

# Maine LGBT Power Summit

## Grassroots organizing training for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and its allies

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26, 2009

Every year, state and local lawmakers across the country take up legislation of significant importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. In 2009, the Maine Legislature and other state legislatures in the region will consider bills that would grant same-sex couples the freedom to marry.

Because of this extraordinary opportunity, the Task Force and EqualityMaine are partnering to offer an intensive three-day skills building training for Mainers — and others from out of state — wanting to build grassroots political power to win and defend the freedom to marry or other issues of importance for the LGBT community. The primary goal of the training will be to launch EqualityMaine's spring door-to-door canvassing program in support of the marriage equality bill.

The skills taught can be used to build political power for a wide range of LGBT legislative issues in any state. The summit will also bring together leaders from states outside of Maine as they work to advance the cause of LGBT equality locally.

*"It was through the Task Force training that I learned the skills I needed to work on this campaign. Their leadership training produced a whole wave of excited individuals who felt ready to tackle a serious leadership role, giving us the boost that jump-started our campaign."*

— Georg Ketelhohn, SAVE Dade campaign manager and former training participant, Miami, Fla.

### Mission

The Maine LGBT Power Summit is a three-day intensive training designed to provide activists with the skills, tactics and strategies for moving lawmakers and voters to support the LGBT community. In the process, the summit builds grassroots organizations with the political power capable of winning full LGBT equality in the legislature and at the ballot box.

### Curriculum

The Task Force has built active working volunteer teams from the hundreds to the thousands for single campaigns. The summit will teach tested core skills that are critical for building political power, including how to:

- Build a large team of volunteers to talk with constituents face-to-face about your organization's priority issues and lobby their legislators on your behalf
- Raise money through asking people you know, person-to-person
- Recruit a team of volunteers that represents the full diversity of our communities
- Develop volunteer leaders to help manage and grow your field campaign
- Create effective and persuasive messages for use in all parts of your campaign
- Challenge our opponents' use of identity, race and faith to divide us
- Build action-oriented coalitions across race, class, gender identity and faith lines



The Power Summit is not just 3 days of lectures. Instead, it is an experiential training that teaches theories and tactics, and then asks the participants to try out the skills through the real world action that occurs during the training.

Learn powerful tools to create change — the Power Summit will enable you to be maximally effective with the time and energy you have to advance your highest priority issues.

*“I spent the weekend going through a wide variety of emotions. My emotions ranged from fear to confidence to excitement. Ultimately, the Power Summit was an experience that demanded I move beyond my comfort level and challenge the status quo.”*

— Tammi Wallace, campaign volunteer and former training participant, Houston, Texas.

## Dates & Location

The Power Summit will take place on Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26, 2009. Enrollment is limited. Participants must attend the entire training:

<b>April 24</b>	<b>April 25</b>	<b>April 26</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>9AM–6PM</b>	<b>9AM–6PM</b>	<b>9AM–3PM</b>

The training will be held in Portland, Maine. Free parking will be made available during the days of the training.

## Registration Cost & Commitment

A non-refundable fee of \$100 is required to cover basic meeting costs. Participants are responsible for covering their travel and lodging costs. Registration covers tuition, training materials, and breakfast and lunch each day. The Task Force offers scholarships on an as needed basis to cover all or part of the registration fee. Participants must make a commitment to put the training to use when they return home.

## To Enroll

Enrollment is limited. The deadline for registration is April 3, 2009. Participants must attend the entire three days of the training. If interested, please contact Task Force Organizer Trystan Reese by calling 202.329.2871 or by e-mailing [treese@theTaskForce.org](mailto:treese@theTaskForce.org). People of color and transgender people are highly encouraged to participate.

The Power Summit Training is paid for by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation. The mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is to build the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. We do this by training activists, equipping state and local organizations with the skills needed to organize broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation, and building the organizational capacity of our movement. Our Policy Institute, the movement’s premier think tank, provides research and policy analysis to support the struggle for complete equality and to counter right-wing lies. As part of a broader social justice movement, we work to create a nation that respects the diversity of human expression and identity and creates opportunity for all.

EqualityMaine is Maine’s oldest and largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) political advocacy organization. Our members and supporters hail from every region of the state, brought together by a common goal: making equality a reality for all citizens. We work to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the state through political action, education, and collaboration. We envision a Maine in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families have full equality in the hearts and minds of Maine people, and in all areas of the law.