

Annual Report of the National Lavender Green Caucus Green Party of the United States

Mission Statement

The National Lavender Green Caucus (NLGC) is the Green Party's advocacy group on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (GLBTIQ) issues. NLGC works for the elimination of heterosexism and all its manifestations such as homophobia, violence, prejudice, and injustice against GLBTIQ communities. NLGC also works for the elimination of racism and sexism and all their manifestations in GLBTIQ communities and in society as a whole. Our work is centered in the ten key values and four pillars of the Green Party of the United States. The caucus recognizes that freedom and social justice for GLBTIQ individuals will only come with the liberation of all people, and we actively view ourselves as a part of a broader movement for social justice.

The Lavender Caucus currently has 198 members from 35 states. We are in the process of conducting our Presidential Preference Poll to determine the votes our 4 allotted Delegates will cast at the Nominating Convention in Chicago. The Lavender Caucus sent a questionnaire to all 4 of our Green Party Presidential candidates, to which Cynthia McKinney, Kat Swift and Kent Mesplay responded. Their answers are provided on our website: www.lavendergreens.us .

In October of 2007, the Lavender Caucus voted unanimously to join United ENDA, a coalition of over 300 organizations that lobbied Congress for the inclusion of transgender Americans in the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Read our press release at:

http://www.gp.org/press/pr_2007_10_17.shtml

A gender identity amendment was stricken from the bill that passed in the House of Representatives on November 7, 2007. The National Lavender Green Caucus will continue to work for the inclusion of transgender Americans in all non-discrimination legislation.

The National Lavender Green Caucus held elections in April, 2008. A proposed bylaws change to allow for co-chairs was part of our officer and committee representatives ballot. The bylaws amendment passed and we elected Starlene Rankin and Jay Parks to serve as co-chairs, in staggered terms. Acting secretary, Tim Casebolt was elected to another term. David Strand was elected Delegate to the national Committee and Tony D'Lallo was elected as our Alternate Delegate. Cyndi Norwitz was re-elected to serve on the Diversity Committee along with Fred Bays. Other Committee posts that were filled include: Starlene Rankin (Media and PCSC Committees), Fred Bays (Merchandise Committee) and Rocky Neptun and Jay Parks (International Committee).

Future Goals

- Support of the Green Party Presidential Candidates
- Updating our Bylaws and Operating Rules
- Increasing membership and state Lavender Caucuses
- Instituting monthly or bi-monthly teleconferences
- Creating tabling materials and outreach tools
- New open source, interactive website
- More Committee appointments

Please visit our website to find our more about the Lavender Greens and to make contact with any of our officers and committee representatives: www.lavendergreens.us

Have a GREAT Convention!