

## GLID meetings/events

Wednesday, May 12 · 8:00 PM

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENTS

The Center · 208 West 13 Street

Candidates from all six Senate districts and 12 Assembly districts in the borough have been invited to address the club and answer questions. The public may attend the meeting but only members in good standing may vote.

Thursday, May 17 · 7:00 PM

### ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Location to be determined

Save the date for GLID's annual spring festivities honoring New Yorkers who have made a difference to the LGBT community!

Wednesday, May 26 · 7:00 PM

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Center · 208 West 13 Street

Only executive committee members may vote on business, but all members are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

Wednesday, June 9 · 8:00 PM

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PUBLIC ADVOCATE BETSY GOTBAUM

The Center · 208 West 13 Street

The Public Advocate will speak on "Is there a Gender Gap at City Hall?"

## GLID Plays Role Quest for Marriage Equality

As Manhattan's LGBT Democratic club, GLID has had a small but important role to play in the raging same-sex marriage debate. We have participated in political press conferences and activist demonstrations, sent a van full of people to testify at State Senator Duane's March 3<sup>rd</sup> same-sex marriage hearing in Albany, convened a public forum on how the battle is unfolding here in New York, and spearheaded a survey of elected officials and aspirants in order to cap-

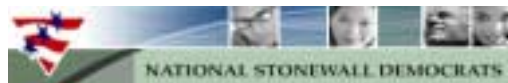
ture and clarify their positions on the issue.

Nearly 200 people, including many GLID members, attended our March 10<sup>th</sup> panel discussion on "The Gay Marriage Battle: Is New York City the Next Frontline?" The event, moderated by Gay City News Editor Paul Schindler, was co-sponsored by Stonewall Democrats, the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee,

*(Marriage continued on page 4)*

## GLID Named NSD Chapter of the Month

GLID is very pleased to have been named National Stonewall Democrats' (NSD) chapter of the month. GLID is a charter member of NSD, which has more than 70 local chapters and is America's only grassroots Democratic LGBT organization.



Recent visitors to [www.stonewalldemocrats.org](http://www.stonewalldemocrats.org) have seen a profile of our club, including our history and recent activities. No doubt one reason for our designation is that both NSD board members elected from our region – Jody Rudin and Melissa Sklarz – come out of GLID.

We also might have been chosen because GLID recently underwrote an NSD fundraiser that Jody, our political action committee chair, and

Melissa, our female vice president, coordinated. More than 150 people packed into the back room at OW Bar on January 29<sup>th</sup> to support NSD's mission of educating the LGBT community about the differences between the political parties; mobilizing the

LGBT community to get out to vote on Election Day for fair-minded Democrats; and standing up when Republicans attack our community, while leading the Democratic party to continue improving its record on LGBT issues.

GLID looks forward to working with NSD towards the day when equality is a priority for every political party and a principal that guides every elected official.



GLID, c/o THE CENTER  
208 WEST 13 STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10011  
E-mail [president@glid.org](mailto:president@glid.org)  
[www.glid.org](http://www.glid.org)

#### **OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**  
Brad Hoylman

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Melissa Sklarz  
Stephen Skyles-Mulligan

**SECRETARY**  
Dan Gettleman

**TREASURER**  
Robert Christmas

#### **CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**CAMPAIGN**  
Lorna Gottesman  
Cynthia Smith

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
Marlene Besterman

**FUNDRAISING**  
Judy Selby  
Freddy Kaplan

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Bill Dunmyer

**POLITICAL ACTION**  
Jody Rudin

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**  
Vacant

**LESBIAN CAUCUS**  
Imogen Taylor

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
Scott Melvin

## **THE EQUITY PRINCIPLES FOR EMPLOYERS**

1. The company will prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender expression or gender identity as part of its written employment policy statement.
2. The company will disseminate its written employment policy statement company-wide.
3. The company will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of any employee's actual or perceived health condition, status or disability.
4. The company will offer equal health insurance and other benefits to employees to cover their domestic partners regardless of the employee's marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity.
5. The company will include discussions of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity as part of its official employee diversity and sensitivity training communications.
6. The company will give employee groups equal standing, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
7. The company advertising policy will avoid the use of negative stereotypes based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
8. The company will not discriminate against advertising, marketing or promoting events on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity.
9. The company will not discriminate in the sale of its goods or services based on sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity.
10. The company will not bar charitable contributions to groups and organizations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity.

### **EQUITY PRINCIPLES ENDORSERS**

(list in formation)

Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS Project, Center for Constitutional Rights, Empire State Pride Agenda, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, Congressman Barney Frank, Human Rights Campaign Business Council, International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Latinos & Latinas de Ambiente/NY, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center/NYC, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Lawyers Guild Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights, New York AIDS Coalition, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson, Out and Equal Workplace Advocates, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/New York, People With AIDS Coalition of New York, Stonewall Democrats

## Comptroller Thompson Endorses Equality Principles

In late March, a coalition led by Equality Project Investor Advocates Vice Chair Grant Lukenbill, GLID President Brad Hoylman and Stone-wall Democrats President Tom Smith, called on the Board of Trustees of New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) and the Teachers' Retirement System to immediately begin fully supporting and advocating for full inclusion of the Equality Principles in its shareholder negotiation efforts with Fortune 500 companies.

The Equality Principals (see box on left) promote corporate responsibility to the LGBT community and is endorsed by every leading LGBT and human rights group in country.

Within days, New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson, who serves on the board of NYCERS and the Teachers' Retirement System, publicly stated his support for the Equality Principles. Thompson, who has often exercised the power of the city's pension funds to encourage companies to improve their policies towards LGBT employees, also announced he will be broach-

ing the topic with the pension funds in the near future.

Since he took office in 2002, Comptroller Thompson has shown leadership by organizing shareholder actions urging key companies to adopt policies that bar discrimination. But, as Luckenbill noted, "merely calling for a company to amend its written policy does not go far enough. Many of these companies have continued to discriminate against gays and lesbians by not offering them equal health care benefits. And nearly all continue to disregard issues related to discrimination and gender expression."

GLID President Hoylman, noted he was pleased but not surprised by how quickly Comptroller Thompson embraced the Equality Principles. "Comptroller Thompson has been a longtime friend of our community. All we had to do was ask for his support. Given the information, he saw the value of taking a comprehensive public stand on this issue and joining the leading LGBT organizations that have long stood behind the Equality Principles."

## Equal Benefits Bill, DASA Near Passage

Two pieces of legislation of particular importance to the LGBT community moved closer to passage in April.

On Friday, April 16th, the New York City Council's Contracts Committee voted in favor of the Equal Benefits Bill (Intro.137), thereby sending it to the full Council for a vote at its April 21<sup>st</sup> stated meeting. The bill, which is also known as the Thrope-Ghossein

Bill after a lesbian couple it would have benefited, would require all organizations and companies entering into, or renewing, a \$100,000 plus contract with the City of New York to provide the same benefits to domestic partners that they provide to married employees.

The bill was introduced by GLID's own Councilmember Christine Quinn,

## GLID in the News

### Village Voice

*Bush's Gay Marriage Ban: It Can Happen Here*  
March 3-9, 2004

"The bar association is often the harbinger for institutional support," says Brad Hoylman, president of Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, a political club. "They were very useful on AIDS discrimination and adoption rights." Indeed, the state's high court agreed with the bar association's positions, ruling that that a gay or lesbian couple can adopt a child together and that a tenant cannot be evicted when his or her partner dies. These decisions implicitly recognize that same-sex couples are a family.

### Women enews

*Women-Politics: Straight or Gay, Women Lean Toward Democrats*  
March 26, 2004

Lesbians and transgender [people] don't always see eye-to-eye with gay men, whom they sometimes accuse of exerting "male privilege"...

But, says Melissa Sklarz, such divisions have been at least temporarily abandoned and she has "never seen such a unified Democratic Party." Sklarz--a Manhattan judicial delegate Manhattan and New York State's only transgendered elected official--is a vice-president of Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats.

Sklarz says civil rights issues such as the Patriot Act, which authorizes the government to search third-party holders of personal records, and the Bush administration's proposal for a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, are also spurring LGBT voters to overlook differences with other voting blocs in response to a perceived common political antagonist.

(Marriage continued from page 1)

and Village Independent Democrats. The outstanding panel was composed of six thoughtful, well-spoken activists representing many facets of the same-sex marriage struggle: City Councilmember Phil Reed; Marriage Equality co-founder Connie Ress; Wedding Party organizer Anthony Brown; SEIU 1199 political director and former GLID president Kevin Finnegan, Empire State Pride Agenda Communications Director Joe Tarver; and Nyack mayor John Shields.

Rather than summarize the forum here, we encourage you to read Schindler's excellent account, which appeared as his editor's letter in the March 11-17 *Gay City News*. It is archived online at [www.gaycitynews.com/gcn\\_311/letterfromtheeditor.html](http://www.gaycitynews.com/gcn_311/letterfromtheeditor.html).

As for the survey cited above, GLID's executive committee was outraged by some elected officials' lack of clarity on

same-sex marriage in public statements to the media. So we reached out to Marriage Equality New York, Stonewall Democratic Club, Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee and Lambda Independent Democrats to develop a



Getty Images/ William Mullin

pointed poll of elected officials, opinion makers and probable candidates for public office to put them on the record on this important issue. This is the first time that the major LGBT Democratic political organizations in the city have joined forces for such an effort. Results will be tabulated by the end of May and posted on all the sponsoring organizations' web sites as a resource for the community.

Although the fight for same-sex marriage is going to be a long, hard struggle, what is gratifying about the fight so far is how well different organizations within the community have worked together towards this common goal. GLID is proud to be part of this collaborative effort and looks forward to celebrating our ultimate victory.

and is sponsored by all ten members of the Manhattan Delegation, including Speaker Gifford Miller, as well as 28 other councilmembers. With 38 sponsors, not only is the passage of the bill by the Council assured, it also has a veto-proof majority, which is critical given Mayor Michael Bloomberg's stated opposition to the legislation.

The Dignity for All Schools Act (DASA) was also scheduled for a committee vote in late April. The Education Committee was expected to pass it overwhelmingly, setting up a vote of the full Council in May. DASA would prohibit harassment at schools for any reason, including, but not limited to, a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender.

DASA was introduced by lower Manhattan Councilmember Alan Gerson and is sponsored by Speaker Miller as well as 40 other Councilmembers. As a result, odds are very good that by the start of Pride Month, two of NYC's LGBT community's biggest legislative priorities will have been achieved.

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 New York, NY 10011  
[www.glid.org](http://www.glid.org)