

A Month of Pride

The Caucus Travels Michigan

Thank you everyone for making the 2009 Pride month a great success! From volunteers at the booths to organizers behind the scenes we could not have made our presence at the 4 Pride events possible without you. Your effort allowed the caucus to welcome over 100 new members to our e-mail list as well as add countless volunteers to our grassroots movement.

It was great to see all of the excitement for the LGBT community and hear your aspirations for the future. So many have a feeling of betrayal from past

LGBT leadership, and the real eye opener was how many LGBT people know nothing about the current

Michigan LGBT leadership or what their doing in their name.

As a Caucus, we plan on making ourselves visible in an effort to reach out to all members of the LGBT community. We know that our community is diverse and that our only hope of unifying is through open communication, so we look forward to working with all of you!

Michigan Pride- June 13 , 2009
Lansing, MI

Adding new volunteers!



Special points of interest:

- Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
- Remembering Stonewall
- Working Together Forum
- The fight for equality moves to Jackson

June Pride Events:

- June 8: Motor City Pride (Ferndale, MI)
- June 13: Kalamazoo Pride (Kalamazoo, MI)
- June 13: Michigan Pride (Lansing, MI)
- June 20: West Michigan Pride (Grand Rapids, MI)

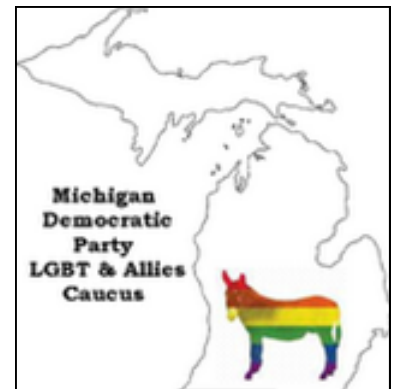
Special Announcement

In our effort to pass the school anti-bullying Senate Bill SB0159 we must build pressure on key Republican Senators. The LGBT & Allies Caucus is having four Freedom Marches in key Republican Senator districts, starting with a march through Howell,

Michigan. We will be organizing the Howell "March for Freedom and our Children" after the general caucus meeting on August 1, 2009(see page 3).

Please see

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-SB-0159>
for more information.



Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

The US House of Representatives will likely vote on the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) this autumn. ENDA is a proposed bill in the United States Congress that would prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

Such protections are already available to employees of the federal government through executive orders for sexual orientation and gender identity in 1998 and 2009 respectively; this

would extend them to employees in the private sector (religious organizations exempted). Two Michigan



Democrats, Rep. Bart Stupak (1st district) and Rep. Mark Schauer (7th district) have **not** yet committed to voting for this bill.

The Caucus plans to meet with these two representa-

tives about the bill in August. If you live in either district and would like to join us for the meeting, please contact Jen Chapin-Smith (jench1977@hotmail.com) right away for the time, date and place!

For more information, check out the Facebook page Inclusive ENDA and this article on Pam's House Blend blog: www.pamshouseblend.com/diary/11242/inclusive-enda-2009-can-a-viral-facebook-campaign-make-it-happen

Stonewall ... 40 Years Later



DNC Statement In Commemoration of 40th Anniversary of Stonewall Inn Riots

Washington, DC— Democratic National Committee Chairman Tim Kaine issued the following statement to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn Riots which will occur on

spark that began the gay rights movement around the world.

"Four decades later, we as a people have come a long way and should be proud of what we have accomplished since that day in promoting equal rights for all Americans - yet there is much more to do. With a President and majority in Congress committed to equality for all, our country can take more steps toward achieving the Democratic Party's commitment to fulfilling that promise by passing such laws as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, adopting a national HIV/AIDS strategy, enhancing the safety of our military and our national security by eliminating 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell', and by repealing the Defense of Marriage Act.

"With the courage and defiance of those individuals at Stonewall Inn still in our hearts and minds, the Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to the march towards equality for all and second class citizenship for none."

Sunday, June 28th :

"Forty years ago at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, gay and lesbian Americans fought injustice from persecution and discrimination, bravely leading the charge in what has become the defining

~Aletheia Henry
Michigan State Director
Organizing for America

Working Together Forum Recap



Thanks to all who came to our first Working Together Forum on June 15 at the Ypsilanti Public Library. The hour long forum showed us that while we agree on many issues, there are still many discussions that need

to take place in order to bring the entire LGBT community together to create one common voice. Discussion and open dialogue are essential to pushing legislation forward and creating a safer and healthier environment for all LGBT people. It is vital that these discussions continue to get more inclusive and brought to various parts of the state so that all people can have

their voices heard.

There is great potential in the upcoming months to push for a more progressive dialogue amongst our state leaders and these forums are a great way to begin the pressure.

The Caucus is looking forward to increased dialogue across the state and working on setting a time for the next forum, which will most likely take place this fall.

Check us out on Facebook at:

Michigan
Democratic
Party LGBT &
Allies Caucus

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=18057276167>

The Equal Rights Battle Moves to Jackson

August 1st will be a signature gathering day in Jackson in support of the proposed Jackson Civil Rights Ordinance. Bella Notte restaurant has donated a room for our use from 1-6 PM. We will use the room to coordinate volunteers throughout the afternoon from 1-5 and then enjoy pizza together afterwards. Michigan Equality will be providing the pizza and a cash bar will be available. Bella Notte is located

in downtown Jackson at 137 W. Michigan Ave.

Please get this out to all those who would be interested in helping with this effort.

Please RSVP to Julie Nemecek at jnemecek@michiganequality.org or by phone to 517-416-4608.

Upcoming Events & Updates

- LGBT & Allies Caucus general meeting, 8/1 (more info to come)
- Gayz Craze, University of Michigan, Labor Day, 9/7
- Help us legalize Gay Marriage in Michigan join the Michigan Democratic LGBT and Allies Caucus in the fight to put this question on the ballot in 2012. Check out the Caucus's Facebook site. Our first general meeting about the Marriage Equal 2012 campaign is 9/12, at the Ypsilanti Library (more info to come)
- October 11, March on Washington. The Caucus is currently looking into transportation for a large group.
- * The Candidate Training session originally scheduled for

August 1 has been postponed to a later date.

What we could use your help with:

- The Caucus is working on creating outside city committees to help increase our visibility and effectiveness statewide, so if you would like to start one in your area please let us know.