

CHANGE HAS COME TO WASHINGTON

ATTENDING NCTE'S POLICY CONFERENCE & LOBBY DAY: APRIL 26-28, 2009

Change has come to Washington and who better to talk about it than transgender people and our families, friends and allies? This is a crucial time for our voices to be heard on Capitol Hill if we are to make needed and lasting changes in federal laws and policies that impact the lives of transgender people. Members of Congress need to hear from us—their constituents—about the need to pass inclusive non-discrimination legislation, to have trans people at the table on the discussion of health care, to prevent hate crimes and much more. Simply put, we need your voice to be heard on Capitol Hill this year—we need you to come to Washington to meet with your members of Congress so that they can put a human face on these vital issues as they prepare to vote.

WHO SHOULD COME TO LOBBY DAYS AND THE POLICY CONFERENCE?

Our events are open to everyone, whether this is your first time doing something like this or if you are an experienced advocate. Transgender people and our families, friends and allies are all welcome. If your member of Congress has voted for gender identity inclusive legislation in the past, it is important to encourage them to continue that support. If your legislator has not been supportive, now is the time to change their minds.

We'll provide you with all of the tools you need, including handouts to leave with your members of Congress, training on how to visit and up to the minute information about policy issues that impact transgender people.

WHAT CAN I DO?

We hope that you will join us in Washington for this important event and will bring your families and friends. Even if you can't come, you can help by making it possible for others to attend. Here are a few suggestions:

- Organize a carpool if you are within driving distance. Good for the environment and good for your wallet, plus, it can be really fun to road trip for equality!
- Use your frequent traveler miles from an airline, train, or credit card company. Using your miles cuts down on your out of pocket expenses. You can also donate them for someone else to use or pool them together with someone else.
- Hold a fundraiser for a member of your local community to attend Lobby Day. Hold a bake sale at your support group or a raffle among your political advocates. Pooling resources can make it possible for someone to represent your local community at Lobby Days.
- If you can organize a large group to come, we can help you charter a bus. Please contact us right away if you are interested in doing this. You can e-mail jtanis@nctequality.org or call 202-903-0112.
- Share a room in DC. We can help you find a roommate to share one of the rooms in our host hotel; this will let you save money and help make a new friend.
- Donate money for a Lobby Day scholarship for us to help someone else attend this important event. We'll use the money to help people who would not otherwise be able to have their voices heard by members of Congress.
- Ride the train, take a bus, fly, drive or walk ... but do plan to come if you can. Your member of Congress needs to hear from you.



1325 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005
(202) 903-0112 • ncte@nctequality.org • www.nctequality.org

HERE'S WHAT IS HAPPENING APRIL 26-28

We have a variety of great activities for you to join in this year. In addition to our regular Lobby Day activities, we'll be joined by participants in the Transgender Religious Leaders Summit. Here are all the details:

All day Sunday and Monday, we'll be holding our third annual **Religious Leaders Summit**, in conjunction with Lobby Days, co-sponsored by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, and hosted at All Souls Unitarian Church here in Washington. Our keynote speaker will be the fabulous Kate Bornstein, plus we'll have workshops on changing policies within communities of faith as well as in the public arena. Participants will then join in lobbying on Tuesday, April 28. Registration is on a sliding scale, beginning at just \$15

Our annual **Policy Conference and Lobby Days** will kick off on Sunday night with a meet & greet in our host hotel in downtown Washington. On Monday, we'll gather for in-depth policy briefings, with an expanded team of trainers. You'll have great opportunities to network with others from your area and share best practices with people from around the country. We'll make sure that everyone—from the first time visitor to the seasoned activist—has all of the tools and information you need to make your visit to Congress a success. As always, there is no charge to participate in our Policy Conference and in Lobby Day.

Monday evening, join us for our **annual reception and award celebration**, right in our host hotel. This is a time to honor our allies in the movement and have some fun together. We have a variety of ticket prices to make this event more affordable this year.

On Tuesday, we'll all make our way to **Capitol Hill** for a variety of visits with members of Congress, a briefing, and a closing reception. We can make appointments for you with your member of Congress; just let us know if you'd prefer to do it yourself.

WHERE TO STAY

Our host hotel for 2009 is the very conveniently located Madison A Loews Hotel, located at 1177 Fifteenth Street, NW, in Washington, DC. They are offering discounted rates of \$150/night for a single or a double room. Call 1-800-424-8577 or 1-202-862-1600 to make a reservation. To get this rate, you must mention that you are with NCTE Lobby Day 2009 and make your reservations by March 27, 2009. (To get this rate, you'll need to call, rather than make your reservations online). We're aware that this rate is expensive for many people; DC hotel rates are very high and you'll find that this is a very competitive rate for Washington. Indicate on your registration form if you'd like us to help you find a roommate.

HOW TO REGISTER

You can register online for our Lobby Days; it helps us a great deal if you register as soon as possible since we are already starting to send requests for meetings to members of Congress. The more lead time we have, the easier it is to be sure that you get the appointments you need. There is no cost to register for this event. Visit our webpage at www.nctequality.org for more information and to register.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Justin Tanis at jtanis@nctequality.org and 202.903.0112 for more information or with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you in April!