

GLID meetings/events

Wednesday, June 9 • 8:00 PM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PUBLIC

ADVOCATE BETSY GOTBAUM

The Center • 208 West 13 Street
The Public Advocate will discuss
“Is there a gender gap at City Hall?”

Thursday, June 10 • 6:00-10:00 PM

ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT

Tribeca Grill, 375 Greenwich Street
Join GLID for cocktails and plentiful hors d'oeuvres at our annual spring festivities honoring Councilmember Robert Jackson, Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) and UNITE!

Wednesday, June 23 • 7:00 PM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Center • 208 West 13 Street

Wednesday, July 14 • 8:00 PM

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATURE ENDORSEMENTS

The Center • 208 West 13 Street
Candidates from every Manhattan district have been invited to address the club and answer questions. The public may attend the meeting but only members in good standing may vote.

Sunday, June 27 • 11:30 AM

THE 35TH ANNUAL LGBT PRIDE MARCH

GLID will line up on 53rd Street between 5th and Madison Avenues.

Glick Tells GLID About Civil Unions for All

At GLID's May membership meeting, Assemblymember Deborah Glick addressed the club about A10551, a bill she has introduced that would replace references to the term, “marriage” in the State's Domestic Relations Law with “civil union.”

The bill has sparked controversy in some quarters of the LGBT community because some people believe it could complicate efforts to pass the legislation recognizing same-sex marriage introduced by State Senator Duane and Assemblymember Gottfried. Glick came to GLID, of which she is a longtime member and former president, to explain that her bill “is not an attempt to derail the marriage momentum, it is an attempt to move the discussion forward.”

Glick believes that the current debate about same-sex couples having the same benefits and rights as opposite sex couples has gotten bogged down in a discussion of semantics regarding the term “marriage.”

By replacing the term “marriage” with “civil union” in the state's Domestic Relations Law, her legislation gets the state out of the marriage business and creates one standard, civil unions, which is equally available to all couples, gay or straight.

While some believe Glick's bill could

hurt the same-sex marriage movement, she disagrees. She noted that she also supports the Duane/Gottfried bill and if the same-sex marriage bill moved to the Assembly floor, she would not only vote in favor of it, but also would withdraw her own bill if it passed. But she shares the prevailing wisdom that the fate of same-sex marriage in New York State will be determined by the courts, not by the legislature.

In the meantime, she said, her bill forces legislators who have said it's okay for same-sex couples to have civil unions but not marriage to deal with the fact that civil unions are separate but unequal to marriage. If civil unions are not good enough for heterosexuals, then it proves they have second-class status. She argues that unless legislators are willing to replace marriage with civil unions for all couples, not just for same-sex couples, they are hypocrites.

Moreover, she observed, our community has never had a major victory that came as a result of a single strategy: we had to work on many fronts to finally win passage of SONDA, for example, or gain domestic partner rights in the City, or pass the State Hate Crimes Bill. Based on her 14 years in Albany and decades of work in the LGBT community, she made a strategic and tactical decision to shift

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GLID Swings Into Action Phonebanking to Battleground States

The 2004 Presidential election will be decided in 17 battleground states that are not yet firmly for any candidate. Since all polls suggest New York is solidly behind Senator John Kerry, GLID is working with Citizen Action of New York to educate and mobilize voters in these swing states around the country.

Our goal is to help Citizen Action volunteers make 500,000 personal contacts—by telephone and door-to-door—with voters in the states that will decide the outcome of the 2004 presidential election.

As part of this effort, GLID will be sending members regularly to Citizen Action's high-tech phonebanks from now until Election Day. On May 19, GLID members Henry Bader, Jim Feinberg, Lorna Gottesman, Laura Morrison and Robert Rizutto participated in the inaugural GLID/Citizen Action phone bank. Using a sophisticated web-based dialing/coding system, they called prospective voters in Wisconsin to identify their preferences in the presidential election, and particularly the uncertain voters who should be targeted with a persuasion

campaign to convert them to Senator Kerry. The technology made the calling easy and efficient, and the short, clear script limited hostility and hang ups.

The next GLID/Citizen Action phone bank is on Wednesday, June 2. GLID will also be sending members to Philadelphia Pride on June 13 to register LGBT PA voters. If you are interested in participating on either date, or at a future time, please email GLID President Brad Hoylman at president@glid.org.



**Gay and Lesbian
Independent Democrats**

GLID, c/o THE CENTER
208 WEST 13 STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10011
E-mail president@glid.org
www.glid.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Brad Hoylman

VICE PRESIDENTS
Melissa Sklarz
Stephen Skyles-Mulligan

SECRETARY
Dan Gettleman

TREASURER
Robert Christmas

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POLITICAL ACTION
Jody Rudin

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
Ronnie Billini

LESBIAN CAUCUS
Imogen Taylor

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Scott Melvin

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some of the discussion by introducing her bill calling for civil unions.

Presently, Glick said, the focus in Albany is on the non-existent budget and not on same-sex marriage or civil unions. Nonetheless she has had a number of good discussions with colleagues, including some who wanted a civil unions bill to hide behind, and other who were compelled to sign on as co-sponsors. She expects to have many more such consciousness-raising talks in the months ahead. ▼

President's Report: Equal Benefits Bill Passes!

As expected, on May 5, the New York City Council overwhelmingly passed the Equal Benefits Bill, also known as "Dominique's Law," which requires that the City only do business with companies that provide the same benefits to employees with domestic partners as they provide to employees with spouses. All ten Manhattan Councilmembers were among the 43 yes votes – a strong enough majority of the 51 members to override a mayoral veto. I'm proud to say that GLID has been a longtime member of the Equal Benefits Bill Coalition, which was organized by the bill's prime sponsor, Councilmember Christine Quinn, to seek broad community support for the bill.

Special thanks to Councilmember Quinn, who devoted a tremendous amount of energy to passing this landmark legislation, Contracts Committee Chair Robert Jackson, who shepherded the bill through committee, and Speaker Gifford Miller, who lobbied hard for the veto-proof majority. ▼ — *Brad Hoylman*

LGBT Democrats Thank NY Democratic Party for Support of Same-Sex Marriage

On May 17, the day that Massachusetts began celebrating marriages of same-sex couples and the New York State Democratic Party began its state convention, leaders of lesbian and gay Democratic clubs across the state wrote to state Democratic Party leaders to warmly thank the Party for its strong support of full, equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

At its last meeting on September 22, 2003 the NYS Democratic Committee unanimously adopted a resolution committing the Party to support equal marriage rights for same-sex couples, and to oppose any constitutional amendment or legislation which would restrict the equal access of lesbians and gays to civil marriage.

Noting that May 17, 2004 also marked the 50th anniversary of the US Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, holding that in education, "separate but equal" is "inherently unequal," the lesbian and gay Democratic leaders commended

the NY Democratic Party for quickly moving beyond its previous support of a separate system of "civil unions" for same-sex couples to instead support full rights to civil marriage. ▼

Please join us at
**GLID's Annual
Spring Awards Event**

Honoring:
City Councilmember
Robert Jackson;
Senior Action in a Gay Environment;
(SAGE); and
UNITE! The Union of Needletrades,
Industrial and Textile Employees.

**Thursday, June 10
6-8pm
Tribeca Grill
375 Greenwich Street**

Tickets:
Patron \$350
Sponsor \$250
Supporter \$125

RSVP: president@glid.org

NSD To Convene in Providence, July 23-25

GLID Vice President and National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) Board Member Melissa Sklarz urges GLID members to join Providence's openly gay Democratic Mayor, David Cicilino, and a host of prominent LGBT Democrats at NSD's National Convention at the Westin Hotel in Downtown Providence from July 23-25.

The event, which will immediately precede the Democratic National Convention in Boston, provides a forum for LGBT Democrats to celebrate the

successes of this past year, kick off the DNC, and plan for victories this November.

The theme of the Convention is "Winning Back the White House and Saving Our Constitution." The agenda features keynote speeches, training sessions, an awards banquet and a concert for Convention delegates.

For more information and to register online, visit www.stonewalldemocrats.org/convention.html. ▼