



**International Association  
of Pride Organizers**

The background of the lower half of the page is a large, curved shape that transitions from a bright yellow at the top to a deep red at the bottom, following the colors of the rainbow. Overlaid on this background is a white outline map of the world, showing the continents and country borders. The text "2011 Annual Report" is centered over the map in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# **2011 Annual Report**

# Table of Contents

## InterPride Inc. – International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Pride Organizers

Founded in 1982, InterPride is the world's largest organization for organizers of Pride events. InterPride is incorporated in the State of Texas in the USA and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under US law. It is funded by membership dues, sponsorship, merchandise sales and donations from individuals and organizations.

### Our Mission

InterPride's mission is to promote Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Pride on an international level and to encourage diverse communities to hold and attend Pride Events. InterPride increases networking, communication and education among Pride Organizations. InterPride works together with other LGBTI and Human Rights organizations.

InterPride's relationship with its member organizations is one of advice, guidance and assistance when requested. We do not have any control over, or take responsibility for, the way our member organizations conduct their events.

**[www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org)**

Regional Director reports contained within this Annual Report are the words, personal accounts and opinions of the authors involved and do not necessarily reflect the views of InterPride as an organization. InterPride accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of material contained within.

© 2011 InterPride Inc.

Information given in this Annual Report is known to be correct at the time of production October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                       | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Corporate Governance</b>               | <b>4</b>  |
| Executive Committee                       | 4         |
| Regional Directors                        | 4         |
| <b>Regions and Member Organizations</b>   | <b>6</b>  |
| InterPride Regions                        | 6         |
| Member Organizations                      | 7         |
| <b>InterPride Inc. 2010 Annual Report</b> | <b>11</b> |
| Summary                                   | 11        |
| Personal notes from the Co-Presidents     | 12        |
| <b>Committee Reports</b>                  | <b>14</b> |
| Member Services                           | 14        |
| Conference Structure and Integrity        | 14        |
| Fund Development                          | 14        |
| Methods and Standards                     | 15        |
| WorldPride                                | 15        |
| Communications                            | 16        |
| Secretary's Report                        | 16        |
| Finance                                   | 18        |
| Financial Statements 2009/2010            | 20        |
| Human Rights                              | 22        |
| <b>Regional Reports</b>                   | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Scholarship Reports</b>                | <b>53</b> |



## Introduction

Just recently we were asked what the word “pride” means. If you asked a hundred people this question you would receive a hundred different answers. What pride means to an individual is as unique as their own life experience and identity.

To the older end of the community it means no longer being abused when they leave their homes or having things thrown at them as they walk down the street. The middle age group would say it is recognition of the fight they championed and (in many countries around the world) witnessed incredible change. The younger community – whilst certainly displaying their joy in the more festive elements – understand the battles of the past and celebrate the fact that theirs and the generations to come can be who they are without fear of discrimination and be whatever they want to be regardless of sexuality and gender identity.

The significance of the word is far reaching. It understands that many people worked tirelessly (and often without financial gain) to change attitudes and Government policy to understand that regardless of the negative stereotypes, equal rights are human rights.

The work of InterPride is also wide reaching. Through our member organizations, InterPride plays a part in changing the world – piece by piece, pride by pride. This is a responsibility we take very seriously and are truly grateful for the opportunity to assist our members whenever they need it. This will be truly highlighted next year as Pride London hosts the 2012 WorldPride event.

This year we have had to make some organizational changes. Some of these decisions have not been easy pills to swallow. The support of the Board has been vital and we thank everyone for playing their part in the decision making process. What we hope will result is a stronger organization which has policies and procedures in place to ensure its sustainability and longevity. With the Board’s continuing vigilance, InterPride will continue to be able to play its role in the World Pride Movement for many years to come.

With Pride We Serve,

**Trisha Clymore & Mark Frederick Chapman**  
Co-Presidents

# Corporate Governance

InterPride is managed by nine Executive Committee members and a board of currently twenty-eight Regional Directors representing twenty regions. Listed here is the 2010 Board, along with their member organization affiliation.

**Regions 8, 14, 16, 17 and 18 are currently not represented by a Regional Director but monitored by the Executive Committee.**

## Executive Committee

### Trisha Clymore

Co-President  
Atlanta Pride Committee, GA, USA

### Mark Frederick Chapman

Co-President  
Zurich Pride Festival, Switzerland

### Brett Hayhoe

Secretary  
Pride March Victoria, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

### Jeremiah Megowan

Treasurer  
Pride Day Equality Project, Eugene, OR, USA

### Don Mills

Vice President Member Services  
Central Alabama Pride, Inc., AL, USA

### Hans De Meyer

Vice President Operations  
The Belgian Pride, Bussels, Belgium

### Caryl Dolinko

Vice President Operations  
Vancouver Pride Society, BC, Canada

### Doña Hatch

Vice President Operations  
Human Rights Alliance, Santa Fe, NM, USA

### Billy Urich

Vice President Operations  
Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally & Festival, CT, USA

## Regional Directors

**Frank Rubio**, Region 1 Director  
Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, CA, USA

**Shannon Lank**, Region 1 Director  
Phoenix Pride, AZ, USA

**Matthew Cox**, Alternate Region 1 Director  
Southern Nevada Association of PRIDE, Inc., NV USA

**Frank Leonzal**, Region 2 Director  
Out in Tacoma Pride, WA USA

**Eric Gauthier**, Alternate Region 2 Director  
(Resigned xx.xx.xx)  
Out in Tacoma Pride, WA USA

**Tony Ross**, Region 3 Director  
Albuquerque Pride, NM, USA

**Paul Collom**, Region 3 Director  
Human Rights Alliance, Santa Fe, NM, USA

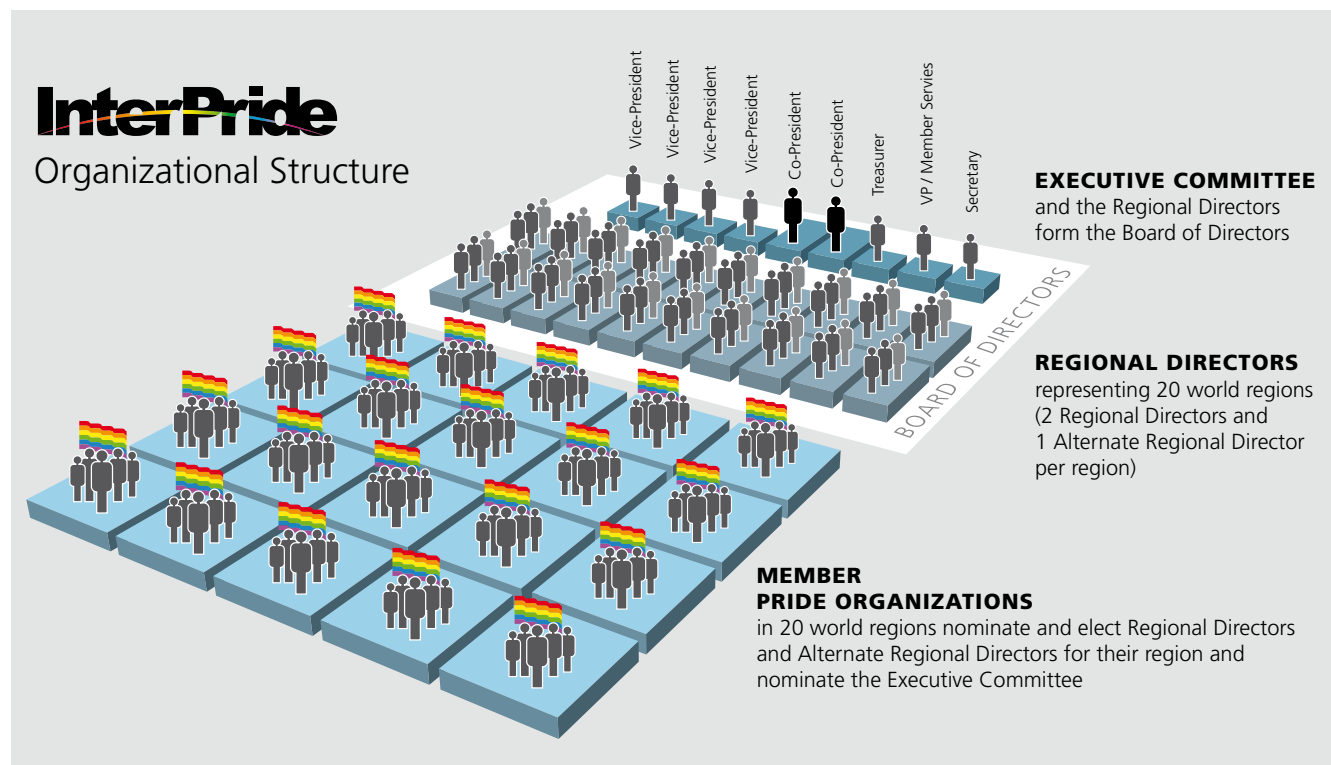
**Michael Gorsuch**, Region 4 Director  
(Resigned July 2011)  
Capital City Pride – Des Moines, IA, USA

**Rick Bumgardner**, Region 4 Director  
Pride Kansas City, MO, USA

**James Parker Sheffield**, Region 5 Director  
Atlanta Pride Committee, GA, USA

**Amy Lockett**, Region 5 Director  
(Resigned August 2011)  
Virginia Pride, VA, USA

**Joshua Wallace**, Region 5 Alternate Director  
(Resigned September 2011)  
Mobile Alabama Pride, Inc., AL, USA



**Keri Aulita**, Region 6 Director  
Boston Pride, MA, USA

**Gary Van Horn**, Region 6 Director  
Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Sherri Rase**, Alternate Region 6 Director  
Jersey Pride, Inc., NJ, USA

**Marion Steele**, Region 7 Director  
Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau, ON, Canada

**Mark Singh**, Region 7 Director  
President Fierté Canada Pride, Canada

**Herminio Adorno Ortega**, Region 9 Director  
Coalition Orgullo Arcoiris Inc.

**Paul Birrell**, Region 10 Director  
Pride London, United Kingdom

**Kristin Saevarsdottir**, Region 11 Director  
Reykjavik Gay Pride, Iceland

**Hakan Steenberg**, Region 11 Director  
Stockholm Pride, Sweden

**Stefan Baier**, Region 12 Director  
CSD Konstanz, Germany

**Ruben De Keyser**, Region 13 Director  
The Belgian Pride, Brussels, Belgium

**Andrea Gilbert**, Region 15 Director  
Athens Pride, Greece

**Magdalena Guenovena**, Region 15 Director  
Sofia Pride, Bulgaria

**Edgar Oscar Atadero**, Region 19 Director  
Manila, Philippines

**Sridhar Rangavan**, Region 19 Director  
Mumbai, India

**Adam J Lowe**, Region 20 Director  
Pride March Victoria, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

# InterPride Regions

**Region 1** Mexico, United States  
(States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

**Region 2** United States (States: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming)

**Region 3** United States  
(States: Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

**Region 4** United States (States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin)

**Region 5** United States (States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)

**Region 6** United States (States: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington DC (District of Columbia))

**Region 7** Canada, (Provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory), St. Pierre et Miquelon

**Region 8** Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine

**Region 9** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada,

Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Navassa Island, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands (UK), Virgin Islands (USA)

**Region 10** Guernsey, Jersey, Ireland, Isle of Man, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Region 11** Aland, Denmark, Faeroes, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Svalbard, Sweden

**Region 12** Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

**Region 13** Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands

**Region 14** Andorra, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Israel, Italy, Madeira, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Turkey, Vatican City

**Region 15** Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey.

**Region 16** Algeria, Angola, Ascension, Benin, Botswana, Burkina, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, St. Helena, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles,

Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Region 17** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela

**Region 18** Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen

**Region 19** Bangladesh, Bhutan, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea North, Korea South, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

**Region 20** American Samoa, Australia, Baker Island, Bouvet Island, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Midway Atoll, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Palmyra Atoll, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wake Island, Wallis & Futuna Islands

# Member Organizations

InterPride counted 189 member organizations in the year 2011. 134 North American, 6 South American, 1 Caribbean, 40 European, 2 Middle Eastern, 4 Asian and 2 Australian member organization. Compared to last year this is an increase of 10%.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Identity, Inc.

Anchorage, AK, USA

### Central Alabama Pride, Inc

Birmingham, AL, USA

### Mobile Alabama Pride, Inc.

Mobile, AL, USA

### Conway Gay Pride

Conway, AR, USA

### Phoenix Pride

Phoenix, AZ, USA

### Sedona Gay Pride

Sedona, AZ, USA

### Tucson Pride, Inc

Tucson, AZ, USA

### Humboldt Pride Inc.

Eureka, CA, USA

### OCEC

### (Orange County Equality Coalition)

Irvine, CA, USA

### Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride

Long Beach, CA, USA

### Los Angeles Leather Coalition

Los Angeles, CA, USA

### Los Angeles Black Pride

Los Angeles, CA, USA

### Oakland Pride, Inc.

Oakland, CA, USA

### Greater Palm Springs Pride

Palm Springs, CA, USA

### Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center

Sacramento, CA, USA

### San Diego LGBT Pride Inc

San Diego, CA, USA

### Folsom Street Events

San Francisco, CA, USA

### SFLGBTGCC, Inc.

San Francisco, CA, USA

### Christopher Street West / LA Pride

West Hollywood, CA, USA

### Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc.

Hartford, CT, USA

### Delaware Pride, Inc.

Newark, DE, USA

### Ocala Pride Incorporated

Bellevue, FL, USA

### PRIDE-SWFL Inc

Esterro, FL, USA

### Pride South Florida

Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

### PCCNCF

Gainesville, FL, USA

### Miami Beach Gay Pride

North Miami Beach, FL, USA

### Pride of Greater Fort Lauderdale

Oakland Park, FL, USA

### Emerald Coast Pride, Inc.

Panama City Beach, FL, USA

### Sarasota Pride, Inc

Sarasota, FL, USA

### St. Pete Pride

St. Petersburg, FL, USA

### The Family Tree Community Center

Tallahassee, FL, USA

### Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc.

Atlanta, GA, USA

### Augusta Pride, Inc.

Augusta, GA, USA

### Savannah Pride, Inc

Savannah, GA, USA

### Honolulu Pride Festival Foundation

Honolulu, HI, USA

### Hawaii Island Pride

Kailua Kona, HI, USA

### QC PRIDE, Inc.

Davenport, IA, USA

### Boise Pride, Inc.

Boise, ID, USA

### Pride Chicago

Chicago, IL, USA

### Central Illinois Alliance for Diversity & Equality, Inc. / Peoria Pride

Peoria, IL, USA

### Fort Wayne Pride

Fort Wayne, IN, USA

### Indy Pride Inc

Indianapolis, IN, USA

### Spencer Pride, Inc.

Spencer, IN, USA

### Capital City Pride – Des Moines

Des Moines, Iowa, USA

### Wichita Pride Inc

Wichita, KS, USA

### Kentuckiana Pride Festival

Louisville, KY, USA

### Baton Rouge Pride

Baton Rouge, LA, USA

### NOLA Pride

New Orleans, LA, USA

### Destiny Foundation / Pride New Orleans Celebration

New Orleans, LA, USA

**Boston Pride Committee**

Boston, MA, USA

**Noho Pride**

Northampton, MA, USA

**LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts, Inc.**

Northampton, MA, USA

**Chesapeake Pride Festival**

Annapolis, MD, USA

**Southern Maine Pride**

Portland, ME, USA

**Motor City Pride**

Detroit, MI, USA

**West Michigan Pride, Inc.**

Grand Rapids, MI, USA

**Michigan Pride, Inc**

Lansing, MI, USA

**Twin Cities Pride**

Minneapolis, MN, USA

**FM Pride**

Moorhead, MN, USA

**Show Me Pride**

Kansas City, MO, USA

**Pride St Louis**

St Louis, MO, USA

**Montana Pride Network**

Helena, MT, USA

**Blue Ridge Pride**

Asheville, NC, USA

**Pride Committee of North Carolina**

Durham, NC, USA

**OBX PrideFest**

Manteo, NC, USA

**Rainbow Celebrations**

Omaha, NE, USA

**Jersey City Lesbian + Gay Outreach**

Jersey City, NJ, USA

**Jersey Pride, Inc**

New Brunswick, NJ, USA

**Albuquerque Pride, Inc.**

Albuquerque, NM, USA

**Taos Pride**

El Prado, NM, USA

**Gallup Pride**

Gallup, NM, USA

**Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Pride / Sintra Divine, Inc.**

Los Ranchos, NM, USA

**Santa Fe Human Rights Alliance and Santa Fe Pride**

Santa Fe, NM, USA

**Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.**

Henderson, NV, USA

**Reno Gay Pride**

Reno, NV, USA

**Pride Alliance Long Island**

Bay Shore, NY, USA

**Brooklyn Pride, Inc**

Brooklyn, NY, USA

**Queens L and G Pride**

Jackson Heights, NY, USA

**Heritage of Pride**

New York, NY, USA

**Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley – GAGV**

Rochester, NY, USA

**CNY Pride**

Syracuse, NY, USA

**Long Island Pride Parade, Inc**

Wantagh, NY, USA

**Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC)**

Athens, OH, USA

**Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Cincinnati**

Cincinnati, OH, USA

**Stonewall Columbus**

Columbus, OH, USA

**Oklahomans For Equality**

Tulsa, OK, USA

**PRIDE Day Equality Project, Inc**

Eugene, OR, USA

**Capitol Pride**

Salem, OR, USA

**Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley**

Allentown, PA, USA

**Erie Gay News**

Erie, PA, USA

**Erie Gay Pride, Inc.**

Erie, PA, USA

**Pride Festival of Central PA**

Harrisburg, PA, USA

**New Hope Celebrates**

New Hope, PA, USA

**Philly Pride Presents, Inc**

Philadelphia, PA, USA

**Jersey Lyfe, Inc. (a/s/o Family, Lyfe, Inc.)**

Philadelphia, PA, USA

**Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh Pride**

Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Reading Pride Celebration**

Reading, PA, USA

**Rhode Island Pride**

Providence, RI, USA

**Upstate Pride**

Boiling Springs, SC, USA

**South Carolina Pride Movement, Inc**

Columbia, SC, USA

**Myrtle Beach Pride**

Myrtle Beach, SC, USA

**Nashville Pride**

Nashville, TN, USA

**Austin Gay and Lesbian Pride Foundation**

Austin, TX, USA

**Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association**

Fort Worth, TX, USA

**Pride Houston**

Houston, TX, USA

**Unity Foundation, Inc**

San Antonio, TX, USA



**The Utah Pride Center**

Salt Lake City, UT, USA

**Hampton Roads Pride**

Chesapeake, VA, USA

**Fredericksburg Pride Inc**

Fredericksburg, VA, USA

**Virginia Pride**

Richmond, VA, USA

**Roanoke Pride**

Roanoke, VA, USA

**Kitsap Pride Network**

Bremerton, WA, USA

**Capital City Pride**

Olympia, WA, USA

**Mid Columbia Pride Committee**

Pasco, WA, USA

**Seattle Out And Proud**

Seattle, WA, USA

**OutSpokane**

Spokane Valley, WA, USA

**Tacoma Rainbow Center –  
Out In Tacoma**

Tacoma, WA, USA

**PrideFest, Inc**

Milwaukee, WI, USA

**Rainbow Pride of West Virginia**

Charleston, WV, USA

## CANADA

**Pride Calgary Planning Committee**

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**Pride/Fierte Cornwall**

Cornwall, Ontario, Canada

**Edmonton Pride Festival Society**

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Halifax Pride**

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Okanagan Rainbow Coalition –  
Okanagan Pride**

Kelowna, BC, Canada

**River of Pride – Riviere de Fierte Inc.**

Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

**Montreal Pride Celebrations**

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Capital Pride Festival – Pride  
Committee Ottawa-Gatineau**

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

**Prince George Pride Society**

Prince George, BC, Canada

**Pride Toronto**

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Vancouver Pride Society**

Vancouver, BC, Canada

**WinterPRIDE**

Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

**Windsor Pride Festival**

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

**Pride Winnipeg Festival Inc.**

Winnipeg, MB, Canada

## MEXICO

**Tijuana Pride**

Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico

**SOUTH AMERICA****Grupo Homossexual do Cabo – GHC**

(Cape Homosexual Group)

Cabo de Santo Agostinho, PE, Brazil

**Grupo Diversidade Niteroi - GDN**

(Niteroi Diversity Group)

Niteroi, RJ, Brazil

**Visibilidade LGBT (LGBT Visibility)**

Sao Carlos, SP, Brazil

**APPAD – Associacao Paranaense da  
Parada da Diversidade**

Curitiba, Parana, Brazil

**CASVI – Centro de Apoio e****Solidariedade a Vida** (Center for  
Support and Solidarity to Life)

Piracicaba, SP, Brazil

**Associacao Homossexual de Ajda  
Matua – SHAMA**

(Mutual Help Homosexual Association)

Uberlandia, MG, Brazil

**CARIBBEAN****Coalicion Orgullo Arcoiris Inc.**

Toa Baja, Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico

**EUROPE****Hosi Wien**

Vienna, Austria

**The Belgian Pride vzw/asb**

Brussels, Belgium

**Zagreb Pride**

Zagreb, Croatia

**Lesbian and Gay Pride de Marseille**

Marseille, France

**Tous & Go**

Marseille, France

**Lesbian and Gay Pride Montpellier**

Montpellier, France

**AEC Toulouse**

Toulouse, France

**Berliner CSD e.V.**

Berlin, Germany

**Verein für sexuelle Emanzipation e.V.**

Braunschweig, Germany

**Cologne Pride**

Cologne, Germany

**Hamburg Pride e.V.**

Hamburg, Germany

**CSD in Konstanz e.V.**

Konstanz, Germany

**LuST e.V./CSD Nordwest**

Oldenburg, Germany

**IG CSD Stuttgart e.V.**

Stuttgart, Germany

**Athens Pride**

Athens, Greece

**Dublin LGBTQ Pride**

Dublin, Ireland

**Gay Pride Reykjavik**

Reykjavik, Island

**Arcigay Milano**

Milano, Italy

**Circolo di cultura omosessuale**
**Mario Mieli/Roma Pride**

Rome, Italy

**Mozaika – LGBT and their friends**
**Alliance**

Riga, Latvia

**Information Center “GenderDoc-M”**

Chisinau, Moldova

**Roze Zaterdag Nederland**

Rotterdam, Nederland

**Belfast Pride**

Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Skeive dager/Oslo Pride**

Oslo, Norway

**Fundacja Rownosci**

Warsaw, Poland

**Porto Pride Party/Portugal Gay Porto**

Porto, Portugal

**Accept Romania**

Bucarest, Romania

**Project GayRussia (Moscow Pride)**

Moscow, Russia

**Barcelona Pride/ACEGAL Barcelona**

Barcelona, Spain

**Maspalomas Gay Pride**

Gran Canaria, Spain

**AEGAL**

Madrid, Spain

**Stockholm Pride**

Stockholm, Sweden

**Zurich Pride Festival**

Zürich, Switzerland

**Birmingham Pride**

Birmingham, United Kingdom

**Pride in Brighton and Hove**

Brighton, United Kingdom

**Cardiff Wales LGBT Mardi Gras**

Cardiff, United Kingdom

**Pride London**

London, United Kingdom

**Manchester Pride**

Manchester, United Kingdom

**ASSOCIATE EUROPEAN MEMBERS**
**CSD Deutschland e.V.**

Cologne, Germany

**ARCIGAY**

Bologna, Italy

**MIDDLE EAST**
**Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance**

Jerusalem, Israel

**The Aguda Tel Aviv**

Tel Aviv, Israel

**ASIA**
**Cambodia Pride**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Hong Kong Pride Parade Organizing Committee**

Wanchai, Hong Kong, China

**KASHISH MIQFF**

Mumbai, India

**Progay Philippines**

Caloocan City, Metro Manila, Philippines

**AUSTRALIA**
**Midsumma Festival Inc.**

South Yarra, Victoria, Australia

**Pride March Victoria**

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

# InterPride Inc. 2011 Annual Report

## SUMMARY

*By Mark Frederick Chapman and Trisha Clymore,  
Co-Presidents of InterPride*

This Annual Report covers the time between the conference in Long Beach, CA, USA, from October 21–24, 2010 up to the 2011 conference in Brussels, Belgium.

### 2010 AGM and World Conference Long Beach, CA, USA

On the sunny shores of the Pacific, the 28<sup>th</sup> InterPride Annual General Meeting and Conference took place in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, together with the Conference Structure and Integrity Committee, offered a variety of workshops on different Pride related topics. The conference was attended by organizations from all over the world. Our hosts organized different fun activities such as Beach volleyball, a trip on *the Duck* (an amphibian bus), a visit to the fun amusement park, Knotts Berry Farm, and a Gala dinner at the fantastic local Aquarium. These activities offered the delegates a great opportunity to network and get to know each other. The Annual General Meeting was well organized and was a huge success. Thanks again Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride for a job well done.

### Organization

At the 2010 conference Mark Frederick Chapman, Co-President; Caryl Dolinko V.P.; Don Mills V.P.; Billy Urich V.P. were all re-elected for a two-year term. Brett Hayhoe was elected as the secretary for two years. New Regional Directors were elected by their regions to serve their region and participate on the InterPride board of directors. The new board is listed on pages 4–5. The Executive Committee and the board would again like to thank the following board members who served on the board: **Alan Reiff**, Secretary; **Jimmy Gruender**, RD 1; **John Boychuck**, RD 7; **Nikolai Alekseyev**, RD 8; **Heimir Mar Petrussen**, ARD 11; **Michael Gorsuch**, RD 4; **Eric Gauthier**, ARD 2; **Amy Lockett**, RD 5 and **Joshua Wallace**, ARD 5.

### Board and Committee work

The members gave the board new goals and tasks that were



*Board members at midyear meeting in Atlanta*

appointed to the committees and to individuals. Some of these goals have been completed and others are in constant process, some are still on our slate (detailed information on pages xx–xx). The **Financial picture** of InterPride organization demanded a lot of our attention. On one side we had growing operational costs and on the other side, little to no new additional funding. At the midyear meeting the board took measures and capped the **board expenses** for travel and accommodation to a maximum of US\$ 20,000. Together with the 25x25x25 fundraising initiative the board was able to raise some additional funding to help with the bottom line.

In an effort to save costs, the board met in Atlanta, GA for the **midyear meeting** instead of Brussels. The CSIC Committee appointed Andrea Gilbert RD 15 and Mark Chapman, Co-President to visit the Conference host and Hotel and to report on the work in progress and the suitability of the location.

At the midyear meeting, the board agreed to focus more on benefits and services for our members. One of the decisions made was to simplify the **membership dues** process. Instead of calculating the fee as a percentage of the Gross Income, fixed levels were introduced indicating in one glance the amount applicable.

At the AGM it was decided to dissolve the Strategic Planning Committee and to form a new body to strategically plan the future of the organization. As result the **Strategic Planning Team** was formed. The team (Gary Van Horn, Russell Murphy, Hakan Steenberg) are supervised by the Co-presidents and have begun work. To professionally support the team Dr. Michael Kumer, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Institute at Duquesne University, has offered some consulting services with the Team.

The system for **conference calls** was changed to *GoToMeetings* which offers the possibility to participate with a conventional phone and share the conference call facilitator's computer screen for presentations. Although a new schedule was created to accommodate time zones all over the world, there continued to be challenges with times and attendance. Overall, the consistency of the calls has proven useful and has helped with board communication flow. Notes were sent out after the calls to the entire board ensuring further communication. These calls were informal and no board decisions were made.

The **Virtual Office** on Google Docs continues to serve as our document storage, accessible for every board member. The idea is to protect the joint knowledge of the organization and to prevent the loss of information through demission of board member. We have to note, that not all board members have up-loaded the documents they are producing – and we will work to ensure better compliance in the future.

During the midyear meeting, discussion took place on how we can have a better manageable **website**. As informative and useful our current website might be, it's not very user friendly on the back end. The Website Subcommittee looked into different solutions that would serve our needs, but all were too expensive for us. Gary Van Horn researched and introduced the board to **MemberSuite**, a very powerful online Member Management Software. The possibilities this solution offers are immense and the board will pursue to implement the software beginning next year. By using MemberSuite, we can better manage our member data and it will give us the opportunity to simplify the back end of our website. This again will make it easier to find a less expensive solution for our website without the database programming.

### WorldPride

Hans De Meyer and Mark Chapman met with Pride London, hosts of WorldPride 2012, in London earlier this year. It was assured, that the planning and work for the event were progressing well and challenges are being managed. Detailed reports to the WorldPride Committee have been delivered. After the changes in the board of Pride Toronto the contacts were reestablished and the planning for WorldPride 2014 commences as planned.

### Funding

The 25x25x25 funding initiative (25 people asking 25 people for 25 US\$) was proposed by Gail Palmer to help balance the budget has been implemented and several board members have started to collect funds for the organization. The outcome will be presented at the coming AGM. Negotiations with Barefoot Wine have taken place and we are hopeful to sign a sponsoring contract soon. Apart from our partners, Full Media, publishers of the official InterPride magazine, and Club Mondial Travel Ltd, there has been no further sponsorship income.

## Personal notes from the Co-Presidents

### Dear Members:

As my time as Co-President comes to an end I want to thank you for allowing me to serve in this role for the past four years. I have had the privilege of working with wonderful people who are so committed to the Pride movement and all it stands for. I leave knowing that I made some differences in the organization and know that the work still needs to be done and will be in good hands.

The pride movement will never lose its relevance. One of the most powerful aspects of a pride march or parade is visibility. When a community becomes invisible so too do the members of that community. The hard work put in to amending unfair legislation can much more easily be reversed if the people making the decisions no longer consider people they protect and recognise have any political/voting relevance. Invisibility can easily create this illusion.

Although many countries no longer consider homosexuality illegal, many more countries still discriminate on the grounds of sexuality and gender identity. Every time a pride is held around the world the community is sending a clear message to those countries that it is not okay to treat LGBT people as second class citizens. Until everyone is treated with equality we need to keep protesting, marching and getting in the way. We need to continue to be visible and vocal.

InterPride is the glue that holds it all together. The work of InterPride however can't be achieved without your dedication to the cause. I thank each and every one of you for your continued hard work and diligence.

In closing, I want to thank Mark, my Co-President, for his friendship and his leadership with me for the past three years. He was always a calming voice when I needed it. I enjoyed working with him and it is an honor to call him my friend.

I want to thank the other board members that I have had the privilege of working with. You are a creative, smart, dedicated group of people. Thank you for all the hours you have given to making this organization stronger. Thank you for your dedication and passion. I value you and am grateful for you.

*Thank you.*

**Dear InterPride Members,**

When I joined InterPride in 2005, the organization was very much involved with giving itself a new Constitution and updated By-laws. It was a great achievement to be able to get rid of the so-called Roberts Rules, which many of our members didn't understand. But the new rules and guidelines approved at the 2006 AGM have turned out to be at times too rigid and inflexible, which again made the board and members ask for changes and amendments. Much of the board's time in the past years was invested in trying to better organize and streamline the organization. This process continues and hopefully will ease down in the future.

As the organization has grown more international, so has the board and therefore the expenses. A good portion of the organization's funds have been used to pay for the board's travel and accommodation. This year the board had to make an unpopular decision to cap these expenses to keep the organization's finances in balance. Our board members do outstanding and time consuming work for the organization and it is unfortunate that we cannot help them towards their personal expenses the way we would love to. We either have to find additional funding or limit our outreach to the capacity we and the individual board members can afford.

At this year's midyear meeting, the board had very constructive and forward moving discussions. Most notably was a change in how we want to do better work in the future, meaning how we can better serve our members. The overall question raised was: "are our members getting the most out of their membership?" We are changing the focus of our work back to where it should be – towards our members. Making the organization more approachable, offering better information and services. Decisions have been made to renew the way we are collecting, storing and managing our member data making it easier and accessible for the board and members. The dues structure was simplified so we can use an off-the-shelf technical solution instead of having to customize our own costly solution. And the new Strategic Planning Team will continue to find solutions how to minimize the administrative work so more time can be spent on education, services and networking. I'm certain InterPride will become a better organization in the next year.

Personally 2011 was a challenging year. Presiding over InterPride (with Trisha), and EPOA (through structural changes) while "building sights" in my private and work life made it hard at times to manage it all. This is however my last year as EPOA president which will give me more time for my last year as Co-President of InterPride.

Next year will be a very special year for InterPride. The association will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and returning for the AGM to the city of Boston where it was founded. Secondly we will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> WorldPride in London giving the organization the opportunity to draw attention to its work and its members on a global scale. I'm looking forward with enthusiasm to both events.

Serving the organization has given me the chance to work with bright, fantastic and dedicated colleagues on the board. I would like to thank them for their immense work and camaraderie.

Finally, I'm dreading the moment my Co, Trisha Clymore, leaves the board, as her second term is at an end. I cannot express in words my gratitude for the great time I had working with her. Her intelligence, practical common sense and humor made it so much more satisfying deciding and working on the tasks that were given to us.

On behalf of the organization, I wish Trisha well and good luck with all her future endeavours – you will be greatly missed.

*Yours in Pride,  
Mark Frederick Chapman, Co-President*

## Committee Reports

### CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND INTEGRITY

*By Trisha Clymore, Co-President, Chair Conference Structure and Integrity Committee (CSIC)*

The Conference Structure and Integrity Committee (CSIC) has 21 members. Since the October AGM in Long Beach we have reviewed and edited the Standing Rules that guide the bid process as well as the host committee expectations. Both SR were passed by the board in June, 2011.

There was only one bid submitted for the AGM in 2013 and the committee reviewed that bid and made comments and suggestions for the bidding organization.

There were other goals that this committee had that have not yet been achieved. This was due to the chair having some personal issues that diverted a great deal of attention away from CSIC business.

My hope is that the next chair will have refreshed energy and time to continue to move through the goals set by the membership. ■

### FUND DEVELOPMENT

*By Dona Hatch, VP and Chair Fund Development Committee*

#### Silent Auction

In an ongoing effort to raise funds for InterPride, the Fund Development committee decided to have another Silent Auction at the AGM in Brussels. We are soliciting members attending to bring items for the auction that are representative of their areas of the world. We are also asking that members go to their pride sponsors to acquire larger ticket items for the auction. At the Vancouver AGM in 2009, approximately US\$ 3,000 was raised. We look forward to this auction being even more successful in Brussels.

#### 25x25x25 Donor Program

After much discussion at the AGM in Long Beach and additional conversation at the mid-year meeting, the 25x25x25 pro-

gram is now off the ground. I believe as of the end of August, there has been a little less than US\$ 1,000 pledged. Josh and Jer put in a considerable amount of time getting the donor pages set up. I have been waiting for collateral materials to be designed before sending out to the board and the membership. We launched the program in the September newsletter with the pledge drive closing the Saturday night of the AGM in Brussels. While the goal of US\$ 15,000 set forth in the budget is a lofty one, I do think we can raise a substantial amount of money even at this time.

#### Sponsorship

Jerime Black, of Barefoot Wines has asked permission to use the InterPride logo in a 2012 national and international point of sale campaign. The point of sale materials will be used in grocery and on-sale channels where Barefoot is being displayed and featured. He would also like to use the logo on event banners where Barefoot Wine is being promoted at prides around the world. We would also have our logo on their website with a link to our website. The benefit for InterPride is increased awareness through the grocery and on-sale channels, not to mention the increased awareness at Pride festivals around the world.

My dialogue with the tobacco company has come to a stand still as of now. In multiple meetings with various principals involved, I was very enthusiastic regarding the possibility of sponsorship. Since the sale of the company there have been many changes in the manner in which sponsorships are granted. Their office is in a state of flux with people being moved around the country. This does not mean the possibility is dead in the water. I will do my utmost to continue the conversation.

Using the HRC list of 100 companies with the best report cards for LGBT issues, I have identified several corporations which appear to be ones likely to be supportive. I am currently in the process of getting the correct contact information for each corporation to ensure that inquiry letters land on the correct desk.

Over the past six months there have been two companies which have approached IP wanting to donate money. After many weeks of trying to chase down these potential donors, they have turned out to be bogus. However, one never knows



where the next great sponsor will come from ... you have to pursue until there is nothing left to pursue.

## **VICE PRESIDENTS REPORTS**

---

*By Caryl Dolinko, Vice President, Regions 2, 6, 7 & 20*

As Vice President of Operations, I reached out to my specific regions and forwarded links to our Annual Reports, our brochures (Human Rights and General Information), and the template for business cards. I shared information about our Facebook page and group and requested that they post regularly as well as communicate with their region and get members to post photos, news, highlights and links to their individual Pride organizations. I wrote to the Directors asking for Regional highlights to include in the e-newsletter. I demonstrated how to create their own webpage in the backend of the InterPride website that will showcase news in their region.

I attended the mid-year meeting for Directors in Atlanta where serious financial discussions ensued and I also attend the Skype meetings on a regular monthly basis. I am currently and actively involved in the Communications, Fundraising and CSIC committees for InterPride. I attended three conferences: Region 1 & 3 in Albuquerque, NM; Region 7 / FCP in Halifax, Canada; and Region 2 in Seattle, WA. At each of these conferences, I was a presenter and offered workshops on marketing, communications and sponsorship. I spoke at all of these conferences on behalf of InterPride and brought our international organizations information to the regions and community. I discussed the importance of sharing information, providing regional highlights for the newsletter, posting on Facebook, and visiting our website on a regular basis. I spoke about the upcoming AGM in Brussels and the early bird deadline date for registration for the conference. I talked about the early bird membership fee deadline for InterPride as well as the benefits of membership. I also talked about the scholarship program for Prides needing assistance to attend the AGM and the solidarity fundraising campaign for support of Pride's in conflict around the world. ■

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

---

*By Caryl Dolinko, Vice President Operations and Communications Chair*

There was consistent email contact with committee members and a couple of Skype calls to move ahead on our task list. There is an ongoing, ever changing task list on Google Docs and we are up to date with all items. The InterPride website, the e-Newsletter and Facebook continue to be excellent methods of sharing information both with our members and associates.

**Newsletter** – We have just over 1000 subscribers to our newsletter. This includes all of our members as well as other international LGBT associations. We had a newsletter in February highlighting the AGM, one in March to promote the mid-year meeting, and one in April after the mid-year meeting. The August newsletter highlighted the AGM in Brussels and September's promoted it again. We sent out notification to Regional Directors in advance of publishing the newsletter to ensure members had time to provide information to share.

**Social Media** – In our Facebook group, we currently have 727 members and our Facebook page has been liked by 3,488 people. We regularly ask member organizations and Regional Directors to post their news to our Facebook page and group. Our Facebook page is getting some traction which is great and people and Prides are starting to post info but we want more, more, more. Facebook provides our members a place to share their information on an international platform. These mediums are reviewed regularly and advertisements or information not relevant to Prides or the LGBT community in any way are deleted. Our Twitter account was dormant and hasn't been utilized yet. A team was in place to tweet but it disbanded before it really got set up. It's now been taken over again and we expect to have a more significant presence on this medium in the next year.

**Website** – We updated the website content and added the front page buttons for Conference, Membership, Donations and WorldPride. We created specific AGM web pages for the conference including hotel and registration, travel and workshop information. The website and its functionality is an

ongoing issue and although we are going to make some minor changes to the front end, there is the need for some serious work in the backend. We continue to review different systems and have a list of requirements that the system needs for both member services and finance, the two most active areas of the system backend. We are recommending a system that we know will meet our current needs and has the ability to grow with our organization.

**InterPride Promotion Kit** – Vinyl banners with the InterPride graphics were created and sold to member organizations. These banners can be part of materials that our members can use at their own events to promote their involvement with InterPride. ■

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

---

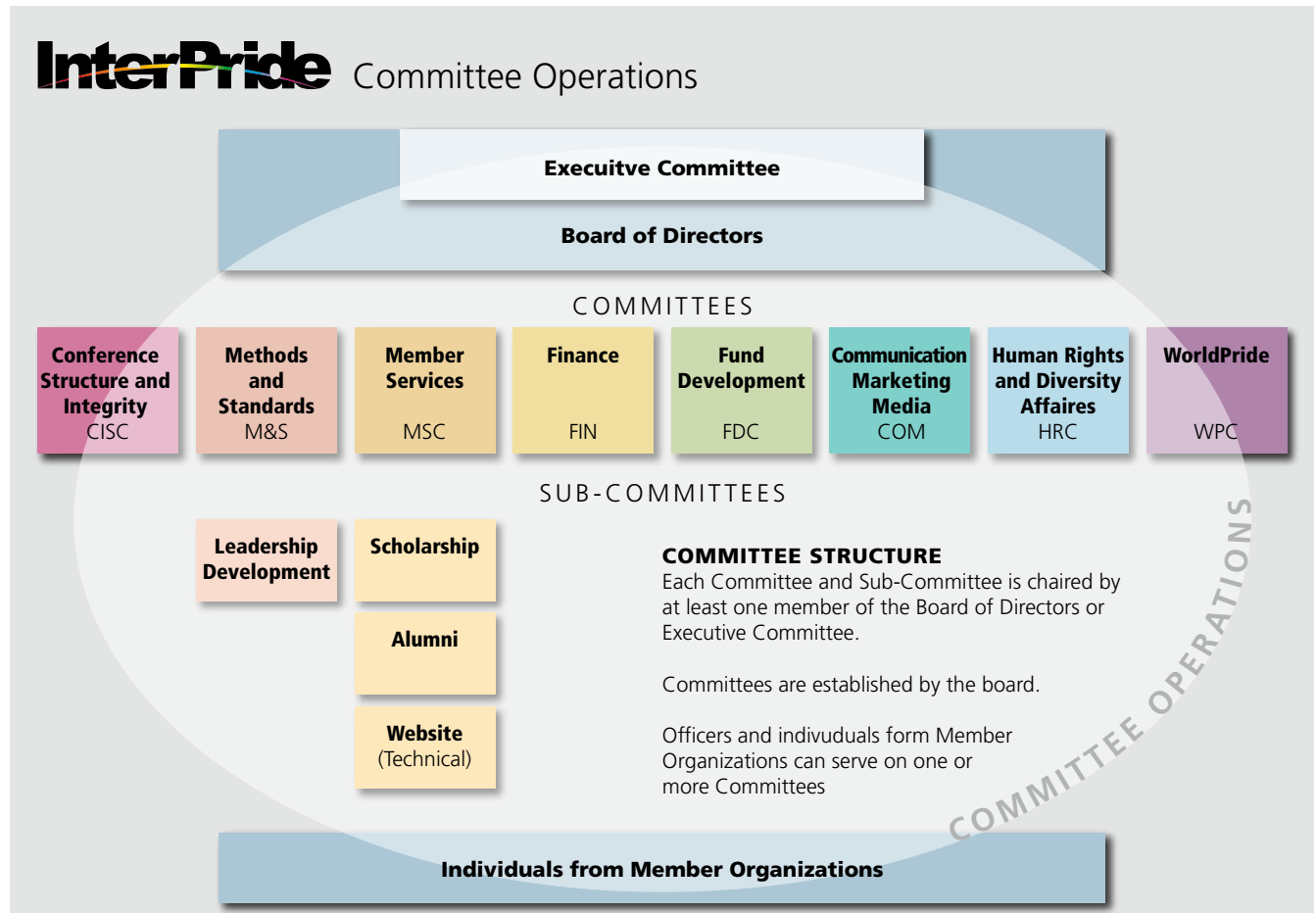
*By Brett Hayhoe, Secretary*

This is my first year as Secretary and I am enjoying the work immensely. I would like to thank the members of InterPride for their support and confidence in me taking on this role and will continue to do my best to produce all relevant documents in a professional, precise and timely manner. It does become a tad frustrating however when Board members do not approve or comment on Minutes (and other documents) that have been sent by email. Hopefully this is something that will change and we can come to a point where the administrative side of the organization can be executed in a more expeditious fashion. I thank you in anticipation of your understanding.

### Media & PR Coordinator

One of the most significant advances in this area for InterPride has been our involvement in Human Rights correspondence to affected areas around the world. We have increased our visibility through this involvement exponentially and are constantly working on joining with other like-minded organizations as a signatory on joint Media Releases. I will continue to work with the Board on maintaining this presence and ensuring that InterPride is considered an organization with a relevant point of view. ■





## FINANCE REPORT

*By Jer Megowan, Treasurer*

The Finance Committee has accomplished all the goals set by the membership. The Finance Committee is working on finishing the Conference Funding Doc, and creating a Regional Director funding doc. The membership had requested that InterPride not incur a deficit. Part of this effort included the 25x25x25 campaign. The board took action at the Mid Year meeting to reduce spending by capping the amount of board member's travel and accommodations expenses to USD 20,000 for the 2011 budget year.

The dues structure was also changed at the Mid Year Meeting and the details of the resolution are below.

### Annual Dues Resolution

InterPride membership is for one calendar year, concluding on December 31<sup>st</sup> of any given calendar year. The cost of membership is based on your organization's gross annual income and the following schedule:

|     |                   |     |     |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|
| USD | 0 - 25,000        | USD | 50  |
| USD | 25,001 - 50,000   | USD | 100 |
| USD | 50,001 - 75,000   | USD | 150 |
| USD | 75,001 - 100,000  | USD | 200 |
| USD | 100,001 - 200,000 | USD | 400 |
| USD | 200,001 - 400,000 | USD | 600 |
| USD | 400,001+          | USD | 800 |

### Discount

If dues are paid by January 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year InterPride would offer a 25% discount on the above due schedule. The discount is based on the following schedule:

|     |                   |     |        |
|-----|-------------------|-----|--------|
| USD | 0 - 25,000        | USD | 37.50  |
| USD | 25,001 - 50,000   | USD | 75.00  |
| USD | 50,001 - 75,000   | USD | 112.50 |
| USD | 75,001 - 100,000  | USD | 150.00 |
| USD | 100,001 - 200,000 | USD | 300.00 |
| USD | 200,001 - 400,000 | USD | 450.00 |
| USD | 400,001+          | USD | 600.00 |

It was also resolved that dues can be paid at the AGM. Our web master is working on preparing our website for this change. ■

## InterPride – Proposed 2012 Budget

Below is the proposed budget, this will be discussed by the finance committee and finalized after a vote by the membership.

### INCOME

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Membership Revenue</b>       | <b>20,000.00</b> |
| OPERATIONS REVENUE              |                  |
| Fundraising                     | 1,500.00         |
| Contract License Fees           | 15,750.00        |
| <b>Total Operations Revenue</b> | <b>17,250.00</b> |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>37,250.00</b> |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>             | <b>37,250.00</b> |

### EXPENSE

|                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>BOARD &amp; CONFERENCE EXPENSES</b>         |                  |
| Alumni                                         | 200.00           |
| Accommodation & Meals                          | 12,000.00        |
| Scholarship Pledge Match                       | 5,000.00         |
| Registration Fees                              | 1,000.00         |
| Conferences & Travel Expenses - Other          | 7,000.00         |
| <b>Total Conferences &amp; Travel Expenses</b> | <b>25,000.00</b> |
| Regional Directors Outreach                    | 1,500.00         |
| Regional Conference Support                    | 6,000.00         |
| <b>Total Board &amp; Conference Expenses</b>   | <b>32,700.00</b> |
| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL EXP</b>        |                  |
| <b>Administrative Charges</b>                  |                  |
| Bank & Interest Charges                        | 250.00           |
| Credit Card Charges                            | 495.00           |
| <b>Total Administrative Charges</b>            | <b>745.00</b>    |
| <b>Communications</b>                          |                  |
| Conference Calls                               | 360.00           |
| Web Site                                       | 1,500.00         |
| Survey Service Costs                           | 180.00           |
| Communications - Other                         | 300.00           |
| <b>Total Communications</b>                    | <b>2,340.00</b>  |
| <b>Insurance and Taxes</b>                     |                  |
| Insurance                                      | 600.00           |
| Taxes – Corporate Filings                      | 600.00           |
| <b>Total Administrative &amp; General Exp</b>  | <b>4,285.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                           | <b>36,985.00</b> |
| <b>Net Ordinary Income</b>                     | <b>265.00</b>    |
| <b>Net Income</b>                              | <b>265.00</b>    |

## HUMAN RIGHTS

*By William Ulrich Vice President, Regions 9, 15, 16, 18 & 19 Chair, InterPride Committee on GLBTI Human and Civil Rights*

An increase of anti-gay hate crimes in **Peru** and **Brazil** was noted in 2011, with shootings and attacks following Prides in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Despite this, both Brazil and Argentina have passed laws recognizing same sex marriage in the past year. However, in Brazil, one person dies every two days as a victim of a homophobic attack. The Brazilian gay rights group Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB), estimates that between 1980 and 2009 at least 3,100 homosexuals were killed by hate crimes in the country. Sadly, it would seem that advancements in equal rights have been met with homophobic backlash.

Since January of 2008, 500 Transpersons have been murdered in nearly 40 countries, most notably in **Turkey**, where there has been an increasing number of unprosecuted hate crimes against the trans population as Islamic fundamentalism continues to rise in that otherwise secular state.

Initial attempts by the Police to ban Budapest Pride eventually failed under international pressure. Conservative elements in **Hungary** attempted to include a DOMA in their new constitution which would serve to institutionalize homophobia in its legal system. This is a clear contradiction of EU standards and cannot pass. And while **Croatia** celebrated 10 years of Pride this year in Zagreb, the first attempted Pride in the coastal city of Split was met with homophobic disruption, violence and shouts of "Kill the Fagots". How little times have changed.

**Belarus** right wing groups have been using Slavic nationalism to ban Pride events as against Slavic traditions. So far this year, Minsk authorities have rejected eight applications for IDAHO events, not at all unlike what we have seen in Moscow and elsewhere in this, and previous years.

The next Eurovision Contest has been awarded to Azerbaijan. This event is well-known for its largely gay participation and attraction. However, like its neighbors, **Azerbaijan** is an extremely homophobic country. We can only hope that there will be no difficulty during the celebration.

Despite protests from EU officials, **Lithuania's** Parliament continues to introduce anti-gay legislation under the guise of banning inappropriate (gay) propaganda to minors. Further, not satisfied with his attempts to promote false information about homosexuals in Uganda, Scott Lively visited **Moldova** earlier this year to give a similar presentation that he gave in Kampala in 2009. Following his visit, increased bullying was noted along with a number of youth suicides. On a brighter note, however, Poznan, **Poland** held a recent successful Pride this year and Civil Unions are now the law of the land in **Ireland**.

In the **United States**, Jesuits settled abuse claims for \$166 million in the ongoing sex abuse scandal associated with the Church. This award went to hundreds of indigenous peo-

ple, particularly in Alaska and the Northwest, who were abused in various parochial schools run by the Catholic Order. Indian Reservations had long been a hiding place for pedophile priests who abused both woman and children.

During March of this year, at the **UNHRC in Geneva**, Columbia delivered a joint statement on behalf of 85 nations from all over the world. In addition to adherence of the principles set forth in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it called for an end to criminal sanction, violence and other human rights violations based on SOGI. Most noteworthy, this is the largest group of nations to date to lend support to the topic of SOGI in relation to Human Rights in the UN.

In an ongoing violation of the **UNUDHR**, asylum seeking continues to be problematic for those hoping to escape persecution in their homelands. Only 15 countries have been accepting asylum seekers from among their refugee populations. While some countries are busy deporting asylum seekers, some countries like Austria are becoming more lenient. However, each situation is handled on a case by case basis and heavily scrutinized. Most persecuted individuals are forced to stay in their native hostile lands and live in the closet or face further difficulties, including harassment, imprisonment and even death. Statistics are difficult at best, but there are indications that Queer Iranians are more likely to receive asylum than Queer Iraqis, but actual percentage figures have not yet been reported. It may be of interest to report that a deaf Connecticut Pride member (name withheld to protect his family back home) is one of only a scant handful of Ugandan citizens granted asylum by the US government. His deportation back to Kampala would surely have resulted in his death.

### Region 9

Our greatest failure with regard to Region 9 was our inability to bring Mariela Castro-Espin to the Brussels conference despite our best efforts over this past year. Mariela continues to fight for equal rights of LGBT people in her native **Cuba**.

**Jamaican** LGBT groups are calling for an end to the victimization of LGBT people by public and state figures and demand that this marginalized segment of the Jamaican population be covered under the non-discrimination clause in their new legislation.

J-FLAG states that "Passing the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms without clear recognition that disability, health status and sexual orientation are the grounds for non-discrimination in Section 13 (3)(i) would be to undermine the strides that have been made globally to guarantee human rights for all persons in a society. At a minimum, J-FLAG proposes that Section 13 (3)(i) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms simply reads 'the right to freedom from discrimination.'"

The Jamaican Parliament has an opportunity to step forward, show true leadership and put an end to the perpetuation

of human rights abuses of vulnerable and marginalized populations. Under the current regime, however, this seems unlikely.

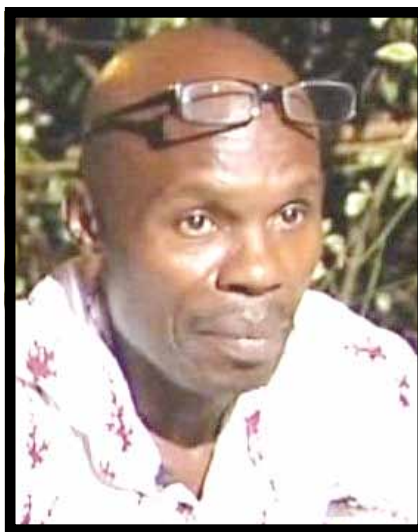
Safety and legal protections for LGBT people in countries throughout the Anglophone Caribbean remain sparse or non-existent for the most part. This is expected to be discussed in an upcoming meeting of Commonwealth nations in Sydney, Australia. We will be watching the developments of this meeting as they occur.

In **Haiti**, the LGBT community continues to be ignored and passed over for much needed assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake and devastation. It should be noted that the vast majority of aid and assistance continues to come from right wing religious fundamentalist groups which are, of course, anti-gay.

In **Honduras** there have been monthly protests staged to bring attention to the fact that the increase of LGBT-targeted crimes have all gone unprosecuted. Since January, 2010, 54 murders have occurred. Religious fundamentalists backed the 2009 coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya and since then, an increase in hate crimes against LGBT people, particularly among the Trans population has been occurring without arrests. Urgings to adopt a more focused attention to human rights and reprimands from the U.S. and other governments are basically ignored.

Despite all these difficulties, Central America has a number of established and developing Pride events, and Jamaica continues to hold various "Walks" and "Stands" for Tolerance in both Montego Bay and Kingston. The first "Walk" organizer, Attorney Maurice Tomlinson from AIDS Free World in Montego Bay, continues to work within CariComm and the OAS system to promote safety and legal protections for LGBT people throughout the region.

*Additional information is available in Herminio Ortega's Regional Director's Report.*



David Kato Kisule

## Region 15

"Toward Europe, Toward Equality": Was a dubious LGBT conference hosted by the **Montenegro** government and boycotted by LGBT groups to protest a lack of any advancement for LGBT people in their society. It was believed that this conference was only held to show that Montenegro is ready for admission to the EU. Apparently not. With regard to **Macedonia's** accession into the EU, the EU Parliament has asked the country to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. This request, however, did not include gender identity.

As of this writing, plans are being worked out for InterPride participation in **Belgrade's Pride Parade** taking place just a few short weeks before the Brussels AGM. We are also

working on bringing a representative of Belgrade Pride to the conference. After some considerable discussion, there has been a separate organization established to organize this and future Prides in Serbia's capital. This new organization would be a welcome addition to the InterPride roster. We will see how this pans out.

*Andrea Gilbert, Regional Director for the area has submitted her report under separate cover.*

## Region 16

There is still no InterPride representation from any African nation. With the exception of the **Republic of South Africa**, where actual Prides can take place, no representative from organizations in any other African nation is likely to come forward at this point in time.

The news of **David Kato Kisule's** tragic murder in January of this year was met with near riotous tumult around the world. It served to remind us all of the horrific situation our

**Ugandan** brothers and sisters face on a daily basis. And while **Kenyan** LGBT groups are quietly raising awareness via newsletters and TV, homosexuality is still illegal in Kenya. But the fervor of Sempa and Bahati are not as prevalent. David Kuria, an openly gay man, is still planning on running for the Kenyan Senate in 2012.

In **Egypt**, women still have difficulty with their place as second class citizens and this is more so the case for lesbians. Gay men are still not accepted. Despite the overthrow of their dictatorship, a more progressive society has yet to develop there and it would seem unlikely as more radical Islamic elements acquire power in the government. This persecution is not only against Lesbians and Gays: two Transpersons were recently banned

from entry into Egypt and deported from Cairo Airport.

Arrests for homosexuality continue in **Cameroon** and elsewhere on the continent with increasing regularity. Cameroonian officials have launched protests against EU support of LGBT people there and Gay Rights advocate Attorney Alice Nkom has been threatened with arrest. As in **Egypt, Tunisia and Libya**, the continued breakdown of dictatorial regimes in Northern Africa have not yet brought about developments for LGBTI rights. This is most notably exemplified in the new nation of **South Sudan**, where prohibitions against homosexuality were immediately incorporated into their new constitution. **Zambia** has recently added a DOMA in their rewritten constitution. Gay Nigerians in the Diaspora have been warned of "jungle justice" if they attempt returns to their homeland.

The **Malawi** government has verbally attacked LGBT-

supportive NGOs there and blames those sympathetic to LGBT issues for the withdrawal of foreign aid. These groups are called unpatriotic and accused of attempting to destabilize the government by forcing it to accept homosexuality. President Mugabe in **Zimbabwe** and President Museveni of **Uganda** have both backed down slightly from their prolific condemnation of homosexuality in their respective countries in efforts to prevent any possible cessation of foreign aid. It is Museveni's wife, Janet, who has now championed the efforts of MP David Bahati and the Reverend Martin Ssempe to call for the continued persecution of gays and lesbians in Uganda, and actively works to support the passage of the Anti-gay Bill which still languishes in their Parliament.

All is not hopeless on the Dark continent, however. In response to the UNHRC, the **Seychelles** have agreed to decriminalize homosexuality there, throwing out the Saved Laws from their colonial past, and while the LGBT community in Kampala has suffered another blow with the closing of their refuge bar, in **Ghana**, along with a showing of "Paris is Burning", a number of Ghanaian citizens stood up and came out at a public forum. Progress throughout the rest of Africa, however, remains slow and cautious.

### Region 18 The Middle East

Iran continues to publicly execute gays accused of homosexuality with three more deaths in recent months.

With more gay clubs opening, **Lebanon** is the closest mecca for LGBT people in the Middle East, but primarily in Beirut only. However, this relative freedom exists only for the privileged, well-connected and well-to-do. Article 534 of the Penal Code stipulates that homosexuality is still an offense carrying a prison sentence, but studies show that the working class and lower income people are more likely to suffer its enforcement. Wealthy Middle Eastern queers come to Beirut to enjoy the gay life they can't readily find at home with any degree of safety.

The ongoing civil discord in **Bahrain** is based on class and a predominantly Shia discontent with an elitist Sunni monarchical government. Overthrow of repressive regimes in North Africa and ongoing battles in the Middle East still do not allow for homosexuality to enter into any discussion of rights and Bahrain is no different.

In **Syria**, Assad uses anti-LGBT rhetoric to focus attention away from his corrupt and repressive government, which commits atrocities on its population. Here again, as we have seen countless times in the past, we are scapegoated as a ruse for political posturing and redirecting attention off of other socio-political difficulties.

### Region 19 Asia

There exists something of a status quo within Asia, with the exception of increased LGBT Human Rights activity throughout

the **Philippines**. In **Singapore**, there is a pending case which, depending on the decision, could be the beginning steps to the decriminalization of homosexuality there, and **Papua New Guinea** reports they are in consultation to begin the process. Singapore made history a few years back with their "Pink Dot" event, in which all participants wore pink and gathered together for an aerial photograph.

**Tokyo** has surfaced again with a new Pride organization and it is hoped that they will join the InterPride family. Additionally, The Blue Diamond Society from **Nepal** has expressed interest in joining InterPride. Given the success of Sunil Pant and his BDS, this organization would be a welcome and valued member of InterPride from the region.

*A separate, more thorough report on Asia will be sent by the Region 19 Directors.*

### Conclusion

Our greatest challenges continue to come from an increasingly vocal, if not growing, far right fundamentalist/conservative religious element. In some respect, this is difficult to comprehend, when so many church groups and organizations support Prides in other areas. (My home Pride in Hartford, CT had nearly 20 supportive church/religious organizations participating with booths at our recent festival and marching in our parade.)

The failure of the conservative/fundamentalist religious right wing to maintain hatred and homophobia in their home bases in some areas of the world have sparked a greater attempt by these groups to export their anti-gay doctrines. We have clearly seen this in the past with the U.S.-based attempts to eliminate homosexuality from countries like Uganda. And these efforts persist throughout Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean and more recently in Asia. However, the efforts in Asia are less successful due to a predominantly non-Christian environment where Islam and Eastern philosophies/religions have a stronger root.

To show the world they are ready for EU admission, Governments are scurrying to sanction HR events, including parades and conferences on equality issues, but not inviting those organizations actually involved with this work to the planning table. This is nothing more than feeble and empty attempts to show the world that these governments wish to move in a direction of equality, but only for the sake of admission into "the club." Governments are basically saying one thing but doing little to back up their empty promises. And the goal is self-serving: not to provide equality per se, but merely to provide a façade, a false shroud of support that really does not exist in daily life.

We see this with the HR conference in Montenegro, which was boycotted by the very NGO HR organizations which should be assisting in the planning and production of these conferences. And in Belgrade, where last year's Pride event took place only to show the world that Serbian society and its gov-



ernment are fully ready to take a place in the otherwise “equal” EU, this year’s event continues to be threatened by right wing hooligans and religious leaders. Ready for EU accession? Perhaps not so much.

Secondary to the continued and often increased religious oppression is the shrinking or lack of funding options; the world economy is still teetering on the brink and more sympathetic governments and NGOs, which used to provide some assistance in the past, are now watching their purse strings with greater scrutiny. In some cases, they have found it necessary to draw the strings closed. This leaves struggling and developing organizations in hostile environments with slim chance of organizing successful Pride endeavors without full support of their indigenous governments, which is rare, if at all. Further, these communities have very little in the way of resources to supplement otherwise diminishing funds. Whether it’s from their own communities or from friendly and supportive governments and NGOs, resource options for struggling Pride organizers do not seem as forthcoming in the shadow of today’s ongoing financial crisis.

InterPride, too, is in serious financial jeopardy so any assistance from us is completely out of the realm of possibility. Outreach by InterPride representatives has become costly to the point of dubious continued participation and on-site support. This is unfortunate, as our presence at more Pride events would not only show a global support which these people desperately need, but it could also be a powerful marketing assist. While past support of InterPride at various events provides fortuitous photo and marketing opportunities (Warsaw, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Belgrade, Brazil, etc.), a lack of resources and available personnel able to outlay the expense makes further InterPride presence at such momentous events, sadly, increasingly unlikely.

In the past, recommendations have been included in the conclusion of this report. In light of our current financial crisis, and, until such time as resources improve, there is little in the way of available options and subsequently, recommendations. However, a more extensive use of Solidarity Letter writing should be utilized on a consistent basis and greater use of our Sister City Program should be implemented by more of our members. Additionally, greater attention should be paid to the increase in global IDAHO events. There is a great wealth of potential members we should be tapping into as IDAHO celebrations can qualify as Pride events. Other suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Before closing, it is necessary to discuss the recent situation in Belgrade. The litmus test for any democratic government is a determination of how well that government provides for its society’s protections and guarantees human rights throughout the entire strata of that society. Human rights and civil protections are not a pick and choose situation. They either exist for all or they don’t exist at all.



Belgrade, Serbia: „Stop Gay Parade“



Less anti-gay graffiti than 2009, but still visible.

When any European nation wishes admission into the EU, there is a set of requirements enshrined in what has become known as the Copenhagen Criteria, established in 1993. This defines whether a country is eligible for membership and, once admitted, members must continue adherence to. “Membership requires that a candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for and protection of minorities,...”

Serbia has within its constitution provisions for the guarantee of its’ citizens’ rights, most notably in this case, LGBT citizens. However, as with many nations, all of them signatories to various international declarations, conventions, treaties, etc., there is a drastic void, a chasm between the rule of law and the actual implementation and enforcement of that law. We saw this in Belgrade with the banning of the planned and scheduled Pride Parade there. Moreover, any discussion of Belgrade Pride cannot occur without the general acceptance and understanding that, while the Serbian government can legislate behavior, it can neither control it, nor the thinking that provokes it. However, it CAN enforce existing laws which demand that the rights





*Thomas Gnocchi from European Union*



*Billy Ulrich and Lazar Povlovic during Pride Forum*

of one group do not supercede the rights of another, particularly when violence against one group by another occurs. But this has not been done with any great intent. The perpetrators of last year's violence against LGBTs, the city, and most notably their own police have yet to be brought to justice for their crimes. And we glare with shock at this appalling failure of their legal system. It would seem, however, to be a purposeful decision.

Open protest is a way of life to effect change in this struggling country, as we have seen, for example, with the ousting of one regime for another, but when it so chooses, and particularly with regard to LGBT issues, the government arbitrarily restricts basic rights as it sees fit. It is never fitting, and as previously mentioned, the inappropriateness of picking and choosing rights for one group or another is highly indicative of an ineffective government, or one which has its eyes on an upcoming election. Too often our issues, or the abhorrence of them, have been used in platforms and posturing for specific political gain. And homophobia can be popular in Serbia.

The excuses for this year's ban ranged the gamut from pending difficulties with an escalating Kosovo crisis to the pro-

tests of raspberry growers in another region of the country. The difficulty in reality has nothing to do with such matters. The government capitulated to threats of violence from a small but vocal segment of the population, which we also saw in 2009. And last year, we saw the results as some of these threats were carried out: Downtown Belgrade looked like an occupied war zone, something the Serbs are all too familiar with. The city is dotted with stone monuments to the overthrow of the 500 year old Turkish yoke, Soviet architecture abounds and bombed out buildings stand in silent homage to the Yugoslav Wars of the 90s and the terror of a despicable ruler whose name is rarely mentioned in polite conversation. To an outside observer, it would seem that the Serbian and Belgrade governments still consider the demands of one minority group, forsaking the rights of another. And again, the world was watching as the government picked and chose.

As a poor excuse to justify the banning of Pride again, it was decided that any co-occurring anti-gay assemblies would also be banned for the safety of the city, thereby violating the rights of assembly, expression and free speech to both sides of the debate...a debate which was, in essence, made illegal. But Belgrade is used to these tactics. And while the world LGBTI community was indeed watching a Pride banning once more, The EU must maintain especially widened eyes. It will also be interesting to see where the Pride organizers take their struggle and debate. The Belgrade and Serbian governments are recalcitrant and selectively hearing-impaired. Perhaps they will be heard in Strasbourg.

Acceptance of and adherence to the Copenhagen Criteria? No. Accession into the European Union? Not yet, surely. Serbia must prove to the world that it is culturally competent to take its place in the global community of free and democratic societies. But, it will take time to change deeply engrained cultural traditions. And it will take education. The Belgrade Pride organizers and the Serbian LGBT community in general have a monumental task ahead of them. Yes, they can and HAVE had dialogue with their officials. And yes, their officials CAN adhere to Copenhagen when they so choose (as was exhibited last year). But it is the PEOPLE of Serbia who need to be educated, to dispel the fear and ignorance that so often breed an irrational disdain and hatred of their LGBT sons and daughters. There needs to be perseverance in opening dialogue with institutions and society in general. The government does not seem as interested in this dialogue as it feigns to. And surely, the all too influential Patriarch will offer no support. The conversation needs to begin one son or one daughter at a time.

In response to this year's Pride ban, organizers arranged for a brief manifestation during a break in the Pride Forum held the day before Pride was to take place. Approximately 50 participants went into the street, stopping traffic with a large banner proclaiming this year's theme: "Love. Normal." Some participants held rainbow flags to match the bright paint splashed

on the road for the short “mini-Pride” photo opportunity. It was a message to the city: We’ll be back next year. We won’t be denied.

Next year will be upon us before we know it. While patience may be a virtue, and time heals all wounds, to change their society, time is what they need the most, and have so little of. ■



*Flash mob Pride*



*Another mob photo*

# Regional Reports

## REGION 1

---

*No report was submitted.*

## REGION 2

---

*By Frank R. Leonzal, Regional Director*

### Regional Directors

RD elected this year (10/2011) **Johnathan Jones**

Alaska Pride Fest/Identity Inc., Anchorage, AK.

RD elected last year (2009) **Frank R Leonzal**

Puyallup, WA.

Alternate RD – Vacant. **E. Gauthier** left Seattle Out and Proud as did Mark Chavez to pursue other endeavors. Seattle Out and Proud has expressed interest in submitting another person from their organization to fill the Alternate position, and discussion is continuing.

### Pride Organization Information

- Number of pride organizations in region 26:  
2 For Profit, 24 Non-Profit
- Number of above who are paid members of InterPride 11
- Number of new organizations:  
Yakima Washington
- Other pride locations identified: Bend Pride, Bend OR.  
Hermiston Pride, Hermiston OR. Corvallis Pride, Corvallis OR.  
Ashland Pride, Ashland OR
- Folded or inactive organizations: 2 – Seattle Black Pride,  
Seattle WA. And Southern Oregon Pride.

### Regional Conference Information

Place and date of last regional conference: Seattle Washington, March 25 through March 27, 2011.

- Host Organization: Seattle Out & Proud with support from  
Alaska Pride, Tacoma Rainbow Center-Out In Tacoma and  
Eugene/Springfield Pride.
- Number of persons attending: 12
- Number of pride organizations attending: 9

- Place and date of next regional conference: TBD. It was decided that only those organizations present in 2011 could bid to host in 2012 for continuity and structure.

### Regional Communication

Meetings with regional directors (Including Alt) Monthly via skype or conference calls, open to all pride groups within the region current members of InterPride or not. Everything seemed to end after our Regional Conference, not sure why – one possibility is that we went into our Pride Season for our area. But overall Communication seems to fall off due to lack of interest? Person maintaining regional database or contact information Frank R Leonzal, Email frank.leonzal@interpride.org

- Postal mailings sent to all or most pride organizations  
Bi-monthly Regional Newsletter
- E-mailings sent to all or most pride organizations  
Bi-monthly or via Yahoo Group as needed

2011 was an exciting year for our region. First our newsletter become available electronically thus putting it into the hands of main people at the various member organizations. A paper copy still goes to all prides, members or not, within our region for further outreach to the non-members who we continue to promote the work of InterPride as well as the importance of communication on a regional level to support each others endeavors.

This year we also made history by holding the first ever full conference for our region. After the AGM in Long Beach California, the new members of the region came away charged up and ready to go, not content to carry on with business as usual up to the AGM.

I myself was caught off guard by the number of attendees at the AGM for Region 2 and how much they wanted to proceed with a regional conference. At the same time this new energy and enthusiasm has come at a good time to keep the momentum going forward.

With the help of people from *Alaska Pride, Seattle Out and Proud, Tacoma Rainbow Center-Out In Tacoma* and *Eugene/Springfield Pride* a conference was planned and executed within three months of inception. Special guests included Vice-Presidents Caryl Dolinko who presented on Marketing as well as Billy Urich on Human Rights Issues.

Several Seattle and International business also made the conference possible through their support, Seattle Out and Proud, Life Long AIDS Alliance of Seattle hosted the Friday night Welcome Reception along with Barefoot Wines and Bubbly and Catering Services by Leonzal Enterprises, Dana Fialdini of Ivy Rain who facilitated our host hotel- The Renaissance Seattle and Ground Transportation by First Student Charter Services Location 12125.

Other local organizations that presented were the Greater Seattle Business Association (Gay Chamber of Commerce for Seattle), The Pride Foundation (which mirrors the InterPride Region 2 with the exception of Wyoming) and Incentives by Design (presented on creating brand name products for pride).

2011 has been a very active and successful year for Region 2 and we look forward to a productive remainder of the year as we head into pride season. With the 2011 AGM taking place out of country you may not see as much representation from our region, however anticipation is high for 2012 when it returns to the U.S. in Boston. Much excitement is brewing as we continue to work and communicate together as what is becoming one very big team. We are lucky to have Johnathan Jones as our 2<sup>nd</sup> RD and Eric Gauthier as our Alternate. Both have much valuable experience to share with others in our region and the various stages of 'life' in our many pride events.

### September 2011

After our regional conference everyone seemed to go about their business and communication really dropped off more than I had liked or intended. The region newsletter fell off track, however it was like no one even noticed or cared as there was no feedback (which was the norm).

Due to the ongoing U.S. Depression, personal funds were not at a point that allowed myself to travel great distances this year to visit other pride events. I had to reduce the number visited and stay closer to home to the point of only visiting Washington state area prides.

One of the issues in Seattle seemed to resolve itself by the Owner of the Seattle Gay News taking on a bigger role in the Capital Hill Pride Fest which continues to grow. George Bakan assured me that past actions from a few would stop and that all community groups would be welcomed-this included InterPride (who was not allowed to participate along with the Tacoma Rainbow Center-Out in Tacoma and the 2nd oldest gay car club in America Ethyl Forever Car Club). This stemmed from my own former participation on the Seattle Pride Board in 2005 when talks were going on about moving the pride events off Capitol Hill.

Alaska Pride suffered a terrible tragedy this year with their Pride Parade when the car for the Grand Marshall struck a person from another group at the start of the parade. Sadly the person did not survive and the police cancelled the parade. Our thoughts go to that organization and community as they continue to heal.

There were no other reports of any good or bad incidents from other area prides in our region that I am aware of. I did try a new approach in Yakima Washington with a booth since I had to rep three groups-InterPride, Tacoma Pride and the Ethyl Forever Car Club. It was interesting to see the reaction to just having the IP banner on display and having brochures available for both InterPride and our Human Rights work. It spurred lots of conversation and education and possibly planted seeds for people to get involved with Yakima Pride as well as possible donors to InterPride. PR and education is an obvious issue we need to address as an organization and all member Prides should have a banner and some sort of InterPride display at their events with our materials for education and to plant the seeds that will hopefully bear fruit in the very near future.

One PR issue I did have is getting the materials supplied by Billy for the HR display printed. With corporations cutting back on what once were good, old-fashioned customer service-places like Office Max, Staples and Office Depot have outsourced printing projects that are "more" than a standard copy. It was suggested a more 'hometown' source such as Minuteman Press or other local print type shop be approached who would take the time to crop/size and laminate the pieces.

There has been much action with groups that are and are not members of InterPride working with Barefoot Wine and Bubbly. It has been exciting to see the different sized events take advantage of this relationship and add much needed revenue to their budgets while supporting a worthwhile sponsor.

Thus far, Olympia Pride and Seattle Pride Fest by One Degree have started this year while the Tacoma Rainbow Center-Out in Tacoma has started the ground work for 2011-12 calendars with 2 to 3 main events. Rachel is very nice to work with and is very excited about the possibilities within our region. She is very supportive of our efforts as prides and our mission while we support Barefoot and their efforts. ■

## REGION 3

*By Paul Collom, Regional Director*

One of the biggest events this year for me was the CAPI conference that Santa Fe Pride hosted for Region 1 and Region 3. We had 67 Registrants for the conference with six prides attending from Region 3. In the past, Region 3 usually only had 2-3 Pride organizations attending. The conference was held February 17-20, 2011 in Albuquerque, NM.

This year in the State of New Mexico, Gallup NM held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pride festival. Tony Ross, (2<sup>nd</sup> regional Director for Region 3) attended and helped with their pride. Taos Pride in Taos NM held their 1<sup>st</sup> pride last year, Tony Ross, Dona Hatch VP of InterPride, and I attended and helped them with their event. We have lent them help and gave them guidance for



their event. They suffered a great loss by when their President passed away just weeks before their event.

I was in contact with Don Mills to help get Houston Pride, Austin Pride, Taos Pride, Las Cruces Pride, and Gallup Pride as new members joining this last year through our website. There were some pride organizations that mentioned after seeing the conference we held that they would be joining Interpride. We also had many organizations mention they will be attending the AGM in Brussels this year. I think a major deciding factor for this was them attending the regional meeting. The goal we had for the conference was to give prides in Region 3 a chance to attend a regional conference. And by doing so, we sparked their interest in Interpride more.



Organizations I have been able to locate and get them information about InterPride and our Region 1 and 3 meeting next spring.

|                                           |                  |    |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|----|
| Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center | Colorado Springs | CO |
| Fortpride                                 | Fort Collins     | CO |
| Gill Foundation                           | Denver           | CO |
| The GLBT Community Center of Colorado     | Denver           | CO |
| Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Club              | Aspen            | CO |
| Bicycle Boys From Hell                    | Denver           | CO |
| The Group                                 | Denver           | CO |
| COSA/Colorado Outdoor Ski Association     | Denver           | CO |
| Dyke Bike Club                            | Boulder          | CO |
| Equality Rights Colorado                  | Denver           | CO |
| Feminist & Gender Studies                 |                  |    |
| The Colorado College                      | Colorado Springs | CO |

|                                                        |                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----|
| Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Rocky Mountain Chapter          | Denver           | CO |
| Boulder Pride                                          | Boulder          | CO |
| GLBT Resource Center University of Colorado at Boulder | Boulder          | CO |
| ACLU of Colorado                                       | Denver           | CO |
| Southern Colorado Outdoor Project                      | Colorado Springs | CO |
| Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado                        | Colorado Springs | CO |
| Colorado Springs Pride Center                          | Colorado Springs | CO |
| Western Equality Colorado                              | Grand Junction   | CO |
| Pridefest                                              | Denver           | CO |
| Southern Colorado equality Alliance                    | Pueblo           | CO |
| Prairie Pride                                          | Wichita          | KS |
| Wichita Pride Inc                                      | Wichita          | KS |
| Albuquerque Pride, Inc.                                | Albuquerque      | NM |
| Human Right Alliance                                   | Santa Fe         | NM |
| Equality New Mexico                                    | Albuquerque      | NM |
| New Mexico GLBT Centers                                | Las Cruces       | NM |
| New Mexico Outdoors                                    | Albuquerque      | NM |
| Taos Pride                                             | Taos             | NM |
| Southern NM Pride                                      | Las Cruces       | NM |
| OKC Pride Inc.                                         | Oklahoma City    | OK |
| Aids Support Program Inc/ The Winds House              | Oklahoma City    | OK |
| Cimarron Alliance Foundation Inc.                      | Oklahoma City    | OK |
| COTA                                                   |                  |    |
| Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance                  | Oklahoma City    | OK |
| CU Pride c/o Student Activities                        | Lawton           | OK |
| Dennis P. Neill equality Center OKEQ                   | Tulsa            | OK |
| Oklahomans For Equality                                | Tulsa            | OK |
| LGRL Calkin Fund                                       | Austin           | TX |
| El Paso GLBT Community Center                          | El Paso          | TX |
| OUTstanding Amarillo                                   | Amarillo         | TX |
| Dallas Tavern Guild                                    | Dallas           | TX |
| Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce               | Austin           | TX |
| Equality Texas                                         | Austin           | TX |
| Pride Houston                                          | Houston          | TX |
| Unity Foundation, Inc                                  | San Antonio      | TX |
| Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association              | Fort Worth       | TX |
| Southwestern Pride Parade Committee                    | El Paso          | TX |
| El Paso Sun City Pride                                 | El Paso          | TX |
| Salgado equalities                                     | Snyder           | TX |
| Allgo-A statewide Queer people of color organization   | Austin           | TX |
| Bar Association for Human Rights                       | Houston          | TX |
| Dallas/Fort Worth Stonewall Dive Club                  | Dallas           | TX |
| HATCH                                                  | Houston          | TX |
| Lambda Mermaids                                        | Dallas           | TX |
| Oaklawn Ski & Scuba Association                        | Dallas           | TX |
| The Ethan King Foundation Inc.                         | Austin           | TX |

|                                       |             |    |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|----|
| The GLBT Cultrual Center              | Houston     | TX |
| The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas | Austin      | TX |
| Youth First Texas                     | Dallas      | TX |
| Adventuring Outdoors                  | Austin      | TX |
| Houston Outdoor Group                 | Houston,    | TX |
| Resource Center Dallas                | Dallas,     | TX |
| Atticus Circle                        | Austin      | TX |
| Hope Alliance                         | Round Rock, | TX |
| The Human Potential Center            | Austin      | TX |
| Outstanding Amarillo                  | Amarillo    | TX |
| Texas Human Rights Foundation         | Austin      | TX |
| Oklahoma City Lesbian                 |             | OK |
| Oklahoma Lesbian.com                  |             | OK |
| The Greater Houston GLBT              |             |    |
| Chamber of Commerce                   | Houston     | TX |
| Unity Foundation                      | San Antonio | TX |
| North Texas GLBT                      |             |    |
| Chamber of Commerce                   | Dallas      | TX |

---

*By Tony Ross, Regional Director*

I began this year by assisting in preparing for the joint Region 1 and Region 3 Pride Conference. As a member of Los Ranchos Pride, I assisted with coordinating and taking the nearly 80 registrations.

I was able to get thirty organizations registered. We had Dr. Marci Bowers, a leading sexual assignment surgeon, provide an evening of interaction watching the movie, "Trinidad", followed by a question and answer session. Additionally, I served on the committee coordinating the event and gathered sponsors. It was held February 17-20, 2011.

We had individuals from Boston to Vancouver, BC to Hawaii in attendance. It was a very successful event. As a result of getting the word out and getting participants here for the weekend meeting, Taos Pride, El Paso Pride and Honolulu have joined InterPride.

I am currently working closely with Taos organizing Board of Directors training and El Paso Pride to help them to get more connected with InterPride. I helped present board training at Taos Pride in early spring. In April I attended the mid-year meeting in Atlanta. I have attended some of the monthly InterPride telephone conference call meetings.

I volunteered to help with Santa Fe, NM's inaugural Pride Pageant before the "Pride Season" began. As a result, Santa Fe Pride has two Pride Titleholders. I co-produced the inaugural Pride event for Los Ranchos, NM. We had over 400 in attendance at our picnic and fun day in the park. I attended and worked at the Prides in El Paso, TX; Flagstaff, AZ; Santa Fe and Taos, NM in various coordinators positions. This was Taos' second annual event.

I have attempted to get more Pride organizations interested in InterPride and have had communication with several Prides in an attempt to get these organizations members of InterPride. ■

---

## REGION 4

*No report was submitted.*

---

## REGION 5

*Jame Parker Sheffield, Regional Director*

Directors: James Parker Sheffield, Atlanta Pride

Alternate Director: OPEN

Resigned Directors: Amy Lockett, VA Pride

Joshua Wallace, Mobile Pride

Region 5 (POSE) had 24 dues paying members for 2011. While the region did very well in terms of membership, we've had lots of turnover in leadership. Amy Lockett was elected at the regional conference as RD and Joshua Wallace was elected ARD at that same conference. Both Amy and Joshua resigned later during the year.

### New Leadership

At least two individuals have expressed interest in taking on leadership roles in Region 5. While we will not conduct elections until the next regional conference, I am hoping to utilize these individuals before then. My term is up at that conference and I cannot seek re-election.

### Upcoming Conference

The 2012 POSE Regional Conference will be held in Asheville, NC March 23-25. Blue Ridge Pride is the host organization for the event and has done an excellent job preparing thus far. The 2013 conference will be hosted by Nashville Pride in Tennessee. We are exploring options of hosting a joint conference with Region 6 in 2014.

### Renewing Members

I will begin spreading the word about renewing membership before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. My are hopes that everyone gets on track with that, so we do not have issues of people waiting until March.

### Member Events

A call was put out to POSE members to give us information about their 2011 events. Below are the responses that were received. At the time of this report, some members had not yet held their event including Atlanta and Blue Ridge.

#### • Hampton Roads Pride

Held an amazing event at the beginning of June this year in a new location in Downtown Norfolk. Estimates from the city are that of about 17,000 people in attendance. Still working on date for 2012, but will most likely be hosting our event in May of 2012.

#### • Nashville Pride

2011 Festival was Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2011. Approximately 15,000 guests attended the event at Riverfront Park in downtown Nashville, TN. There were over 100 vendors and three stages. Artists performing included: Kimberly Caldwell, Kat Graham, Jonny McGovern, God-des and She, and Kimberly S. Other events included: Pride Rocks! Celebration at Hard Rock Cafe, Pre-Pride blowout at PLAY Dance Bar, and Post-Pride party on Church St. The 2012 Festival will be June 15-17, 2012.

#### • Augusta Pride, Inc.

Augusta Pride had its second pride festival June 25, 2011 with approx 7,000 people in attendance and about 90 vendors. Headlines were Kristine W. and Niki Harris (the voice behind Madonna). Next year our pride festival will be held June 23, 2012. Working on planning a multi-day event for 2012. 2012 launch party is planned for some time in November.

#### • The Gainesville Pride Festival

The Gainesville Pride Festival will take place on Saturday October 22. Anticipating 3,500 to 4,000 attendees haven't yet determined the date for our 2012 event.

#### • Mobile Alabama Pride

Mobile Alabama Pride was April 29 – March 1, 2011 with about 3000 people in attendance over the weekend. Working on confirming 2012 dates of April 20 – 22, 2012.

#### • New Groups in the area

Lake City Florida held its first ever Pride festival on Sunday, July 31. Attendance was around 400 with folks from Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Valdosta GA and Gainesville participating in this great event. We look forward to hosting their second annual event in September of 2012.

## REGION 6

*By Keri Aulita, Gary Van Horn, Jr., Regional Directors  
and Sherri Rase, Alternate Regional Director*

### Regional Director Activities

- Keri Aulita and Gary Van Horn attended the 2010 Long Beach AGM. At the Region 6 meeting, Gary Van Horn was elected to the RD position for a two year term.
- Sherri Rase was re-elected to the ARD position for a two-year term.
- Since March 2011, we have held regional conference calls monthly.

### Regional Conference

- Pittsburgh hosted a combined Region 5/6 conference March 3-6. Over 180 participated in the conference.
- Region 5 had 16 organizations present and 35 delegates.
- Region 6 had 18 organizations present and 86 delegates.
- The weekend was filled with 22 workshops and presentations including Brian Bond from the White House, Nathan Manske from ImFromDriftwood.com and Michael Hinson from the International Association of Black Prides.
- The 2012 NERP Conference will be held in Rochester, NY. The 2013 conference will be held in New Hope, PA. There is discussion underway to hold a joint regional conference in 2014 (region TBD).

### Outreach

- Presently Region 6 has 23 members. We have identified three organizations that have not renewed their membership and we are personally reaching out to them to renew. These include CNY Pride, Erie Gay Pride and Rhode Island Pride.
- Four newsletters were created & sent to the region
- We are continuing to update our member email list and contact info utilizing a Google doc.
- We have reached out to our members looking for ideas and thoughts on new and exciting membership benefits.
- Continuing outreach and reminders have been sent to renew membership and pay dues.

### 2011 Goal List – By membership

- Establish mentoring program for new members
- Increase outreach efforts to increase membership including college groups & minority prides.
- Ensure accessible conferences
- Identify an archivist
- RD team to pass along info about prides that need assistance/sponsorship
- Increase communication within region including board business information



- Complete a regional conference planning document including a checklist
- Start to utilize the regional finance committee
- Look into regional fundraising opportunities



*On June 24, the weekend before 2011 Heritage of Pride, the New York state senate passed Governor Andrew Cuomo's Marriage Equality Act by a vote of 33–29. New York joined Washington, D.C. and six states — Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont in the United States where LGBT can now legally marry.*

#### **2011 Goal List – By Regional Directors**

- Send out monthly communications
- Establish a regional conference committee to take a more active role in the regional conference planning, including a bid presentation checklist
- Establish a procedure for holding a joint conference every 3 years
- Identify 2014 prospects early and work with them to build a bid and presentation



*Chesapeake Pride Festival*



On June 9, 2011, R&B diva **Patti LaBelle** was the featured headliner at Pride in the Street at Pittsburgh Pride. Nearly 70,000 people attended the 10-day event doubling the previous year's attendance. ■

## REGION 7

*By Marion Steele and Mark Singh Regional Directors  
on behalf of the Fierté Canada Pride Board of Directors*

### Conference and Annual General Meeting

Fierté Canada Pride (FCP)/Region 7 Prides convened for its Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dates: March 18-20, 2011. Host: Halifax Pride, [www.halifaxpride.com](http://www.halifaxpride.com)

### Participants:

- Capital Pride (Ontario)
- Célébrations LGBTQA Montréal (Quebec)
- Halifax Pride (Nova Scotia)
- Guelph Pride (Ontario)
- Pride Toronto (Ontario)
- Saskatoon Diversity Network/Saskatoon Pride (Saskatchewan)
- Vancouver Pride Society (British Columbia)
- WinterPRIDE (British Columbia) (via proxy)

### Workshops:

- Retaining Volunteers
- Kids Can Enjoy Pride Too – Managing a Children's Area at Pride
- SMAC – Start Making Abilities Count
- Interfaith Services at Pride
- Theatre and Pride
- Communication Planning for Pride
- Big Pride, Little Pride

### Key outcomes:

1. The Region was restructured creating four new sub-regions (Pacific, Prairie, Central Canada and Atlantic).
2. Six Directors were elected or re-elected to the Board.
3. Elections were held for one Region 7 Director position on the InterPride Board. These elections were nullified due to confusion over IP election rules and subsequently re-held. Mark Singh, President of Fierté Canada Pride, was elected to the position.
4. The 2013 Conference & AGM was awarded to Capital Pride (Ottawa). The 2012 Conference & AGM will be held March 15–18 in Kelowna, British Columbia.

### Pride Reports

- **Calgary Pride** (IP/FCP) – September 1 – 11; estimated 15,000 people attended the Parade; key milestone: Mayor Nenshi the first ever Calgary Mayor to march in the Parade. [www.pridecalgary.ca](http://www.pridecalgary.ca).
- **Capital Pride** (IP/FCP) – August 19 – 28; estimated 60,000 people attended the Parade on August 28. [www.capitalpride.ca](http://www.capitalpride.ca).
- **Célébrations LGBTQA Montréal** (IP/FCP) – August 9 – 14; 300,000 people attended the Parade, 30,000 more than in 2010. Cultural component of the festival increased dramatically. [www.fiertemontrealpride.com](http://www.fiertemontrealpride.com).
- **Edmonton Pride** (FCP) – June 10 – 19
- **Fete Arc-en-ciel de Quebec** (FCP) – September 2 – 5. Most well-attended event in the 7-year history. [www.glbtcquebec.org](http://www.glbtcquebec.org).
- **Halifax Pride** (IP/FCP) – July 17–24; 70,000 people attended the Parade representing a doubling of participant numbers. New initiatives included: a Kids Can Area & formal Sponsor Reception. [www.halifaxpride.com](http://www.halifaxpride.com).
- **Okanagan Pride** (IP/FCP) – Aug 8 – 13; 2,500 participants throughout the event; milestones include: first time that the rainbow flag was raised at City Hall; first ever drag performance. [www.okanaganpride.com](http://www.okanaganpride.com).
- **Pride Toronto** (IP/FCP) – June 23 – July 3; estimated 1,000,000+ people attended the Parade on July 3. [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com).
- **Prince George Pride** (IP/FCP) – July 6 – 10; 15<sup>th</sup> annual festival and biggest yet with participation from residents of many nearby towns (Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Quesnel, Williams Lake, and Smithers.) [www.pgpride.com](http://www.pgpride.com).
- **River of Pride/Riviere de Fierté Inc** (IP/FCP) – August 17 – 21; 12<sup>th</sup> annual Parade. [www.fiertemonctonpride.ca](http://www.fiertemonctonpride.ca)
- **Saskatoon Diversity Network** (IP/FCP) – June 5 – 12; 2,500 people attended the Parade. [www.saskatoonpride.ca](http://www.saskatoonpride.ca).
- **Vancouver Pride Society** (IP/FCP) – July 31; 600,000 people attended the Parade. [www.vancouverpride.ca](http://www.vancouverpride.ca).
- **Windsor Pride** (FCP) – August 5 – 7; 7,000 people attended the Parade. [www.windsorpride.com](http://www.windsorpride.com).
- **Winnipeg Pride Inc** (IP/FCP) – May 28 – June 5; 15,000 people attended the Parade. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012. [www.pridewinnipeg.com](http://www.pridewinnipeg.com).
- **WinterPRIDE** (IP) – January 30 – February 6. [www.gaywhistler.com](http://www.gaywhistler.com).

From a Fierté Canada Pride/IP Region 7 member:

*"On behalf of Northern British Columbia, thank you everyone for you on-going work with Prides around the world. We know it is not always an easy battle, but it is one of great importance that changes lives and brings the most unlikely of people together for one common purpose."*

Yours in Pride,  
Valentine Crawford, President, Pride Prince Geor





## One million participants – EuroPride 2011 in Rome was a great success!

*By Andrea Maccarrone, EPOA Media Relations*

The big parade from Piazza della Repubblica to Circo Massimo, passing by the Coliseum was just the culmination of 10 days of celebration, cultural events, political and business meetings as well as parties. Between June 1 – 12 the EuroPride Park in Piazza Vittorio saw thousands of people participating at different events and activities arranged by different associations and the organizers. Also to mention is the great concert of the Pavarotti Foundation at the Auditorium, the LGBTI Film Festival and the International LGBTI multi-sports races.

At least thirty-five floats and one million people participated in the big parade, marching through a sunny and friendly Rome with many guests, participants, and delegations from all over Europe and the World. We were also happy to

welcome the organizers of Baltic Pride, LAMBA Turkey and Zagreb Pride.

Franco Dota of Zagreb Pride, a new EPOA member, addressed the crowd at the Circo Massimo and informed about the rights in his country, and the appalling situation in Split, where 8,000 Neo-Nazis prevented two hundred brave marchers from celebrating their first Pride. EPOA condemns this attack and sends its full support and sympathies to our sisters and brothers in Croatia as well as in all countries where Prides and LGBTI rights are still endangered and attacked.

EPOA strongly supported a EuroPride in Rome in 2011, eleven years after the World Pride in 2000, to support and help the Italian LGBTI community in the fight to obtain equal rights, equality and dignity. Italy is one of the last countries in Western Europe without any kind of positive legislation to protect or promote LGBTI rights, relationships and families. With the strong political march this year we brought the solidarity of Europe to Rome and Italy.



EuroPride Roma 2011 saw the extraordinary participation of the pop star **Lady Gaga**. We were very pleased about this uncommon strong and clear support. Her passionate



*The crowd at Circo Massimo*



speech, calling for for rights, full equality now, freedom, love and dignity to all our lives worldwide was touching as well as her live performance of "Born this Way" and "The Edge of Glory".

From the stage, EPOA president, Mark Frederick Chapman and the board thanked Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli the organizers of EuroPride 2011 for their immense work and success and officially handed over the EuroPride title from Rome to Marseille, organizers of EuroPride 2013. EPOA also invites everybody to come to London in 2012 for WorldPride.

EPOA wished all Pride organizers and hosting cities in Europe and around the world Happy Prides of joy and peaceful campaigns for equality.



*Members of the EPOA board*



*The fantastic sights of the eternal city*



*EPOA EuroPride Ceremony on stage*



*Pride Park in the city center*

## REGION 9

*By Herminio Adorno Ortega, Regional Director*

The San Juan, Puerto Rico Pride was a success, participation and visibility wise, however due to lack of donations from sponsors and the public, the event might not occur in 2012. Some very big changes need to be made in the organizing committee and outreach beyond those present, as it is still in very large debt. Possible changes could be changing the location of the Rally/Festival as this would reduce many expenses. Also the pridefest (different from the COA one) was cancelled due to possibility of rain which would make one think people more open to donating as that one is a pay to get in and COA's is free of charge, this is also another possibility in future of San Juan Event.

The Orgullo Boqueron, held on west coast of the island, had a record participation and although interest was shown in the beginning by the new chair/owner of event calls of recent times have not been returned so am letting calm a bit to not push too hard and possibly turn off a new member of InterPride. This event is due to change location as the local businesses made lots of money yet very little was donated in return to the organizers who brought in aprox. 20,000 people to this small fishing town. This is currently a free event, however this may be reconsidered in the future. The event may also charge admission as well as sell alcohol.

The Dominican Republic again held its car caravan of Pride organized by an AIDS prevention group, a trans Group and a local bar. My contact in the Dominican Republic says that only reason they get together is for the Pride event but there is lots of infighting.

Cuba had two event in Havana that am aware of via the press and internet. One was the "government sponsored" event/rally/parade and another which we shall see if happens again is by a group which does NOT want to be identified as being government sponsored. They had a walk on one of the major pedestrian tourist walk zone of Havana, with close to 200 persons attending. ■

## REGION 10

*By Paul Birrell, Regional Director,  
Chairman Pride London, WorldPride 2012*

### Political Developments

After much to-ing and fro-ing, the United Kingdom's Coalition government decided that its consultation on marriage equality due for the summer of 2011 would be postponed until later in the year. With austerity measures and the recent riots high in the public's mind, and riots recently rocking high streets around the country, it is likely that this deadline will slip further.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) performed a tremendous volte face during 2011. Proposals to grant exemptions to religiously inclined workers from equalities legislation – effectively allowing workers to claim that their views gave them the right to refuse to provide goods and services to LGBT people – were initially supported by the EHRC. After almost universal condemnation from Human Rights groups, and backing from hard-line Christian groups, the EHRC U-turned and refused to support such an exemption. The EHRC's reputation with either side of the debate has nose-dived over this incident.

In Scotland, a member of the governing Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) put down a motion stating that nobody should be 'forced to be involved with' gay marriage. His motion, unfortunately coinciding with the Scottish government's Social Survey identifying that 61% of Scottish people supported marriage equality, was roundly slapped down, even within his own party, and stands no chance of progressing through the Scottish parliament.

The Conservative Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Nigel Evans, was welcomed after coming out as being gay. Given the number of out LGBT Members of both Houses of Parliament nowadays, this didn't attract the attention that it would have some years ago, and may have been overshadowed by the continuing antics of the wife of the current Speaker.

2011 also saw the rise and fall of East End Gay Pride. The East of London had been plagued with stickers quoting the Qu'ran and calling for a 'gay-free zone'. An organization raised its head to organize a Pride event there, immediately causing fractious disputes amongst local LGBT groups, with claims that the event was itself Islamophobic. The event collapsed acrimoniously when one of the Pride organizers was unmasked as a member of the far-right English Defence League. Nonetheless, much criticism was directed at the various groups' infighting and continued inability to organize any form of protest.

### Pride Events

As the financial storm battered the global economy, 2008 – 2010 was a difficult period for many Prides in the UK and Ireland. Pride giants London and nearby Brighton recorded deficits and led to much talk that the events would collapse. With sponsorship plummeting as the recession bit, only ticketed Manchester Pride seemed to weather the storm without too much of a financial hit. Approaches to this differed, with Brighton going ticketed and London reshaping its sponsorship strategy, and it looks as if 2011 saw recovery finally shine through, with strong initial reports posted from both organizations.

The plethora of 'Pride' events – many little more than a local bar's efforts – seen recently seems to have abated, and several of the smaller events seem to have disappeared from the map. Larger Prides appear to be growing, with good attendance overall, and with the notable transformation of Liverpool

from a Pride-less city into one with a Pride event whose size would cause envy in many a similar-sized city.

## Region 10 Members

### Pride in Brighton and Hove

[www.brightonpride.org](http://www.brightonpride.org)

Under intense pressure over its crowd management, Brighton Pride transformed itself from a free event for 130,000 festival goers, to a commercial event capped at approximately 50,000 ticket holders. In order to refresh the offering given the new entrance charge, Brighton Pride doubled the size of its club tent and introduced a main stage for the first time since scrapping it a decade ago. The addition of a camp site to ease overcrowding at the city's hotel accommodation was also introduced for the first time.

Attendance looks to have been under capacity, but to have held up well, with around 30,000 attendees being claimed by news outlets to have been at the park, and 100,000 attending the event, including the parade, overall.

After carrying a substantial deficit over from the previous year, Brighton Pride claims to have broken even for the event, although the unusual wording has attracted comment as to whether that deficit is cleared as well. Brighton is also under pressure to justify its charitable status given its new commercial nature which could add to balance-sheet pressure.

Nonetheless, it looks as if the first-year transition from free event to commercial event has gone well for Brighton, and it will be watched with interest by other Prides to see how it evolves.

### Pride London

[www.pridelondon.org](http://www.pridelondon.org)

Pride London saw reduced numbers at its event in 2011, with organizers claiming that numbers had fallen to around the 600,000 mark. Pride London has been particularly hit by recent public works in central London, causing it to lose its Street Party in the gay district of Soho in 2010. Although regaining that element in 2011, Pride London suffered the loss of its secondary stage, Leicester Square, and a third of its Parade route, Oxford Street, to those public works.

Despite the lower numbers and infrastructural problems, Pride London announced that it had gone back into surplus following the 2011 event, having carried a deficit previously.

Pride London is preparing a massive push for WorldPride, with a flurry of announcements and changes following their 2011 event. The board was substantially refreshed following new elections, although long-serving Chair Paul Birrell was re-elected to a sixth term of office. Pride London announced its new event-management partnership with Mama Group, an events-specialist division of the music company HMV, and out-

lined Mama Group's taking over of many operational functions under Pride London. Pride London also announced a headline sponsorship deal with drink giant Diageo, securing significant funding for the following year.

### Manchester Pride

[www.manchesterpride.com](http://www.manchesterpride.com)

Manchester Pride had a hugely successful 2011, with headline acts Alexandra Burke and Pixie Lott attracting great attention. This year marked 21 years of the much-loved Manchester event, and crowds were high, with an estimated 45,000 in attendance at the three-day festival, and several hundred thousand watching the parade, which was this year themed as 'Best of British'.

Jackie Crozier, the events Chair, announced her resignation after this year's event, citing her successful six years with the Event, and the hope that Manchester could have hit the £1 million pound mark for cumulative funds raised for charity – the largest of any UK Pride. Jackie has seen the event through some challenging periods: disputes with City Council, disagreements over its charity fundraising and other matters common to Pride festivals. Despite these challenges, Jackie has managed a stable and well-managed event that weathered the recent financial turbulence that hit free events Pride London and Brighton Pride and continued its strong showing.

### Cardiff Wales LGBT Mardi Gras

<http://cardiffmardigras.co.uk>

Wales' unofficial national Pride event has been a solid success for some years, despite an occasionally hostile environment and unsympathetic policing. Nonetheless, plans for the 2011 event appear well advanced (the event was 3<sup>rd</sup> September, after this report's 31st August deadline) and the event remains a popular one, attracting 40,000 participants.

Cardiff, the last of the UK's large Pride events in the calendar, is joining with the Cardiff Festival in 2011 and festivities look well in hand.

### Outburst UK

[www.outburstuk.org](http://www.outburstuk.org)

Following on from its successful November 2010 festival, Outburst has had a quieter 2011 following some personal issues internally. Nonetheless, Outburst looks set to come back in 2012 and is in discussion with Pride London to manage its BAME stage during WorldPride.

### Belfast Pride

[www.belfastpride.com](http://www.belfastpride.com)

Ireland's largest Pride event, Belfast Pride, is prominent in tackling equality issues head-on. This year's Pride on the Hill event in Belfast's parliament building, Stormont, was attended by all of the country's main political parties with the exception of the governing Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The hard-line party,



after suffering the embarrassment of its Bible-bashing leader's wife, Iris Robinson, being caught with a teenage toy boy, failed to attend claiming insufficient notice of the event; a problem none of the other parties appeared to suffer from.

This year's parade also courted controversy with placards reading 'Jesus, protect me from your followers' and 'Jesus had two dads (and he turned out just fine)' attracting condemnation from outspoken Christian groups, and leading MLA Jim Allister of the fringe Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV), to report the Parade to the Police and Parades Commission.

### Dublin Pride

[www.dublinpride.ie](http://www.dublinpride.ie)

Dublin Pride is a relatively recent phenomenon in the Pride schedule, and has produced a small but stable event for several years now. The main festival event is hampered by the drinks ban on public places, leading to a dry event that is a sobering sight compared to many of the more alcohol-fuelled Prides. The arts festival and parade have gone some way towards establishing Pride here in Ireland, but without some leeway given to the event, it is hard to see it growing significantly.

### Oxford Pride

<http://oxfordpride.org.uk>

The university city hosted another successful Pride in 2011. Although small in scale – attendance is of the order of a few thousand only – Oxford's been energetic in promoting its Pride, and it has been a success. Its 'Let's Get Brave Together' theme focussed on positive role models for within the LGBT community.

### Birmingham Pride

[www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)

The UK's second city's free two-day Pride event is one of the UK's largest, with approximately 100,000 attendees and the first Pride of the UK calendar, taking over the local gay area for a fun-packed street party. This year saw another successful year, marred only with a handful of alcohol-related incidents – a symptom not unique to Birmingham and which many Prides are now struggling with.

The theme this year was 'One Love, One World, One Community' and the event itself featured dance, cabaret and pop stages intermingled with plenty of bars. The pint-sized parade – restricted because of the desire to go through the pedestrianised gay district, but tiny for the event's size – was a colourful start to the festivities, while the streets thronged with a boozy and friendly crowd.

### Special Mention

#### Liverpool Pride

[www.liverpoolpride.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolpride.co.uk)

Liverpool notched up its second Pride this year, and has record-

ed phenomenal success in attracting 40,000 people to so young of an event. Its 'Summer of Love' theme attracted a larger-than expected crowd and organizers behind it expressed little short of amazement at their own success. Created partially in response to the murder of a young gay man (Michael Causer in 2010) the event has lost none of its campaigning edge as it expands.

Liverpool's pressure on the City Council to recognize the gay district formally also appeared to be gaining ground, and the transformation of this city's perception on the LGBT circuit has been transformed. This energetic and forward-looking Pride event should be commended for its success, and the enthusiasm shown by its organizers and backers serve as a model for all Pride organizers.

## REGION 11

*No report was submitted.*

## REGION 12

*By Stefan Baier, Regional Director*

### Number of LGBTI Pride organizations in the region

In Region 12 there are 62 Prides (55 in Germany, four in Switzerland, six in Austria and no Pride in Principality of Lichtenstein). Currently 8 Prides are member organizations of EPOA and InterPride (six from Germany, one from Switzerland, one from Austria).

### Activities

Since I was alone as a RD the last year I was looking for a Alternative Director and it seems that I found somebody who wants to help me with this job – Christian Grothe from Zurich Pride, Switzerland. He is responsible for Communications in his organization and a good friend living very close to where I work in Switzerland. Unfortunately he cannot be with us at this year's AGM and therefore cannot be elected.

The plan is still to organize a Regional Meeting as we have such a lot of Prides in our Region!

Our Facebook Group for Region 12 was changed from a "group" to a "page" beginning of this month as there was not really much communication in the group.

I am very happy to see that Cologne and Berlin will take part at this year's AGM in Brussels – so I won't be the only representative along with Mark Chapman from our region.

An invitation letter to the AGM, together with the information about the scholarship program, was sent to the organizations.

**Pride Events in Region 12**

|                                                                       |             |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| CSD Innsbruck                                                         | Austria     | 28.05.2011     |
| Kiel – CSD Schleswig-Holstein                                         | Germany     | 04.06.2011     |
| Hannover– Schwules Leben                                              | Germany     | 12.06.2011     |
| Wien                                                                  | Austria     | 18.06.2011     |
| Brühl (Fantasypride)                                                  | Germany     | 18.06.2011     |
| Münster                                                               | Germany     | 18.06.2011     |
| Oldenburg/Lust e. V. – CSD Nordwest                                   | Germany     | 18.06.2011     |
| Regensburg – RESI                                                     | Germany     | 18.06.2011     |
| Trier                                                                 | Germany     | 18.06.2011     |
| Berlin CSD auf der Spree                                              | Germany     | 23.06.2011     |
| Berlin                                                                | Germany     | 25.06.2011     |
| Linz (HOSI Linz)                                                      | Austria     | 02.07.2011     |
| Schwerin                                                              | Germany     | 02.07.2011     |
| Geneva – La federation LGBT Geneve                                    | Switzerland | 02.07.2011     |
| Bielefeld – Netzwerk lesbischer und schwuler Gruppen in Bielefeld e.V | Germany     | 16.07.2011     |
| Konstanz                                                              | Germany     | 16.07.2011     |
| Rostock                                                               | Germany     | 16.07.2011     |
| Wuppertal                                                             | Germany     | 16.07.2011     |
| Kreuzlingen                                                           | Switzerland | 16.07.2011     |
| Augsburg                                                              | Germany     | 23.07.2011     |
| Lübeck                                                                | Germany     | 23.07.2011     |
| Mainz – Sommerschwüle – Les-Bi-Schwules Sommerfest                    | Germany     | 23.07.2011     |
| Würzburg - Toleranz Fabrik e. V.                                      | Germany     | 30.07.2011     |
| Essen                                                                 | Germany     | 06.08.2011     |
| Nürnberg                                                              | Germany     | 06.08.2011     |
| Bonn - Aids-Hilfe Bonn                                                | Germany     | 06.08.2011     |
| Rhein-Neckar e. V. (Mannheim, Heidelberg, Ludwigshafen)               | Germany     | 13.08.2011     |
| Ulm                                                                   | Germany     | 13.08.2011     |
| Ingolstadt                                                            | Germany     | 13.08.2011     |
| Koblenz                                                               | Germany     | 20.08.2011     |
| Magdeburg                                                             | Germany     | 20.08.2011     |
| Siegen                                                                | Germany     | 20.08.2011     |
| Dortmund – Schwullesbischer Arbeitskreis Dortmund                     | Germany     | 27.08.2011     |
| Kassel                                                                | Germany     | 27.08.2011     |
| Darmstadt – vielbunt. verein der darmstädter community                | Germany     | 27.08.2011     |
| ideboat am Mondsee                                                    | Austria     | 03.09.2011     |
| Iserlohn – Schwul-Lesbische Initiative Märkischer Kreis               | Germany     | 03.09.2011     |
| Halle – Begegnungs- und Beratungszentrum Lebensart                    | Germany     | 10.09.2011     |
| Soltau – Rosa Tag im Heide-Park                                       | Germany     | 10.09.2011     |
| Köln / Germany                                                        |             | 01.-03.07.2011 |
| Düsseldorf / Germany                                                  |             | 01.-05.06.2011 |
| Leipzig / Germany                                                     |             | 02.-09.07.2011 |
| München / Germany                                                     |             | 02.-10.07.2011 |

|                                                           |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weimar – CSD Thüringen – Aids-Hilfe Weimar / Germany      | 02.-16.07.2011    |
| Karlsruhe / Germany                                       | 03.-05.06.2011    |
| Köln – Leather Pride – Rheinfetisch e. V. / Germany       | 09.-13.06.2011    |
| Potsdam – CSD Brandenburg / Germany                       | 15.-24.04.2011    |
| Cottbus – Aids-Hilfe Lausitz / Germany                    | 16.-17.09.2011    |
| Zürich / Switzerland                                      | 16.-19.06.2011    |
| Braunschweig – Verein für sexuelle Emanzipation / Germany | 16.-30.07.2011    |
| Saarbrücken – LSVD Checkpoint                             |                   |
| Saarbrücken / Germany                                     | 22.-24.07.2011    |
| Stuttgart / Germany                                       | 22.-31.07.2011    |
| Dresden / Germany                                         | 26.06.-03.07.2011 |
| Hamburg / Germany                                         | 29.07.-07.08.2011 |
| Frankfurt/Main / Germany                                  | 29.-31.07.2011    |

**Outreach/Promotion**

There were new Prides in Ulm, Karlsruhe, Ingolstadt, Darmstadt, Weimar and Bonn (Germany) and Geneva (Switzerland) this year. And there will be new Prides in Delemont, Jura (Switzerland) and Heilbronn and Amberg next year!

I have already contacted them and I am planning to visit their Prides next year. And I hope they will come to the AGM next year as well.

**Prides I visited**

Zürich (Switzerland) – **Zurich Pride Festival** (June 18<sup>th</sup>)

I visited The Zurich Pride Festival with its festival and demonstration on 18th June and had a great day. Zurich is beside CSD Kreuzlingen (organizes the border-crossing Pride with CSD Konstanz every second year) the only regular Pride which is taking place in Switzerland until now. Zürich is an InterPride member.

**Konstanz-Kreuzlingen** (Germany/Switzerland – July 16<sup>th</sup>)

Unique in the world, this Gay Pride was again border-crossing and assembled sexual minorities from the entire Lake Constance region, but also far beyond it in order to claim social acceptance and to demonstrate against demarcation, exclusion and limitations. There was a hot summer day, when the demonstration started in the late morning to a colorful day under the rainbow flag. The border crossing was celebrated with Beethoven's Ode to Joy, and was the symbolic heart of our colorful procession.

It is part of our conception to offer accessibility to disabled people and they are integrated in all speeches. Also showacts are translated by a sign language interpreter for the deaf.

A colorful celebration under the rainbow in the afternoon was celebrated in the city garden on the shores of Lake Constance. Numerous food, bars, as well as information and sales stalls were there, and a high-caliber show program was

shown. There were not only LGBT-people celebrating, there were a lot of heterosexuals as well. The glorious sunshine accompanied the show afternoon.

In addition to the Bundestag-member of the Greens, Tim Sailer, also the Minister of the Baden-Württemberg Minister Peter Friedrich (SPD) talked to the audience. Both speakers spoke on their political efforts to counteract homophobia contrary to realize the equal rights of sexual minorities and the achievement that soon the civil registry offices and same-sex partners are opened – here Baden-Württemberg was formed under the old state government say the “red lantern”.

Unfortunately our Patron, the Mayor of Constance Horst Frank, couldn't join us but he was represented by Mayor Kurt Werner reading the greetings of the city of Constance. Even the city's administration building at Constance was wrapped in a large rainbow flag.

The breathtaking conclusion of our Pride at the lake was the large CSD Pride Passion Party in the historic Council of Constance, with four top DJs on two floors with an open outdoor terrace overlooking the lake. ■

## REGION 13

*By Ruben De Keyser, Regional Director*

### Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon took place on Saturday June 4 and was a resounding success with record attendance at the March of Diversities.

Montpellier is located beside the Mediterranean Sea in the south of France. This is the second largest gay pride in the country.

### The Belgian Pride

This year the Belgian Pride held its 16<sup>th</sup> edition in downtown Brussels on Saturday, May 14 with a record attendance of 45,000.

The parade closed the prideweek, which included exhibitions, film, sports and lectures. The main theme this year was international solidarity, so the parade started with one minute of silence in support of the region's that don't have LGBT civil rights and where LGBT people are prosecuted.



### Roze Zaterdag Nederland

The Dutch National LGBT Pride, “Roze Zaterdag”, took place this year in Groningen. The main event, the parade and the rally on July 2, was visited by over 35,000 people. It was the finale to a week of events with exhibitions, film, sports and lectures about the necessity of LGBT Pride in the Netherlands.



## REGION 15

*By Andrea Gilbert, Regional Director*

**Region 15 (Balkans, SE Europe-Mediterranean) consists of the following countries** (\* indicate IP members; Bold indicates successfully held annual Pride events):

Albania

Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Bulgaria – Sofia Pride\***

**Croatia – Zagreb Pride; Split Pride**

Cyprus

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**Greece – Athens Pride\***

Kosovo

Montenegro

**Romania – ACCEPT Romania, Bucharest GayFest**

**Serbia – Belgrade Pride**

**Slovenia – Ljubljana Pride**

**Turkey – Istanbul Pride; Trans-Pride; KAOS GL Marching Against Homophobia & Transphobia – Ankara**

### General Remarks

I am delighted to report that in 2011 three more organizations joined EPOA/InterPride, increasing official Region 15 participation to five members. Region-wide, there have been some advances in legal protections and increased government awareness in general – perhaps mostly forced or mandated by European dictates. But this progress, in many cases, is not reflected in popular attitudes and behavior in these conservative and sometimes dangerously homophobic and transphobic societies. Even when legislation exists on paper, it may not be applied in the courts, and hate-crime victims are reluctant for various reasons to take legal action. It is therefore encouraging that many groups and NGOs are emerging in the region that, in addition to institutionally directed activism, have as their goal Pride Parades and other events focusing on LGBTQI rights. This year, coincidentally a number of the region's Prides were held on the same dates. Of course, there are local factors that govern the choice, but hopefully we can do some collaborating in 2012 to stagger the dates so that we can attend each others' events.

### Athens Pride (May 31-June 4)

Athens Pride 2011 was the most challenging, exhausting and, in the end, most successful to-date. Despite the climate of intense civil unrest and economic uncertainty, our Parade attracted a record 10,000 marchers – at least 2,000 more than last year. We were particularly concerned for the safety and indeed the feasibility of our Parade because of huge anti-government demonstrations taking place in Syntagma Square and in front

of Parliament, the focal point of our parade route. But, in the end, determined to march no matter what, we overcame our trepidations and the two police blockades (set up ostensibly “for our own safety”) and marched as planned – gaining in numbers and enthusiasm as we went. There were some protests from fascists and religious fanatics, but only a few very minor incidents. Moreover, undaunted by the general tumult in the streets, we managed to hold two successful street events in the city's busiest public spaces: “20 People and One Lesbian – A Public Opera” by artist Chryssa Tsampazi (May 31); and a performance by London's Pink Singers (June 3).



*Athens Pride Parade merges peacefully with the civil protests in front of Parliament*

Notable this year was the delegation of 20 activists from the two new Albanian NGOs (Pink Embassy and LGBT Pro-Albania) – the first ever participation of an Albanian delegation in any Pride parade.

Accept-Cyprus was present, too, as was the Deputy Mayor of Cologne. Representatives from Turkey and Lebanon also gave addresses.



*Cypriot activists are planning to hold the 1st Cyprus Pride in 2012*

In addition to our main all-day event, Athens Pride Week was preceded by a two-day ILGA-Europe Greece Solidarity and Networking Conference (May 27-28), with representation from a number of organizations from Albania, Cyprus, Northern Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Turkey, and Belgium. Another first was a film



showing initiated and organized by the Museum Alex Mylonas-Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art in conjunction with Athens Pride.



*Record crowds enjoy the post-parade live concert in Klafthmonos Square*

As for government recognition: After four years of scornful rejection by his homophobic predecessor, our new socialist party mayor finally bestowed on us the (purely symbolic) Aegis of the City of Athens. We invited him to speak but he declined, claiming that he was to be out of town. Neither did he send a representative. Another dubious official honor came from the Ministry of Culture & Tourism: With visions of Pink Euros, the National Tourist Board (EOT) decided after seven years to recognize the city's largest peaceful street event and baptize "Rainbow Week" the week leading up to Athens Pride as part of its new "Athens Every Week" campaign – again a purely symbolic gesture. After many heated and not always respectful negotiations, EOT still insisted on listing our day-long event and Parade as simply one more item on a schedule of various commercially-driven films and parties. And finally, a disappointing post script: Current social, political and economic conditions in Greece have forced Athens Pride to rescind its intention to bid for EuroPride 2014. However, we do intend to reapply at the earliest possible opportunity.



*The British Embassy marches in Bucharest GayFest*

### **Accept – GayFest Romania** (May 30 – June 4)

*(Information contributed by Bogdan Istrate, ACCEPT Press and Services Coordinator.*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Bucharest GayFest, organized by ACCEPT, Romania's largest LGBT organization, included a week of related events culminating in a Pride March on June 4. The march – a highly protected and therefore generally peaceful and festive affair – had 320 participants, approximately the same number as last year, with more than 1,000 attending related events during the week. This year marked the first participation of the American Ambassador in Romania. He was joined by his Swedish and British counterparts and a contingent from the British Embassy. In other good news, ACCEPT is proud to report that it won the 2011 ERSTE Honorary Award for Social Integration with its project DIVERSITY – The Reality Around Us. The project was selected out of 1,850 applicants from 12 countries. Romania received five honorary awards at the ceremony.

### **CROATIA**

*Information contributed by Marko Jurčić, Zagreb Pride*

#### **Split Pride** (June 11)

Held just one day after Croatia received the green light for entry into the EU on July 1, 2013, the Dalmatian city of Split's first attempt at a Pride Parade had a devastating outcome. The March was brutally attacked by some 10,000 nationalist homophobes who hurled cobblestones, tear gas and other missiles at the 400 peaceful participants. The consensus is that the local police were unprepared for, and incapable of, coping with the extent and intensity of the violence, and are further blamed for implicitly enabling the protestors by allowing them too close to the marchers. Although most reports state that the march was cut short by the violence, in the end, 400 Pride marchers, many from Split, managed to complete the entire route as planned. But the organizers called it "worse than Belgrade 2001."



*Homophobic nationalists attacking Split marchers*

According to Jur i, Split Pride was organized by two Zagreb based groups, Iskorak and Kontra, to the exclusion of Split LGBT locals and Zagreb Pride, and was focused on same-sex



marriage. Their announcements that “The Pride is replacing itself from Zagreb to the Dalmatian capital, Split,” led the public to initially believe that Zagreb Pride would not take place at all.

### Zagreb Pride (June 19)

From disaster to triumph: Just one week after Split, a record 4,000 marched in the 10th Zagreb Pride. Throughout the intervening week, the Zagreb organizers waged a media blitz that sent positive messages and mobilized people to position themselves against violence and homophobia. They also wanted to reverse the prevailing homophobic they-got-what-they-asked-for discourse. We met with the President and many EU ambassadors and discussed the fact that the Split police allowed the violence to happen and that they were neither prepared for nor trained by Zagreb forces on how to prepare for anticipated violence.



*A record 4,000 marchers pass by Zagreb's central square*

With the exception of national TV, Croatian media support was overwhelming. The slogan was: “Let’s say no to violence. Come and support Zagreb Pride.” Our videos were shown everywhere. The typically highly competitive Internet portals were our biggest allies and in a unique show of unity and solidarity decided to make a joint statement in favor of Zagreb Pride.

The 4,000 marchers who showed up were some four times more than any previous Zagreb Pride and at least double what the organizers expected. There were more police than ever, but most were in plain clothes, so it all actually looked very good. More significantly, there were no incidents at all. In the end, organizers felt that much of this year’s event was more reactionary and that the March was in fact a ‘solidarity march’. However, it succeeded in attracting many Croatian LGBTs who would never have attended a Pride Parade, as well as politicians and other allies, who somehow finally understood what Pride is really about. However, the organizers still feel that it will be very difficult to achieve at least the same number next year.

### Sofia Pride (June 11-18)

Another success story was this year’s 4<sup>th</sup> Sofia Pride, with a record 1,200 marchers, 40% more than 2010 and 75% more than 2009. Although the parade and park venue are still tightly secured by the police, the atmosphere was relaxed and joyful – a far cry from the anxious, three-tiered security fortress that I attended in 2009. The city has permitted counter demonstrations on the same day for the past three years, which have undermined the Pride efforts and stirred up homophobic sentiments. This year organizers feared that a similar protest would interfere with their peaceful Parade and petitioned the government to disallow it. If any such demonstration took place, it happily had no effect on the Pride.



*Mustering before the Parade – left to right: MEP Michael Cashman, foreign & Roma activists, RD 15 Andrea Gilbert*

Despite a drastic reduction in funding this year, the organizers were able to produce several events, including an art exhibition and a roundtable on the deficit of SOGI protections regarding hate speech and hate crimes. Participating were the Ombudsperson, representatives of Amnesty International and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee as well as lawyers, journalists and myself, representing Athens Pride and InterPride. The Belgian, Finnish and British embassies also hosted a reception on June 13.



*Post-bashing strategizing: clockwise from lower left: RD 15 Magdalena Guenova, Sofia Pride organizers, injured activist (center), Amnesty International observers, and SP volunteers*

Unfortunately, the post-Pride euphoria was marred by an assault by a group of unknown young men on five Pride activists as they walked home from the police-secured Pride area. Three were injured in the attack and one treated in the hospital. There were witnesses and the activists notified the police and pressed charges. Amnesty International issued a condemnation. The investigation is being assisted by the American Embassy's Vice Consul and other international activists, with legal representation provided by the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee. Although this was clearly a hate crime, the inadequate Bulgarian Criminal Code may prevent it from being addressed as such. At the time of this writing I have no further news of the case.

### **Ljubljana Pride** (May 28 – June 4, 2011)

Ljubljana held its 11<sup>th</sup> Pride march on June 4. Its slogan last year was "Enough Waiting!" – referring to the extended government deliberations to amend the Family Law to include same sex-couples and families. The new legislation seemed imminent. But apparently, one year later, things are still unresolved. To emphasize this, organizers used the same poster as last year – activists waiting at a bus stop – but crossed out the printed dates of last year's Pride, hand-writing the 2011 dates on top. The slogan was "We Are Still Waiting!" I could not find any other details on the Slovenian event.

### **Belgrade Pride** (October 11, 2010 review; October 2, 2011 projected)

After two aborted attempts (2001, 2009), Belgrade finally managed to hold its first complete Pride march. To avoid the extreme violence (including deaths) surrounding previous efforts, the authorities completely cleared and cordoned off the parade route, meaning that in effect, participants marched "in a bubble." Marchers were then whisked off in windowless police vans to safe houses while the city raged in a proper war. As in 2009, Athens Pride sent a delegation to the 2010 event.

On August 18, 2011, Belgrade Mayor Dragan Đilas issued a statement that Serbia was "facing far more important problems" than holding the Pride Parade in its capital city. Claiming to have the safety of the participants, the police, and city's property in mind, he declared that "the police are the ones who should say whether or not the parade can go ahead for security reasons."

Organizers have told me that, despite this, they do have support from other government officials and are determined to hold a march this year. Athens Pride will write letters of support to Serbian officials. And at the time of this writing, Athens Pride volunteers from the newly formed Colour Youth group are organizing a delegation to Belgrade Pride 2011 under the auspices of the Athens Pride Solidarity & Exchange Program.



*Athens Pride delegation in Belgrade 2010*

### **Montenegro** (September 2-5, 2011)

In further Balkan news, the "first ever government-sponsored LGBT conference in the Balkans" was held Sept 2-5. Called "Toward Europe, Toward Equality", the Conference was organized by the Government of Montenegro, in cooperation with the International Academic Conference Justice in the Balkans: Equality for Sexual Minorities, The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law in the United States, the Lund University Department of Sociology of Law in Lund, Sweden, and the European Commission on Sexual Orientation Law (ECSOL). Financial support was provided by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade.

However, all that glitters is not gold. Typically, such governmental initiatives in this region, especially when couched in superlatives, have another agenda of their own – in this case meeting the qualifications for entry into the EU. The attractive Rainbow Flag can be readily manipulated. Ample proof of this is the fact that all eighteen (18) Montenegrin NGOs dealing with every aspect of human rights signed a letter of protest and boycotted the Conference.

In addition to the formal NGO demands, which I forwarded to the IP Human Rights Committee, Zdravko Cimbalevic, Executive Director of LGBT Forum Progress, told me that from the beginning of this year the government patently ignored or simply gave lip-service to every initiative of the LGBT NGOs, including their draft Action Plan against homophobia and the organization of the first Pride in Podgorica. "All these months we were holding open doors to government to review their decisions and support our first Pride event and walk with us and talk on it. They didn't want to do it so we needed to postpone it. The same is [true for] the draft Action Plan and other things. Now when they saw that they need SOMETHING for the Progress Report that is finishing the end of September this year, they decided to organize a BIG Conference on LGBT rights where NGOs were not consulted and again ignored. We just received an invitation to talk on a Pride event that never actually happened." And the icing on the cake: "[For] almost

two years now we are trying to get rid of our Minister for Human and Minority Rights after numerous homophobic public statements. Now we find out from the Agenda that he will be one of the opening speakers of the Conference!!! Imagine that.”

### **Albanania – Pink Embassy & LGBT Pro Albania**

*Information supplied by Altin Hazizaj and Estella Ziu*

This year I was contacted by two collaborating Albanian NGOs who work on an institutional level. They attended Athens Pride with a group of 20 LGBTs and straight members. This was, according to Altin Hazizaj (left in photo), the first time an organized Albanian group marched in any Pride parade.



*The Albanian booth @ Athens Pride: Pink Embassy / LGBT Pro Albania*

On July 28, 2011, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in Albania [MOLSAEO] in collaboration with PINK Embassy / LGBT Pro Albania organized a public roundtable on LGBT rights titled “Protect human rights against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity”. The aim was to discuss the situation of the LGBT community in Albania with members of civil society and LGBT community representatives. With EU entry as an ultimate goal, Albanian authorities have their eye on fulfilling the EU recommendations and priorities on anti-discrimination legislation and human rights protections for SOGI. Representatives emphasized the measures that need to be taken, with specific emphasis on the need for a shelter, protections in the workplace and housing, education, and visibility. MOLSAEO has formed a Work Group for formulating an Action Plan against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. With some 60 representatives present from government institutions, NGOs, the LGBT community, foreign organizations in Albania and the media, the organizers were very enthusiastic about the results.

During and after Athens Pride, Altin Hazizaj and I discussed the possibility of a Tirana Pride in 2012. After much consideration they seem to feel they are not quite ready for a Parade. However they are planning next year to hold an LGBT Festival in one street, similar to our Athens Pride Square, with stands from which NGOs can distribute information and materi-

als, meet with people etc. Athens Pride will be there, of course. According to Hazizaj, “this could be a good starting point and from there we can see how we can think of Tirana 2013. The community here is not yet ready so we still have a long way to go yet.” I have been invited to meet with organizers in Tirana this fall and am very excited about doing so.

## **TURKEY**

### **Ankara: KAOS GL – Regional Network Against Homophobia** (May 19-22, 2011)

In May I had the good fortune to attend this important event, held for the first time as part of the International Meeting Against Homophobia. The latter is a chain of events hosted by the Ankara-based KAOS GL in 20 cities throughout Turkey in conjunction with IDAHO. This was the sixth such meeting. Activists from Region 15 countries Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Armenia, and Georgia met with Turkish activists from all over country. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with people I knew and meet many others in Region 15 and elsewhere. I found the entire experience extremely productive. KAOS GL has plans to continue this Regional Network project with meetings and publications. An email list for the exchange of information was set up soon after the meeting and has been very active.

### **Marching Against Homophobia and Transphobia** (May 22, 2011)

*Information contributed by Nevin Öztop, KAOS GL*

The Marching Against Homophobia and Transphobia has taken place in downtown Ankara since 2006, the same year KAOS GL began organizing its IDAHO program. The March takes place on the weekend closest to May 17.



*RD 15 Andrea Gilbert with activists from Lebanon (right) and Israel*

Organizers believe that some 700 marched this year, and that both the numbers and also the diversity of allies are increasing each year. They were particularly excited that LGBT refugees



from Turkey's eastern neighbors – mostly Iran and Iraq – who reside temporarily in satellite cities, joined the March for the first time. Nevin Öztop writes, "They came with their families and it was amazing to see parents [and young siblings] taking the same risk as their sons and daughters and moving to another country. The refugees were chanting 'Ahmedinejad, we are here!', to show that they exist and will keep doing activism even if they are exiled." Next year, organizers hope to involve the Turkish feminist movement, a core ally, and to include heteronormativity among their targets.

Local media coverage of KAOS GL and IDAHO events runs the full spectrum, from provocatively homophobic, as well as sexist, nationalist and militarist, to remarkably enlightened and supportive. So far, they have not experienced any negative public reactions to their Marches. I can say that the related street performances in a busy central square gathered a crowd of mostly men, but they were silent and appeared simply curious. However, on the night of last year's (2010) March, five Trans activists were detained and brutally beaten by police officers.

#### **Istanbul Trans Pride** (June 19)

The second Istanbul Trans Pride, organized by several groups such as the trans-male initiative, Voltrans, took place the Sunday preceding Istanbul Pride week. A Trans Pride organizer informed me that approximately 1,500 transgenders and allies attended this year, an increase from 2010.



*1,500 transgenders and their supporters march in Istanbul*

Turkey has a very large, well-organized transgender community, which is a frequent target of serious police and civilian violence. Most Turkish transgenders are sex workers and many are national minorities, making them exceptionally vulnerable. In the past 3-4 years, police presence had been non-existent, with a virtual media blackout on all transgender news. However, "something happened" this year and suddenly Trans Pride was all over the newspapers and even on prime time TV broadcasts. Despite their tiny budget, organizers are looking forward to continuing and expanding the project.

#### **Istanbul Pride** (June 20-26, 2011)

This was the 19<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Pride in this city of some 13 million. Every year organizers plan a week of consecutive political and cultural events, several each day, most bilingual, leading up to the Parade on Sunday evening.

With several thousand parading through the city's busiest pedestrian thoroughfare, this is the largest LGBTQI march in a majority-Muslim country. Turkey has been gradually improving its record on LGBTQI issues in order to conform to EU human rights standards. Activists have accused the Turkish government of expressing hostile attitudes toward the country's LGBTQI community. Aliye Kavaf, the Minister for Women and Family Affairs, said in a 2010 interview in the newspaper *Hurriyet*: "I believe homosexuality is a biological disorder, an illness, and should be treated." Turkey obviously still has a long way to go.

## **REGIONS 16, 17 & 18**

*These Regions are currently not represented by Regional Directors. The activities are included in the reports of the Vice Presidents.*

## **REGION 19**

*By Sridhar Rangayan, Regional Director*

### **KASHISH gets Bigger, Bolder & Queerer in its second year**

The second edition of the Mumbai pride event KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival 2011 was held May 25-29, 2011 at two venues – Cinemax Versova and Alliance Francaise. Kashish is the only LGBT film festival in India to be held in a mainstream theater and to be given a clearance by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

This year the festival screened 124 films from 23 countries over five days and had 67.5% capacity turnout with about 6,225 audience attendees. There were 15 houseful shows. Seven films were awarded with the Kashish 2011 trophy.

National award winning filmmaker Shyam Benegal as the Festival Patron and popular Bollywood actress Celina Jaitley as the Festival Ambassador, opened the festival. A bevy of Bollywood celebrities – Juhi Chawla, Rahul Bose, Pooja Bhatt, Sanjay Suri, Samir Soni, Neelam Soni, Aleque Padamsee, Suhasini Mulay, Dolly Thakore, Rajit Kapur, Mona Ambegaokar, Karan Mehra; eminent jury members from India to Indonesia – Sai Paranjpye, Khalid Mohamed, Shernaz Patel, Samir Soni, John Badalu; visiting international filmmakers – Rikki Beadle-Blair (UK) and Q. Allan Brocka (USA), host of young Indian filmmakers and a very supportive media upped the festival buzz to greater heights, making KASHISH, India's biggest Queer film festival.



Bollywood actress Pooja Bhatt and Jury Chairperson Sai Paranjpye release KASHISH 2011 Festival Catalog



Media frenzy to interview Bollywood stars Juhi Chawla, Rahul Bose, Arjun Mathur, Sanjay Suri and director Onir

The festival was a free event and along with film screenings, there were panel discussions, performances and interactions with filmmakers. Being an effort to mainstream LGBT issues among the general audience, at this year's KASHISH, 68.5% identified themselves as belonging to LGBT community while 32% of the audience identified themselves as non-queer (up from 27%). Hence KASHISH 2011 presumably reached out to a wider mainstream population.



The queue winds far across the lobby

KASHISH was organized by Solaris Pictures and Bombay Dost in association with The Humsafar Trust. It was supported by DKT India, UNDP, UNAIDS & Movies That Matter.

More information about the event can be found at [www.mumbaiqueerfest.com](http://www.mumbaiqueerfest.com). Detailed report can be requested by writing to the Festival Director Sridhar Rangayan at [sridhar.rangayan@gmail.com](mailto:sridhar.rangayan@gmail.com).



Packed cinema hall

### Pride parades in the Philippines

There were four pride parades in the Philippines since the last quarter of 2010 until the middle of 2011. These pride parades were in support of the passage in Congress of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 2010, or House Bill 1483, authored by Rep. Teddy Casiño to protect LGBT equality in the country.

In Manila, 5,000 people marched in the first government-supported Pride parade dubbed "One Love, One Call", a pride event organized by Task Force Pride. The parade went around the party circuit of Quezon City and was supported by the Mayor Herbert Bautista.



Rainbow flag at UPLB Babaylan Pride

In Baguio City, Rep. Teddy Casiño joined 500 LGBTs in the city's fifth, which was led by the Baguio Pride Network, to cap a month-long season with the theme "Live. Love. Be. Justice Today, Equality Forever." The parade attracted groups from all over the Philippines and occurred despite heavy monsoon rains. For two weeks after, the parade was attacked by religious conservatives in the city and later all over the country, because it included a mass same-sex wedding ceremony, and politicians



demanding investigations and prosecutions of people involved in the weddings.

In the University of the Philippines in Manila, 200 marchers led a University Pride in the campus, also in support of the Anti-Discrimination Act.

In the city of Los Baños, the province of Laguna (50 kilometers south of Manila), hate crimes and violence against LGBT persons across the country moved around 500 LGBT students and heterosexual supporters in the University of the Philippines campus to join “Shameless, Fearless Equality,” the first University Pride in the campus led by the LGBT group UPLB Babaylan with leftist groups Bayan Muna and Gabriela. A giant rainbow flag carried by exuberant protesters snaked through the major car lanes around the forested university which rang with shouts opposing hate groups and supporting House Bill 1483. The school icon, a nude male figure called Oblation, was festooned with giant butterfly-shape wings in the colors of the rainbow to symbolize the flight of gay rights in the campus.



*UPLB Babaylan Pride*

In addition to these four past events, a University Pride is being planned in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila, to be led by the PUP Student Council, Bayan Muna and the Kabaro LGBT campus organization. The Maskara-ProGay is also holding in September the Pink Pride Games, an event patterned after the OutGames.

### Beijing Queer Film Festival Goes Guerilla

On Sunday 19 June 2011, the Beijing Queer Film Festival successfully closed its fifth edition after five days of guerilla-style screenings and talks around the city.

Three days prior to the start of the festival, Chinese authorities had told the organizers to cancel the festival, warning them that they would be watching the Dongjen Book Club where the festival was supposed to take place. The organizers refused to lay down however and hurried to find several alternative screening locations in bars and coffee-houses around Beijing. By implementing strict safety measures surrounding the publication of screening times and places, they managed to

stay out of the hands of the authorities for the duration of the festival.

More than 500 people, including an impressive array of Chinese and foreign queer filmmakers, attended the festival which showed more than 30 queer-themed films and held numerous talks.

Despite, and perhaps even thanks to the ban imposed by the authorities, the Beijing Queer Film Festival succeeded in what it set out to do celebrate queer film and celebrate the necessity of showing queer films in a society where non-mainstream voices are stifled all too often.



*Sridhar Rangayan at Beijing Queer Film Festival*

During its 10-year-long existence, the Beijing Queer Film Festival (BJQFF, [www.bjqff.com](http://www.bjqff.com)) had its fair share of official trouble. Started in 2001 by a group of Peking University students, the festival has been organized every other year by a changing group of volunteers. Its first two years were all marked by official interruptions and bans, forcing the organizers to keep their festival underground and far away from official eyes.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years, held in 2007 and 2009, were more successful. Held in Songzhuang village, an artist community just outside of Beijing, they both took place without overt harassment from police or national security. It encouraged the organizers to think bigger as they prepared for a large scale 2011 edition.

In April 2011, they had to adjust their plans however. The official cancellation of DOChina, an independent documentary film festival scheduled to take place in May, signaled that Songzhuang village wasn't a safe haven anymore for non-mainstream art happenings. As it soon turned out, other art locations around Beijing were also experiencing a severe climate of government control and censorship.

"Apart from Songzhuang, we also made screening agreements with several other locations. One by one they told us however that hosting the Beijing Queer Film Festival was too risky. They were afraid of being shut down by the authorities, and they told us that they didn't want to work with us anymore.", says Stijn Deklerck, member of the 2011 BJQFF Organization Committee.

The organizers finally decided to hold their festival at the Dongjen Book Club, an activity center in Beijing's Xicheng

District. Worried by the overall climate of fear, they decided not to publicize the exact name and address of the new festival location. Only the times of the screenings were publicized, and people could only obtain the screening address after booking a seat for the festival.

On Sunday, June 12, it became evident that the safety measures adopted were far from enough to keep the authorities at bay. Representatives of the Beijing Xicheng District Public Security Bureau, Culture Bureau and Bureau of Industry and Trade turned up unannounced at the Dongjien Book Club and demanded a sit-down with the BJQFF organizers. After a short talk, in which they vaguely cited a number of Chinese laws, they declared that the festival was illegal and that it had to be cancelled. They announced that they would post police officers at the Dongjien Book Club during the festival, and they expressed that there would be harsh consequences if the organizers disobeyed their orders.

In an emergency meeting, the BJQFF Organization Committee unanimously decided to still hold the festival but at a different location.



*Panel discussion at Beijing Queer Film Festival*

"The BJQFF was started as a platform to question and challenge mainstream culture. Since mainstream in China is mainly constructed by the government, we all felt a duty to not let the BJQFF be silenced by government bureaus, but to challenge their decisions on which films are acceptable for screening.", says Cui Zi'En, co-founder of the festival and member of the 2011 organization committee.

With only three days left till the festival opening, scheduled on June 15, the organizers started to engage all kinds of bars and cafe's around Beijing. Uncertain if the authorities would find out about the new locations, they decided to avoid a concentration of activities at one single space.

Fan Popo, one of the organizers, describes the atmosphere preceding the opening: "We were alarmed by the fact that the officials found out about the Dongjien Book Club, because we never publicized that the festival would take place there. What was even scarier, was that the authorities also knew about the previous talks we had with other screening locations. So we

decided we needed some new safety measures, and one of them was to keep switching locations during the five days of the festival."

The organizers also decided to give the outward impression that the festival was indeed cancelled, informing all the people who had already booked seats that the festival wouldn't take place. Only invited guests, volunteers, personal friends and LGBT organizations were informed about the new schedule and locations.

Nervously starting on June 15, the Beijing Queer Film Festival managed to hold five days of inspiring screenings and talks. Though not all screenings originally scheduled could take place, more than 30 films were screened during the festival in four thematic programs: Filmmakers' Profile, Overseas Nation, Queers from Diverse Cultures and National Panorama (including short, feature and documentary films). A special Beijing Queer Film Festival Retrospective Program consisted of a documentary about the past decade of the BJQFF and a panel discussion focusing on the development and future of queer film festivals in Asia. Apart from the opening- and closing night ceremonies, the festival also managed to bring together a party crowd on three different nights of the festival.

Eight filmmakers from outside of mainland China personally shared their films and experiences at the festival, including famous queer cinema pioneer Barbara Hammer, Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival organizer Sridhar Rangayan, Taiwanese queer documentary maker Mickey Chen and Chinese-Canadian video artist Wayne Yung. More than 15 Chinese queer filmmakers presented and discussed their work, with many of their films premiering at the festival. In a festival first, 25 people coming from the less-developed parts of China obtained funding to attend the festival, giving them the occasion to watch queer- and LGBT-themed films, an unknown luxury in their respective hometowns. Overall, more than 500 people attended the festival, and proudly celebrated queer film.

At the end of the festival, the organization committee looks back on a very successful 5th BJQFF edition.

"While it is unfortunate that we had to be guerilla-warriors once again in order to hold this festival, we feel empowered and invigorated by the reactions of the audience and the filmmakers, and we're ready to continue with our goal of spreading queer films and queer culture in Chinese society.", says Yang Yang, the chairwoman of this year's Beijing Queer Film Festival.

She sums it all up in her written preface to the festival: "[...] our biggest enemy consists of a small number of authoritarian organizations that are using the powerful national propaganda machine to subtly construct mainstream ideology. And our biggest worth, our ultimate goal as a queer film festival is to challenge and oppose this mainstream ideology. [...] The revolution hasn't succeeded yet. Queers, keep up the good work!" ■



## REGION 20

---

*By Brett Hayhoe, Regional Director and  
Media & Public Relations Assistant*

Pride March Victoria is approaching its 17<sup>th</sup> year and over the past few years we have made some significant changes e.g. time of start, fencing the celebratory element etc. These changes and a couple of years of less than ideal weather have caused a slight downturn in spectators and, to a lesser degree participant numbers. Regardless, the event is still the largest Pride March in the region and enjoys great success. Pride march Victoria now produces three major events on an annual basis: Pride March Victoria, the Great Aussie Bake-Off and the Peel Street Pride Fair.

Pride March Victoria's commitment to InterPride is also still as solid as ever with the organization readily funding its President to attend both the annual mid-year meeting and the AGM and World Conference. In recognition of our President's commitment to Pride March Victoria, the Board awarded him a Life Membership at this year's event. ■

## Contact

InterPride can be contacted via email [info@interpride.org](mailto:info@interpride.org) or via our website. Please contact your Regional Director for personal contact.

[www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org)

---



# Scholarship Reports

## PAMELA O'BRIEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*Trisha Clymore, Co-President and Scholarship Chair*

In 2011, the committee totally revamped the scholarship application. The reasoning for the change was to make the application more "user-friendly." Most of the changes were prompted by the same problems in completing the application by multiple organizations. We moved to an online application which was helpful with information sharing among committee members but there are still some kinks to be worked out. The financial reporting continues to be an issue that the committee will need to address.

This year we moved the deadline to June allowing more time to have applicants make revisions. With deadlines moved up we were able to complete the entire process some 4-6 weeks earlier, allowing more planning time for organizations.

There were fewer funds to grant than in years past however, we did grant approximately \$8,000 to eight organizations. There were also far fewer requests for funding than in years past.

---

*By Dona Hatch, Vice President*

I was happy to have served on the CSIC committee where several changes in the bidding process were revised for the Bid Application. The changes made in regard to the timing of submission of an application adapted should eliminate any questions of ambiguity.

### SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

The Scholarship Committee chairs would like to thank the generous donations of the following organizations and individuals made to the Pam O'Brien Memorial Scholarship Fund (without these donations Scholarship would not be possible):

- Out In Tacoma
- Vancouver Pride Society
- Long Beach Pride
- Boston Pride
- Hans DeMeyer
- Frank Rubio
- Tucson Pride
- Capital Pride Festival Ottawa
- Humboldt Pride
- Caryl Dolinko
- Keri Aulita
- Trisha Clymore
- CSW LA Pride
- Eugene/Springfield Pride
- Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh
- Los Ranchos De Albuquerque Pride
- Atlanta Pride Committee
- Mobile Alabama Pride
- Connecticut Pride
- Athens Pride
- Nebraska Pride
- Pride Houston
- Gail Palmer
- Billy Urlich
- Phoenix Pride

# Thank you!



## Athens Pride

Stefanos Papathanasiou, delegate

On October 2010 I had the chance and honor to attend the 2010 InterPride AGM and Conference. In the five days of my stay in Long Beach, I met fellow organizers from around the world, familiarized with the structure and practices of InterPride and I gained valuable insight and knowledge that will most positively benefit my organization. Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride was admittedly and by all accounts a wonderful host, having prepared a fantastic program and a wonderful conference for us.

The range of workshops, which I selected with a focus on organizational issues, was broad and diverse. All of the workshops were timely and the presenters courteous, professional, experienced and knowledgeable. I shared and learned from experiences in overcoming organizational challenges and strategic goal setting with a special regard to mobilizing the local community, community outreach and media strategies. I attended: *Generation Gap, Building A Better Board, Stonewall Survivors, First Timer Orientation, Using Visual Communications to Improve your Event, Ask People for Money Face to Face, Media Relations and Prepping the Story.*

For smaller prides, of the size and scope of Athens Pride, I consider the workshops a considerably valuable feature of the InterPride conference. Nevertheless, several of those I attended seemed to be geared towards bigger and more established prides and often related little to the realities that smaller prides or those in hostile regions often have to face. I consider this as part of a larger issue that emerged in this year's conference and in various discussions I had with fellow organizers, that being the very nature of InterPride and its commitment to further expand globally.

In my opinion and to paraphrase Co-President Mark Chapman, InterPride is its members. Whether we organize smaller or bigger prides, in hostile or less-challenging regions, we are all activists. Pride begins and ends in human rights. It is therefore my belief that for InterPride to grow and become a truly and in all respects global organization, its focus on grassroots, political and human rights activities should be enhanced, something that would

reflect not only in the annual conferences but the organization itself.

Attending the InterPride Conference was a particularly energizing and transforming experience that presented me with unique networking and learning opportunities. I would like to wholeheartedly thank InterPride and the scholarship committee for having me there as well as the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride members for their unique assistance and warm hospitality.

## Blue Ridge Pride

Amy Sawyer, delegate

### Summary:

It has been a few weeks since I attended the InterPride Conference, and it has taken me that long to truly gather my thoughts about it in order to prepare this report. This conference was full immersion into the history, networking, logistics, human rights, philosophy, and fun that go into making PRIDE events happen. I met so many people, made friends, and most importantly, learned concepts and techniques I'll be able to share with my home PRIDE so that we can improve and strengthen the our local and the international PRIDE movement.

The scholarship granted by Interpride was truly a gift because it allowed Blue Ridge Pride to send me to San Diego where I met people and learned about things that will resonate far beyond the conference.

### My Take-Aways:

- It is imperative to include a diverse range of people, and as it is with the larger society, it is important to specifically reach out to traditionally marginalized groups.
- "Reaching out" means making personal, meaningful connections as opposed to demands or one-time vague requests for people to get engaged.
- Creating ways to bring new people into the projects/events associated with PRIDE is a key technique in keeping the energy positive and moving forward.
- Understanding and promoting the "queer spirit" is both complicated and necessary.
- PRIDE organizers need to act mainstream to become mainstream in relation to getting

media, funding, and public endorsements/participation.

- We are making history. Listening, sharing, and documenting our past and present actions is an invaluable act of love and offers meaning to those who seek to understand or get involved, now and in the future.
- While it is important to recognize and foster the uniqueness that PRIDES develop based on the place they are born, it is also vital to work collectively so that the message of pride stands out like a rainbow in the sky, despite the barrage of information and causes we face in this Modern Life.
- There is a lot of pain and healing that PRIDE organizers work with and within.

### Some Techniques we might be able to try:

- Events at the bowling ally
- Giving away awards for awesomeness related to PRIDE/GBLTQ issues
- Having youth interview elders
- Posting information about Human Rights related to GBLTQ at our events
- Investigating what the GBLTQ/PRIDE scenario is like for Asheville's "sister cities" and making a point to work through that already existing structure to promote PRIDE/GBLTQ sister cities are: Vladikavkaz Russia, San Cristobal Mexico, Saumur France, Karpenisi Greece, and Valladolid Mexico.
- Remember to make sure that board development is a priority (this is something all organizations should do, but it is so easily forgotten!) – we can use the NC Center for Nonprofits as a resource.

### What I've been personally motivated to do:

I love story telling and have been wanting to get a history of GBLTQ/PRIDE activities and people gathered. This InterPride conference drove home for me that now is the time to get the project started, and I can start it by just talking with folks. I have committed to starting a blog as a way to explore how we can best tell our history in Western Carolina.

### Immediate Follow-Up:

- I'll serve as the support for our Region for the next few months and keep our PRIDE organization updated on how we can continue to stay involved.

- I'll connect with some of the vendors/PRIDES I met at the Interpride to strengthen representation/sponsorship at our events.
- I'll work with our group to appoint someone committed to media/PR to sit on monthly phone calls that will be facilitated by one of the presenters at the conference.

**And last, but not least, my favorite (and not so favorite) impressions of the conference:**

*Loved It:*

- Volleyball on the beach. One person had never played before & everyone was so super supportive. We all laughed SO HARD!
- Listening and learning about the struggles some people face in their countries.
- Sharing about our PRIDE and hearing compliments and creative feedback.
- Making the "It Gets Better" video – standing with everyone from the conference and saying those three words was overwhelmingly awesome and powerful.
- The kindness and thoughtfulness of everyone I met. It was like a breath of fresh air.
- Those little moments in-between conference sessions when I would get into captivating conversations with people as we walked out of the session and grabbed a cup of coffee.

*Leave It:*

- The undercurrent of uncertainty in accepting Bi-Sexuals and Straight people
- Some presenters focused primarily on US-related topics, which was cool since there were a lot of participants from the US – what I would have liked is if the presenter's focus area (US, World Wide, etc.) was included in the description so that participants could plan ahead of time.

## **Pride Calgary**

*Dallas Barnes*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support in assisting three delegates from The Pride Calgary Planning Committee to attend the Long Beach InterPride Conference. The decision to attend the Conference hinged upon confirmation of your financial support, and due to the assistance we were proud to represent Calgary in Long Beach.

Being that this was the first Conference we

attended, we had no other conference to compare it to, but overall, our experience was rich in information, and the individuals we met were invaluable to us personally and professionally.

As new attendees to an International Organization that is InterPride, we were rather disappointed at the lack of attendance from those Pride organizations that were still struggling with violence and financial strain, as well as those countries where being gay is punishable. I would suggest that, as privileged nations such as North America, we need to focus our attention both financial and emotional on their attendance. I found that individuals that were from foreign countries and did not have a general understanding of the English language were left out in the cold.

The organization of the Conference was good. All the workshops were easy to find, the breakfast and lunch were fabulous, and the hotel staff were fantastic. The accommodation was a little expensive for our budget so we opted to stay at a less expensive hotel, which was not an issue at all.

The outings were great, and it provided us a chance to enjoy time with our peers. The entertainment was great, and fun was had by all.

Thank you again for this opportunity. We brought home a wealth of information, and we are extremely grateful.

## **River of Pride-Riviere de fierte**

*Paul LeBlanc, delegate*

I would like to thank scholarship donors that made it possible for me to attend the 2010 InterPride World Conference and AGM. The scholarship process was satisfactory for me.

This is the first time River of Pride-Riviere de fierte Inc., from Moncton N.B. Canada, was represented and the first timer orientation session was greatly appreciated and useful.

The workshops I chose to attend were:

- are you bored to tears by your board
- generation gap
- hate thy neighbour
- smaller pride caucus
- ask people for money face to face
- media relations and prepping the story

Overall satisfied with my choices, and I commend the presenters for their work. I would

have liked to have received information about the the workshops earlier to have been able to share them with my board prior to leaving. This would have given me the opportunity to have a discussion with them on the different topics and receive some guidance as to which to attend. As well I would like to have seen more workshop synopsis available to take home of those unable to attend, being the only delegate from our organization.

I appreciated the opportunity of meeting and sharing time and information with other persons with common missions from around the world. All events were well organized and flowed well, and Long Beach Pride are to be commended for their warm hospitality.

I've come home with a much better understanding of the organisation, and how it's many benefits can be of assistance for us, both locally and regionally. I wish the the organisers of the 2011 conference in Brussels well and hope to be able to attend.

## **Gallup Pride, Inc.**

*Carey Tully, delegate*

My experience with InterPride International Conference has been an eye opening experience. I come from a very small community that is smaller than a small town. A community that is made up of my family that includes dozens of relatives, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces and nephews. My community is not only small I come from "conservative" roots, not conservative in a Christian context, but conservative in strong family values and roots. It was an amazing experience to meet people from a variety of backgrounds. How I got involved, my background and my decision to finally "come out" pose a couple of challenges for me but in the end allowed me to learn and solidify my journey of self acceptance.

I recently added Gallup Pride, Inc. on the social media Network Facebook. I had never known about any Native American LGBT groups and I was hesitant to join LGBT groups because of my own self-sabotage of the inability to accept myself. I am thirty-two years old and I had only come out a couple of years ago to people that I love. And recently I had an amazing ex-

perience of confronting my reality and finally coming to the conclusion of the definition of self-love and acceptance. I had the opportunity to create a short film about self-acceptance through a narrative love story of two women and finally confront my fear of coming out and acceptance. My short film titled "Miss Nizhoni" has made it to a couple of notable film festival venues and had the opportunity of being screened, one being the Southwest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival this past year. Before joining the group Gallup Pride, Inc. on Facebook I had no involvement with the organization. The organization had posted on Facebook about an opportunity to win an \$800.00 scholarship to anyone who would write an essay about why that person would be chosen. I immediately wrote up an essay and got the scholarship. My intent and draw was the opportunity to meet people from all around the world possibly form new friendships and network. My experience was I had entered an already well-established family who already knew each other and comfortable within their environment because of this familiarity. I had realized that many people had been involved for years. I wondered how I fit or could fit myself into the overall scheme of the conference. I pondered how I can share my unique story with others to educate and bring awareness. I was the only Native American Representative and felt different in an environment where everyone is different.

The overall experience made me humble. And help me realize that I do need to learn to speak out in a group environment. Thank you InterPride for allowing me the participation of the conference.

## Halifax Pride

*Kathy Walsh, delegate*

### First Timer Orientation

Presenters: Don Mills, VP member services and Dona Hatch, VP of Operations at large

Under the guidance of member services, this workshop is geared to orientate all conference attendees on the flow of the weekend, plenary function and expectations, resolutions on the table, standing rules, methods and standards. Simple tips regarding meals, special events, board meetings, networking, mentors, gala,

attire, travel, and last minute registration / conference check-in may also be addressed.

This presentation was extremely helpful in understanding the working order of the Executive Board, the Regional Directors and the by-laws and rules that govern how the InterPride set up works. They have developed a brochure (KISS) that quickly and succinctly explains the rules on voting and the organizational flow chart. Both the presenters were very knowledgeable and worked well together. They were very effective in making a complicated structure easily understood and their banter was fun to watch. I will take their brochure back to Halifax Pride and use it to explain our organization to our Board Members.

### Opening Plenary

For me this was the highlight of the conference, to see so many people from so many different areas working for Pride was phenomenal. It was incredible to sit in this huge room surrounded by a global community. I believe there were approximately 300 delegates from 60 regions in attendance. Each delegate had to go to the microphone and introduce themselves, their organization and give a quick report on their activities. This truly gave me a feeling of being part of something bigger, something worth working towards.

### Workshop Stonewall Survivors

Presenters Ellen Ensig-Brodsky, Jim Fouratt, Roger Goodman, moderated by: Marie Cartier, PhD, Religion – Claremont Graduate University.

This was an oral history presentation with surviving LGBT elders who were present at the Stonewall Riots in 1969. Activists both in heart and action, these individuals were inspiring and help me to weather the storm of LGBTQ struggles worldwide.

This presentation was very moving. To hear these three people speak of being at the riots and the days leading up to the riots was extremely interesting. I think this presentation from these people who were there would be a great addition to Halifax Pride's Queer Acts Festival. It would be very moving and informative to our younger community members. I made sure to get their business cards and asked if they would be interested in participating in Halifax Pride's Queer Acts Festival and they were most

flattered and would consider it if funding can be arranged. I've since spoken with the Board of Halifax Pride and the coordinator of Queer Acts and they are all in agreement that bringing this presentation to our region is a great idea and we will work toward finding funding to make that happen.

### Women's Caucus with Lunch

Presenter: Keri Aulita, InterPride Regional Director, Region 6

This moderated discussion addressed female gender issues presented in an open forum by attendees.

After a few glitches with room arrangements this turned out to be one of the most powerful workshops I attended. The topics ranged from health matters for the women's community, the lack of history of women's struggles within the community and the need to begin documenting this struggle. Although the discussion of health care was not relevant to my life (being Canadian my health care is paid for by my government) it was informative and enlightening to hear the mostly American delegates discuss their struggles for adequate health care. It was a terrific time of discussion and fellowship.

### Workshop Volunteer & Member Retention

Presenter: Cheli Mohamed, Volunteer and Community Resource Director, San Diego Pride.

Founded on the principal that the catalyst for change can be found within our volunteers, San Diego LGBT Pride leadership academy is dedicated to developing emerging leaders. This workshop employed a mix of interactive exercises, presentations, dialogs about volunteer development and the importance of learning skills and expanding the knowledge base of future community leaders.

This workshop was not applicable for Halifax Pride. It involved initiating a graduating system of volunteers for their specific Pride Organization. It dealt with a training program that consisted of 4 days, 8 hours per day, that volunteers must attend to become "Gold" member volunteers. It was horribly boring and put on by a paid staff member. Although it was great to hear how such a large Pride organizes and schedules their volunteers it truly was not applicable to my Pride organization which is

completely volunteer run. Halifax Pride now has a group of 95 volunteers. They have all attended a volunteer training session that was initiated by me the volunteer coordinator. This was done to ensure that all volunteers knew what was expected of them and what they could expect from the Board of Directors.

### Regional Meetings FCP Region 7

Now this was interesting! There was discussion and debate about one of the Region 7 representatives stepping down to allow another to stand for election. This was done to allow the possible new rep time to become familiar with InterPride and to raise money to attend the spring meeting in Brussels. It was determined that voting at this time was in contravention to the bylaws of FCP. There was also discussion concerning Region 7's putting forth two women candidates to serve on the Executive Board of InterPride. This meeting was very beneficial because it led to discussion of the difference / benefit of being members of Fierté Canada Pride and InterPride.

### Swap Meet

It was great to see the different marketing and merchandise that other Prides are doing and I have taken some of these ideas back to Halifax Pride.

### Workshop Asking People for Money Face to Face

Russell Roybal, Deputy Executive Director of External Relations, National Gay and Lesbian Task force

Here we learned that

- nothing can replace asking people for money face to face
- Find out who gives away money – it turns out you know everyone you need to know.
- Create our own prospect list – started by making a list of 20 people who are alive.
- Discovering the easy way to ask, because there really is no hard way!
- Rejection can be a friend. Learn how "NO" will make your day.
- Learn that fundraising can be and is FUN!

This workshop was hugely beneficial and taught me that there is no harm in asking. The hand-outs and presentation and presenter were all entertaining and valuable.

### Workshop Insurance and Liability Matters

Presenter: Dori Shields, Executive Vice President, Casswood Insurance Agency Ltd.

- the need and benefits of securing proper insurance for our organization and events
- review of the possible and real losses and lessons learned

This workshop would have been terrific if it hadn't been US-centric. The presenter could not answer my questions because she only sells insurance within the US.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary

Presentations by the two bidding cities for the 2012 AGM of InterPride. Boston did a phenomenal job. Pittsburgh did an incredibly bad job and I was amazed that the person in charge of tourism in Pittsburgh would be so incredibly negative about his city. Needless to say the best city won the honor of hosting the 2012 InterPride AGM. I am very excited about attending this conference in 2012.

### Regional Meetings

More discussion about resignations, bylaws, the need for FCP and having two Canadian women standing for election to the Executive.

### Saturday Evening

A Gala was held at the Long Beach Aquarium. It was an incredible facility but the entertainment and the food left a lot to be desired. It should have been told to the delegates that we would be standing outside for an hour and a half in the cold. It was mentioned to me by several delegates that it was inappropriate to be served food on paper plates when we had linen napkins and were expected to wear dress casual clothing for the event. The food was very flavorful and there was plenty of variety. The bar staff was not adequate for the size of the crowd both inside the facility and during the outdoor performance. I think Long Beach Pride should seriously consider not using this venue again if their preparation and presentation do not improve.

The great thing about this Gala was that it has given me ideas for a check list of items that must be seen to prior to Halifax Pride hosting the Fierté Canada Pride conference in March 2011.

### Closing Plenary / Election results

AGM bidding results – Boston won the 2012 AGM and has a remarkable schedule of events prior to and after the AGM.

Voting on the proposed budget and discussion of passing a proposed deficit budget. During this procedure it wasn't clear if amendments to motions were allowable and it all got rather confusing. I am in agreement with the female rep from Boston when she stated that we need more knowledge and better control of the motion process.

The video presentation from the Brussels representative was incredibly amusing, informative and exciting. I look forward to the conference in 2011 and am actively making plans to attend.

In summary, I am very glad that I was able to attend the Long Beach conference. I am very thankful that InterPride was able to provide me with a scholarship. I was able to learn many things from many people and the networking opportunities were extremely valuable. Thank you.

### Hong Kong Pride Parade

*Joseph Man Kit, delegate*

I represented Hong Kong Pride Parade to attend the InterPride Conference and the Annual General Meeting at Long Beach, California from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2010. It is a valuable experience that I really feel the spirit of pride links all of us across the globe. Not long before the InterPride Conference, I and the Hong Kong Pride Parade organizing committee engaged in a debate with a university-based student journal about whether the Hong Kong Pride was class-blind to the extent that it unconsciously upholds a typical middle-class way of life at the expense of the LBGTQ people who are economically underprivileged. The issues heatedly debated are about what a due representation of the community looks like and whether a carnival-like parade qualifies to be part of the LBGTQ movement that strives for freedom from domination and oppression.

These are the questions with which I carried on my flight to Long Beach. I was so amazed that Mark Chapman addressed my puzzlement by asking the floor to think about the roles of



an event organizer and a human right activist in the first day of meeting. The way Mark approached the issue captured my attention and I was so delighted to learn that people across the globe began reflecting on their roles and looking for a more fruitful combination of these two sometimes conflicting capacities.

Having chatted with a couple of pride parade organizers, I came to appreciate a major difference between us. As an LGBTQ movement activist, I was totally new to pride parade. In the past five years, in responding to an international plea, major LGBTQ and sex rights groups in Hong Kong took the lead to organize the International Day Against Homophobia, IDAHO for short, since 2005. Being an event dedicated to commemorating people who are physically and mentally abused because of gender identity and sexual orientation, it is unavoidable for IDAHO to have a sense of sadness and champion for political and legal change. It is until 2006 that we thought of organizing a carnival-like pride parade. Such an attempt posed a serious challenge to us because we are used to organizing grassroots protests. We had to start from scratch to liaise potential sponsorships and get the event funded. However, many friends that I met throughout my stay at Long Beach are event organizers at the very beginning with weak or no connection with progressive political movement. Their rich experience in getting the event financed, well publicized and well attended is immensely helpful and inspiring.

I was particularly inspired by William Ulrich's talk and his consistent dedication to making pride parade a human rights event. Bloody as it might seem, the videos William brought to us in the talk "Hate Thy Neighbor" remind us of the vast disparity among countries in terms of basic human rights protection. To LGBTQ people living in a government-endorsed homophobic and transphobic society, feeling proud of one's identity is less a joyful expression in form of glamorous clothes than a matter of life or death. Their courage gives a new meaning to pride, that is, standing brave in the face of oppression.

As to the most unforgettable moment in my stay, it must be my encounter with Jim Fournatt and Roger Goofman. On Thursday night while I was using the free wifi service at the

lobby, two old men approached me and asked "would you like to learn some history". A cross-generational dialogue was then started. I was born in the early 80s. All of my knowledge about the Stonewall Riots in 1969 came from second-hand materials. The Stonewall Riot seems to me a historical event that ends a long time ago. Jim and Roger, as Stonewall survivors, help me reconnect to the not-so-distanced event and show me how the spirit of Stonewall keeps alive to the present. Jim recalled a scene at that night that a handcuffed drag queen was arrested and pushed to a police car. Although her hands were cuffed behind her back she walked in the same manner as she did on the stage, assertively feminine and sexy. This is the moment that had never been before. Those LGBTQ people being harassed and arrested at Stonewall felt no guilty of who they are. Pride Parade, to Jim and Roger, inherits this assertiveness from that night. Jim insists that that is a night of rebellion, not riot.

## Humboldt Pride

*Justin Pabalate, delegate*

### Application Process:

I found the application process to be simple and welcoming. The scholarship chairs were helpful and the deadlines were sufficient (even though I can't meet them!).

### Workshops:

The workshops were wonderful. The first workshop that I attended was How to Host a Conference. There was so much information that I took away from this workshop from looking for a central location to the intricate and important details of hashing out a contract with the hotel.

One of the most important workshops that I attended was the Human Rights committee. Though there were some great conversations that happened and there were some awesome educational films shown I felt that the conversation kept going in circles. I asked the question what can we do as the InterPride HR committee and everyone kept coming up with actions that my home pride could do. When I tried to explain that I meant how the people in the room could organize their home prides to

do specific coordinated actions I was again given more suggestions about what my one pride could do. Later Mark and I had touched base about what could be done (I need to follow-up with him)

I really wish we could have a conversation that resulted in the galvanization of our collective resources to help prides in conflict regions. Getting the multitude of emails is educational but it feels scattered and unproductive. I think it might be helpful to have action plans set in place that could be easily executed when situations arise.

That said, it was truly inspirational to meet the folks from Hong Kong, Sophia and Nigeria. The struggles that we face as a collective group is a great reminder of the work that needs to be done.

Another workshop that I attended was about Youth Suicide put on by the Trevor Project. The really cool thing about this workshop was that with the information I took away from it I felt called to do more work at home.

I contacted Dave the presenter and asked him if TP would be able to come up for a workshop/speaker series and what it would take to get him there. He referred me to his colleague who works for the Dept. of County Health in my area who happens to be a really good friend of mine. When I called him he told me that him and a queer studies professor from our university had literally talked that morning and wanted to do a speaker series as well. After a few months of planning not only we had acquired the funding for the series called Confronting Bullying-Creating Community but our colleague from the university was able to get it accredited.

The first two speakers have presented and at each there were 100-150 attendees from all walks of life and professions. There were high school counselors, primary and secondary education teachers, community organizers, high school and college students, community based organizations.

The smaller pride meeting wasn't too helpful for me but I could see how it would be useful for brand new prides.

Overall the experience was wonderful. I took away a greater feeling of community and had instilled in me a new sense of family with international queers. To actually meet people from a different culture who were also queer

expanded my perspective and appreciation for the advances we have made and the challenges that we face.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend and I apologize for the tardiness of my report—there was no excuse for it.

## **KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, India**

*Sridhar Rangayan, delegate*

I almost didn't make it!

I had applied for renewal of my passport and it hadn't come in even after 45 days. I was to leave my home at 8pm and even at 1pm I hadn't got the new passport. I had my bags all packed and ready to go... it was only at 3pm, five hours before departure, my passport arrived by post. Phew – a real touch and go...

So I did manage to board my flight for a super-long transatlantic 25 hour journey; which was made longer by smog in San Francisco delaying my arrival by 3 hours. So I managed to reach the conference hotel just in time for the welcome reception on the dot at 8 pm. Another touch and go!

But all my tiredness vanished just entering the party – what a delight, meeting a hall-full of warm, jovial and 'proud' men and women! It did take me more than a glass of wine to mingle, because I didn't know a single one of them, except through Facebook, which mercifully allows you to know them virtually! So I could spot Billy, Dona, Trisha and Don and say hello, but it was only during the next four days that I got to really know them... and it definitely was an eye-opener.

The very first session on Thursday placed me in a domain I've never been – learning the business of conducting business! In India, most of the work, especially in queer community organizing, is done on a friendly, informal and sometimes chaotic way. So it was a revelation to see, understand and learn the protocols and procedures for conducting business.

But what blew me away was the dedication and commitment of pride organizers from around the world who have spent many years of their lives in furthering a cause they so believed in. It was immensely motivating to see the passion they bring in to make their pride

events bigger, better and bolder; their ingenuity in getting partners and sponsors to support their pride; and their sheer organizing capabilities.

While I learnt how to keep my Board alive and kicking ('Are You Bored to Tears by Your Board of Directors?'), raise the big bucks needed ('From the Front Line to the Bottom Line: Engaging Corporate Social Responsibility Makes Cents') and stir up enough hoopla for my event ('Media Relations & Prepping for the Story'), it was appalling to see the hate and homophobia in many countries that resulted in extreme violence against queer persons and events ('Hate Thy Neighbor'). Though the Indian society has not been aggressively homophobic, hate crimes have been on the rise of late, especially after the decriminalization of homosexuality last year. I had the opportunity to share these thoughts in a workshop on Thursday and on Friday I made a presentation about how a pride event like a film festival can mainstream queer visibility with the success story of our own KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival ('Past and Present Trends in Global Human Rights Issues: What's in the Future'). I was touched by the interest and feelings expressed by many of the participants at the workshop who pledged their support to pride events in developing countries.

All this was a lot more than I expected from the conference. But there was more... It was my privilege to be elected as one of the InterPride Regional Directors (Region 19) and had an opportunity to closely observe, interact and learn from a board that has such a vast range of expertise and so much dedication. I am now motivated to take on the responsibility of supporting, documenting and networking with other pride events across our region. Queer movements in South and South East Asia is now bursting open like a pod and I hope I can pick up all the scattered seeds and flowers and string them together to present a quilt of burgeoning queer movements in developing nations.

But it was not just business at InterPride, there was fun too... the volleyball on the beach was a scream, the rapid-fire games at Ripples was a dizzy, I got thoroughly spooked by the Halloween Ghouls at Knotts Berry Farm and the drag show at the Aquarium of the Pacific was mind blowing. The organizers – Long Beach Pride – were the most hospitable and fun-lov-

ing gang I've ever met.

But more than anything, I guess it was the love, affection, companionship and of course 'pride' of the 200 odd participants at the InterPride AGM that made me feel that I belong to a large network of people with whom I'll walk a long way.

Of course, before I pack my bags for the next AGM at Brussels, I've a huge excel sheet of work to do in my region! And hope next time around, my passport, visa and everything is in order so I don't have to go through the nail-biting drama and pray for divine intervention!

## **LGBT Coalition of Western Mass**

*Corinne Shaw, delegate*

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend InterPride. Here are some of my thoughts on the conference.

Attending the InterPride Conference was an empowering, motivating, educational, and fun experience. Being new to the pride circle and meeting so many leaders and role models was quite privileged. Hearing the stories and battles old and new was eye opening and powerful. While the struggle for equality and rights can feel isolating, InterPride brings people from around the world together. As a person who come from a liberal and accepting home, meeting some of the leaders who are not so lucky really opened my eyes and reaffirmed the importance of our continued work. Now when I have a question or concern, I can turn to one of the many people I met. I have a network of support and friends whose goals are in line with mine.

The workshops were also very rewarding for me. The most personal and emotional was the Trevor Project. The presentation touched on my passion for youth and helping them with depression. I had some ideas about the issues but this workshop gave me concrete facts, statistics, tools and resources to bring home to my organization. Our board met recently and we had a lot of dialogue about youth. I brought what we learned, and we were all inspired to focus on youth even more. Part of my upcoming work is to make contact with the Trevor Project and see how we can help. I also found the fund raising workshop valuable. I have

never had to ask anyone for money, but with joining the coalition this comes up. I now have the words, tools, and techniques that I need to go out and fund raise for my organization.

I used most of my time at the conference to listen, the one thing I did share was in the women's caucus. I have a real passion about female bodied reproductive health. As Trans men age and transition they need care for their female body parts. This is an issue that has hardly been addressed yet but I feel that it is looming larger in our futures.

The InterPride conference was a great experience. I really felt surrounded by pioneers and activists. I learned a lot about where I want my pride vision to go. I was inspired by the speakers and the workshops. And I gathered a new skill set to set my plans into action. It was the icing on the cake to visit California for the first time.

## Montana Pride Network

*Eric Angwin, delegate*

Sessions attended:

### First Timer Orientation:

It was good to have the opportunity for an introduction into how InterPride works but the way the information was presented was rather scattered and unorganized and was hard to follow.

### Are You Bored to Tears by Your Board of Directors?:

Just a couple of weeks before the conference our board had a two day retreat. After attending this session I wished we would have waited on our retreat until after the conference because so many questions we had were answered during the session and so many new ideas and processes were discovered. Our board is rather informal and our process of recruiting and training new board members is very limited. I learned a ton of information that I will soon be sharing with our board.

### Generation Gap – Facilitating communication across generations:

The biggest takeaway I had from this session is that our young people are not concerned as concerned about issues such as marriage

equality and DADT. They are looking at their immediate concerns such as acceptance by their friends & family and bullying. I thought this was a very informative session and opened my eyes to the fact that the issues I worked through when I was younger are the same issues we need to address for our young people. We can tell our youth that "It Gets Better" but we also have to work with them through their life now.

### Networking and Team Building Beach

#### Activities:

This was a fun excursion. Though a little hazardous and unorganized but still fun and gave an opportunity to meet people from other areas and organizations.

### Diversity & Sensitivity in the Global

#### Workplace:

I did not find any information that related to diversity or sensitivity. I did gain some information on security, conflict resolution, and crowd control. These have not been issues for us yet because we are still small, but good information to have as we grow.

### Small Pride Caucus:

The conference guide showed the facilitator was to be determined. Unfortunately when the meeting began, the facilitator was still TBD. An InterPride board member did begin facilitating but this left the meeting unorganized and there were times where the meeting got off topic and a prepared facilitator may have been able to get us back on track sooner. We did discover that we share the same issues with other small prides. I did like that some large prides were also represented as they provided some insight and some were offering to mentor smaller prides.

If I could make one suggestion, to find a way that the Small Pride Caucus is not held at the same time as other sessions because there we would like to have attended. Many sessions can be attended by one delegate, but we felt that all members of our delegation needed to attend this.

### Regional Meeting:

A good introduction to our Regional Director and other groups in our region. Ended with items to discuss at the next meeting.

### Ask People for Money Face to Face:

The limit of our organization's fundraising is mailing out sponsorship requests to local companies and some individuals. This session taught us about other sources of funding and how to approach them and why. It was realistic and honest and dealt with many of the phobias we all have with asking for money. I really enjoyed this session and have a lot to bring back to our board.

### Media Relations & Prepping for the Story:

This session was fun and informative. I learned new ways to connect with the media and questions I had on how to brand our organization and our prides were answered.

### Regional Meeting:

Continued our discussions from Friday. Setup a schedule for Skype meetings in the future. Discussed possibilities for a Regional meeting may be in the spring.

### Scholarship Process:

The scholarship process was quite easy. We very much appreciate the funding InterPride granted us, giving us the opportunity to attend. If there was anything I would improve about the scholarship process is a little more communication. A message confirming receipt of the scholarship application and a date to expect an answer would have relieved some confusion and stress.

### Overall Conference:

As a first time attendee to an InterPride World Conference, my overall experience was incredible and at times overwhelming. The amount of information available was immense and I wished we could have afforded to bring more people to absorb all of it. Given the amount of information available and the networking possibilities we discovered, I am going to strongly encourage that we budget for at least two board members attend the conference when it is in the US.

## Pride New Orleans Celebration

*Wil Coleman, delegate*

From the first time I left the room on my way to the scholarship and first timer reception until I departed Sunday I was on a wild ride of great anticipation. I feared in the elevator on my way to the reception that I was underdressed and worried that I was about to jump head first into a pool filled with head strong, uptight gay folk. Thank God when I arrived I was greeted by a friendly and welcoming lesbian Long Beach pride board member. She was hysterical and entertained the first dozen of us who were a smidge early as we tried to get the jump on whatever may lay ahead of us that evening. Thankfully, she and the other attendees soon calmed my fears. Then the board weaved into the mix and much to my happiest of experiences in meeting a board for the first time were welcoming and embracing. Fears relived and the revelation that I was truly amongst peers and not people seeking some self serving purpose we all became great friends with Barefoot products. After the reception I joined a group made up of those I knew from MCC days and those I had just met. Though from various cities and countries we all shared common goals and proceeded to laugh, tell stories and carry on well into the early morning. After four hours sleep, I found the orientation workshop lead by a slightly sleepy Don Mills to be very informative, helpful and a great blueprint for my weekend to come.

Later in workshops I found myself motivated and engaged. 'Archive Strategy & Presentation' not only informed us of the opportunities of ONE but helped define what was and wasn't of value to add in our archive and shared what we may have already lost or may lose by not keeping our local history. In my case the workshop also motivated me to greater dialogue with our communities gay historian in purpose to preserve the work he has been doing for decades and to the importance of supporting future archive efforts. 'The Trevor Project' workshop proved to be one of the most difficult conference experiences I have ever undertaken. Having been to numerous workshops at conferences and been a former workshop facilitator. I admit I thought there

might not be material that would catch me off guard. I attended with the desire to continue learning new ways to reach our GLBTQIQ youth. What I was met with was one of the most challenging exercises I have ever been lead through. The presenter was awesome, informative and passionate. The exercise reclaimed all the difficult experiences we had all had in being a queer youth and gave new insight as to the pressures today's youth face. After being so broken up that I nearly had to leave the room, I knew I was at this AGM for multifaceted experiences not just a business meeting. Recently I have used this exercise with my committee members and a group of public school teachers. Both groups had moving comments and gained powerful understanding from it. Our foundation intends to continue use of this exercise and other materials from the Trevor Project to reach GSA members at the high school and college level as well as adults in our community. The 'Stone-wall Survivors' workshop was in a word amazing! It empowered attendees with unique insight of the event and those involved and directly impacted by it. It has always been a great hope of mine to meet those involved and hear their story. Okay, I cried a lot! But to sit with those who were there was priceless to me. They may not have ever expected that they would start an entire movement during that action; which they were quick to point out was not a riot. But ,THEY DID! What an amazing legacy they bring to us. Having been spat in the face, fired, called faggot by an employer and harassed all my life I can share in somehow their need for action. Panelists assured us that their endeavors didn't end when the fires burned out. In fact they are working on current efforts to preserve there stories by use of multimedia so that generations of our tribe to come will not only have record but first hand accounts of these early days of our movement. If there were guilty pleasure at a workshop this one was just that for me. This experience fulfilled one of my queer life goals. 'Baby you are my religion' was a informative journey about early gay culture. I secretly wish we could just use one word to include our people today. In those days according to comments in the workshop 'Gay' was the word. We discussed gay culture in its early days and

the need to have safe space for our community and how it was found in underground bars that became accepting gay public places. Like many in our tribe I too first found safety and acceptance in these places. I still encourage bar barons that their role in our society continues and remind them of their responsibility to provide safe space. We battled it out in good fun during the 'Theme' workshop arriving at a theme for 2012. The facilitator was gifted in problem solving and debate skills leading us to achieve our goal. 'Media Relations' workshop was interactive as we discussed what worked at home and what didn't. We were challenged by the facilitator to scrub what didn't work and implement suggestions given in the workshop.

Experience is everything. The Gender Identity luncheon was insightful, Plenary and Regional meetings lent better understanding as to the inner workings of the organization. Which lead to get involved (running for election at my first AGM...okay I'm nuts) I joined the communication committee and possibly another committee. Of course I can't leave out the swap meet, riotous fun at Knotts, the hosting challenge between Boston & Pittsburgh and our Gala Banquet replete with our own You Tube video.

So that pretty well covers the what I experienced, learned and shared. As for how the knowledge and experience gained will assist the production our local event. Turning my empowerment into our committees greater working knowledge may be challenging. However, I am up for it. As I mentioned we are using Trevor Project and other materials already in our community outreach. Renewed focus in our implantation of creating archives and significance of giving purpose to our unique New Orleans gay history in our event workshops is vital. We will continue to share our heritage from Stonewall, Troy Perry, The Upstairs Fire, Clay Shaw, Harvey Milk, Anita Bryant, Proposition 8, ENDA, repealing of Don't Ask Don't Tell and beyond. Locally our goal is to present The Premiere GLBTQIQ Pride event. We are focused on expanding the variety of workshops offered and adding a Saturday evening T-Dance to our events. I believe that the experiences and knowledge gained at the 2010 AGM will help us run more



effective committee meetings, establish new goals for future events and even help us gain opportunities for new sponsors for our event. Thank you seems like so little to say but at present it is all I can voice at this juncture. It is a great hope that in the foreseeable future we could also grow our event to one that obtains regional and national interest and eventually host InterPride events in our city as well. Looking back if I had the energy I would like one more day in the schedule of the AGM. Again, many thanks for your support in scholarship to the event and in our continued relationship.

### **Capital City Pride, Olympia, WA**

*M. Anna Schlecht, delegate*

The 2010 Interpride Conference afforded me a tremendous opportunity to broaden my horizons as a small town Pride organizer.

**Hospitality & Camaraderie:** The entire conference was infused with a strong sense of camaraderie. The location in Long Beach meant we were surrounded by the home team of Long Beach Pride organizers. It was wonderful to enjoy their warm hospitality and to see their working team relationships in action. It was also highly beneficial to get to know some of the InterPride Board members and to get a glimpse into their organizational structure. InterPride exemplifies how the culture modeled by leadership is key to the health and viability of an organization.

**Mentoring:** I spent a great deal of time with Josh Jacobs, Sacramento CA Pride. Josh had many valuable tips on sponsors and performers. I also gained some insights from members of the New York Pride contingent on how they operate.

**Workshops:** We gained valuable tips from the following workshops:

- Working with Contractors: Excellent presenters outlining the keys to effective event management, working with local government officials & private service contractors
- Entertaining the Entertainers: Valuable inside info on how to develop an entertainment budget; presenters offered a remarkable in-

side look at how entertainers work the Pride circuit and how to develop the optimum program based on your budget; explored the myth of success equals the "Big Name"

- Stonewall Survivors: Inspiring stories from our foremothers & forefathers. Illustrated how important it is to infuse the history of our communities into our events

**Lessons Learned:** The most significant lesson learned was how important it is that we do our part as members of an international association of Pride Organizations to strengthen our efforts worldwide. While we valued our relationships with our regional Prides and Director, Frank Leonzal (who is utterly wonderful!) we learned how important it is to be linked with Prides in India, Bulgaria and Hong Kong

**Overall Takeaways:** It's essential to cultivate relationships with other Pride Organizers to swap tips, ask questions and stay on track with our respective missions. As stated by Trisha Claymore, we do indeed touch more GLBT people across the globe than any other GLBT organization.

### **Okanagan Rainbow Coalition**

*Dustyn Baulkham, delegate*

This was my second experience at an InterPride conference. It was another amazing experience. Without the assistance of the scholarships developing prides such as Okanagan Pride would not be able to attend.

The highlight for me was seeing all the friendly faces that I met in 2009 in St. Pete and the ability to socialize with them. I always learn far more from one-on-one interaction than in workshops. This is a personality thing for me and not an indication of the quality of the workshops. The workshops I attend always assist me to see things from a different point of view. Sometimes it can just be difficult to relate to certain topics when Canadian and USA law/insurance/policies are so different.

Logistics in Long Beach with excellent! And having all the smiling faces of the Long Beach Pride committee present everywhere was also very much appreciated. You could tell that there was great communication between them as they all seemed to know what was going on

at any minute in time. I personally very much appreciate the scholarship and the opportunity to attend InterPride for the first. Thanks very much.

*Jason Simkins delegate:*

Firstly, I would like to thank InterPride for offering such a scholarship program, without funding like this we wouldn't get a well rounded representation of Pride's throughout the world. This well rounded attendance not only gives us a great sense of our own community but allows us to understand and learn about others who don't have the same acceptance level and support from their communities.

I strongly believe that the most positive part of the whole InterPride experience was the round table discussions and time spent networking with the other delegates. I enjoyed the workshops and the opportunity to meet new people and travel to a state I had never spent time in before.

During my time on the conference I also rode on my first roller coaster and believe I got a very good idea of day to day life in California, very interesting.

I would again like to thank InterPride for making my time spent in California so enjoyable and am excited to see what will come in the future.

### **Tucson Pride**

*Karon Bohlender, delegate*

It was my first InterPride so I came in with no expectations and left with lots of tools and new friends. The first class that I attended was the orientation for new attendees. We were handed a K.I.S.S. card that put all of the procedures for the Plenary meeting as well as the structure of the InterPride board. I pulled this out during most of the plenary meetings.

My next stop was the Finance Committee meeting during which the budget was discussed. Even though I was not on the committee I felt welcome and able to share my thoughts. As a result of attending that meeting I made the decision to join the Finance committee.

I attended the Woman's Lunch and enjoyed all of the topics. I gained a lot of friends as well as networking contacts as a result of this for-

mat. The Stonewall Survivors Panel was another panel that I attended. It was great to hear their stories and it sparked an interest in me to hold a panel here in Tucson to discuss the history of our community members.

I enjoyed the networking activity of beach volleyball and enjoyed being a part of the InterPride Trevor Project video. The Aquarium was a unique venue for the dinner.

The 3 classes/discussion groups that I attended were the Insurance, Corporate Sponsorship and the Executive Directors. Dori did a great job of explaining the ins and outs of event insurance. The one thing that I took away from it was the lowest price may not be in the best interest of the event planners. Pat followed up the conference by sending the slideshow which I found very beneficial. And in the Executive Director discussion it was helpful and enlightening to hear that my challenges were shared by many others.

I found the conference to be very beneficial not only to myself but will also benefit my Pride organization. If there is a way to afford the travel to Brussels I will be there. If not I plan on attending in Boston in 2012.

## Sofia Pride

*Magdalina Guenova, delegate*

The 29<sup>th</sup> World InterPride Conference, held in Long Beach was the first international pride-related event at which a representative of Bulgaria ever took part.

I was appointed by Sofia Pride Foundation to represent our organization with expectations that I will gain extended knowledge in various areas, such as fundraising, improving the public image of the pride event, work with local and international institutions, organizational building and to share all acquired experience, ideas and concepts with my co-workers – we feel that the mentioned areas are our foible.

My personal expectations were the achievement of new ideas, new concepts, valuable practical information, best practices in organizing pride and pride-related events all over the world, further identification of LGBT issues, enlarged perspective, knowledge which would allow me to be more useful for the upcoming pride events in Sofia and other cities in Bulgaria.



*2010 Scholarship recipients Stefanos Papathanasiou, Athens, Greece; Sridhar Rangayan, Mumbai, India; Joseph Man Kit, Hong Kong, China; Magdalina Guenova, Sofia, Bulgaria*

What are my impressions and what have I achieved?

1. I have managed to visit most of the workshops, which would be useful for the organization of Sofia Pride. As now we are mostly focused on human rights and our pride has a lot of financial difficulties, because our revenues come mainly from foreign embassies and human rights NGOs it was crucial for me to have training on fundraising and approaching companies and private donors. The workshop, focused on work with local media was very interesting, as our main goal now is visibility, approved perception and understanding of the message we are communicating through our 2 annual events – Sofia Pride and the LGBTQ Art Fest. The other workshops which were very important for me were those focused on human rights. I hope that my experience with working in a hostile environment was helpful to the other participants, as also our long-term co-operation with the special police forces. I learned a lot, especially concerning the institutional tools on an international level, such as conventions and UN special decisions.
2. I had the opportunity to meet people who are a real inspiration for me. The Stonewall activists and the workshop they took part at was one of the most important moments during the conference. Seeing that every beginning is difficult and that the years of hard work always leads to an important outcome is crucial for every activist from Eastern Europe.
3. The Interpride Annual Conference was an excellent opportunity for networking and

meeting people, with whom Sofia Pride can have further contacts. The most significant for me were the conversations with my Greek colleagues, with whom we discussed future joint efforts for overcoming escalating violence and hatred in our region, the Balkans, possible projects and some ideas concerning a Balkan Pride.

Contacts with EPOA representatives were very important, as we need more support on a European level, having in mind that the smaller distances between the cities within Europe will allow more people to join our pride thus increasing the number of participants.

Through discussion with pride organizers from all over America, from Asia and Australia I had the chance to learn a lot about discrimination, human rights and pride events from a different perspective.

As a whole the participation at the InterPride Conference was an inspiring and very helpful experience. I had the opportunity to learn a lot in the areas of pride management, fundraising, marketing and the development of our pride from a demonstration to a bigger event. This will allow us to have a bigger impact and to provoke debate and social changes.

I have presented to our organization my thoughts and impressions and we have decided to co-operate more closely at first with the other Balkan countries, to provide support to those who are not allowed to organize pride parades and in to host a Balkan Pride (we will apply for 2012). Also we have decided to have a whole Pride month in 2011, as the one which will take place in the USA.

