

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC

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www.glaaforum.org (blog)

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GLAA Announces 2015 Distinguished Service Awards

The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C., is pleased to announce its 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipients. GLAA presents awards to local individuals and organizations that have served the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the national capital area. The awards will be presented at **GLAA's 44th Anniversary Reception** on Thursday, **April 23** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Policy Restaurant and Lounge at 1904 14th Street, NW (at T Street). Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased at <http://www.glaa.org/anniversary/> or calling (202) 667-5139; a range of donor levels is also available.

GLAA's 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipients are:

- Chuck Hicks
- Alexandra Andrea Beninda
- Anne Phelps

Chuck Hicks is a longtime specialist in Black history and strong supporter of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. He is founder and chair of the DC Black History Celebration Committee, and collaborated with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in last year's multimedia production on Bayard Rustin and James Baldwin, and this year's production on Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. He is founder and chair of Bread for the Soul. He has served on the board of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. He led creation of a local host committee for the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and served on the Mayor's Committee on the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. He serves on the Commission on Aging, Commission on African-American Affairs, Commission on African-American Men and Boys, and the MLK Holiday Commission.

Alexandra Andrea Beninda serves as a member of the D.C. Commission on Human Rights. She is a dedicated transgender advocate and community volunteer. She has served as a board member for Equality Virginia, Treasurer of the Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, Treasurer of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, and a board member for the DC Center for the LGBT Community. She has represented the Stein Club on the D.C. Democratic State Committee. She is an active member and Assistant Treasurer at All Souls Unitarian Church.

Anne Phelps served in D.C. Council Period 20 as Committee Director for the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety under then-chairman Tommy Wells. Before that she was Committee Director for the Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation, and Planning, and General Counsel for the Committee on Transportation and Public Works. During her tenure at Judiciary, the following bills supported by GLAA were passed: the Marriage Officiant Amendment Act of 2013; JaParker Deoni Jones Birth Certificate Equality Amendment Act of 2013; Marriage License Issuance Amendment Act of 2013; Civil Marriage Dissolution Equality Clarification Amendment Act of 2014; Repeal of Prostitution Free Zones Amendment Act of 2014; and Human Rights Amendment Act of 2014. During her previous committee post, she shepherded the Youth Bullying Prevention Act of 2012. She continues to work on LGBT issues as Legislative Director for Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen.

A list of previous award winners can be found on the GLAA website at www.glaa.org/resources/awardshistory.shtml.

Founded in 1971, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington (GLAA) is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit political organization that defends the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Nation's Capital. GLAA lobbies the D.C. Council, monitors government agencies, educates and rates local candidates, and works in coalitions to defend the safety, health, and equal rights of LGBT families. GLAA remains the nation's oldest continuously active gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

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