

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** Gay Lobby Day Flyers

**Date:** 1976

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

**Contact:**

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[1976]

# PENNSYLVANIA GAYS - IT'S TIME

IT'S TIME to stand up and be counted. Our Governor has worked hard, has extended himself, in support of our interests, our rights. IT'S TIME for us to do our part in Harrisburg.

Now we have an opportunity to be a part of our own destiny. A Gay Lobby Day in Harrisburg is being planned by a Committee which originated in the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus. This Caucus, in turn, is an offshoot of the Governor's Task Force on Gay Rights. YOU ARE NEEDED.

On March 23, 1976, gay people in Pennsylvania, supporters, and friends will lobby their legislators on issues of gay rights. Our objectives are to gain support for laws to protect our rights, and particularly to have Senate Bill #743 rejected in the House of Representatives. This bill would prohibit the employment of gay persons in many State positions, and penalize their employers should they be employed.

Governor Shapp has recognized the blatant discrimination attempts on the part of the legislature in his veto of Senate Bill #196, which he termed the "worst-written piece of legislation" he had received. The Attorney-General has warned that both bills are probably unconstitutional.

With the Executive Branch of our state government supporting our rights, is it not time that we do so too?

The Gay Lobby Day Committee is looking for recruits - people who are willing to be in Harrisburg on Tuesday, March 23 to lobby their legislators on the issues of Gay Rights.

No experience is necessary - Lobbyists will be trained in one-day workshops to be held on Saturdays: March 13 in Pittsburgh, and March 20 in Philadelphia and State College.

We need 125 persons - so that working in pairs contacting four legislators, the 250 senators and representatives may be visited.

We also need - others who will help with communications, the Workshops, publicity, and the like.

## YOU ARE NEEDED

Come with us to GLD workshop on March 13 or 20 - come with us to Gay Lobby Day on March 23 - help tell our legislators that we exist, and are important.

Will you help? Fill in the blank below, and send it to the  
Committee:

Gay Lobby Day Committee  
c/o Sam Deetz  
P. O. Box 182  
Northumberland, Pa. 17857

We will respond with the additional information that you will need to  
complete your plans. We should have your response by Saturday,  
February 28, 1976.

Do you want more information? Write to one of the following:

Jan Sweat  
616 Locust Street  
Reading, Pa. 19604

A. Lee Haddock  
Box 37A  
Rebuck, Pa. 17867

Bill Hollabaugh  
P. O. Box 3096  
Bethlehem, Pa. 18017

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To: Gay Lobby Day Committee  
c/o Sam Deetz  
P. O. Box 182  
Northumberland, Pa. 17857

I am available to lobby in Harrisburg for Gay Rights on March 23, 1976.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend a GLD Workshop:

- | | Pittsburgh, March 13
- | | Philadelphia, March 20
- | | State College, March 20

Comments:

MEET  
YOUR  
LEGISLATOR

ON GAY LOBBY DAY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1976

IN  
HARRISBURG

FOR INFO, WRITE:  
GAY LOBBY DAY  
COMMITTEE  
BOX 182  
NORTHUMBERLAND  
PA.

SUPPORT

GAY

LOBBY

DAY

MARCH 23, 1976  
(TUESDAY)

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
WRITE TO:  
GAY LOBBY DAY COMMITTEE  
BOX 182  
NORTHUMBERLAND, Pa

GAY LOBBY DAY

GAY LOBBY DAY COMMITTEE

c/o Sam Deetz, Chairperson  
P. O. Box 182  
Northumberland, Pa. 17857

Hi!

We understand that you have agreed to participate in the Gay Lobby Day activity of Tuesday, March 23, 1976. We are pleased to provide this schedule of events for your planning purposes.

The GLD Workshops are being held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in Pittsburgh on March 13, and State College and Philadelphia on March 20. These are Saturdays.

In Pittsburgh, the workshop is at Calvary Episcopal Church, at Shady Avenue and Walnut Street. Directions: take Pennsylvania Turnpike to Monroeville exit; take the Penn-Lincoln Parkway west; travel to Squirrel Hill exit (after passing through Squirrel Hill tunnel); take the Blue Belt North to Shady Avenue; travel across Shady Avenue past Fifth Street to the Church. Parking is available at the Church. For additional information, call Persad at 412-681-5330.

In State College, the workshop is at the Hetzel Union Building (HUB) on the Penn State University campus. For additional information call HOPS at 814-863-0588 (but note that any student can direct you to the HUB).

In Philadelphia, the workshop is at Dignity, 250 South 12th Street - this is between Spruce and Pine Streets; 12th Street is parallel to Broad Street and two blocks East. The Philadelphia Gay Switchboard will have additional information and parking suggestions; dial 215-978-5700.

Gay Lobby Day is in Harrisburg. We will meet at the Friends Meeting House (upstairs); this is at Sixth and Herr Streets, and is within walking distance of the Capitol. We are to be there at 9:00 a.m., and plan to finish the activity in mid-afternoon. Committee members will be there to at the Meeting House to provide assistance and take care of details not completed at the Workshops during the morning only.

During the day you will be asked to report in on the results of your activities. Harrisburg Gay Switchboard has offered their assistance in this, and have provided their regular number, 717-234-0328, and an additional number for GLD only, 717-238-6695. Additional assistance can be obtained in advance of the GLD from the first of these numbers.

We are looking forward to a successful activity, and are very grateful that you have agreed to assist.

Pennsylvania Gays, IT'S TIME!

## GAY LOBBY DAY

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday, March 23, 1976, the gay people of Pennsylvania will go to Harrisburg to lobby their Legislators on the issues of Gay Rights. We will go with a positive attitude to seek sponsors and supporters of pro-gay legislation. One specific target we will lobby against, however, is Senate Bill #743 which is aimed at barring the employment of gay people in state jobs relating to State Police and correctional institutions, mentally ill persons, mentally retarded persons, or physically handicapped persons.

The blatant discrimination and violation of civil rights is obvious, at least to Governor Shapp who recently vetoed legislation with similar provisions (S. B. #196). Governor Shapp called Bill #196 the "worst written piece of legislation" he had received in his term as Governor.

Thus, the Harrisburg "stage" is set, and the attention of gays across America is turned to Pennsylvania where the executive and legislative branches of government conflict in an historic civil rights drama. Governor Shapp and his administration have, by executive order and action, committed themselves to the cause of equal rights for gay people. On the other hand, S. B. #743 is the fourth piece of legislation introduced by this Legislature with similar provisions attacking our civil rights.

Gay Lobby Day has grown out of the need for legislators to meet face to face with gay people and their supporters; it is needed to match the force of these legislators who are even providing penalties for state officers who hire or continue to employ gay people in the jobs affected. As more and more of us "come out" to meet our legislators, we are often met with, "You are the first person who has ever represented this cause to me."

Gay Lobby Day is intended to educate our legislators. Lobbyists will carry to each legislator a packet of resources demonstrating support for gay rights by professional and religious organizations and leaders in many fields. The packet will also include positive, accurate information on gayness to raise the personal consciousness of legislators.

To mount this incredible effort, the Gay Lobby Day Committee, composed of people from all parts of the state, is soliciting a donation of five dollars, more or less, from gay organizations, bars, businesses, and others who may be interested. Your contribution would be used to cover the costs of mailing, telephone calls, printing, and one-day workshops designed to train lobbyists. All time and travel by the committee or lobbyists is voluntary and at their own expense. The cost of the legislator's packet has already been underwritten by the Gay Activist Alliance (G.A.A.) and the Quakers (Society of Friends Church) of Philadelphia.

Will you please help this cause?

Sincerely yours,

Joseph W. Burns  
Chairperson, sub-committee  
on financing.

PLEASE DONATE BY CHECK ONLY  
Payable to the Gay Lobby Day Committee  
or to Sam Deetz

MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:

Gay Lobby Day Committee  
c/o Sam Deetz  
P. O. Box 182  
Northumberland, Pa. 17857