



Contact: Roger Wedell
President, DGLA Don Baker Education Fund
Office: 214-521-6622
Cell: 214-912-1378

Contact: Dick Weaver
Acting Chair, Leadership Lambda
Office: 817-607-7160
Home: 214-522-6681

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Don Baker Education Fund & Leadership Lambda Announce Consolidation

Leadership Lambda To Become a Program of DGLA-DBEF

(Dallas, TX) After more than a year of careful thought and discussion, the boards of directors of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Don Baker Education Fund and Leadership Lambda are pleased to announce a consolidation of educational programs and resources. Effective May 20, 2004 at a special signing ceremony, Leadership Lambda will become a program of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Don Baker Education Fund (DGLA-DBEF). Thereafter, the two organizations will share resources and board representation, and Leadership Lambda will continue its leadership development educational programs as part of DGLA-DBEF.

The two organizations will mark the new relationship with a special event on Thursday, May 20, 2004, 6-8 pm, in the Rafael Room at Monica's Aca y Alla (3914 Main in Deep Ellum). The event will feature a ceremony in which leaders of each organization will sign an agreement document that will formalize the new organizational structure. Past board members and Leadership Lambda alumni will be in attendance. The public and members of the press are invited to attend. (For more information, please contact the DGLA office at (214) 528-4233 or info@dglacom).

While some gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) organizations have merged in the past, board members of Leadership Lambda and DGLA-DBEF noted the vast number of independent GLBT groups in the DFW area and met to discuss strategies for the long-term growth and vitality of both organizations. Rather than continue as independent entities, the boards of directors worked together with experts and attorneys during the last year to structure a re-organization to include both organizations as one while maintaining the unique integrity and offerings of each organization.

"We often hear that there are 'too many' GLBT groups in our area, and the sad truth is that many groups simply do not survive on their own over time," noted Roger Wedell, president of the DGLA Don Baker Education Fund. "In our discussions together, we saw that our organizations were fine and healthy working independently, but we wanted to step up as leaders to begin reducing the number of similar groups competing for membership and resources. The (DGLA Don Baker) Education Fund and Leadership Lambda are a perfect fit." DGLA's Don Baker Education Fund has a long history of community educational programs, including voter guides, voter registration, town hall meetings, and diversity training programs for City of Dallas first-responders, including the Dallas Police Academy.

Through its flagship program, the "Active Citizenship Seminar Series," Leadership Lambda offers comprehensive education to train passionate individuals to become leaders in the GLBT community. Many alumni are current or past leaders of large and small organizations throughout the GLBT community. Many members of DGLA's current board of directors are Leadership Lambda alumni; other alumni are active leaders in local organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), National Coming Out Project (NCOP), Women's Business Network (WBN), Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), and other groups.

Leadership Lambda's established programs will continue intact as part of the DGLA Don Baker Education Fund, and new programs are likely to develop. "We are excited about joining forces with DGLA," said Leadership Lambda Chair Lynn Sulander. "Both boards have been eager to be pro-active in ensuring our mutual growth for the future. Our focus is leadership, and our board is proud to take the lead with DGLA in seeking out partnerships between similar organizations as a positive change that is healthy for everyone...and a smart change."

For more than 25 years the mission of The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) has been to advocate for full civil rights, dignity, and self-respect for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals by educating, creating social and political change, and fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in order to achieve the full participation of all people in society. The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Don Baker Education Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Since 1993, the mission of Leadership Lambda has been to identify, train, support and honor passionate thinkers, advocates and leaders to expand the legacy of strong community organizations. Through its educational programs, Leadership Lambda helps to develop leaders in the North Texas gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Leadership Lambda is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

