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lobby, guess, issues, folks, texas, fact, heard, houston, vote, community, session, talk, legislator, gay, republican, vanessa, office, transgendered, conservative, election

SPEAKERS

Beth Richards, Chris Harrison, Jimmy Carper

J

Jimmy Carper 00:00

The following program contains language or images of a phrase or a sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned in to after hours Queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours. We may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.

C

Chris Harrison 01:55

Hello, Houston and let me kill that. This is after hours Queer radio with attitude. Heard on KPFT and Houston que EOS in College Station and the World Wide Web at KPFT dot O R G. This is the January 11 Slash 12 edition. And if you listen regularly, you realize this isn't the big faggy voice of Jimmy Carper. Here he is on his annual pilgrimage to Hawaii. You want to be the producer for this evening. My name is Chris Harrison. And as I said Jimmy is in Hawaii, where it is 71 degrees. We are here in 40 degree weather with rain, rain, cold, wet holds wet rain. So everybody wants to join us. We're going to all face west and on the count of three. We're gonna get a bitch and hopefully you'll hear us everybody 123

B

Beth Richards 02:51

I hope his VCR gets that. Yes.

C

Chris Harrison 02:54

We this is the second Saturday of the month. So we have Beth here for the transgender segment.

 Beth Richards 03:00

If you're looking for Sara, she and I traded my November slot she did my tune Yeah, January slot I'm doing for her. And my normal slot would be next month. So I'll be back again.

 03:11

That's what Jimmy was saying is you're gonna be doing the Valentine special. So oh, hey, what do you know, we have to, of course say hello to all of our MBBS men behind bars. Paul, good looking Jr. The tea man, the green eyed devil Wilson, the Nubian Prince, Randy and Michael and the latest one who sent me a fan letter Zachariah. So we are glad everyone's out there listening who are behind bars and those who are coming out of bars right now. That's the after hours. Yes, the after hours. Put a few things in your ear first before we start off with the show.

 Chris Harrison 03:53

A Little Night Music another incredible performance by the Bayou City concert musicals. All proceeds will benefit the Center for AIDS. And that's going to be on Monday, January 27 at 7:30pm and it's gonna be happening at the hobby Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, call 713-315-2525 or visit them on the web at the hobby center.org.

 04:22

a poetry reading and celebration of Martin Luther King Day will be occurring at Houston's lesbian and gay community center at 803 Hawthorne. That'll be on January 20. At 7pm. The event will be free and as being sponsored by OutSmart magazine.

 Chris Harrison 04:39

Another bit here. Donna de who was a drag performer in Houston during the 70s in the 80s, who had relocated to Dallas has passed away. She had just celebrated her 64th first birthday, and she passed away earlier this week and we wanted to let people know who may remember her. Former says back then. Also the lesbian and gay immigration rights Task Force and the Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston is announcing Texas as first major Freedom to Marry event. Both these organizations will co host an event on the on national freedom to marry Day on February 12 2003. From six to 8pm. A mass union and commitment ceremony will take place at resurrection MCC 2025 West 11th Street at TC gesture. Afterwards, the Media Club will host a reception celebration of love and equality. Everyone including singles couples who have already had a union or commitment ceremony, heterosexual couples and family members are encouraged to attend this historic celebration of love and demonstration in support of marriage equity in LGBT couples. Registration is \$10 for couples \$5 for signals, you

can contact us slag, you can send the money to slag PO Box 66503, Houston, Texas 77266 Dash 6502. Or you can contact slag. Hopefully, there's a contact number at the end of the email.



06:25

For more information, you can check slags website at slag S L A G H dot o RG or you can call them at 713-227-1717. So those that at the beginning of the show you heard from the pet shop, boys, we should have been able to tell you right off the bat that Jimmy's not here. But it was the wrong selection. And we were going to play Go West. We'll we'll hit that one later. That was dreaming of the Queen. And after that was Bronski beat small town boy. And



c Chris Harrison 07:01

so that was our music to start off the show. And we've got Beth here. And



07:07

we did have one. Before we start with with the treasurer. Let me just get where there was an announcement from one of the courts and come on in. Probably to shut out Now's not the time to be shy.



B Beth Richards 07:22

Yeah. It was like being out there you No, absolutely.



c Chris Harrison 07:25

So you're with the Royal and sovereign imperial court in the single star. Yes, sir. Fortunately, I can read the sash. Nowadays, you can't tell which which port and you had an announcement about the Emirates candidates.



07:38

I had an announcement about the Empress and Emperor can't Okay. We have one more election day out there, which is the 18th of this month from 10 to 6pm. And that is at 500. Love it sweet 100 at the HIV Resource Center, we would absolutely love this community to let their voice be heard. Come out, vote. Whatever your heart may desire. Let us know what you want.



c Chris Harrison 08:05

Okay, and you said there was you over the candidates again for I'm similarly



08:10

candidate for Empress is to find a Saint John candidate for Emperor is Ronny Siebert. We have two candidates out there. It's a yes or no vote. But remember, it is still up to this community. It is a yes or no vote. Okay, yes, vote no. Make sure your voice is



08:28

heard. All right. And once again, that is on January, January 18 18th. At



08:35

500 Love 500 Love it sweet 100 at the HIV Resource Center, okay. 10 To 6pm



08:41

All right, thank you.



08:42

Thank you.



08:44

All right, now on to



B Beth Richards 08:49

I'm gonna move this micro that squeaking too much because it tends to want to do that. Sure. In any case,



C Chris Harrison 08:55

right. So Beth, you have we ready to make you have your contact your person



B Beth Richards 09:00

or I've seen we're just getting started here and then we'll play our music and while we're doing the music, we can get around to that. Alright, so that worked for you. Okay,



09:09

I'll try to be flexible. I'm remember, I'm somewhat new at this. Well,

B

Beth Richards 09:12

you know, there's there's only one way to learn, do it. And so this time around, it's getting to be that time of year again, folks, every other year, the Texas Legislature legislature meets, and it's time for lobby days coming up soon. So we're going to be talking about that. And in the meantime, number 11. I'm gonna see if I can get Chris one up on little music here. Keep talking keep Okay, keep talking. So lobby days is going to be coming up here before too much longer. And what we're going to do is we're going to get Vanessa Edwards-Foster on the line. Vanessa and myself are the co chairs of the tea game Lobby Day committee. That's the Texas gender advocacy and Information Network. And if you're already with that, Chris, we can stick some of this in your ear for a minute. And what we've got going on here is something that you'll probably recognize. And when we get done with it, I might, might let you know what the personal connection is with that tune. So we'll be right back. Okay. Oh, Brad, how could you



10:26

Okay, we are back and that was touch a touch a touch, power. That's what happens when it'll hit the right buttons. Yes,

B

Beth Richards 10:35

indeed, folks. A lot of you out there will recognize that as from the Rocky Horror Show. No, not the Rocky Horror Picture Show The Rocky Horror Show. This is the Broadway cast recording from the 2000 cast was that Dick Cavett I heard in there, that was Dick Cavett as the narrator. That was let me let me go through some of the stick cabinets the narrator Leah Delaria. You might have heard her in there somewhere. She played the cheese, the one that meatloaf played in the in the movie.



11:02

Oh my god, Eddie. Eddie. Right.

B

Beth Richards 11:04

Okay. The one that you heard doing. Janet was somebody named Alice Ripley. And she's been in quite a few things in Broadway in the last couple of years really coming along. She's my stepsister. Oh, so that's that's the personal connection there. Well, let's see for a little fun magic work. Vanessa, are you out there? Okay, well, we're gonna see if we can get you a little. Yeah, more or less. There.



11:31

Um, here we go. That one's working with



C Chris Harrison 11:33

Sentry hit the right button. Is that Chris? Yes. It's Chris.



11:37

Hey,



B Beth Richards 11:38

it's January, you know where Jimmy is? Jimmy. Jimmy is



11:41

out getting played by native boys in Hawaii. Ah,



11:45

well, this is my first time actually do I guess to actually be a guest? Well, or at least to call



B Beth Richards 11:51

him? A long time? It's been Yeah, since you've been a guest Exactly.



11:54

Since I've been a host. It's like, Well, I'm not against anymore. And now for a change. I get to see what all of the common folks go to payback or hell, I guess?



B Beth Richards 12:06

I suppose so.



C Chris Harrison 12:07

Well, it's not too bad. We just hit the wrong button there. We were able to hear you before but

so



12:12

you're hearing me eating my Triscuits



12:16

or whatever the so it's just like when you are in the studio here.



B Beth Richards 12:21

Not much different. Not too much different.



12:24

I guess I don't bring my feet up. 30. But anyway,



B Beth Richards 12:28

so yeah, it's getting to be January, the odd numbered year, the Texas State Legislature has once again in session, or at least will be here. What next week? They start back up again. Yeah,



12:39

kind of makes you wonder well, these will be on the odd years.



B Beth Richards 12:44

Well, there's something odd about the whole Texas legislature in that case. Well,



12:48

of course we do it nationally to the odd years are obviously the the big money years, so to speak. These are the times when we have to kind of make our Hey, especially here in Texas, since they only do it for months out of a two year, kind of timeframe. They basically pretty much kind of fit everything into a four month period and get paid for two years. Not too bad.



B Beth Richards 13:11

Yeah. Well, he told mine to pay, which is like what 2000 For the tortoise, two years? Like it's

like, is it up that far? Yeah. Well, yeah. That far. 7000. For a

13:21

good thing in Texas. Hey, just

c Chris Harrison 13:26

wait till the Tyson folks show up there with their little pile of money. They walk around the legislation with occasion. Yeah,

B Beth Richards 13:31

it's clearly not the salaries that induce these people to go there. True. So you know, a lot of people don't understand quite that's how it works. because Texas is unusual in that respect. I mean, I came from a state where the legislature just, you know, reelected every other year, but they were in session that whole time, you know, exceptions for recess for holidays and summer break, that sort of thing. Pennsylvania? Well, I did it that way. Because I believe Pennsylvania does it that way,

13:58

as well. In fact, I actually they pushed through the hate crimes bill this past session, or this past year, which was kind of before the election. I mean, that's, that's one of the benefits of having a permanent session. I guess. The downside, from a monetary standpoint is well, you know, if they're going to be up there for pretty much most of the entire two years, and they have to pay him a livable wage. That is

B Beth Richards 14:25

their full time job on like Texas, which the has what they call citizen legislators in the hobby here. Okay, but

14:34

only one good part that comes out of it is if at least the governor feels there's something that's worthy. He can kind of set the legislature and say, Okay, we're coming in for a special session. And this is all you can talk about. So, if he wants to come in and say, Okay, we're going to help bail out the Enron companies, he can set a session that's all they can talk about. They can't deal with anything else. And but unfortunate Generally it's harder to get in special legislation like hate crime wells or other or ENDA or things

— · — · — · — · —

 Beth Richards 15:05

or those laws or general legislations, you know, the special legislations. Were there were things like, I believe that the last special legislation legislative session we had was for the redistricting.

 15:19

We all know how that went.

 Beth Richards 15:20

Yeah, yep. We've managed benefits now. Yeah, we've managed to lose some of our very friendly faces in the halls of the Texas State Capitol.

 15:32

Unfortunately, and now, we're kind of facing an uphill battle, no matter how you slice.

 Beth Richards 15:36

So the result is that we've got a lot of new people in there. And as Sarah, Sarah DePalma, is the well, first off, I'd like to say before we get any farther about Sarah DePalma, that, you know, I offer great condolences on the loss of her mother in law. Laurie's mom just passed away here, right near the end of December. So Sarah has been kind of swamped with personal issues lately and hasn't been as busy with public life as she has in past years. So you know, no blame involved there. It's just, you know, people have to take care of their own, before they can take care of the rest of them. In any case, Sarah, for a lot of years has said that, at the state level, the fact that our legislator is a Republican or a Democrat doesn't necessarily mean the same thing it does at the national level. So you can't just assume, okay, so the house is now or well, so the legislature is now more represent more Republican than Democrat that they're all going to be against us, we're going to have to go find out.

 16:40

And I mean, that's me pretty much kind of runs that way, in any state or nationally. In fact, you have varying degrees of, you know, conservatism and liberalism, so to speak. And that's probably a more accurate way to slice it. Of course, Texas is still pretty much kind of conservative and more conservative than now.

 Beth Richards 17:03

What Yeah,



17:04

we've got a very few choices. As far as you know, a Vermont conservative Vermont



Beth Richards 17:10

democrat and a Texas Democrat don't look much like each other of Vermont Republican and a Texas Democrat, do kind of look like each other.



17:17

Yeah, except the Texas Democrats will be more conservative. Yeah, probably



Beth Richards 17:23

more conservative, usually. Very well, probable. And so originally, our original date that was set was February 3, and that doesn't look all that realistic at this point. So for all those folks out there who are planning to go to lobby days, keep your planning going on, but we're gonna move the date around a little bit. Possibly.



17:47

discussion right now, on the T game list? I guess it's kind of in a nutshell, due to the personal issues that are no, this hasn't really gone out on less. But just so we don't keep this thing. So esoteric, a lot of people are probably wondering, Well, why is it moving around? Sara has had to kind of step back from T game, once again from the directorship in running the lobby days, due to the personal issues. And as a result, simultaneously, we also kind of discovered that what we were originally intending to be our primary focus is not necessarily going to be our primary focus, the bill that we had, was probably likely to draw some attention that we did not want. And unfortunately, that, of course, was dealing with the name and gender change, Bill. And until we get something to where we feel comfortable, that we can bring up there and not harm ourselves with, we're pretty much kind of not going to be I guess, bringing it out. If it's going to be something that can damage us later. We want to make sure in do whatever we do in a fashion that not only at least moves our agenda forward, but at best, at least there's no harm. And in this sense, we're not quite comfortable yet and for a number of different reasons. Most especially though, of the fact that we've got so many freshmen coming in and we really have no idea where they stand and this is going to be their first exposure to anything transgendered very likely. And if we bring up something that scares them, they may actually react but they may not react favorably. Exactly. Yeah, they could end up reacting, rather exaggeratedly in the other direction and we don't want have that happen. So the primary goal of this lobby days is to educate at the very least, especially for the new folks coming in, and also identify, to kind of figure out exactly what we've got there in the statehouse, to kind of figure out exactly what the legislative makeup is. And to kind of see exactly where along that spectrum of conservatism that they stand, we may actually have some friends up there, we may actually find out that we have more folks, long lines of representative Tahltan, or someone along that hill, who

B Beth Richards 20:42

are for those not familiar, decidedly not our friends,

20:47

probably opposite end of this paper. But the fact is that we need to do the identification process first. And we've also got to start building the foundation here. We can't go out and just start lobbying a bunch of people that really have no clue who the heck we are, what we are, what we're about, and expect to get anywhere. First off, they're they're going to be sitting over there giving us this perplexed look, wondering, Well, what exactly is this again? Does this mean you're What are you the drag queens are? Oh, you're all transsexuals, right? Every one of you. And you have to sit over there and explain to them the various nuances within the community and the spectrum and what that comprises, and then kind of tell them the issues from that standpoint. But if you just go in there and start lobbying, then they really have this some vague concept that they have to kind of build upon. And unfortunately, they don't necessarily kind of grasp the subject that

B Beth Richards 21:54

way. So just a little bit of background here to set the record straight. The Texas gender advocacy and Information Network T gain is across the state. It's not just a Houston thing. Some people have had that in their mind. It's definitely statewide, right? It is for the entire transgendered community, not just across stressors, not just to transsexuals, but the entire transgender community. And it's been in existence now, in one form or another for at least 10 years. Exactly.

22:21

Originally, it was formed as the very first chapter of its time, America. In fact, as soon as it's time America could set its charter in established itself as heard Apollo was the first one to announce the fate boy chapter, which was at the time, Texas,

B Beth Richards 22:40

the other part of the background that I wanted to get to was you'd mentioned the name change bill, the way name changes for those, you know, the audience that aren't familiar with it. The way a name change works is anybody can go to a judge in the county and asked to have their name changed. And there's guidelines, there's specific checklist kinds of items. You can't be trying to commit a fraud, you can't be a convicted felon, you can't be there's, you know, a checklist. And if you pass that checklist, and you want to call yourself green, terrific, you get called Green from that, you know, the other day,

23:13

the convicted felon aspect matters so much is just trying to avoid creditors or trying to defraud

the convicted felon aspect matters so much is just trying to avoid creditors or trying to get away that's the I guess the key issues.

 Beth Richards 23:23

I think the convicted felon thing comes in to play when they're trying to track where people are, who are, you know, still pearls and that kind of thing. Yeah. But it's I get

 23:33

again convicted? Well, I guess, maybe, probationary I

 Beth Richards 23:38

think the point is, is that it's it's not impossible for a convicted felon, it just makes it harder. In any case, you know, they don't they don't go through the checklist rubber stamp, they go through the checklist. Okay, tell me your story. You know what I mean? So that the situation with the name changes, it's a rubber stamp, if you meet the checklist criteria, well, what about somebody who is a transsexual and changing their gender as well, no such criteria exists, there is no checklist that a judge can go through there is no guidelines even that a just judge can use to figure out if this is really something that they're empowered to do or not for the gender aspect only for the gender aspect, only the name change stuffs just cut and dried. So the whole point, the whole point of the of this name, and gender change bill, is to make those kinds of criteria available make those kinds of guidelines available to the judges for when people come to request a name and gender change.

 24:35

In fact, it's basically to provide some uniformity and some, some guidelines for the judiciary. We have had comments in the past from some of the individuals that they would appreciate some guidance from the Texas State Legislature. And unfortunately, we have not had that guidance as yet. They're still kind of struggling with the issues and tells or at least, we're up until the last session. This session, it's probably not going to be any kind of a struggle forum, because we're not even going to bring it up so much is to kind of provide the, the basis? Well,

 Beth Richards 25:13

again, we're looking at a whole bunch of brand new faces that we're going to have to, you know, get spun up on the issues, that's going to take some time.

 Chris Harrison 25:20

Plus, I think I also heard that that's kind of the National Front of what they're planning on for issues in the GLBT community is basically sit back right now and just prepare for the next legislature, even in the National Congress.

B Beth Richards 25:37

When you say they talking about like HRC or nglt.

C Chris Harrison 25:39

I believe those I think it's the NGL tf is what I heard of that basically, don't quote me on that. I heard it on Queer voices. And it's difficult listening to the radio that early in the day.

B Beth Richards 25:52

But for those of you don't know, that's like in the what, six o'clock time slot, eight to 10,

25:57

eight to 10. Slot. And

25:58

yeah, they are actually awake for they're doing this and we are asleep. But

C Chris Harrison 26:05

yeah, they have a little bit. Yeah. But that's the general focus you're going to be seeing this year is not as much the in your face advocacy, because basically, there was so much of a conservative swing that went through both the state houses and the Capitol, that they're basically just holding back and preparing for

26:30

in 2005, when the next group's legislations come in, and hopefully there will be swings more friendly to us. Now, one thing I do want to point out is we did have a caller, who stated, we were saying very simply, not all gays are Democrats, he is not a Democrat. And he feels that were not representing him. True. There are there are gay Republicans, there's the Log Cabin Republicans, there's Dale carfinder.

B Beth Richards 26:58

Which I think is what my point was earlier, just because somebody is listed as a Republican doesn't mean they're gay on friendly. Just because you're listed as a Democrat doesn't mean they are aren't necessarily gay friendly. You're gonna have to get to the statehouse. And you'd

they are aren't necessarily gay friendly. You're gonna have to get to the statehouse. And you have to talk to these people, for us to find out what their stance is, which



27:13

was why I've kind of been counting this more in liberal and conservative terms. Is more philosophy, I guess, because there are an ideology. Because



c Chris Harrison 27:24

Because basically, I mean, KPFT, we are liberal left wing radio. That's our philosophy were founded in Berkeley, if that doesn't explain the philosophy, Pacifica is the Left Coast.



27:39

I'm probably considered. I've been told I'm one of the more moderates on this show, I have several liberal leanings, I do have some conservative issues on here as well. And I don't vote a straight, Democratic ticket, I don't vote a straight Republican ticket, I go in, I pick and choose. And that's, that's thinks a better way of getting a better mix of what you're trying to get. And to say that we are all on the show that we may have a spouse more venom towards Republicans, it's just basically the fact is we know we're not getting any we're gonna get much from them. We know that, especially on the current national administration,



B Beth Richards 28:24

if you read the Texas Republican state platform, okay. Right, exactly. Okay. So everyone, pretty frightening. Every Republican legislator out there has agreed to uphold that platform when they sign on with the Republican Party as a candidate, right? No, no, that's not true. I thought they were required to sign something that says they



28:46

actually push that epic convention. They were trying to push through something to where everyone who run for office must support the party flat platform. And a large number of the Republicans did threaten ones. In fact, Governor Perry did not okay. So they have that option not to support the party flat platform, however, the party themselves are trying to push ever closer to making that more of an automatic, I guess, prerequisite, if you will,



B Beth Richards 29:21

for those who don't know, what I'm alluding to who haven't read the Texas Republican platform it in so many words, you know, calls out that there is that they are fighting against the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people according to their platform. And you're among

many other things. Yeah, among many other things, but specifically to the GLBT issues that we're talking about on this show today. That's, to me, the biggest thing that says that not all Republicans feel that way, even though it's in their party platform.



29:55

That's the power of what we have to deal with when we discuss especially GLBT issues. The Texas Republican Party has a history of keeping Log Cabin Republicans out of state conventions.



Chris Harrison 30:08

With with very, I mean, not just legal, but in your face confrontation regarding that over the past several years. So, yes, it may sound like we are Republican bashing, but we're not doing it just because we're not lumping everyone in the same category. We're looking for evidence. Yes. conservative



30:27

versus liberal. There's, that's one of the reasons why I've kind of made that delineation is we do have occasionally some friends in the Republican Party, they're harder, especially down the south, they're harder to find. But the fact is that occasionally, yes, there are moderate Republicans. And yes, you can work with them. There are people who actually adhere to the original standards of the old Republican Party. And I myself, actually, Chris, on pretty much along your lines. So once upon a time, I was always an independent. And I never claimed any party and I voted for both parties. And when kind of, you know, pretty much straight down the ticket, you know, picked one from this party, one from that party, just based on who I liked, a lot of my votes were kind of protest votes to vote people out. But the fact was that as far as party ideology, in fact, even in the earliest of the 80s, they actually voted for more Republicans than I was voting for Democrats. But that amended over the years. And then it got to the point where I actually had one without even trying, I voted a straight Democratic ticket, because there wasn't any real choices on the GOP side. Yeah, it was kind of a natural progression, then I just decided, Well, hell to win the party.



31:46

Yeah, I mean, it's something I've officially put up on that of a specific party affiliation, but like talking with my father, who is it who is very right wing oriented, I mean, listens to Rush Limbaugh to those AM stations down the road from us here. And basically goes in and I think just hits the one little button says straight Republican ticket and walks out the election booth. And once we started discussing on some of the issues, and he realized I wasn't this, the far left wing, there's a lot of things on which probably get me off the air here at the station there. But when it comes when it comes to Criminal Justice, and all that I'm a little bit more conservative than I am liberal. And so there's a lot of things on here that I don't tell the entire gay party line, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered party line that we have, this is all we have to be for. I don't. And that's the one thing about the communities, you may only hear one part of it, but

there is actually several different sides. And just because you're we're here for gay Republicans to we've had Log Cabin Republicans on here all the time. We even had Dale Carpenter on once or twice, and

33:05

Dale and I have had go rounds. So we've actually had meetings on the minds on at least a couple of issues. And so I you know, again, Eddie, ology does differ from party per se. It's just, it's just a matter of actually not going into anything with a monolithic mindset. That's where you get into problems, the way that your dad was earning the straight ticket. In fact, actually, oh, God, I had made a comment to someone. Oddly enough, it was out in the middle of Tanglewood. And it was during an Asus election, the successful 197. And we kind of got into a heated discussion before he was walking into vote. And he said, I always vote Republican level, no one but Republican, etc, etc. And I said, well, then by God, it's been good. Thanks, Don Hussein didn't win the Republican primary. Because otherwise it'd be voting him in and oh, my god that just set him off. He was he was extremely ugly. But the thing is, it's true. They are in essence, kind of bloating, bloating, of voting blindly. When they vote in their face, and because of that, you don't really take a look at the issues. You don't take a look at the candidates. You don't take a look at what they stand for. You're just voting, boom. Let's hit this one box vote for everyone that party. Well, what happens if you get some people slipped in? I happen to be part of that party

B Beth Richards 34:33

long and short of it is there's a lot of voters out there who aren't educated beyond what their family voted. And that's what they keep coming from there. And it's on both sides of the of the party hall there. And

34:44

I think we've learned a little bit about that with this past election with Alex Waltham, as a Republican, running for justice to the peace, who's openly gay, president of the Log Cabin Republicans or at least past president and and all of a sudden, Dave Wilson, who is definitely no friend of the community, was going out telling people don't vote straight Republican ticket because you're going to be voting for a gay man. And basically, in the Republican Party said, What are you telling these people because they're not going to go through and you hit every one of those judge positions are that just for that one vote. And so the Republican Party was afraid how many people they were going to lose by following Dave Wilson's plan of not voting straight party ticket. And so that's one of those things that you don't think about much until this past election when it became such an issue with the fact that when that or I know, Petronella one, I think it was two to, I think it was two to one on four Petronella. But that was, that was a big thing that came out of when you talk about the straight party ticket that you don't, something you never hear too much about. But it was something that this past election it made, it came to the foreground and shows how the GLBT issue could be made into a greater thing. And



36:04

maybe that's why there's Log Cabin Republicans and getting elected.



36:09

I don't have to put it this way. I think you have to kind of admire the Logcat Republicans for the fact that it's one thing to stand outside the gates and yell at the castle. But to find someone who's willing to go into the castle and be one of them and say hey, by the way, I'm gay. And you've treated me as an equal now you shouldn't treat me like that. I think it takes some it takes a little extra to be willing to go in there face to face with these people and say I'm your equal now why don't you treat me as one so we're not we don't Republican bash we go after the Conservatives if they happen to have an R after they're in parentheses after their name or an Al or even some of them have a d at the end of their



B Beth Richards 36:47

Oh, yeah. It just always say James traficant.



C Chris Harrison 36:51

I liked him. I didn't like his hairpiece. But when I saw his going away his farewell speech, I was I was sitting there watching that and going, you know, I would vote for him. Because he was just he was just such a dynamic about him that I



B Beth Richards 37:08

would he was He's quite a character. There's no question about that.



37:11

Eskimos ice,



B Beth Richards 37:13

I really, really fit the Democrat mold very well at all. Just kind of



37:19

an oddball. I mean, we've got conservative Democrats here in Texas, Charleston home was a good example from Mountain West Texas, I went into his office, and they were just, you know, they were one of the uglier offices I've ever been into. And I hear what the Democrats, you

know, Texas, quote, I guess, quote, unquote, Yellow Dog Democrat. But, and, of course, he was voted out this time to replace with a Republican. But in that particular instance, that wasn't much of a loss. I mean, he wasn't gonna be supporting us anyway.

 Beth Richards 37:51

So you just mentioned, you know, having been in this guy's office, maybe we can talk a little bit about what the experience of lobbying is, like, for the people that are out there wondering and haven't done it yet.

 38:02

Gearing yourself

 Beth Richards 38:04

first. You know, in the morning, when they turn you loose, and it's like, Oh, my God, I'm gonna go talk to this legislator, you know, I, my first Lobby Day, where I got to do that was, you know, I walked into this guy's office, I had no idea what was going to happen. And I had a pretty reasonable conversation with him for about 10 minutes, and you know, that it was time to go. But going in, it was kind of scary, coming out. And going into the second one, he wasn't anywhere near so much scary coming out of that one. And going into the third one was no big deal. So as you do more of a myth gets less scary with time. So basically, don't you know, if somebody's out there wondering, oh, you know, I'm not sure about going into this. Don't worry about it.

 38:44

And actually, I was being facetious. To an extent. Well,

 Beth Richards 38:48

you know, now I'm, you bring up a great point, though, because, you know, I kept me out of about two hobby days, because it's like, Man, oh, I'm gonna do and one of those, you know, true, it's,

 38:56

I guess, more intimidating than a lot of folks thing, and especially on a statewide level. Now, my first Lobby Day was actually in Washington, and up there, it isn't really that different. Again, you're kind of that's kind of boring, the big leagues, and then this is sort of like, you know, triple A ball. There's a vast difference between statewide lobbying and national lobbying. And I would

suggest anyone who wants to get involved by all means get involved on a statewide level. That's a perfect place to cut your chops and then go up and Meg a lobby in Washington DC with a sudden tech

 Beth Richards 39:36

or not want to go as high as you need as you feel comfortable and leave with that. The

 39:42

statewide lobbying is a lot more kind of down to earth. You don't have quite the I guess the layers and the level the pretense you don't have. I guess quite the there's kind of a it's very hard to describe it in It's a sense of a lot more, I guess, maybe pressure up there, you can feel the power, in essence. And folks up there really knew their name. And so you might go up thinking that, well, I'm this hotshot, stay wide lobbyist and go up to Washington. And things are vastly different. They know the questions to ask, and they know the things that can trip you up pretty easily. In Texas, you're basically dealing with a lot of real life, you know, down to earth folks, you know,

 Beth Richards 40:32

citizen lobbyists or citizen legislator thing again, you know, exactly.

 40:35

I mean, you look at the pay, for instance, Talmud chaplain, he's my representative, he's self insurance. I mean, he's basically just an insurance guy,

 Beth Richards 40:45

for four months out every other year, exactly, then he's

 40:49

the House Ways and Means chair up in the state legislature, and one of probably one of the most, if not the most tenured, if a representative. The fact is, though, that a lot of these folks are just, you know, like I said, very basic, very down to earth, you can walk in, you can talk with them in, it's not quite the same level of expectation of the individuals walking into the office, they do kind of expect their constituents draw by every once awhile, because after all, this is your state. And in essence, that's kind of part of what a legislator expects, is you have to deal with your public because these are the folks that actually elected office, these are the folks that you're representing directly. And so it's not like going up to Washington, where it's a lot more remote. In Texas, it's a lot more down to earth, and they actually get some of the the individuals, you know, making 100 mile drive to get off Turner or 200 or 300 mile drive, I had to

speak to their issues. And so there, it's not such a far fetched item all a lot of people do it. And a lot of people do it on a rather frequent basis just on you, for instance, a personal issue, you might have arranged her going in there saying that then well, by God, you know, I've got some problems because I don't have enough water coming down this river here. And this little boy up the roads got it in, and it's impacted me I can't irrigate crops, and I can't get anything grow on my cattle are dying, you know, just little things like that. But these are some of the issues that they deal with on a day to day basis. So for trans folks going up there and lobbying, it's basically the same thing. Your constituents, you're one of the folks that they represent, they need to understand what your issues are. Because they're the ones who represent it. That's what they get paid for.

C

Chris Harrison 42:46

Do you find it easier hitting the more metropolitan legislators or? I mean, do you have you have a lot of trouble hitting the rural ones? I mean, you talked about the one out of West Texas, but when you start getting out there to the cattle country and the vast wastelands of Texas, do you have as much trouble?

B

Beth Richards 43:05

I had a mix I had this last lobby day I went to see one senator from by the Amarillo area, not in Amarillo, but often the dry country out around there. I'm sorry, sagen. Griffin? No, it wasn't Bivins it was, I could I could find them again, if I looked up in my notes, but I don't know them off the top my head. But you know, he just wanted to say hello, and see who I was and see what I wanted and go ahead at our 10 minutes together. And you know, it was very, very straightforward. No problems at all. This, you know, I he was a Republican, he was moderately conservative, but not not outrageously so. And I had no real problems with talking with him at all.

Ω

43:50

And that's, I guess that's probably the distinction, you actually get to talk with the legislators here in Texas, whereas in Washington, there's so many layers, and they've got so much on their plate. Again, that's their job. They're 24/7. And so there's not I guess, quite the accessibility there, there's a lot more feeling of being detached from the actual process. And having the handlers dealing with you, as opposed to them, the actual legislators themselves, whereas on the localized level, you can actually see some of these legislators I was one of the things I like to do is just kind of pick them out in the hall if I recognize I'll just grab them buttonhole them instead of there and talk with them with quarterbacks their office, there was actually how I got a chance to so far as I know, I think I'm the only one that actually visited with Senator butcher Brown. He didn't visit with anyone always refused any appointments for visits and I just have to catch him out in the hallway where they invented

B

Beth Richards 44:58

that Vanessa Edwards-Foster legislative tackle team, whatever works. Now, another thing that you mentioned was that we're doing some education with these folks. And we give them a

you mentioned was that we're doing some education with these folks. And we give them a packet to help them out with that, nope, you know, you don't have to be an expert on all topics going in there, because you've got something in your hand that you can hand over to them. And you don't even have to go over all that because probably the most effective thing to do is to tell them a little bit about your personal story and how it affects to them. And that's something that everybody knows about is their own personal story.



45:31

Exactly. In fact, that was a perfect segue. And one of the things that I've learned from Sarah is to compile some kind of packet to be able to leave behind. And I started thinking about this, especially on the national level last year for intake. And to me, I thought, well, if we're not coming up here with any specific legislation to be pushing, what is the best thing that we can do. And one of the first things I found out, even going up in 97, was that a lot of the folks really had no clue as to what the heck we were or what this was about. The terminology was confusing to them. They had a number of questions. But how much of that actually was retained? I don't know. Yeah. And some of them didn't ask any questions at all. And so in those offices, that was basically kind of lost. What I wanted to come up with, especially there nationally, was to at least leave them something that would give them a basis from which to draw upon. So if someone walked in said, Well, hi, yes, I'm a crossdresser. And here's some my issues. And they just started launching into this spiel about what's going on with them. You don't have these folks going, Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute, wait a minute, what is this now across. And then you have to sit over there and define that for them in going to all of the background, by having something that you can leave behind. And especially if it's just the basic information that you're forming the foundation with, you have, in essence, given them something that they can refer to later on, when you're going. And so if they see a story, or hear something else a little bit later on, they can refer back to the pack and go, Oh, okay, well, this is what this is, in the lobbyists themselves, the best part about it is they don't have to focus half or two thirds of their time in the office of giving them the background educational information, they can actually kind of touch a little bit Linnet, kind of gloss over that. And then point out the aspects of that, that relate to their experience, and then give some anecdotal history of what they've gone through. And another thing that we like to do with the lobbying packets, which I'm going to institute here, have worked up in Washington as well, is to have some of those anecdotal stories that are pertinent to the issues that were going up there, and trying to inform them that are issues that are needs in our community. In other words, say some of the problems with seeking employment, or keeping employment, a lot of us during transition, or lead go from employee to ref when uncovered if we're a crossdresser, for instance, like Peter Euler, were let go from our jobs. These are some of the things that we can utilize his anecdotal stories, to give to them and just kind of a little brief one or two paragraphs, synopsis and leave with him to give them a kind of basis for the need of what it is that we're up there, at least speak with him on this time. And then when we go up in the next session, provided that those same people are up there in those same offices, then we don't have to spend the next session and actually doing the education again, and then explaining to them about well, issues like the employment or the hate crimes, etc. Now, we can pretty much kind of focus the future lobby days on expounding upon that saying, Okay, well, this year, we're actually trying to push forward amendment to the hate crimes bill, we're not included in that. And then these are some of the things that have occurred to us over the course of the past two years. These are some of the key things that have happened in the community over the past

10 years, the need has been established. You've got the previous information, you know what we're talking about, and we get your support on this and it kind of helps us make more efficient use of our lobbies.

 Beth Richards 49:42

And so the other thing I want to mention for those people out there who are thinking maybe they might want to get more involved in this is the probably the best way to get involved at this point is to sign up for the the list the to gain email list. Exactly. And the that's all on Yahoo groups, and just look partygaming Do you have the URL?

 50:03

I do is WWW dot group therell. Not the portal part the DRL UPS got yahoo.com and then slash group without the F. And then flash. TG A is.

 50:30

Okay, that's that's groups. Dot Yes. www WW. Groups groups.yahoo.com/group/t G Ain?
Exactly,

 Beth Richards 50:46

yeah. And once you get there, there'll be a button that you can select to subscribe to this group, and you're on your way. We've been starting to get some preliminary stuff in there since about what October is when we started that getting active on there again,

 51:02

was it October or early November it was it was definitely the late October, early November period, when we sorted the list back up again, you activated that and started kind of utilizing a lot of them, the database that I had from some of the other things, and just kind of subscribing people thought the list when they wanted to be on it or not. And we've actually got a very good response so far. I'd like to see us top last year's turnout for Lobby Day in session anyway. But exactly. Oh, I'm sorry, last session, you're correct. Ed, two people was? Well, we had to up in 2001. So hopefully we can top 100 this year. That was actually kind of the goal last year, and we fell short. And I just I had like a two different lobby data. And I really couldn't devote less time to kind of growing up a lot of the participation. But we do need it more than ever this session, especially this session, because we have to have each and every office covered due to the fact that we've got so many new people coming in. And also the fact that those that are in there already that have been in there, we need to touch base with them. And also kind of leave them the same packet so we can get everybody on the same page at the same time and then just kind of move forward where we don't have, I guess these gaps anywhere.

B Beth Richards 52:29

One thing I wanted to say real fast as you're listening to KPFT Houston and que els College Station. This

C Chris Harrison 52:36

is after hours Queer radio with attitude. And this is Beth is here, and we have Vanessa Edwards-Foster on the phone.

∅ 52:46

Wanting it. No, it's

B Beth Richards 52:48

202 a your your mountain time Archer.

∅ 52:52

Oh, no, no, no, no. I'm so used to midnight. I had forgotten about that. I'm so used to the Yeah,

B Beth Richards 52:58

we had invocation our old timeframe was noon to three, midnight to three now it's one to four.
So

C Chris Harrison 53:06

we are hoping that some good news will be coming soon. So keeping Fingers crossed. Yes. So we're looking forward to that. But no, it is 2am.

B Beth Richards 53:16

or there abouts by now.

C Chris Harrison 53:18

Yeah, it's it's a little past. We're in a time though.



53:21

And we're not meme time. Sorry. I didn't mean to continue to



53:26

not only confuse the people who are listening to us in Australia on the web. Well, the



B Beth Richards 53:29

thing that really confuses people is we're on the second Saturday of the month, but not until Sunday morning at one o'clock in the morning. Yeah, to



53:36

me the first time it was like, Okay, well, then I guess that means I'm on the second Sunday of the month. And so I came up there the second Sunday and which is still no actually well, you're kind of here on the second Sunday, but no one follows after the first Saturday.



C Chris Harrison 53:52

Well, the way it goes the way Jamie says it is it's not Sunday until you go to bed. Yeah. And so we still hold fast to that to Saturday. Because in the world of media the day doesn't change until like five or 6am



54:08

work for Sarah DePalma he used to go to bed at like, three in the afternoon. Take a nap.



B Beth Richards 54:12

I tell people that the easiest way to remember it is it's the second Saturday of the month at 11pm. Mountain Pacific Time. Pacific time and then you can figure out your own from there. Oh, wait, I guess that is Sunday. The third sometimes Sunday, depending on the dates and all that. Yeah.



C Chris Harrison 54:28

This is a good thing. When we had the one we were on at midnight. We're able to say Saturday at midnight to Sunday 3am. And now that we've been shifted down, we're now one of those slash shows. Yeah, we're the Saturday nights slash Sunday morning. Type way to try and explain it to people in

 Beth Richards 54:44

case we've made it through our legalities made our announcements sure

 54:50

to live in cramped.

 54:54

Well, you just did twice now.

 Beth Richards 54:56

Seven dirties.

 55:00

Seven down to five down to four possibly. It's just, it depends. Actually, they've never given me an actual list. Yeah. And even going through the stuff, I can't find a real list of what's gonna

 Beth Richards 55:12

go on George Carlin, I was gonna say go pull yourself out a copy of George Carlin and you'll have the seven words you can't see on television. You do know that from the Oh, yeah, Pacifica Was

 55:23

that was that was a Pacifica case that went on to the Supreme Court. So that's one of the highlights of Pacifica

 Beth Richards 55:32

ending up for free speech in the Supreme Court with George Carlin is the vehicle to get him there.

 55:38

So you want to take a step out for a moment and put music on and or you want to continue on with conversation what you want to do, Vanessa?

B Beth Richards 55:47

Let's do it. What time is our segment over? I get confused now that we've changed it. I think it's like 215 to two 315

∅ 55:54

to 20. Somewhere along there. So you've got to end okay. Emphasize the friends. Yeah, Francisco. When he shows he shows so yeah.

B Beth Richards 56:03

So why don't we do 10 more minutes

∅ 56:05

with the college guy. I thought there was like a, we have our calling

C Chris Harrison 56:09

fella. We do have the cultural baggage for 20 reported to 2020. Yeah, he'll be calling in hopefully Dean Becker will be with the cultural baggage drug war update. And if that is Francisco Sanchez with the Latino segment, and he will be big Roy free who is called in sick won't be in sick fever, chills and flu. Ball he had a booty call. But yeah, well, but for Roy, that's so far

B Beth Richards 56:43

and few between there's there's something going around that my son's at that particular cipher high school that had 600 600 kids out was just up the road from me. Yeah, yeah, it's just down the road for me. In any case. So yeah, you know, maybe we should summarize again. So we're tentatively planning February 3, but that's very likely to change. So keep your eye on the web mailing list. The mailing list is at

∅ 57:08

the mailing list that www.group.yahoo.com/group Without the enough time, and then slash T G AI NT game.

B Beth Richards 57:26

.....

And we're gonna meet in Austin the night before,



57:30

actually, we're gonna meet. Well, I don't want to say the night before, it may be like about 435 In the afternoon, the evening before, before to kind of do a training session. Just kind of brief everyone on what it is that we're going to be covering what the what's in the packet, fix exactly what's in the packets, and also just kind of cover some of the things to touch upon. And some of the things not to touch upon. Once again, and I guess kind of damage control or, you know, not wanting to harm ourselves



Beth Richards 58:03

prevent anything that needs to have damage control later. This



58:07

is true. And in fact, that was something we could have found out and I



Beth Richards 58:12

won't go into too much details that are a few minutes.



58:15

Don't whatever it is, you're ever going up to lobby and especially if you're gonna go lobby in a conservative office, please don't get into an argument with them about those damn religious right people. And that pretty much kind of ends the meeting Yeah, into your



Beth Richards 58:36

sword. It's an especially bad idea to do to somebody that's on the committee for your bill. Oh, yeah. That's a good, but then, in any case, so yeah, that's word and by God, you know, that's what the training is all about. It's very useful. And in past years, we've gotten a couple of the representatives to come and address the group as well.



58:57

And we'll see about trying to do the same this time as well. We don't have as many friendly legislators



Beth Richards 59:06



Beth Richards 59:00

that you resurrecting.



59:10

And the sad part about it was they could have done something before letting this go over to Cornyn and the folks to kind of make their decision. And it didn't happen. And now all of a sudden, we're just really up, you know, what Craig? Said? Dirty, right. Yes, we kind of had, I guess one of those cases on the Supreme Court because, oh, God, they're looking at that too. That scares me. But the fact is, though, that we will try and have some folks there from the legislature, and I'm gonna see especially if we can get this move back. If we can get the folks in from in glTF told us to do a training as well, we've never really done that and brought any of the national folks. And we've always kind of done everything in health. And it's not to say that we can't continue doing that in house. But it also helps them having a different perspective having folks come in, in if we can get them to stick around and go lobby weapons, hey, all the better. So



Beth Richards 1:00:20

some some of the things that a lot of people even who participate in lobby days aren't aware of is where do these bills come from? And the answer is that, you know, there's the steering committee of, of tea gain. That includes people like Phyllis Frey, who's had a lot of experience with this, these things get drafted up, and it's not just like, oh, we think this might be a good idea. And off we go, they get reviewed by people like the NGL, TF, they get reviewed by all kinds of people. The current one was even reviewed by the Texas State Bar Association directly. They kind of help the write the bill, if I'm not mistaken, I did, you know, I mean, they they fill us went to them with a basically an outline and worked with them to get it all filled in and get the language with the way that they figured they wanted it. And the question was brought up earlier about, you know, loopholes that was found only recently by yet another reviewer. So a couple of, it's the sort of thing that the more eyes that you can get across these things, the better and the more points of view that you can get when you're doing the training, the better. So that's, you know, that's the that's the reason behind thinking along those lines.



1:01:27

The one part about this is there's no one specific way that is the 100% correct way to do this, and all others are wrong. There's a number of different approaches to this. And a lot of times, it's always kind of tailored, just depending upon, I guess, the environment that you're in, in trying to pass something. For instance, something that passed here in Houston, that was considered good language would be considered a horrible bit of language, seeing some of the more liberal areas that don't have problems, or don't bring up some of the issues that some of our I guess the wonderful friends here, if they haven't



Beth Richards 1:02:09

large conservative, they haven't thought of it in other places. Don't give them the ammunition.



1:02:13

Right. Exactly. here in Houston, we come kind of prepared knowing that Oh, yes, they've got the ammunition and Oh, yeah. By God get over going in with the gloves on prepared to get hit and hit back. So and that's the way we kind of approach and it's different to say, for instance, in fact, I think, even lace up in the head and glTF was kind of surprised that we would approach something in that fashion. And I guess originally, I may have even thought that I was something that we just from the Community Advisor. And actually, that wasn't the case of a city attorney, who was like a former State Rep. So I mean, he knows what he's doing. And he also was aware of the situation we went through in 98. And the situation we still continue to go to with any kind of rebel, we've got the Dave Wilson's out there, we've got the Houthis out there. I know we've got the Reverend Scarborough's who aren't even from Houston, by God. I mean, he's from apparently, but he's coming up here and, you know, wanting to, to kind of dabble in things and scare people and just kind of manipulate things in the city level. And then he goes home, apparently, and no, well, I think



B Beth Richards 1:03:22

that's exactly why we need to get in there and do some education at the state legislative level. So perfectly. So to continue on with, you know, what people can expect, you know, the the training session would end probably in the early evening, last session that we had one, which started at seven ended at about nine 930, something like that. And we met on the Capitol steps at about what 730 The next morning and took a big huge group picture. All right. Now,



1:03:49

ideally, it would have been 730, I think is a little bit closer to 830. Well, you didn't really get started. But



B Beth Richards 1:03:56

yeah, people started showing up at 730. I think there was probably more than 82 I'd have to go count that picture. But I seem to remember counting on the day. There was a few more than that. Not a whole lot more than that. In any case, a bunch of people.



1:04:08

Yeah, we did have a good number of folks turnout. Again, it was kind of short of our goal. We were kind of looking for 100 I still kind of thought that was a little bit too aggressive. I mean, yeah, we did have 52 the year before, but it was like 100 Don't kill me, man. They didn't get good. Yeah, I'm 82 is not 100.



B Beth Richards 1:04:29

So okay, so then, after the big group picture, we'll find we'll have a conference room that will have to get arranged somewhere, some kind of a meeting place and



1:04:39

set up shop somewhere just to kind of have sort of a, I guess, information central in which to dispatch folks, and that's going to be a little bit different till I guess I'm gonna have to kind of assign someone fun. I mean, normally that's done by the director. There's kind of well,



Beth Richards 1:04:56

I think we have a solution for that, but we're gonna have to discuss it with the individuals and hand first. So I'll get back with you on that read. In any case, in those rooms, you'll get your packets that we've been talking about, and the little blurb about the different legislators that you might want to go talk with. Clearly, everybody would probably want to talk with their own legislator. And it's a great idea to go ahead and make an appointment ahead of time for that.



1:05:22

And we make every effort to match individuals with their specific representatives. Basically, because of that connection, they respond more, more attentively to their constituents, I kind of have to I mean, that goes with the territory, well, it's



Beth Richards 1:05:39

always more effective for a constituent to have a appointment before going up to lobby day, rather than hoping they might catch their legislator in their office between appointments or anything like that. So that's not



1:05:52

to say that if you don't get worried, or if they continue putting you off that you don't go visit, go ahead and drop in anyway. Right? Yeah,



Beth Richards 1:06:00

it makes it more likely to see the legislator and get a fixed amount of time with them, if you'd gotten your appointment ahead of time. So it's a good idea, but it's not absolutely required.



1:06:09

And in fact, on that, whenever you do set an appointment to vivid, make sure and ask them to visit with the legislators specifically. And tell them I really, really have a number of things that I

need to touch base with them on. And I really need to visit with the legislator themselves, even if it's just for a couple of minutes, you know, five minutes tops. That's all I need. And I just get five minutes out of their time sometime during the day. And can you please schedule that for me. So

 Beth Richards 1:06:40

you pick up your packets at our central meeting area, you go to your little session with the legislator, come on back. And there's usually a little we in past years, we've had a little questionnaire that that, you know, lets you write down how it went. So we can, you know, combine all that together into a big record at the end of the session there. And then you do next when you do that a couple of times, get some lunch, do a couple more and we'll be finished up by we usually done most people leave around four. So when some of the real diehards, like Vanessa here are hanging around getting that last guy at 530 or six o'clock at night,

 1:07:19

when she wouldn't tell them we leave at four. Somebody

 Beth Richards 1:07:22

believed earlier than that some people leave later.

 1:07:24

They'll stay there for the entire day, please. If you got a day, if you're going to take the day

 Beth Richards 1:07:31

off, stay there until you've got the people. You can pretend that the content I would love to leave at noon with every legislative office visited because that's really the key is every legislative office visited I don't care if it's noon or 1030 at night, I want everybody sign up.

 1:07:48

That's exactly what we did in the last session. That's why I went to that last one, six o'clock. And we literally we covered the only one that wasn't covered

 Beth Richards 1:07:55

every single legislative office that session.



1:08:00

And that's what counts. Uh, well, I think that we didn't hit the the which one was it? It was a Pete Laney or was it? I think it was actually the Speaker of the Senate.



B Beth Richards 1:08:09

I thought I thought we missed the lieutenant governor at the time. Rick Perry. We



1:08:13

did miss the lieutenant governor. Was it Rick Perry? them? Yeah. Was it was actually Governor George was governor. No, he wasn't there was there was after the election. But it was before but after but anyway, the lieutenant governor we didn't hit in the Speaker of the Senate. I believe that the Speaker of the Senate, we didn't hit either. Okay. But we did get the Speaker of the House. We got every other officer, we were very lucky actually.



B Beth Richards 1:08:47

Yeah, we did a great job. And I hope we do that again. This time. Like I said, I don't care if we leave at noon or 1030 as long as every legislative office has been covered. Exactly.



1:08:54

And that's the ultimate goal. And also to compile is definitely thing I will break down as to how they respond, how they react to the issues, whether or not it's a friendly office or whether or not this is an office that we kind of need to monitor for other reasons. But the identification process is crucial right now, because of the fact that we really have a lot of question marks and with those unknowns, without any way of identifying that we really have a very difficult time and trying to push forward any language because we don't know which ones are going to react favorably and which ones are going to snap and go in the other direction. And we could end up with something a momentum going in the opposite direction of what we were originally pushing. Well, I'll



B Beth Richards 1:09:48

tell you Vanessa, one way or another by the end of the day, I was having fun. And I think anybody that comes out there and you know gets a chance to go see how this all plays together. We'll also probably have fun So, you know, and it's this is not a transgendered only event we had, we had a lot of people from the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus come out with us, you know, gay lesbian folks that weren't transgendered, I think we even had one straight person who was, you know, at least one straight person who was the mother of one of our transgender people come out with us, right. And



1:10:21

that's, it's not just limited to transgendered, even though it is to gain and train standard lobby days. The fact is, it is open to all in fact, we encourage you to, actually, I'd love to have a good turnout from the intersex community as well. That's, to me that segment of the population that is vastly underserved and ignored and to be truthful with you, they go through the same issues and a lot of the same problems that we're going through they, there's a number of them that are assigned at birth, that are assigned a different gender than they grow up feeling.



B Beth Richards 1:11:01

Redmond to perfect, that's a whole nother show. We go on and on with that.



1:11:08

They have a lot of the same issues. And they need to have these heard as well. And in fact, this is a perfect opportunity for them to, to get out and to at least be able to kind of maximize their educational efforts. And also, to get their voice into this as well. I mean, some of the bills that are already being proposed, say, for instance, the Defense of Marriage Act, a bill which was proposed, of course, by Representative Helton, once again, these are things that affect not just the gay lesbian community, not just the transgender community, but the intersex community



B Beth Richards 1:11:44

as well. It defines marriage as being between one man and one woman but doesn't bother to define what one man or one woman is exactly what



1:11:52

happens if one is in that gray area in the NBA, the ambiguous area. And



1:11:57

one thing that he said also with the transgender community and when they do the lobbying, and all that is they have I'm trying to get feedback. It's I like the the Treasury community when they go out and are doing the lobbying that they do it for the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Unlike a lot of the gay lesbian organizations that occasionally might go maybe advocates for the bisexual community. And we'll get to the transgender community later, when we get to the transgender community is always out there promoting for the entire community as a whole, not just,



B Beth Richards 1:12:35

if you look at the packet from the last session, and you know, the packet for the current session is being developed. So I can't really talk much about it. But it included the hate crimes bill, it included the defensive marriage act as it was in those times. You know, it's not just about one issue.



1:12:51

And really, a lot of the gay and lesbian issues are our issues as well. We do have some that are heterosexual. There's a lot of the hub of the crossing population, for instance of heterosexual Oh, yeah, there's also a lot of, especially in the transactional population, where sexuality just kind of runs the gamut. So yes, those are our issues as well. It's not something that we can just separate and say, Well, we're just going to push for trades, will the game have been issues are a part of our issues, just by virtue of the fact that we aren't? I



B Beth Richards 1:13:25

mean, here's that defensive Marriage Act, right. And here I am in a legal same sex marriage, you know, kind of pushes the whole boundaries a lot. You



1:13:35

know, actually been, apparently, I guess, that according Dallas and meiselman ruling said, he had mentioned in a couple of states that transsexuals actually, by reading the opinion, had no right to marry period, regardless, because it was all considered same sex marriages. And yet, to me, that kind of defies, you know, sort of the civil rights of individuals to be able to marry.



B Beth Richards 1:14:00

But that's an example of how the transgender folks are pushing for issues that cover the whole GLBT community, we



1:14:07

have to it's not something that we, you know, I guess, have the title will say, luxury, that's wrong, we're just we don't have the option of just, you know, cutting gay or lesbian or sexual orientation issues out, because then we're actually cutting out a part of our community as well. Absolutely. You know, it's not something that we can separate they may be able to separate sexual orientation, gender identity, but gender identity include some of the sexual orientation community, so it's, you know, obviously that's kind of a natural dovetail forward



1:14:47

we're just waiting to see what with Dean Becker is gonna call and thereby

B

Beth Richards 1:14:50

he's he's running a little late. So we're looking at the phone board lights and Let go and see

♂

1:15:01

I flipped the switch over on his line. No, no, no, we've

B

Beth Richards 1:15:05

got plenty lines. Okay? No,

♂

1:15:07

it's just we flipped over to the one switch here and it's showing how long you've been on and okay, well wait, we're waiting for the flash blue. They're letting us know that Dean's on the line.

♂

1:15:16

Okay, I'll just continue talking until I get cut off and Vitsin No, no one was over tea. Yeah, so this is how it's like being a phone guest.

B

Beth Richards 1:15:27

Hey, there, there's a blue one flashing, but that didn't come in

♂

1:15:30

a blue light flashing? Oh, my God at the keyboard.

C

Chris Harrison 1:15:35

Now they're out of business. So at least in this part of the world? Well, a good portion of them. Yeah, they kind of cut down drastically there. But worse was going to Martha Stewart stuff. Yeah,

♂

1:15:47

under the economy?

B Beth Richards 1:15:50

Well, you know, again, thanks for coming on the show and getting things going. You know, I know that you've done an amazing amount of effort in the national sphere and state quite quite as much too. So you know, thanks a lot for the effort that you've provided. I don't know that anybody else gets a chance to say that as often this needs to be said. But it does need to be said. And it does look like we're getting ready to roll on to the next segment.

1:16:18

So what we're gonna do is we're going to pull out a little music stop here in between, and then we'll be back in a couple of minutes with Dean Becker and the cultural baggage report. Thank you for NASA for spending some time with us here this evening.

1:16:34

I guess this is the part where I get cut off in mid sentence and they'll get to

C Chris Harrison 1:16:39

wonder what happens once you finish get to the end here. But we're obviously when Jimmy's not here, I get to play the CDs that he doesn't like to us why we started with Pet Shop Boys because he has it's not his style. So I threatened him I was gonna play ABA. I'm not gonna play ABA themselves. This is the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus on their EQ extravaganza. And it's gonna be dancing queen, and you're hearing that only on only on KPFT. Well,

B Beth Richards 1:17:09

I think I'll say good night now and we'll see you again next month.

C Chris Harrison 1:17:13

Okay. As you'll be coming in for the Valentine show,

B Beth Richards 1:17:16

apparently so that it would be the February show, wouldn't it? Yep. We'll have to come up with a good deal for that. For that. That's my turn. See, this is normally Sarah's month but I've swapped her for November when I was at a town. Oh,

1:17:26

I didn't know that I don't think Sarah knew that either

B Beth Richards 1:17:31

Oh, I thought she knew that. So this is her month. I'm swapped out with her for my month out in November. The next month is my month. And then it's yours for what March?

1:17:39

Okay. Leave a word to go read your email once you get home. Oh, I

B Beth Richards 1:17:44

did. More on that later.

1:17:47

Okay. All right. Well, I have to get I have to do this dedication for dancing queen. We're going to do it to Kendrick This is his birthday. This seems to be January's a big month for birthdays, our community. Kendrick says today mine was the Wednesday or Thursday. Jimmy's I think it's in a couple of days. Thank you. So we're going to go to San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Then we'll be back with Dean Becker in a few folks