

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: JANUARY 19, 2013

1. The annual membership meeting of the Barbara Gittings Delaware Stonewall Democrats (“BGDSD”) was held on Saturday, January 19, 2013, at the Dover Century Club in Dover, Delaware, starting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting began with a keynote address from State Senator Karen Peterson (SD 9), whose theme was a tribute to the “unsung heroes” of the LGBT equality movement in the state of Delaware, beginning with lesbian activist Barbara Gittings and former Rep. Bill Oberle, the first sponsor of the anti-discrimination legislation that eventually became law over a decade after he first introduced it, and continuing on through the LGBT activists and state legislators who played key roles in the 2011 passage of Delaware’s civil unions legislation. The members also heard briefly from two recently-elected first-term legislators, State Senator Bryan Townsend (SD 11) and State Rep. Paul Baumbach (RD 23), both of whom expressed strong support for BGDSD’s equality agenda, and from long-time BGDSD ally State Rep. Darryl Scott (RD 31).
2. The second highlight of the program presented to the annual membership meeting was a panel discussion on issues of concern to Delaware’s transgendered community. Three trans persons with very diverse backgrounds, American University college student Sarah McBride, Brandywine Counseling counselor Daniel Norvelle, and Democratic Party activist Barbara Siperstein, each related their own personal experiences in encountering and combating anti-trans prejudice and discrimination. Jack Harrison from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force reported on the results of a National Transgender Discrimination Survey that was conducted by NGLTF. BGDSD Vice President for Membership Larry Peterson, who moderated the panel, reported on the work of the Trans Education Task Force, which he heads. That Task Force has been conducting a series of one-on-one meetings between state legislators and Task Force members, with the goal of educating the legislators about trans discrimination issues.
3. BGDSD President Norm Spector reported on BGDSD’s principal accomplishments in 2012, including a successful annual summer fundraiser in Rehoboth Beach that enabled BGDSD to contribute to the election and re-

election campaigns of several past and prospective legislative allies. He noted that 29 of the 35 candidates endorsed by BGDS D won their election contests. He also reported that the two greatest disappointments for BGDS D in 2012 were the defeat of BGDS D ally State Sen. Mike Katz (SD 4) in his re-election bid and the defeat of three openly-gay candidates – Mitch Crane, Marie Mayor, and Andy Staton – in their respective races for Insurance Commissioner, the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. Finally, he reported on BGDS D’s legislative agenda in 2013, stating that BGDS D would be working very hard to aid in the passage of two bills – a same-sex marriage bill and a transgender equality bill that would ban discrimination based on gender identity in housing, employment and public accommodations and extend hate crimes coverage to crimes committed against trans persons.

4. In their separate addresses, keynote speaker Sen. Karen Peterson, Equality Delaware Foundation President Mark Purpura, and BGDS D Vice President for Political Action Peter Schott each identified the same legislative agenda specified in the President’s Report, that is, the passage of marriage equality legislation and the passage of trans equality legislation, as the top two priorities for the LGBT community and its supporters in the 2013 legislative session. In his report, Peter also noted that the BGDS D’s PAC had contributed over \$10,000 to its endorsed candidates in 2012 -- \$3100 in the primary election and \$7400 in the general election.
5. BGDS D’s members adopted a set of by-laws amendments proposed by the Board. The amendments restructured the Board by eliminating some officer positions and consolidating others, changed the eligibility requirement for candidates for office from one year’s prior membership in BGDS D to three months, and eliminated a provision that allowed certain persons who were not registered Democrats to become BGDS D members.
6. The members also elected the following officers to two-year terms, beginning at the close of the annual membership meeting: President Norm Spector, Vice President for Political Action Joe Daigle, Vice President for Membership/Secretary Jeffrey Davis, Treasurer Larry Hooker, At Large Member Peter Schott, New Castle County Coordinator Dan Cole, Kent County Coordinator Shirley Semple, and Sussex County Coordinator John Workman. Due to the lack of a candidate, either from the Nominating

Committee or from floor nominations, the position of Vice President for Development was left open. The position will be filled by the Board.

7. Prior to the annual membership meeting, the Board held a brief Board meeting primarily devoted to the receipt of officers' reports and preparations for the annual membership meeting.
8. The Board scheduled its next meeting for Friday, February 22nd , at the home of Norm Spector and George Everett, 444 Willowood Drive, Smyrna, Delaware. The 7:10 p.m. meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner, which is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.