





Westchester

LGBT Advisory Board

Who We Are

- Nancy Dyer
- d. a. johnson
- Norman Friedman
- John Lindauer
- Joe Manzo
- Joann Prinzivalli
- Michael Sabatino
- Patti Smith
- Jim Stenerson
- Dennis Whetsel

and Yvette Christofilis, County LGBT Liaison, Ex Officio

*The community spoke
and we listened . . .*

Community Visibility

- Awards Program for the Town Hall Meeting
 - *the tradition began in 2007 continues tonight!*
 - *recognizing dedicated service to the LGBT communities*
- LGBT section of Westchestergov.com
 - *Westchestergov.com is the only official government site in New York State to include a section dedicated to LGBT needs and issues*

Better Legal Protection

- Training for Westchester Police Academy recruits will continue in 2008
- “Refresher” training for Westchester Police veterans will be sought
- The Advisory Board continues work to improve sensitivity and respect in police encounters with LGBT individuals

Youth - PrideWorks

(formerly Healing the Hurt)

- PrideWorks for LGBT Youth Conference brings together educators, parents, students and youth workers,
 - *provides support for LGBT youth and addresses anti-LGBT bias*
- Over 500 people attend, more than half of them students
- PrideWorks for 2008 is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains

Young Adults - College Summit

- The Advisory Board sponsors an annual College Summit for administrators and students
- 5th Annual Summit was on April 18, 2008, at Pace University – Pleasantville
- Some harassment issues discussed at two colleges
- The Summit is a valuable avenue for communication and strength
- Overwhelming request from participants to have the Summit more than once a year.

What Else Do We Do?

- Westchester County continues to provide seed money for LGBT senior services
- Westchester County continues to work with LGBT people seeking to adopt or foster children
- Westchester County continues to fund an LGBT Helpline for the community
- Disability—an ongoing concern
 - *Providing a sign-language interpreter on request is just the beginning. We are always looking for ways to do more*

Recognizing Our Families

- The LGBT Advisory Board has made contact with the NYS Attorney General's Office
 - *NOTE: if you are in a domestic partnership and your Healthcare Proxies or Durable Powers of Attorney are not honored, call:
(800) 771-7755*
 - *Information available in exhibit area*

Westchester Pride

- Requested by many groups and individuals
- How to do this?
 - *Community-based organizations form a coalition with a steering committee with input, buy-in and resources from all coalition groups*
 - *LGBT Advisory Board and Office for LGBT Affairs can assist with facilitating coalition meetings and with securing a space for the event*
 - *Visit other ethnic festivals—African American; Hispanic; etc.—to find out how they are done*

Suggestions

The Advisory Board
would like your input!

*DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT A SURVEY!
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!*



Suggestions

- Trans community not willing to wait any more
- As mother with gay children, need for a forum on which towns are supportive of gay families, friendly communities
- Transgender community IS more visible and more vulnerable - protections are not yet there. Work from the inside to achieve change. LOFT willing to work on a Westchester Pride Fest
- Fleetwood Pride. A new organization - with 65 members, and growing in the community

Suggestions (*continued*)

- Thanks to Ingrid Barnes. Proud of Laura Newman. One issue—religious intolerance in county. Proposal—we need to find those supportive religious communities for ourselves; supportive clergy, straight allies, are out there.

Suggestions (*continued*)

- Westchester Pride Event positive. Lambda Peer Support willing to support a Pride Event
- Clarification requested: New Paltz, Nyack events work - we need to make it happen.
- Community organizations interested in reviving summit meetings with Director of Office for LGBT Affairs.