought change through acts of compassion or defiance—we have made enormous progress and continue to strive for a more perfect union.

My Administration has advanced our journey by signing into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which strengthens Federal protections against crimes based on gender identity or sexual orientation. We renewed the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides life-saving medical services and support to Americans living with HIV/AIDS, and finally eliminated the HIV entry ban. I also signed a Presidential Memorandum directing hospitals receiving Medicare and Medicaid funds to give LGBT patients the compassion and security they deserve in their time of need, including the ability to choose someone other than an immediate family member to visit them and make medical decisions.

In other areas, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a series of proposals to ensure core housing programs are open to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. HUD also announced the first ever national study of discrimination against members of the LGBT community in the rental and sale of housing. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services has created a National Resource Center for LGBT Elders.

Much work remains to fulfill our Nation's promise of equal justice under law for LGBT Americans. That is why we must give committed gay couples the same rights and responsibilities afforded to any married couple, and repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. We must protect the rights of LGBT families by securing their adoption rights, ending employment discrimination against LGBT Americans, and ensuring Federal employees receive equal benefits. We must create safer schools so all our children may learn in a supportive environment. I am also committed to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" so patriotic LGBT Americans can serve openly in our military, and I am working with the Congress and our military leadership to

accomplish that goal.

As we honor the LGBT Americans who have given so much to our Nation, let us remember that if one of us is unable to realize full equality, we all fall short of our founding principles. Our Nation draws its strength from our diversity, with each of us contributing to the greater whole. By affirming these rights and values, each American benefits from the further advancement of liberty and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2010 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by fighting prejudice and discrimination in their own lives and everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

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