



# Colorado Stonewall Democrats Transgender Caucus

## IMPORTANT

We are Stonewall Democrats who are deeply dissatisfied and unhappy with the DNC's disturbing back-sliding and ongoing waffling as regards the place of GLBT Americans within the Party—and by National Stonewall's tepid response to same. Our issues include:

- During his campaign to become DNC chair, Dean stated in a questionnaire from the DNC Gay Caucus that, if elected, he would retain the office of GLBT outreach.
- Once elected as party chief, Howard Dean abolishes the Democratic National Committee's office of GLBT outreach.
- The 2006 Annual Grassroots Report fails to even mention the GLBT communities by name.
- Howard Dean appears on the 700 Club to talk to that constituency about Democratic Party values and says that the 2004 Democratic Platform defines marriage as between a man and a woman. This is untrue and smacks of pandering to the Religious Right—to say nothing of the slap in the face it is to all Stonewall members and other progressives who fought hard & long to get GLBT-inclusive language into that platform.

And where is National Stonewall in all this? It's hard to say. It's hard to say because any meetings with Democratic leaders on the national level seem to have been conducted under a veil of secrecy that includes telling almost nothing to the rank-and-file of local Stonewall members. If national Stonewall is raising a fuss, it's the quietest, most polite fuss ever. This may explain why Democratic higher-ups, and Democratic politicians throughout the country, are in turn scarcely to be heard raising their voices in our defense and support. Meanwhile, the Democratic Party continues to take our money, no doubt confident that we'll stay put regardless of the Party's public waffling on the highly visible issues that are associated with us. If you at the National level can explain why Mr. Dean is scheduled to speak at our national Convention in June—why we should want to

hear anything this man has to say to us, short of a public apology—then by all means, let us in on it!

We recall a time when being a Democrat meant standing up loud and proud for civil rights for everyone, because it was the right thing to do. We see now with sadness a time when being a Democratic politician, at any rate, seems to entail not standing up for anything until the latest polls come in & you know which way the wind blows. Shame!

**GLBT rights are human rights.** This is not rocket science; it doesn't take 12 committees, 6 focus groups, and a 5000-page report to understand this. All it takes is ethics. If the DNC has forgotten that—in a mad misguided rush to present itself as “Republican Lite”—then perhaps a call from us will serve as a reminder of what a Party with a spine would look like.

And if National Stonewall has forgotten what fighting—rather than asking, in a polite indoor voice—for the rights of GLBT Americans, is like, allow us to point out that out here in the Heartland, we are still in danger, every day of our lives, merely because we are GLBT people. We don't feel like asking in a polite indoor voice for people to stop killing us. And we really can't spare the time to wait for our rights until we're politically expedient. We expect and demand that both the Democratic Party and Stonewall National act like our lives are worth something, and that our issues are matters of life-and-death. Because that's exactly what they are.

National Stonewall needs to be accountable to its own rank-and-file, and in turn, to hold the DNC accountable, and publicly so. We need to see and hear some strength from National Stonewall, now more than ever. Anything less dishonors the memory of those at the event for which our organization is named, who took a stand and said, No More.

Where principle is involved, be deaf to expediency.

Therefore, we demand:

- **The reinstatement of the GLBT Outreach, and the other Minority Outreach, Desks.** Howard Dean is not qualified to decide that the Democratic Party has sufficiently evolved to address minority issues without a special effort. Had we been consulted, we could have told him that it has not.
- **Published plans for the official resumption of DNC's GLBT and other minority outreach programs,** and for the ongoing inclusion of our communities into the DNC.
- **A clear public explanation of NSD's relationship and recent dealings with the DNC and how Stonewall plans to support or take the lead on GLBT issues,** whether in concert with the DNC or not. We need transparency in NSD's dealings with the DNC, so that the rank-and-file are not left in the dark, with the impression that plans are being made to “lead” us where we do not wish to go.
- **Clear and concise talking points from the DNC so that its representatives convey a unified message of support for minority**

**rights.** If Mr. Dean had had these before him, perhaps he would not have misstated his own party's platform on "The 700 Club," and thus he could have avoided the distasteful impression of pandering to his audience of the moment at the expense of proven allies.

- **A public apology from Howard Dean** that includes a re-assertion of the DNC's support for GLBT and other minority rights.

Signed,

Karen Bachman

Thaniel Chase

Co-Chairs, CO Stonewall Dems Transgender Caucus

The following signatories represent members of the Colorado Stonewall Democrats Transgender Caucus

Bill Fleming

Pamela Bennett

Bill G. Winter

Shari K. Miller

Nick Bush

Michael Brewer

Terry Snyder

Zia Klamm

Cyndi Mickelsen

Eden Lane

Additional signatories

Mark Ferrandino

Co-Chair Colorado Stonewall Democrats, Treasurer Colorado Democratic Party

Jeffrey Shaw

Co-Chair Colorado Stonewall Democrats

Dan Willis

Secretary, Colorado Stonewall Democrats

Karl A. Beck

William S. Mead

Co-Chairs, El Paso County Stonewall Democrats - LGBT Caucus

Robin Alanna Roe

Treasurer, El Paso County Stonewall Democrats - LGBT Caucus

Nancy-Josephine Leah Morris

Secretary, El Paso County Stonewall Democrats - LGBT Caucus

Kevin Richard Dalrymple,  
Member, El Paso County Stonewall Democrats – LGBT Caucus

GLBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii  
William E. Woods-Bateman, MPH Chair  
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Caucus of the Democratic Party  
of Hawaii  
808 537-2000

Perry Nelson, Vice President  
Gateway Stonewall Democrats  
St. Louis, MO  
314.283.4050  
[Opus397@aol.com](mailto:Opus397@aol.com)

Patrick Steadman

Jordan T. Garcia

Peter E. Gross

Michael Niyompong

Michael Nunn

Catherine Guerrero

Denise de Percin

Brian Ballinger

Morris Price Jr.

Ryan Klazura

Martin L. Johnson

Molly Moyer

Ellis B. McFadden

Richard I. Burton

Ellis McFadden

Jeffrey S. Adams

Joy Hewitt-Kind

R. Landau de Laguna