

Note: These are my notes on how bisexual was included in the title of the 1993 March on Washington. Some of this was published in Anything That Moves magazine and also in the BiNet USA Newsletter. The larger analysis will be in my memoir and will provide stories of our outspoken alliance with transgender people and the behind the scenes struggle to include transgender in the name of the 1993 March.

### **1992 BACKGROUND:**

A 1993 March on Washington is being planned for April 25, 1993. The first National meeting was held in Chicago (Aug/'91). A meeting took place at the November Creating Change Conference in Washington, D.C. Regional meetings were held after the Chicago meeting to elect regional representatives who went to the next national meeting in Los Angeles (Jan/'92). The country was divided into 16 regions, with Puerto Rico being its' own region. Each region has four representatives/votes; Puerto Rico has one rep/vote on the National Steering Committee. It was decided that regional reps and the ten people on the Executive Committee had to have minimum representation of 50% women and 50% people of color. The Exec/Com was elected in LA. The Exec/Com will elect co-chairs, and hire one person to be National Facilitator. The National Steering Committee also has representatives from constituency groups (i.e. students, people of color, leather, veterans, sm, drag activists, etc.) and from national organizations (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Black and White Men Together, etc.). Each group and organization has one vote each.

The April date was chosen over the previous October '79/'87 National March dates because Congress will be in session for lobbying efforts, a new president will have just been elected, and many of the PWA's [People With AIDS] who have been working on this have failing health and feel a sense of urgency. It is also true that some PWA organizers have already died since planning was first initiated.

**BiNET USA & BiPOL SF  
NATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CAMPAIGN ACTION  
FOR MARCH MEETING IN LOS ANGELES**

**GOAL:** Bisexual in the name of the 1993 March on Washington and to strengthen our alliances with the lesbian and gay community.

**PLAN:** Develop a statement endorsing bisexual inclusion and signed by local, regional and national lesbian and gay leaders. It is the next step in the coming out process for many of our friends and allies. They then take on some of the necessary work (heat) of challenging biphobia in the larger lesbian and gay community. This document can be used as an op/ed piece or letter to the editor, as well as a lobbying tool.

I wrote the Endorsement Campaign Statement and organized leaders in 12 cities to gather signatures. I collected signatures with Autumn Courtney, Sharon Beth, Naomi Tucker, Maggi Rubenstein in San Francisco CA, and Michael Ambrosino -- Portland OR, Dawn Palmer, Ben e factory -- Seattle WA, Brenda Howard, Danny Blitz, Ben Silver, Sheila Mabry -- NY, Ann Gardner -- NJ, Ron Owen, Arlene Krantz -- Los Angeles CA, Mark Clark -- Miami FL, Melody Merry -- Chicago IL, Jon Sutton -- Minneapolis MN, Charles Gutman -- Rhode Island, Cliff Arneson, Alan Hamilton, Woody Glenn, Stephanie Berger -- Boston MA, Woody Cartright -- Philadelphia PA, Loraine Hutchins, Elias Farajaje-Jones -- Washington, D.C.

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**TO THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

As local, regional and national lesbian and gay leaders we support the inclusion of bisexual rights in the Call for the 1993 March on Washington.

We feel it is the perfect opportunity for the gay and lesbian movement to affirm the politics and vision of many diverse groups nationwide who have recognized and now include bisexual in their titles. These include veterans groups, student groups on college campuses, pride parades and celebrations, Queer Nation and their affinity groups, political and cultural organizations, newspapers and community centers.

Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexual people are all under attack. There is strength in our numbers. Bisexuals have been an important part of the lesbian/gay community and movement for decades. It is time to recognize their contributions and to encourage more bisexuals to come out publicly in support of lesbian, gay and bisexual rights. We advocate expanding the 1993 Call to Washington to read:

THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR  
LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL RIGHTS

\*Organizations listed for identity purposes only  
Congressman Gerry Studds, Massachusetts  
Karen Clark, State Representative, Minnesota

David Scondras, City Councilor, Boston  
Roberta Achtenberg, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco  
Harry Britt, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco  
Carole Migden, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco  
Lenore Chin - Commissioner, Human Rights Commission San Francisco  
Miriam Ben-Shalom - Chair  
National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Veterans of America  
Norm Nickens -Chair, National Minority AIDS Council  
Glenn Magpantay, Co-Chair of the National Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student  
Caucus of the United States Student Association  
Jenny Sayward, Board Chair, Misha Williams, Secretary-Treasurer  
Barb Chateaubriand, Honorary Board Member  
Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund  
Rick Garcia, Illinois Federation for Human Rights  
Hank Tavera, Co-Chair LLEGO California  
Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Organization  
Laura Pople, President,  
New Jersey Lesbian/Gay Coalition  
Evan Wolfson, Lambda Legal Defense Fund New York  
P C Fullwood, Executive Director  
People Of Color Against AIDS Network, Seattle, WA  
Ann DeGroot - Executive Director  
Gay & Lesbian Community Action Council, Minneapolis, MN  
Anne Maria Silvia, Executive Director - Rhode Island Project AIDS  
Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin - co-founders Daughters of Bilitis  
Barbara Cameron, activist, writer, Executive Director  
Community United Against Violence  
Sally Gearhart -activist/writer  
Laurie Dittman - IMPACT Chicago  
Al Wardell, Executive Director - Rodde Center Chicago  
Mark C. Canterbury, Pride South Florida  
The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Pride Committee  
Robin L. Clawson - Puget Sound Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual  
Veterans of America  
Michael Epstein, John Duran, Esq., Los Angeles  
Randy Burns - Co-founder Gay American Indian Movement  
Donald Masuda, Co-founder Gay Asian Pacific Alliance  
Roma Guy, Founder San Francisco Women's Building  
Paul DiDonato - Director of Public Policy  
AIDS Legal Referral Panel, San Francisco  
Michael A. Schemm, Co-Chair - Seattle Municipal Elections Committee

of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals

John Wahl, Esq., Walter Parsley, Esq. -

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Voters Project San Francisco

Donna Ozawa - Co-founder LYRIC (Lavendar Youth)

Kelly Locklin, Co-Chair - Lambert House Steering Committee

A Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Center, Seattle

Arlis Stewart, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Program Director

American Friends Service Committee, Pacific Northwest Region

John Selden Wilhite, Mark Baldwin - SF AIDS Foundation

Penelope A. Chronis, Simeon White, Judith E. Stevenson -

Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee to SF Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Cynthia Goldstein, Esq. - AIDS Unit SFHRC

Larry Brinkin, Sexual Orientation Discrimination Unit, SFHRC

Dorothy Alison - writer/poet

Allan Berube, Gayle Rubin - historians/writers

Pat Califia - writer/poet

Eric Rofes - activist, writer

Tede Matthews, activist, writer, poet

Jeffrey Escoffier - Publisher, OUT/LOOK

Kim Corsaro - Editor/Publisher SF Bay Times

Jan Adams, Editor/Publisher, Lesbian Connection

Blackberri, singer, songwriter, poet

June Millington, singer, song writer, musician

Judith Kate Friedman, singer, song writer, activist

Nancy Stoller, Professor UC Santa Cruz

Carter Wilson, Writer, Professor Community Studies UC Santa Cruz

Mark Collingsworth, President - Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Union

California State University Northridge

Jeff Hagen, Director Associated Students University of Washington

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Commission

Jeremy Black, University of Washington Daily columnist

Guy Caspary, University of Washington

Gay/Bisexual/Lesbian Association

Ron Whiteaker, Owner - Beyond The Closet Bookstore, Seattle

Joan Jett Blakk, Drag Activist,

Presidential Candidate - Queer Nation Party Chicago

Connie Norman, AIDS Diva, radio talk show host, Los Angeles

Ken Jones - Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club

Albert Lucero, Douglas Conrad, East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club

Marj Plumb, Executive Director Lyon Martin Women's Health Center

Dr. Diane Sabin, Board, National Center for Lesbian Rights

Jean M.B. Genasci, P-FLAG Northeast Regional Director

**UPDATE FROM SUCCESSFUL LOS ANGELES MOW MEETING**

*or how we are making history even as you read this newsletter!*

There were 7 out bisexuals present. Brenda Howard and Danny Blitz from NY shared a regional rep seat, Rebecca Hensler a Queer Nation/ACT UP bi dyke from SF, Autumn Courtney and Gerard Palmieri from BiPOL SF, and me Lani (BiPOL) who went as a temporary regional rep from Northern California. Unfortunately Charles Gutman, a bisexual activist and regional rep from Rhode Island couldn't raise enough money to make it to Los Angeles. His spirit was there. He had lobbied people in Rhode Island regarding the name change and obtained a signature for the endorsement.

The seven of us formed the official loud, proud and visible Bisexual Caucus. We discussed issues within the caucus when it was time to vote. We (and our numerous lesbian and gay allies) worked hard and won big! Not only did we get our name in the March

1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN, GAY AND BI  
EQUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERATION

BUT at the next national meeting in May in Dallas, BiNET USA will be a voting member of the National Steering Committee. Bisexuals were voted a constituency seat at the D.C. Creating Change Conference so we had one vote at the LA meeting! Watch for the full LA story in the next Anything That Moves written by the "Bisexual Seven" caucus!