

*"50 years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged us all to look into our hearts and understand that it's wrong to deny our fellow Americans the right to vote. LBJ, a bold Texas Democrat, took a stand for justice and signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The dream of finally being able to exercise the fundamental right to vote in all corners of our country became more of a reality.*

*"Today, our country is freer and stronger because of the Voting Rights Act. We became a more perfect union through the perseverance, hard work, and empathy of so many courageous Americans. But the dark days of our country's past were not so long ago. Although we have made tremendous strides to end racial discrimination and prejudice, the dream is still at arms length."*

—Texas Democratic Party  
Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa

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## **Indicted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Relents, Issues Corrected Document to Widower**



*John Stone-Hoskins with his husband's amended death certificate.*

[Via the Houston Press](#)

The first thing John Stone-Hoskins did after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage was call to have his husband's death certificate amended. Because instead of celebrating, he was mourning.

An employee with Texas Department of State Health Services answered the phone. As Stone-Hoskins remembers it, the state worker told him they would not be adhering to the court's ruling — in turn refusing to recognize Stone-Hoskins's marriage on his husband's death certificate. He called again the next day. Same response. His late husband, James, would remain listed as "single," as if their ten-year relationship never existed.

It was the beginning of a legal battle that, given the landmark Supreme Court case, Stone-Hoskins and countless others like him feel they

shouldn't have had to fight.

Especially considering that at the heart of that landmark case was a narrative nearly identical to Stone-Hoskins's: The state of Ohio refused to amend the death certificate of Jim Obergefell's husband to reflect their marriage.

Even after U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled on July 7 that, no, Texas cannot enforce any laws prohibiting same-sex marriage rights, the state had refused to recognize same-sex marriages on critical documents like birth and death certificates.

Attorney General Ken Paxton had set the tone early for Texas's resistance to a Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage equality. Following the ruling, Paxton wrote two statements in which he called the ruling "flawed" — three sentences in a row — and also "lawless," "disturbing" and "a dilution of marriage as a societal institution." In response to John Stone-Hoskins's simple request for an amended death certificate, Paxton's office has said that it is a "complex, fact-specific inquiry" that must be "resolved in subsequent legal proceedings."

Paxton even argued that it wasn't clear if the Supreme Court ruling applied to cases like that of Stone-Hoskins — despite the fact that that was exactly what

**continued on pg. 2**

## Death Certificate Issued, Cont'

Jim Obergefell had argued and won in the Supreme Court.

Finally, on August 5, the day after he turned 37, Stone-Hoskins won and received his amended death certificate. It was like a grim, belated birthday present.

And it only took a court order and a contempt-of-court threat against Paxton and Interim Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services Kirk Cole to get the state to put hyphens between "Stone" and "Hoskins" and add the words "surviving partner" to a death certificate.

Stone-Hoskins is a man of exactness who remembers dates, times, facts. It has been 206 days since James committed suicide. They had been together a total of ten years, four months, 23 days. But Stone-Hoskins is terminally ill, and the number one doctor gave him is less exact, anywhere from 45 to 60 days. He's suffering from cancer, liver disease, neuropathy from the metal rods in his back that make his legs and hands unsteady. He'll go nearly all day without eating or drinking, his body no longer urging him along with hunger pangs or thirst. "It could be two minutes from now, two months from now — who knows?" Stone-Hoskins says.

## Urgent: Dallas Trans Woman Murdered, DPD Needs Leads

A 22-year-old woman found dead last month in Dallas is [the 13th transgender person murdered in the US this year](#), eclipsing the total from all of 2014.

On Monday, police [identified the body](#) of Shade Schuler, which they found July 29 in a vacant field just west of 5600 Riverside Drive, near

the Medical District. Schuler's body [was badly decomposed](#), according to police, and it took them nearly two weeks to identify her.

Please contact Detective Chaney at 214-671-3650; case #174511-2015.

*(And a big thanks to Nell Gaither for correcting Ms. Schuler's gender description in both DPD press releases and media reports.)*



## Atty. General Ken Paxton Charged with Securities Fraud

[Via The New York Times](#)

McKINNEY, Tex. — Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general, was arrested on felony charges Monday and booked at the county jail in this Dallas suburb after a [grand jury indicted him](#) last week for securities fraud, the start of a criminal case that could complicate and even jeopardize his tenure as the state's top lawyer.

[Mr. Paxton](#), 52, smiled as he stood for a booking photograph at Collin County Jail, nine months after [winning election](#) as the chief law enforcement officer of Texas.

The grand jury... charged him with two counts of securities fraud and one count of acting as an investment adviser representative without being registered with the state securities board. (Read about the watchdog firm responsible [here](#).)

# News Briefs

## SDD Updates

Please join us for our August Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meeting taking place on **Tuesday, August 18th** at Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave.

An informal social period beings at 6:00 PM. The meeting begins at promptly at 6:30 PM.

Our special guest speakers is:

**Texas Comptroller Nominee  
Mike Collier**

Mike will discuss his vision for turning Texas BLUE in the coming few years!

**This will be an informative meeting, so please join us and bring a friend!**

Please visit the F.A.Q. Tab on the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas website for additional information on how to renew your membership.

Thank you to all of our new members and renewing members. Your support is critical to our ongoing success.

Sustaining Memberships start at just \$10/month or \$120/year.

Please help us continue our good work by renewing, or revising your membership level at:

<http://www.stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org/membership>

# President's Corner

By Jay Narey, President  
Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Get ready Stonewall we've got a lot of events coming up over the next month or so.

## August Meeting

First, is our August meeting where our guest speaker this month is Comptroller Nominee Mike Collier on Tuesday the 18th. Mike will present the results of his "listening tour" from across Texas following the 2014 election.

## Annual Stonewall Fundraiser

Then coming up on Sunday afternoon August 30th, is our 2015 annual fundraiser. We wanted to keep the fun in fundraiser this year so we will be playing "Political Trivia" to test your knowledge on National, State, Local, and LGBT politics.

We even have prizes for the smartest team. Our event MC will be Dallas entertainment icon Edna Jean Robinson who is very excited about hosting this event and she will probably even do a number or two for us during the show! You won't want to miss it.

I would like to personally ask you to become a Sponsor of the event at the \$1000, \$500, \$250, or \$100 level.

This is our one big annual event to help replenish our coffers in advance of what will be a busy 2016 election cycle for all of us.

At this moment Stonewall Board Members Drew Eubank and Cannon Brown are busy finalizing our Political Trivia game event coming up at the end of the month – and this will be something you don't want to miss.



You can become a Sponsor quickly and easily online at: [www.stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org/donate](http://www.stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org/donate) and just note "Trivia Sponsor" in the "comments" section.

All of our Sponsors are invited to a Pre-Trivia reception at 2:30 pm before our Game begins at 3 pm.

## Labor Day

After what promises to be an exciting and relaxed Sunday-Funday afternoon event, then we have the annual Dallas County Democratic Party Labor Day Picnic just a week later on Sunday, September 7th. Stonewall is a sponsor of the DCDP Labor Day Picnic.

Then on Tuesday, September 15th is our September monthly membership meeting.

## Pride Parade

But let's go ahead and fill up our calendar with the Alan Ross Dallas Pride Parade on Sunday, September 20th !

Our Communications Chair, Mark Quigley is chairing our Pride Committee this year so if you want to help out with Pride this year please get in touch with him right away at [markbquigley@gmail.com](mailto:markbquigley@gmail.com).

So as you can see, it's a full month of non-stop Democratic fun.

## Fall Debates

I hope some of you got to watch the spectacle of the recent GOP debate

on Faux News, but the good news is we will have the opportunity to watch serious candidates this Autumn beginning on Tuesday evening, October 13th.

The Dallas County Democratic Party is hosting a Democratic candidate debate watch party at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station. We hope you can join us.

Visit the event Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/301469453310704>

That's it for this month – stay cool and well hydrated out there everyone! JAY



## DCDP Labor Day Picnic

Celebrate Labor Day at the 18th Annual Dallas County Democratic Party Labor Day Picnic on Monday, September 7, 2015. From noon to 4 PM, join your fellow Democrats, including elected officials and candidates. We will meet again at the usual place, 4930 Military Parkway [the former Catholic Czech Club], Dallas 75227.

This event is FREE, and it's the best kind of Texas picnic: It's inside with air-conditioning! Fried chicken, hot dogs and iced tea will be provided at no cost. Just bring your favorite casserole, side dish, salad or dessert.

Stonewall Dallas Dems will be represented with listed as a sponsor of the Picnic. Sponsorship includes a slideshow slide, a display table, and your listing on marketing, event signage and the DCDP website.

So don't miss it!

## Attorney General Opens Benefits After Gay Marriage Ruling

Dallas Voice

Attorney General Loretta Lynch issued the following statement: "Following the Supreme Court's historic decision in Obergefell that every couple has the same right to participate in the institution of marriage, whether the partners are of the same-sex or opposite sexes, I directed Justice Department staff to work with the agencies to ensure that the ruling be given full effect across the federal government."

And with that, a number of rights that had not been available to married same-sex couples were extended to them.

Most notably social security benefits and some veterans benefits .



The Stonewall Advocate is a monthly publication of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. To contact the Editor, e-mail Mark Quigley at [markquigley@gmail.com](mailto:markquigley@gmail.com). No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

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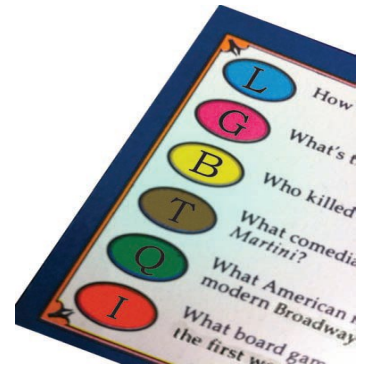
Join Stonewall Democrats of Dallas' Annual Fundraiser

# So, What DO you know?

Come find out!

With your Host

Edna Jean Robinson



**Test** your knowledge of all things political

**Pursue** trivia with rainbow fundraising abandon!

**Help** us get Democrats who know what LGBTQQIIA stands for get elected!

Date and Time for the win: Sunday, August 30th from 3 -6 p.m.  
at the "The Round Up Saloon."

Sponsorship levels get you entry into the game:  
*What are you willing to wager?*

- **Historical Hijinks** for a \$1,000...But wait there's more!  
You also get 6 tickets to play trivia!
- **Political Punditry** for \$500 (4 tickets to play)
- **Silly Senators** for \$250 (2 tickets to play)
- **Reps with Pep** for \$100 (2 tickets to play)

And for sponsors, behind door number 3 is....the pre-Trivia reception!

**It's so EASY!**

Order online at [stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org/donate](http://stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org/donate) or mail your sponsorship to: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, P.O. Box 192305, Dallas, TX 75219.

- \$20 suggested donation at the door. ● \$20 to play trivia.