



ICON

*Interfaith Coalition on
Nondiscrimination*

News Brief • September 2004

Educational Blitz!

ICON is gearing-up for an unprecedented series of educational meetings with 18 key swing-vote legislators from the Indiana General Assembly. The meetings will take place during September and October (in preparation for next legislative session), and will span the full geographic reach of the state, from Evansville in the south to Elkhart in the north!

If you live in one of the 18 key legislative districts, you will soon receive an invitation to participate in the meeting with your legislator.

These will be quiet, sit-down meetings between legislators and small groups of ICON supporters who live in the legislator's district. Participants will be fully briefed in advance by their group coordinator.

Our goal is to help our legislators understand that good workers often lose their jobs in Indiana simply for being gay or transgender. At ICON's Action Day at the Statehouse last January, volunteers talked briefly with many legislators about this problem. We were surprised how many legislators mistakenly thought Indiana already prohibited job discrimination against gay and transgender people. Others told us they doubted discrimination against gay and transgender people was common.

Obviously, the first step toward justice for GLBT Hoosiers is educating our state legislators.

Groundwork Laid

In recent months, ICON volunteers have been working hard to lay the groundwork for our Educational Blitz. Working with experts, we identified key

swing-vote legislators in the Indiana General Assembly, then matched them against ICON's database. This allowed us to identify 18 key swing-vote districts that have significant concentrations of ICON supporters.

Next we began canvassing ICON member congregations for volunteers who are willing to receive training to coordinate one of the 18 legislative meetings. Those volunteer coordinators have been identified and will be trained on Saturday, September 11. Coordinators will learn key background information, talking points, likely questions and answers, and matters of protocol. They will then begin contacting individual ICON supporters in their assigned district to invite them to participate in the legislative meeting.

Anyone who would like to learn more about GLBT justice issues and the legislative process is welcome to attend the ICON training. The training will be led by ICON's Chair, Rev. Jeff Miner (who previously served as a legislative attorney in Washington D.C.), and will take place from 10:00 am to noon on Saturday, September 11, at Jesus MCC, 2950 East 55th Place, Indianapolis, Indiana. If you plan to attend and we don't yet know that, please RSVP to ICON at (317) 894-5110. *There is no cost to participate.*

The Big Picture

ICON's Educational Blitz fits neatly into the broader efforts of **Indiana Equality**.

Indiana Equality is a consortium of Indiana civil rights organizations including:

- ICON,
- Indiana Rainbow Chamber of Commerce,
- Indiana Transgender Advocacy Alliance,
- Justice Inc.,
- Indiana NOW,

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ICON volunteer Rev. Raymond Schafer of Jeffersonville, center, talks to Senator James Lewis, District 45 (southeast Indiana).

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- Indiana Youth Group,
- Human Rights Campaign,
- plus regional groups in Ft. Wayne, Lafayette, Terre Haute, Bloomington, Columbus, and Evansville.

The goal of Indiana Equality is to persuade Indiana's legislature to amend our state Civil Rights Law to include gay and transgender people. The Civil Rights Law prohibits discrimination on the job and other public settings for reasons of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, and so forth. We seek to add "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the list of protected categories.

Key Swing Vote Senators

Murry Clark, NW Marion County
Gary Dillon, Manchester/Huntington
Beverly Gard, Greenfield
Lindel Hume, Loogootee
Luke Kenley, Noblesville
Connie Lawson, Danville
Teresa Lubbers, N Marion County
James Merritt, NE Marion County
Marvin Riegsecker, Elkhart
Gergory Server, Evansville
Becky Skillman, Seymour
Thomas Wyss, Ft. Wayne

Key Swing Vote House Members

Lawrence Buell, E Marion County
Ronald Herrell, Kokomo
Michael Murphy, SE Marion County
Phillip Pflum, Richmond
Kathy Kreag Richardson, Noblesville
John Ulmer, Elkhart

As reported in the prior ICON newsletter, Indiana Equality came very close to having a bipartisan bill well-positioned to move forward in the last session of the Indiana General Assembly. Last-minute pressure from nervous Republican House leaders torpedoed that effort.

The educational work ICON is doing this fall with individual legislators could well tip the balance. If you happen to live in one of the 18 key swing-vote districts, you will soon receive an invitation to participate in the conversation with your legislator. *Together, we can change history!*

Another Congregation Joins ICON!

ICON welcomes **First Congregational Church**, Indianapolis, as the newest congregation to join. ICON now has eleven member congregations.

If you would like to receive an informational packet to help your congregation consider membership, just let us know. Email GJminer@jesusmcc.org or call ICON at

(317) 894-5110.

We also extend a warm welcome to the **many new individual members** who have joined in the past quarter. As the ICON membership base grows, so does our ability to fund our educational activities and create change.

Have you become an official ICON member?

More "ICON in Action" Photos January 27, 2004, at the Indiana Statehouse.



ICON volunteers Jennifer Barnes, left, and Andrea Platt, right, engage Senator Joseph Harrison (District 23, west central Indiana) in a discussion of the issues.



ICON volunteer and media relations coordinator Dan Funk, left, talks to Senator Glenn Howard (District 33, northwest Marion County).



ICON Membership Application

Instructions:

1. Complete this form.
2. Make check or money order payable to ICON, or complete the credit card info block.
3. Mail the completed form and payment to:
Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination
2950 East 55th Place
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Membership Categories

Voting Congregations and Religious Organizations

- Sustaining Members, \$100 to 300 annually. *ICON recognizes that congregations and religious organizations have differing financial resources. Although \$300 is recommended as the annual membership fee, any amount starting at \$100 is acceptable for annual membership.*

Nonvoting Supporting Memberships

- Other Not-for-profit Organizations \$150 annually
 Corporate Membership \$200 annually
 Individual Membership \$25 annually
 Household Membership \$40 annually

Additional Contributions

- \$10 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Individual Options For Additional Involvement (optional)

Scope (select all that apply)

- Fundraising/Finance Membership Development
 Meeting/Events Issues/Direction
 Communications

Time (select one)

- Occasional Project <4 hours 1 Day Annually
 1 to 5 Days Annually 6 to 12 Days Annually
 12 Days Annually

Range (select one)

- Home City Only 25 - 50 Miles
 50 - 75 Miles 75 - 100 Miles
 Anywhere within Indiana

Payment Options

- Check or money order enclosed (payable to "ICON")
 Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Do you know individuals or organizations that would want the opportunity to become a member of ICON? Please provide their names and addresses on a separate sheet, and we'll contact them.

Membership Information: Address, telephone number, and e-mail remain confidential unless advance written authorization is obtained.

Individuals & Households

Name _____

Name Household Membership Only _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone () _____

E-mail _____

- Please **do not** publish name(s) in ICON literature.

Household Membership:

- Please publish names Individually Together

Congregations, Organizations & Corporations

Org. Name _____

Officer Name & Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone () _____

** Delegate Name & Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: () _____

E-mail: _____

*** An appointed delegate speaks and votes on behalf of the organization at membership meetings, unless and until the organization presents a written authorization, signed by an officer of the organization, designating someone else to serve as delegate.*

Purpose Acknowledgement and Signatures

By signing below, the member, organization and appointed delegate acknowledges and agrees to support the purpose of the Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination.

Purpose: *ICON is an organization of people of faith who are concerned about the consequences of intolerance against people who are members of sexual and gender minorities. Particularly, we are concerned about religious intolerance and lack of acceptance of God's diversity. Our purpose is to create positive change through education and social action, so that gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersexed, and transgendered people will be able to live in peace and equality.*

Individual Member Signature _____ Date _____

Household Membership Only _____

Individual Member Signature _____ Date _____

Organization Officer Signature _____ Date _____

Appointed Delegate Signature _____ Date _____



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Unprecedented Educational Blitz!



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