



December 15, 2011

Dear Marriage Equality USA Love Warrior ~

Today is a very exciting day for anyone who has believed and worked in the grassroots movement to achieve full civil marriage equality.

Today we are happy to announce that two of the strongest forces in this movement, Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) and Marriage Equality New York (MENY), have formally agreed to merge. MENY will continue as a fully functioning chapter within MEUSA.

Our two organizations will combine their tremendous grassroots talent, resources and years of experience to fight for our shared mission: To secure legally recognized civil marriage equality for all, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity, at the state and federal level through grassroots organizing, education, action, advocacy and partnerships.

The goals of the organization will remain to do the necessary grassroots, volunteer-powered work with our partners to end discrimination under the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," to help our brothers and sisters win marriage equality in other states and protect it where it has been achieved, to educate all about the importance of equality in civil marriage, and, via our political action committee to help elect politicians committed to working to achieve our mission.

While we celebrate recent successes, there is still a tremendous amount of work to do and your continued involvement is critical -- now more than ever!

This agreement comes after over a decade of partnership and successes between the two organizations. Our teams have worked together on numerous projects including local actions on Valentine's Day and Tax Day, as well as Wedding Marches across bridges in San Francisco, Brooklyn, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo.

Considering the changing landscape on this issue, as well as the work that still needs to be done, we believe this decision is a logical and positive step toward achieving our shared mission and goals.

Our volunteers, partners, and volunteer leaders will continue to be our greatest source of strength and direction, and each of them is being asked to continue with us moving

forward. Our new Board of Directors will be comprised of members from both organizations, with Cathy Marino-Thomas and Dave Janis-Kitzmilller, the undersigned, serving as Co-Chairs. In addition, Brian Silva, the current Interim Executive Director of MENY, will provide leadership to the combined organization while working closely with MEUSA's Leadership Coordinator, Christine Allen.

A change of this magnitude is not entered into lightly. The leadership of each of our organizations has worked diligently to consult with our volunteers, volunteer leaders, and supporters -- their overwhelming feedback confirmed our belief that this merger is the best for our organizations and for our shared mission -- to ensure a country where civil marriage rights are enjoyed and protected for all.

So what does this mean for you right now? Today we ask you to recommit to staying involved, staying engaged, and for your continued support.

Over the next few months we will be working behind the scenes to insure a strong foundation for our organization. We will continue to work hard with all of you on new and current projects and programs. And, most importantly, together we will continue to be a strong voice and advocate for the grassroots supporters of marriage equality.

Thank you for your support past and present. We look forward to working with friends, both new and old, as we move forward to a future of marriage equality!

Sincerely,



Cathy Marino- Thomas
Board Chair
Marriage Equality New York



David Janis-Kitzmilller
Board Chair ("President")
Marriage Equality USA