



**The Ohio State University Alumni Association
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni Society**

P.O. Box 2012
Columbus, OH 43216-2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Town Hall to Focus on Marriage
Educational Forum Presents Facts on Issue of Civil Marriage in Ohio**

(Columbus) – As the issue of same-gender marriage continues to receive more attention in this election year, a number of local and statewide groups are combining efforts to host a town hall forum to present the facts and dispel the fiction surrounding the topic. The event is planned for **Tuesday, September 28, 2004, at 7:00pm** and will be held at the **Longaberger Alumni House (2200 Olentangy River Road)** on the campus of The Ohio State University. The evening's moderator will be Herb Asher, Professor Emeritus of Political Science The Ohio State University. The forum is presented by the OSU Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Alumni Society, and co-sponsored by Ohioans for Growth and Equality (OGE), Stonewall Community Action Network (CAN), Log Cabin Republicans (LCR), Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio (SDCO), Human Rights Campaign (HRC)-Columbus and BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization)

Chad Foust, Board Chairman of OGE highlighted the importance of a public discussion on this issue by stating, "There is a sense of urgency here. The issue of same-gender marriage has become a hot button issue and, unfortunately, there are some who are spreading lies and trying to instill fear in citizens of this state as a way of fulfilling some radical, moral agenda. We have a responsibility to take control of this debate and define the elements of this issue in a simple, open and truthful manner."

OSU GLBT Alumni President, Jack Miner, also feels a sense of responsibility to his constituency and to the community beyond the OSU campus. Miner said, "Equal treatment under the law for all citizens has been a major focus of our group. We feel equal treatment has not yet been extended to same-gender couples wishing to experience and enjoy the full benefits of a loving, committed marital relationship. In order to achieve this equal treatment one day, we must play a role in this political process."

This event is taking place as efforts are underway to amend Ohio's constitution to declare marriage in this state as solely a union between one man and one woman. As written, the amendment would also ban future recognition of civil unions and could prohibit Ohio municipalities, state institutions and businesses from offering domestic partnership benefits to non-married heterosexual couples, single-mothers, unmarried elderly couples and same-gender couples.

Stonewall CAN Executive Director, Kate Anderson, said, "Let there be no mistake, this amendment is attempting to legislate a position of "zero tolerance" for individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender in the state of Ohio and can negate all legal documents that our community uses to protect our families and property. The GLBT community is facing a serious attack fueled by hatred."

The town hall forum is free and open to the public. Doors to the event will open at 6:30pm, and light refreshments will be provided in a reception. Due to limited seating, attendees will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis for the audience. For more information, please contact Chad Foust, Board Chairman of Ohioans for Growth and Equality at 614-353-8050.

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