



FORWARD2004!

GREEN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Lavender Greens Report

LAVENDER GREENS
2004 REPORT OF THE LAVENDER GREEN COMMITTEE

Report of Lavender Green Accomplishments in Support of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexed and Queer Communities.

* In December of 2002, the caucus discussed and issued a press statement in opposition to the war in Iraq noting our opposition as both glbtqi people and Greens. The statement generated international press coverage- including coverage in the largest circulation glbtqi community publication in the U.S., the Advocate- and brought many new people to the party and caucus in many parts of the country.

* We received many emails through our website as the result of our anti-war statement including a large number from Gay/Straight Alliances and glbtqi youth groups in major cities around the country. The emails generally requested information on how to contact Green Party locals because the young people writing to us said- "we believe what you believe" and "thank you for giving voice to our concerns."

* We help one another bring people together within states to form Lavender Green affiliates that have obtained official recognition from their state parties. Our most recently organized and recognized are Wisconsin, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

* We have organized and launched a website (www.lavendergreens.org) to help link people to caucuses in their area and help build participation within and accessibility to the national caucus. It also helps make the caucus officers particularly accessible, as there are links to each of our personal email addresses from the site. It's been great for outreach and many Greens and glbtqi people send us inquiries through the website. Some of our states chapters have setup their own websites to which we provide links. We also provide links to campaigns of lavender greens running as Greens for office, information on lavender Greens elected to public office, and information on Green races of particular interest to the glbtqi community nationally.

* We have tabled at national events such as "The Creating





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Change Conference" held every November by the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force. Our national Delegate, Starlene Rankin, and our caucus chair, Brandon Lacy Campos, have led workshops at creating change. We plan on expanding our presence at national and international events this year. Currently plans are underway for our presence at the International Conference on Bisexuality at the beginning of August.

* We have purchased ads in targeted conference brochures to demonstrate support for Green concerns in the glbtq community such as an ad purchased in the "Pride At Work" convention brochure. "Pride At Work" is an organization of glbt and allied labor activists within the AFL-CIO.

* Our Caucus Alternate Delegate, David Strand from Minnesota, led two workshops on behalf of the caucus at the Chicago Campus Greens Convention in 2001. He is also coordinating a workshop during this convention.

* Among our more active state chapters, the Minnesota Lavender Greens have been very happy with numerous successes they have had in getting glbtq issues forwarded by the party in the public sphere and within the state party. Public policy achievements have ranged from domestic partnership and marriage related items to a rewriting of restroom ordinances to better accommodate gender diversity. The Minnesota Lavender Greens are now pleased to be supporting Lavender Green Jay Pond for Congress in Minneapolis and working with others on a medical marijuana initiative to be on the ballot in Minneapolis this fall.

* California is another of our more active chapters gaining significant coverage of passage of platform changes making the Green Party of California the most broadly supportive of sexual and gender minorities in the state. Locally organized chapters in California have been very active. The San Francisco Lavender Greens have helped bring intersex issues forward in the city among other accomplishments of note. The Los Angeles and San Diego chapters are particularly active as well.





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- * Caucus Chair Brandon Lacy Campos spoke as a representative of the Caucus at Creating Links: Exploring the Queer Role in Resisting War in Minneapolis in July 2003.
- * On an ongoing basis, we help educate numerous Green Party candidates and elected officials on glbtqi issues generally and answered their questions and inquiries. We also have entertained requests from state parties and locals requesting information on particular issues and concerns.
- * We spread news of glbtqi community victories, both internationally and locally, that have been spearheaded by Greens.
- * We issued our first endorsement of a Green Party candidate for congress in Bob Kinsey's race against Marilyn Musgrave in Colorado. Marilyn Musgrave is the author of the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage and we have used our endorsement to draw attention to this race in the glbtqi community around the country.
- * We have distributed information about our many fine Lavender Greens running as Green Party candidates for all levels of offices including Terry Baum for Congress in San Francisco and Jay Pond for Congress in Minneapolis.
- * We worked with the GP-US media committee to get several press releases issued on glbtqi issues from the party itself including one on the landmark sodomy case that set precedent last summer and another on the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling supporting equal marriage rights for same sex couples.
- * Letters and statements of the National Lavender Green Caucus have been printed in the Washington Blade four times since February 2003. The Washington Blade is one of the premier weekly newspapers of the LGBTIQ community in the United States. Statements and letters from the National Lavender Green Caucus have also been printed in numerous local and statewide LGBT publications across the nation.





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* Lavender Greens have also supported statements issued by other organizations by endorsing statements when appropriate. This has helped build name recognition for the Lavender Greens, supported work in the glbtqi community, which supports Green values and goals, and educated glbtqi community members about Green positions. Most recently, the caucus endorsed a statement condemning the torture of detainees in Iraq issued by Al-Fatiha- an international organization of glbtqi muslims.

* We have established democratic processes within our caucus to assure the widest possible input. Our decisions are made mostly by email similar to the CC. Because this involves a volume of email that is perhaps less than being on the CC but still more than many care to have, we have developed a tiered email system so our membership can choose the level of participation which best suits their needs and purposes.

* We have begun to elect representatives to GPUS committees. We recently elected Starlene Rankin, Owen Broadhurst, and Cyndi Norman as our representatives to the GPUS Diversity Committee. We hope soon to elect representatives to the International Committee. Requests and communications from the international glbtqi green community have increased and we hope to be involved in the launching of a global glbtqi green network.

* We are a learning organization. In the process of doing the caucus' work and working together with the national party organization and state and local parties, we have sought to be both practical(getting the job done) and conscious of how certain actions set precedent for not only the Lavender Greens but other Diversity Caucuses. The Lavender Greens are increasingly active in communicating with other caucuses to share and learn from each other as well as working on common concerns.

* Brandon Lacy Campos joined Mayor Jason West for a fundraiser for the caucus and the national party in DC this past spring.

* We are committed as a caucus to seeing to it that we don't leave behind the "b" for bisexual or the "t" for transgender, the





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"i" for intersex, or the "q" for queer. These communities issues are all too often subsumed by the more visible gay and lesbian communities issues in organizations that are supposed to serve all in the glbtqi communities and we are sensitive to that history of marginalization. We are further committed to being inclusive of those whose identities were displaced by the imposition of heteronormativity through colonization and welcome and support those whose identities don't neatly fit into our western categories but express sexual and/or gender difference.

* We are a nexus point for members of the Lavender Greens caucuses in various locales and states to share information on their strategies and efforts for activist actions, doing policy work within the party and engaging lavender green locals and Green Parties in actions supportive of glbtqi rights.

* We dispense information and have had much discussion to educate one another about diversity within our own community and caucus be it racial, ethnic, religious, relationship praxis, disability, gender identity, gender expression, gender characteristics, sex, class, region, urban/rural, nation of originating, etc. - and perhaps surprisingly - sexual orientation.

The Elected Officers of the National Lavender Greens Caucus:

Brandon Lacy Campos, Chair
Thomas Leavitt, Secretary (2003-2004)
Tim Casebolt, Secretary (current)
Starlene Rankin, National CC Delegate
John St. Denis, Treasurer
David Strand, National CC Alternate Delegate

Representatives to GPUS Diversity Committee:

Owen Broadhurst
Cyndi Norman
Starlene Rankin

