



News Release

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Roland Watkins and Arlington County School Board to Receive 2015 AGLA Equality Awards

December 8, 2015 - Each year AGLA presents two Equality Awards, one to an individual and one to an organization, in recognition of their record of working to improve LGBTQ equality. This year the AGLA Board voted unanimously to honor Roland Watkins and the Arlington County School Board with the 2015 AGLA Equality Awards.

Roland Watkins will receive the 2015 AGLA Individual Equality Award. AGLA Past President Daniel Hays noted, "He chaired the EEO advisory commission for Arlington for a number of years before it was combined with the Human Rights Commission of Arlington of which he is the Vice-Chair. In both capacities he consistently has ensured LGBT issues are addressed. He and his husband have also served on the AGLA Board of Directors and have hosted numerous fundraisers for us at their home." In recognition of his leadership and compassion as a longtime equality supporter, AGLA is proud to recognize Mr. Watkins with the 2015 AGLA Individual Equality Award. The award will be presented tonight at AGLA's Annual Holiday Party at Freddie's Beach Bar & Restaurant in Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

The 2015 AGLA Organization Equality Award will be given to the Arlington County School Board. In support of the nomination, AGLA member Elizabeth Ames Fogarty wrote, "I wanted to suggest the 2015 Arlington County School Board as the recipient of the organization award for adding gender identity to the nondiscrimination code for students and employees. Because the school board members were all in agreement, they updated the policy on their consent agenda on July 1." The formal award presentation to the Arlington County School Board will take place at the December 17th School Board meeting.

A list of past AGLA Equality Award winners is provided below. For more information about the AGLA Equality Awards and holiday party, please visit www.agla.org or contact AGLA President Tiffany Joslyn at president@agla.org.

Previous Equality Award Recipients

2014: Hon. Paul Ferguson and Four Seasons Garden Club

2013: James Fisher and Arlington PFLAG

2012: Everett Fisher and the Imperial Court of Washington, D.C.

2011: John Clisham and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

2010: Arlington School Board Member Sally Baird and Freddie's Beach Bar & Restaurant

2009: Hon. David Englin, VA State Delegate, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

2008: Kris McLaughlin and the Virginia Partisans

2007: Cheryl Spector and Arlington County Public Library

2006: Jay Gandy and Equality Virginia

2005: Hon. Adam Ebbin, VA State Delegate, and Clarendon Presbyterian Church

2004: Rhonda Buckner and Log Cabin Republicans of Virginia

2003: Author Alex Sanchez and the Arlington Public Schools' Student Services Department

2002: Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisette and Whitman-Walker Clinic/Northern VA

AGLA is a strong beacon for equality in Northern Virginia. It's an inclusive 501(c)(3) nonprofit open to all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ) people and straight allies. It provides social activities, nonpartisan civic awareness, and community service activities. AGLA also has a scholarship program. Join AGLA today at www.agla.org and support a wonderful community organization.

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