

Michigan Democratic Party's **LGBT & Allies** Caucus June 2009 Newsletter

June is Pride month! The Caucus will have a booth at the four festivals this month: Motor City (Ferndale), Lansing, Kalamazoo and West Michigan (Grand Rapids). Stop by and say hello, or, better yet, volunteer to help staff the booth! There is a sign up sheet as the last item in this email. Reply to this email with your name, email address, phone number and the day(s) and time(s) that you can volunteer. Thanks!

Working Together Forums: The Caucus is sponsoring a series of forums around the state so that grassroots LGBT people can speak their minds and determine the direction of the LGBT rights movement in Michigan. We hope you'll join us! Representatives of various organizations, including Michigan Equality, will be there. The first takes place Monday, June 15 from 7 to 9 pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Can't attend? We'll post soon about other upcoming forums or send your ideas to philvolk2004@yahoo.com.

Fund-raising: The Caucus has successfully raised a few hundred dollars from our allies but we still need money to carry out our work. We do not have any paid staff, so all donations go 100% directly to the cause! If you are able, please send any donates to: MDLC, 1382 Russell St., Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198. Make checks payable to MDLC.

Day of Decision on Prop 8: The Caucus joined in the Lansing protest of the California Supreme Court's ruling in favor of Proposition 8, which outlaws all future same-gender marriages in the state (see our Facebook page for pictures). Here is a message from the event organizers: The organizers of the "Day of Decision" rally/protest in Lansing are holding an open forum for interested LGBT community members to come and be heard to discuss the grassroots movement. The event will take place on Saturday, June 6, from 1 to 3 pm at Gone Wired Cafe on the east side of Lansing. There will be a follow-up event incorporating the input from the June 6th event, as well as a "community organizer training" on Saturday, June 20, from 1 to 3 pm, Gone Wired Cafe. If you have any questions, please contact either Justin Lippi at jlippi@gmail.com or Robert Van Kirk at vankirk.robert@gmail.com.



Members of the
LGBT & Allies
Caucus
protesting
Proposition 8



A message from the Caucus Chair:

We as the LGBT people are working not just for our equal rights but for our very lives. How many of our people are living in fear of losing their jobs, housing, or their lives simply because of who they are? How many of us are forced to live only in the safety of the gay ghetto in order to openly hold hands with our loved ones? How many of us fear losing custody of our children just because we're LGBT? How many young LGBT brothers and sister fear even attending school or have dropped out to escape bullying or completed

suicides? We can only answer, far too many.

We do not want "special rights." We want the equal rights and freedom promised to all Americans in our beloved Constitution. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal. This includes people of color, poor people, LGBT people, people with disabilities...everyone!

The Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT and Allies Caucus is dedicated to the struggle for full equality for all American citizens. We believe in working with a broad base of allies, so we need your strength to complete the task of achieving equal rights.

Pride month means so much to our people and to me personally. When I first came out, many years ago, the police would raid gay bars, then beat and arrest us gays just for gathering together. I'm proud that so much has changed since then! Pride month is a time to openly celebrate who we are, reflect on how far we've come as a people and decide on our future together. It is time to pull our collective selves together and reenergize ourselves for the work ahead. We of the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT and Allies Caucus will stand side-by-side with our LGBT sisters and brothers in this long march towards freedom.

We at the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT and Allies Caucus thank you for allowing us to serve you

Phil Volk, Chair
Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT and Allies Caucus

Pride Volunteer Schedule:

Sunday, June 7: Motor City Pride in Ferndale

9 am to 11:30 am (set-up):

11:30 am to 1:30 pm:

1:30 to 3:30 pm:

3:30 to 5:30 pm:

5:30 to 6:30 pm (plus clean-up):

Saturday, June 13: Michigan Pride in Lansing

10 to 11 am (set-up):

11 am to 1 pm:

1 to 3 pm:

3 to 5 pm:

5 to 7 pm (includes clean up):

Saturday, June 13: Kalamazoo Pride

Noon to 2 pm (set-up):

2 to 4 pm:

4 to 6 pm:

6 to 8 pm:

8 to 10 pm:

10 pm to clean up (about 11 pm):

Saturday, June 20: West Michigan Pride in Grand Rapids

12:30 to 1:30 pm (set-up):

1:30 to 3:30 pm:

3:30 to 5:50 pm:

5:30 to 7:30 pm:

7:30 to 10 pm (includes clean up):

(We'll send you directions and more information after you sign up).



THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release June 1, 2009**

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, 2009

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION**

Forty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted police harassment that had become all too common for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Out of this resistance, the LGBT rights movement in America was born. During LGBT Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.

LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that continue to strengthen the fabric of American society. There are many well-respected LGBT leaders in all professional fields, including the arts and business communities. LGBT Americans also mobilized the Nation to respond to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic and have played a vital role in broadening this country's response to the HIV pandemic.

Due in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBT rights movement, more LGBT Americans are living their lives openly today than ever before. I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration. These individuals embody the best qualities we seek in public servants, and across my Administration -- in both the White House and the Federal agencies -- openly LGBT employees are doing their jobs with distinction and professionalism.

The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress, but there is more work to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect.

My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world. Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans. These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, ensuring adoption rights, and ending the existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a way that strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security. We must also commit ourselves to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic by both reducing the number of HIV infections and providing care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS across the United States.

These issues affect not only the LGBT community, but also our entire Nation. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit. During LGBT Pride Month, I call upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.