

Upcoming Events

St. Louis Community Meeting

November 10

7:30-9:30pm

The Millennium Hotel

200 South 4th St.

St. Louis, MO

NCTE, The Task Force, PROMO, and TransGendered Kansas City are co-sponsoring this meeting to discuss current trans politics both federal and local.

Creating Change Conference

November 10-14

St. Louis

Hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

NCTE staff will be facilitating multiple workshops throughout the conference

For more information, visit www.thetaskforce.org/ourproject/s/cc.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20

This year marks the sixth year the Transgender Day of Remembrance will be observed throughout the US and around the world. Besides bringing awareness to anti-trans violence to others, this day is set aside to mourn as a community those who have been victimized throughout the past year.

To find out if an event is being held in your city, visit www.gender.org/remember/day.

For more information on Day of Remembrance or victims of anti-trans violence, visit www.rememberingourdead.org.

How the Election Results Will Impact Transgender People

Many transgender people are probably devastated with the outcome of last Tuesday's election and many are, no doubt, pleased. In this way, we mirror our non-transgender neighbors.

However, because our lives and needs are somewhat different from these neighbors, the election will impact us in different ways. The current administration has not been overly accessible on transgender issues. In fact, the administration has been dismissive, even hostile, on most human rights matters. The President's comments since the election regarding a conservative mandate and aggressively pursuing his agenda portend that working with the administration will not be any easier this next four years. Additionally, Congress seems to have veered even further from a trans-supportive majority; we are not likely to see much, if any, pro-LGBT legislation pass for at least the next two years.

But after emotions settle and we regain perspective about our political system and our fight for equality, what are the positives?

First, our equal rights advance has accelerated during the last four years even with a non-cooperative President and Congress. We are making the case that we deserve equal rights and we have been winning step by step regardless of who was in the White House or in Congress. And at NCTE we are still very optimistic that we can successfully work with allies in Congress and the progressive community next year to make federal legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA) fully transgender-inclusive. We will then have at least two years or more to do the necessary education to pass these important bills.

Second, over the past decade or so, public understanding of trans people has grown tremendously. More trans people are out than ever and they have been doing an amazing job educating family, friends, co-workers and public officials. That will continue, regardless of who controls the administration.

Finally, much, if not most of our best work and greatest advances have not taken place in DC, but rather in states and localities around the country. There are still many jurisdictions that are very ripe for important transgender victories, and are waiting for people, such as NCTE members and supporters, to put in the effort.

Will our work be harder now? No doubt. But if we focus on where change can be made and keep working, we will continue to move towards equality.

NCTE Announces National Lobby Day for 2005

NCTE will hold our first National Lobby Day in Washington, DC this March, 2005. NCTE encourages all those in the trans community, as well as our allies, to join us in visiting our members of Congress and educating them on trans issues. NCTE is committed to getting trans issues on the national agenda and views education as the best way to accomplish this goal. Meeting members of Congress in person is the most effective way to convince them that trans people are in need of protections which can best be provided by federal law. For the past year, NCTE has been organizing trans people to visit members of Congress in their home districts. This is the first time NCTE will bring trans people to DC for an educational effort. Please consider joining NCTE in Washington and helping us in getting our message out to our federal legislators. NCTE will release the exact date and further details once the Congressional Calendar for 2005 is set by Congress.

Please also note that the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition's (NTAC) Lobby Days will take place May 18-20, 2005. NCTE encourages trans people and our allies to attend either, or both, Congressional education efforts.

An Update on Transgender Political Candidates

In 2004, we saw an increase in openly trans people running for political office. Amanda Simpson of Arizona and Robert Haaland of California are two of those candidates. NCTE commends these inspirational individuals for speaking up and living openly as transgender people while seeking public office.

Amanda Simpson ran for the Arizona House of Representatives in District 26. Simpson became the first openly trans candidate nominated for state office by a major political party on September 7th when she won the Democratic primary. Simpson joined three additional candidates in the race for two seats in District 26; two of these candidates were incumbent Republicans. NCTE applauds Simpson on her strong finish and ability to edge ahead of the other Democrat candidate, finishing just behind the two incumbents.

Robert Haaland ran for District 5 Supervisor for San Francisco. Haaland has been active in the community for many years as a tenant-rights activist, an organizer with the Service Employees International Union, and president of one of San Francisco's democratic clubs. NCTE applauds Haaland who finished second, in a field of 22 candidates.

NCTE wishes Simpson and Haaland the best of luck in their continued work in the trans community, as well as in the political arena.

Conference Announcement and Call for Proposals: Trans Politics, Social Change and Justice

NCTE is very pleased to be working with the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) on their conference "Trans Politics, Social Change and Justice" to be held May 6, 2005 in New York City. This conference will provide a venue to strengthen activist and research networks, incite dialogues, share research, and create resources central to creating social change for trans people. CLAGS invites proposals for workshops, panels, papers, poster presentations, films and performances for this conference. Proposals are due December 15th, 2004. Please visit www.clags.org for more information.

During two days, conference participants will take part in plenary sessions, breakout groups, and roundtables about trans activism and public policy research on local, statewide, national, and international levels. Activists and researchers will have the opportunity to further develop their ongoing work and to create new dialogues with trans and non-trans allies.

We encourage the participation of trans people in the broadest possible sense of the word "trans". The conference's educational goal is go beyond simple lessons about tolerance and gender diversity and engage participants in an advanced discussion of the experiences and political interests of different trans constituencies, including, but not limited to trans, butch lesbians, drag queens, bi-gendered, two-spirited, drag kings, femme queens, A.G.s, genderqueer, non-gendered, andro, crossdressers, and gender-bender peoples. We welcome presentations and workshops focused on intersex issues. While intersex issues are distinct from transgender issues, the conference focuses on multiple aspects and effects of binary gender frameworks, and alliance between intersex and transgender activists strengthens all of our work.

The conference's practical goal is to create new interactions and foster ongoing collaborations among grassroots activists, community organizers, researchers, attorneys, LGBT community members, and members of allied communities and organizations. We encourage workshops and roundtables that will promote collaborative work and active discussions.

A central concern of this conference will be to create a balanced discussion of multiple areas of trans activism, organizing, legislative, and policy work. We strongly encourage proposals that will expand the horizon of what "trans politics" means. We welcome proposals addressing both well-publicized areas of trans activism and less well-publicized but equally urgent areas of concern, including, but not limited to:

- public policy
- access to employment, health care and social services
- non-discrimination legislation
- strategies for litigation
- trans politics as a new social movement
- immigration
- organizing against racial injustice
- issues of disability and able-ism in trans and queer organizing
- youth issues
- elder issues
- the impacts of the "War on Terror"

For more information and updates on this conference go to www.clags.org.

Become a Member of NCTE!

The National Center for Transgender Equality depends on donations from trans people and our allies to continue our work.

Go to <http://www.nctequality.org/donate.asp> to join.

When you join and give to the National Center for Transgender Equality, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to fight discrimination and violence against transgender people. Every donation ensures that transgender voices will be heard in Washington and around the country.