

# Delga

The newsletter for the Lib Dem LGBT equality group



***Pride in our Performance!  
Marriage without Borders  
New LGBT Campaign Resources***



# The 2009 Executive

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# Your *DELGA* needs you!

As every other conference publication and training session will remind you, this is the last Autumn Conference of the Parliament with eyes turning to a general election that seems to be expected at the start of May 2010: just over seven months away.

For DELGA we have a crucial Annual General Meeting this September, from which we need to elect a team to take us through that General Election. Several of the existing exec will not be restanding having worked hard to get us back into a fighting shape - our Secretary Adrian and our Chair Jen are both stepping down. That means we need more DELGA members like you to step forward for the team!



The coming election will see Labour seeking to defend what we know to be a lacklustre record on LGBT issues, and the Tories trying to pretend history began in about 2007.

The Lib Dems are alone in our long and proud track record: we need you, our members, to come forward whether for the 2010 exec team or to help on specific areas of work, to help proverbially shout that message from the rooftops.

## 2010 Conferences

We will again be holding two DELGA conferences in 2010. Reserve these dates in your diaries now!

**Winter Strategy Conference** - January 10th, 11am-5pm, 4 Cowley Street, London.

**Summer Strategy Conference** - 26th June, 11-5, NW Region Office, Stockport

## Watch out for the Christmas Draw

Soon after conference DELGA members will get a mailing with tickets for this year's Lib Dem Christmas Draw. Buying tickets for the draw is one of the easiest ways you can help DELGA - about half our income each year comes from the success of the draw.

Join us on  
facebook

**Lib Dems for LGBT  
Equality - the  
facebook group**

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2257151771](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2257151771)

# New resources

The summer Pride season has seen us unveil a host of new DELGA materials for campaigning with the LGBT communities. If you weren't at a Pride event here are some of our new goodies: you can pick most of them up at the DELGA stall in Bournemouth and save us a lot of postage in getting materials out for next summer.

## Out to Win for LGBT Equality

We have a glossy full colour A4-folded-in-three sized leaflet which includes a combined DELGA and Lib Dem membership form, a taste of the party's record at both local, national and European levels, and quotes from people like party leader Nick Clegg MP and party president Baroness Ros Scott.

## Neither one thing nor the other?

The pink, purple and blue bisexual recruitment leaflet we produced last year has been given a bit of a revamp and is now more eye-catching. Reclaiming that old 80's slur on the Lib Dems that also gets thrown about at bi folk,, it invites you in with the question, "*neither one thing nor the other but somewhere in between?*"

## Gay Lib?

A gold and pink postcard evoking what DELGA and our predecessor organisations have been about for decades!

## I'm Liberal!

Bright rainbow flag stickers for use at Prides and other events with the bird of liberty logo and the message "I'M LIBERAL!" We did think about making an I'm Very Liberal version too!



## Out To Win

The general flyers for our LGBT Candidates Network are also proving very popular -- and we've realised it's a great slogan for getting across the message that we have out candidates and in a growing number of places we are proverbially *winning here*.



## ...at every level

The Out To Win network is a peer support email network for lesbian, gay, bi and trans Lib Dems seeking election at any level of public office from MEP to the smallest Parish Council.

Join us online - see [www.lgbt.libdems.org.uk/pages/out-to-win.html](http://www.lgbt.libdems.org.uk/pages/out-to-win.html)

# Marriage Without Borders?



At Pride festivals this summer, we've been garnering support for DELGA's Marriage Without Borders campaign.

A growing number of nations offer state recognition of same-sex

partnerships to at least some degree. Increasingly this is through legalised same-sex marriage on the same basis as mixed-sex partnerships are recognised. So, we say, it's time countries recognise one another's partnership laws properly - and that marriage and civil partnerships were not gender restricted.

We want civil partnerships open to mixed-sex couples who for whatever reason prefer to avoid marriage - for example for the religious connotations of the word.

We want marriage open to same-sex couples, and able to be conducted at religious venues where that venue are willing.

And we want to be able to travel to other EU member states (and beyond - but the EU is the most achievable goal here) and know our partnerships will still be respected.

Whether geographical or gender, we want marriage without borders.

Our motion on the subject - which did not go as far as including marriage - failed to make the conference agenda for Bournemouth this time, but we hope to bring it as a proposal in future. If you are a conference voting rep for 2010, and would support such a motion, do please get in touch with the DELGA team and let us know so we can submit a motion with as much clear, broad support as possible.

<http://campaigns.libdems.org.uk/marriagewithoutborders>

## Policy Feedback

*Our link on the party's Federal Policy Committee (FPC) feeds back on our latest policy submission*

**The Liberal Democrats are a truly democratic party when it comes to determining party policy.** Not only does each Local Party, as well as Liberal Youth, have the right to send voting representatives but those voting representatives actually get to decide what the policy is! It is a world away from a series of rallies and leadership pronouncements about what our policy is to be. There are genuine debates and genuine votes. There are examples of where conference has actually rejected the stance of its Parliamentarians. That has helped to keep the Party radical and ahead of the others in terms of policy and, by extension, campaigning. Organisations like DELGA have the right to submit motions and amendments to the Conference Committee for possible inclusion on the agenda.

It is great to see that DELGA has made full use of that right in recent years. It has been a challenge though to accommodate all of the motions that have been submitted from different quarters. The Conference Committee has to juggle a huge range of policy motions, business motions and policy paper debates, not to mention speeches and question and answer sessions. The motion that DELGA submitted on *Same Sex Partnerships Throughout the European Union* was a very

good motion that would have made a good debate but sadly it fell victim to a massive shortage of time. With items like the Pre-Manifesto document and several other policy papers, there was a limit to what we could squeeze in. What clinched it was that Nick Clegg has made some pronouncements on the issue recently in any event. I hope that DELGA will continue to submit good motions like that and I will certainly push for them to be accommodated if we can. What the Federal Conference Committee (F.C.C.) is looking for is well-drafted motions that would make for good debates.

I am principally responsible for the liaison between the F.P.C. and DELGA. One of the pieces of work that is being undertaken by the committee has been the Pre-Manifesto document which will be debated at conference. Given the economic situation, it has been a real challenge to put together but we thought it was important to ensure that the party remains radical and distinctive. There will undoubtedly be some difficult choices to make when it comes to writing the manifesto itself because the situation is constantly changing. I am anxious to ensure, though, that the campaigning work by DELGA and others is properly reflected and so any suggestions on the content of the manifesto would be gratefully received. You can email me on [geoff@geoffpayne.org](mailto:geoff@geoffpayne.org). I am also happy to answer any other questions relating to the work of F.P.C. or F.C.C!

Geoff Payne  
September 2009

# Pride in our performance!

One of the best ways that Lib Dems can demonstrate our commitment to LGBT equality is by attending community events.

This year, DELGA have been working harder than ever with local parties to ensure a good Lib Dem presence at Prides around the country. We've been making sure that local parties are aware of their Prides, and sending them our "Pride Guide". Later in the year, we were able to send Lib Dem stickers to several Prides, and also trifold leaflets explaining our history and policies.

The persistence has paid off - this year there were three times as many Lib Dem Pride presences as 2008. However, over half the Prides that took place around the country didn't have any Lib Dem presence at all. Attending a Pride festival is a great way to recruit new volunteers, and to demonstrate the Lib Dem's decades of service to the LGBT communities.

DELGA members helped pay for these resources to be printed, and DELGA activists produce them. Local parties book the stalls, pay for them and resource them. Will **you** help us attend over half the Prides in England, Scotland and Wales in 2010?



# Bournemouth Diary

[lgbt.libdems.org.uk/pages/bournemouth2009.html](http://lgbt.libdems.org.uk/pages/bournemouth2009.html)

The team to  
win the LGBT  
vote in 2010

**DELGA's Annual General Meeting** will elect an executive for 2010.

With the Chair and Secretary stepping down and a general election ahead of us this is a vital year for the Lib Dems and the LGBT community: will you step up to the job?

**Sunday, 20 Sept: 8pm - 915pm, Bay View room at the Royal Bath Hotel.**  
All DELGA members welcome - and of course you can join on the door!

**DELGA and Stonewall have a joint fringe meeting on LGBT equality.**

With Stephen Williams MP, PPC Stephen Gilbert, and Lynne Featherstone MP joining Ben Summerskill and Jen Yockney from Stonewall and DELGA respectively.

As the recession inspires claims that equality legislation 'costs too much' and with polls suggesting a Tory government likely to show even less commitment to LGBT equality issues than Labour has been, where now for equality and liberation?

Equality  
in a cold  
climate?

**Monday, 21 Sept: Bryanston Suite, Wessex Hotel from 6.15pm.** All welcome.

Pub!

**Round off conference with the DELGA Social.** Starting off in the Branksome Arms pub and heading on explore the Bournemouth gay scene.

**Tuesday, 22 Sept: 8pm - Branksome Arms.**



**DELGA works all year round:**

- Supporting LGBT candidates**
- Leading on LGBT policy**
- Promoting to the LGBT communities**

## DELGA Membership Form

Membership is open to all Lib Dem members who share our aims - not just those who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans.

Name .....

Email address .....

Address .....

Party Membership Number ..... Ref AU9

Date ..... Amount paid £ .....

Recommended membership is £15 (£5 minimum) - please make cheques payable to "LGBT Lib Dems".  
Post to Delga, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

**Join DELGA to:**

- Keep in the loop with the latest Lib Dem news on LGBT equality**
- Have your say on the direction of LGBT policy and campaigning**
- Meet other LGBT Lib Dems**
- Have fun as part of an active, dedicated organisation!**