

InterPride

International Association
of Pride Organizers



2010 Annual Report

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

It’s InterPride’s mission 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

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.

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

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Introduction

2010 has been a year of continued challenges but also one that has seen some major successes too. More and more countries around the world are recognizing our relationships through same-sex marriage legislation as we also witness an increase in Pride March's and Festivals. Even in the sporting world where we have not traditionally seen diverse sexuality recognition the Pride House concept has been adopted. These are truly major steps toward equality and all members of the Pride movement can be truly proud of these achievements.

The fight is by no means over and we still have a long way to go but every Pride – from the smallest to the largest – helps to champion the world-wide cause and highlight to those countries and their governments who maintain their belief in inequality the real need for change that exists. Each and every Pride sends an overwhelming message that all citizens of the world, regardless of race, color, religion, gender identity or sexuality should be treated equally.

InterPride will constantly strive to advise, guide and assist our member organizations where needed to achieve this ultimate goal. We will also continue to play an active role in fostering new Prides by seeking out opportunities to work with local LG-BTI communities in areas of need.

Through a strong belief in equal human rights and the unyielding hard work of the world Pride movement we will achieve *One Heart One World One Pride*.

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-four Regional Directors representing twenty regions. Listed here is the 2010 Board, along with their member organization affiliation:

Executive Committee

Trisha Clymore

Co-President
Atlanta Pride Committee, GA, USA

Mark Frederick Chapman

Co-President
Zurich Pride Festival, Switzerland

Alan Reiff

Secretary
Heritage of Pride, New York, NY, USA

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 Ulrich

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

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

Regional Directors

Frank Rubio

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

James Gruender

Region 1 Director
Phoenix Pride, AZ USA

Frank Leonzal

Region 2 Director
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
Capital City Pride – Des Moines, IA, USA

Rick Bumgardner

Region 4 Director
Pride Kansas City, MO, USA

JP Sheffield

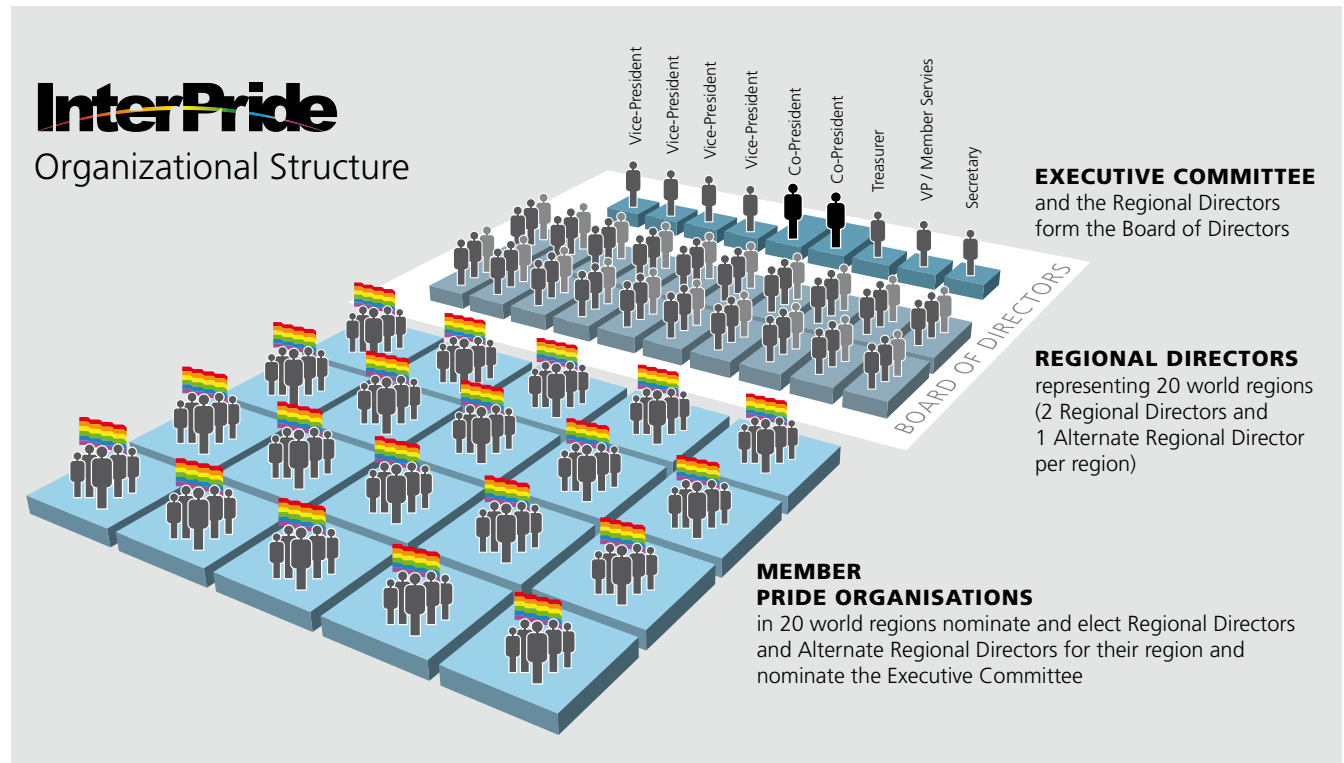
Region 5 Director
Atlanta Pride Committee, GA, USA

Joshua Wallace

Region 5 Director
Mobile Alabama Pride, Inc., AL, USA

Keri Aulita

Region 6 Director
Boston Pride, MA, USA



Sherri Rase
Region 6 Director
USA

John Boychuk
Region 7 Director
Vancouver Pride Society, BC, Canada

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

Nikolai Alexeyev
Region 8 Director
GayRussia, Russia

Herminio Adorno Ortega
Region 9 Director
Coalition Orgullo Arcoiris Inc.

Sonia Mitchell
Region 9 Director

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

Edgar Oscar Atadero
Region 19 Director
Manila, Philippines

Brett Hayhoe
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 171 member organizations in the year 2010. 120 North American, 6 South American, 1 Caribbean, 36 European, 2 Middle Eastern, 4 Asian and 2 Australian member organization. Compared to last year this is an increase of 30%.

NORTH AMERICA

Christopher Street West / LA Pride
West Hollywood, CA, USA

Comite de orgullo
Tijuana – Zona Centro, Baja California, Mexico

Folsom Street Events
San Francisco, CA, USA

Greater Palm Springs Pride
Palm Springs, CA, USA

Hawaii Island Pride
Kailua Kona, HI, USA

Humboldt Pride Inc.
Eureka, CA, USA

Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride
Long Beach, CA, USA

Los Angeles Leather Coalition
Los Angeles, CA, USA

OAKLAND PRIDE, INC
West Oakland, CA, USA

OCEC
(Orange County Equality Coalition)
Irvine, CA, USA

Phoenix Pride
Phoenix, AZ, USA

Reno Gay Pride
Reno, NV, USA

San Diego LGBT Pride Inc
San Diego, CA, USA

Sedona Gay Pride Association
Sedona, AZ, USA

SFLGBTGCC, Inc.
San Francisco, CA, USA

Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.
Henderson, NV, USA

The Utah Pride Center
Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Tucson Pride, Inc
Tucson, AZ, USA

Boise Pride, Inc.
Boise, ID, USA

Capital City Pride
Olympia, WA, USA

Capitol Pride
Salem, OR, USA

Identity, Inc.
Anchorage, AK, USA

Mid Columbia Pride Committee
Pasco, WA, USA

Montana Pride Network
Helena, MT, USA

Out In Tacoma
Tacoma, WA, USA

OutSpokane
Spokane Valley, WA, USA

PRIDE Day Equality Project, Inc
Eugene, OR, USA

Seattle Out And Proud
Seattle, WA, USA

Albuquerque Pride, Inc.
Albuquerque, NM, USA

Austin Gay and Lesbian Pride Foundation
Austin, TX, USA

Gallup Pride
Gallup, NM, USA

Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Pride / Sinatra Divine Inc.
Albuquerque, NM, USA

Oklahomans For Equality
Tulsa, OK, USA

Pride Houston
Houston, TX, USA

Santa Fe Human Rights Alliance and Santa Fe Pride
Santa Fe, NM, USA

Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association
Fort Worth, TX, USA

Unity Foundation, Inc
San Antonio, TX, USA

Wichita Pride Inc
Wichita, KS, USA

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

FM Pride
Fargo, ND, USA

Fort Wayne Pride
Fort Wayne, IN, USA

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH, USA

Indy Pride Inc
Indianapolis, IN, USA

Michigan Pride, Inc
Lansing, MI, USA

Motor City Pride
Detroit, MI, USA

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC)
Athens, OH, USA

Pride Chicago

Chicago, IL, USA

Pride St Louis

St Louis, MO, USA

PrideFest, Inc

Milwaukee, WI, USA

QC PRIDE, Inc.

Davenport, IA, USA

Rainbow Celebrations

Omaha, NE, USA

Show Me Pride

Kansas City, MO, USA

Spencer PRIDE, Inc

Spencer, IN, USA

Stonewall Columbus

Columbus, OH, USA

Twin Cities Pride

Minneapolis, MN, USA

Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc.

Atlanta, GA, USA

Augusta Pride, Inc.

Augusta, GA, USA

Blue Ridge Pride

Asheville, NC, USA

Central Alabama Pride, Inc

Birmingham, AL, USA

Conway Gay Pride

Conway, AR, USA

**Destiny Foundation /
Pride New Orleans Celebration**

New Orleans, LA, USA

Emerald Coast Pride, Inc.

Panama City Beach, FL, USA

Fredericksburg Pride Inc

Fredericksburg, VA, USA

Hampton Roads Pride

Chesapeake, VA, USA

Kentuckiana Pride Festival

Louisville, KY, USA

Miami Beach Gay Pride

North Miami Beach, FL, USA

Mobile Alabama Pride, Inc.

Mobile, AL, USA

NOLA Pride

New Orleans, LA, USA

Ocala Pride Incorporated

Ocala, FL, USA

PCCNCF

Gainesville, FL, USA

Pride Committee of North Carolina

Durham, NC, USA

Pride of Greater Fort Lauderdale

Oakland Park, FL, USA

Pride South Florida

Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

PRIDE-SWFL Inc

Estero, FL, USA

Rainbow Pride of West Virginia

Charleston, WV, USA

Roanoke Pride

Roanoke, VA, USA

Sarasota Pride, Inc

Sarasota, FL, USA

Savannah Pride, Inc

Savannah, GA, USA

South Carolina Pride Movement, Inc

Columbia, SC, USA

St. Pete Pride

St. Petersburg, FL, USA

**The Family Tree, A Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgender Community
Center**

Tallahassee, FL, USA

Upstate Pride

Boiling Springs, SC, USA

Virginia Pride

Richmond, VA, USA

Boston Pride Committee

Boston, MA, USA

Brooklyn Pride, Inc

Brooklyn, NY, USA

Chesapeake Pride Festival

Annapolis, MD, USA

CNY Pride

Syracuse, NY, USA

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

Hartford, CT, USA

**Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh –
Pittsburgh Pride**

Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Erie Gay News

Erie, PA, USA

Erie Gay Pride, Inc.

Erie, PA, USA

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

Rochester, NY, USA

Heritage of Pride

New York, NY, USA

Jersey City Lesbian + Gay Outreach

Jersey City, NJ, USA

Jersey Pride, Inc

New Brunswick, NJ, USA

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

Northampton, MA, USA

Long Island Pride Parade, Inc

Wantagh, NY, USA

New Hope Celebrates

New Hope, PA, USA

Noho Pride

Northampton, MA, USA

Philly Pride Presents, Inc

Philadelphia, PA, USA

Pride Alliance Long Island

Bay Shore, NY, USA

Pride Festival of Central PA

Harrisburg, PA, USA

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Allentown, PA, USA

Queens L and G Pride

Jackson Heights, NY, USA

Rhode Island Pride

Providence, RI, USA

Southern Maine Pride

Portland, ME, USA

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

Ottawa, ON, Canada

Edmonton Pride Week Society

Edmonton, AB, Canada

Halifax Pride

Halifax, NS, Canada

Montreal Pride Celebrations

Montreal, QB, Canada

**Okanagan Rainbow Coalition –
Okanagan Pride**

Kelowna, BC, Canada

Pride Calgary Planning Committee

Calgary, AB, Canada

Pride Toronto

Toronto, ON, Canada

Pride Winnipeg

Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Pride/Fierte Cornwall

Cornwall, ON, Canada

Prince George Pride Society

Prince George, BC, Canada

River of Pride - Riviere de Fierte Inc.

Moncton, NB, Canada

Vancouver Pride Society

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Windsor Pride Festival

Windsor, ON, Canada

WinterPRIDE

Whistler, BC, Canada

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

Curitiba, Parana, Brazil

**Associao Homossexual de Ajuda
Matua – SHAMA**

Uberlandia, MG, Brazil

**CASVI – Centro de Apoio e
Solidariedade a Vida**

Piracicaba, SP, Brazil

Grupo Diversidade Niteroi - GDN

Niteroi, RJ, Brasil

Grupo Homossexual do Cabo – GHC

Cabo de Santo Agostinho, PE, Brasil

Visibilidade LGBT

Sao Carlos, SP, Brasil

CARIBBEAN**Coalicion Orgullo Arcoiris Inc.**

Toa Baja, Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico

EUROPE**Equality – St Petersburg LGBT Pride**

St. Petersburg, Russia

Fundacja Rownosci

Warszawa, Poland

GayBelarus

Minsk, Belarus

**Mozaika – LGBT and their friends
Alliance**

Riga, Latvia

Project GayRussia (Moscow Pride)

Moscow, Russia

**Rainbow Mission Foundation/
Szivarvany Misszio Alapitvany**

Budapest, Hungary

Rainbow PRIDE Bratislava 2010

Bratislava, Slovakia

Belfast Pride

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Cardiff Wales Mardi Gras

Butetown, Cardiff, Wales

Dublin Pride

Dublin, Ireland

Manchester Pride

Manchester, United Kingdom

Pride in Brighton and Hove

Brighton, United Kingdom

Pride London

London, United Kingdom

Reykjavik Gay Pride

Reykjavik, Iceland

Skeive Dager

Oslo, Norway

Stockholm Pride Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Berliner CSD e.V.

Berlin, Germany

CSD Konstanz e.V.

Konstanz, Germany

Hamburg Pride e.V.

Hamburg, Germany

Hosi Wien

Vienna, Austria

IG CSD Stuttgart e.V.

Stuttgart, Germany

LuST e.V./CSD Nordwest

Oldenburg, Germany

Regenbogenparade

Vienna, Austria

Verein fuer sexuelle Emanzipation e.V.

Braunschweig, Germany

Zurich Pride Festival

Zurich, Switzerland

The Belgian Pride

Brussels, Belgium

Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier

Languedoc-Roussillon

Montpellier, France

Lesbian and Gay Pride de Marseille

Marseille, France

Roze Zaterdag Nederland

Rotterdam, Netherland

AEGAL

Madrid, Spain

ARCIGAY Milano C.I.G.

Milano, Italy

Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale

Mario Mieli

Rome, Italy

Porto Pride Party / Portugal Gay

Porto

Porto, Portugal

Athens Pride

Athens, Greece

Genderdoc-M

Chisinau, Moldova

Sofia Pride

Sofia, Bulgaria

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.**

Abbotsford, Victoria, Australia

Pride March Victoria

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

InterPride Inc. 2010 Annual Report

SUMMARY

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

This Annual Report covers the time between the conference in St. Pete Beach, FL, USA, from October 27 – 29, 2009 up to the 2010 conference in Long Beach, CA, USA.

2009 AGM and World Conference St. Pete Beach

After two conferences in more moderate climates the organization was back in a southern and warm ambience. The conference hosts, together with the Conference Structure and Integrity Committee, put together a wide selection of workshops meeting the expectations of our members. The conference was attended by app. 105 delegates from 42 organizations from all over the globe. Our hosts, St. Pete Pride, extended warm hospitality and offered many opportunities to learn, network and enjoy the sunny shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The Annual General Meeting was well organized and problems duly solved.

Organization

At the 2009 conference Jer Megowan was elected as Treasurer and Don Mills as Vice President Member Services to the Executive Committee. Other Executive Committee members due for re-election were confirmed in their position. New Regional Directors were elected by their regions to serve and present their region on InterPrides board of directors. Some regions unrepresented in the past are now represented with Regional Directors. The new board is listed on pages 4–5.

The Executive Committee and the board would like to again thank the following board members whose terms ended at the last AGM for their dedication and hard work for the organization: **Debra Martin**, RD 3; **Charles Richards**, RD 5; **Tomasz Baczkowski**, RD 8; **Svyatosov Sementsov**, RD 8; **Patrick Hadi Huber**, RD 12; **Toni Reis**, RD 17; **Sahran Abey-sundara**, RD 19.

Board and committee work

At the board meetings goals were identified and tasks appointed to the committees and to individuals. Many of these goals

have been completed and others are a constant process. However some still have to be achieved (detailed information on pages 14–16). One of our major goals was to keep our finances in order without stifling the growth and development of our organization. The board is pleased to present the members with a **balanced budget** due to new members and correlating membership dues and the License Fees for WorldPride. Also a strict regime on expenses has helped to keep the budget in line.

Most notable this year, were our efforts to increase the **visibility of InterPride**. At the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, InterPride was one of the supporters of **Pride House** in Whistler, which received massive international media coverage. We were also present at exceptional Pride events such as the first **Pride March in Jamaica** and at **EuroPride 2010** in Warsaw the first Pride of this size in a former Eastern block country. Billy Urich also represented InterPride at the **ILGA-LAC Conference** in Curitiba, Brazil giving us the opportunity to renew our presence in the region and attain new members.

Andrea Gilbert, Region 15 Director has with relentless work and motivation organized the first **Southeast European and Balkan Regional Pride Conference** in Athens, Greece. With approx. 100 attendees the conference was a full success.

The chairs of the **Strategic Planning Committee** continued their work with the committee members but were not getting the desired participation in the discussions. We are still collecting data through surveys from our members with the goal to learn more about the structure of our members and their needs. The information e.g. shall serve to create more tailored workshops.

Regular Skype conference calls proved useful and are attended by many Committee Chairs and Regional Directors. The time frame for these conferences has been slightly rescheduled, so that the time difference between the continents could be better bridged and make it more easier, for all board members to participate. We will continue to use Teleconferencing as means of communication between the board members.

The **Virtual Office** based on Microsoft SharePoint has been moved to Google Docs as part of our new communication strategy for the board. It serves as our document storage, accessible for every board member. It provides all data and documents produced by this organization. The main idea is to pro-

tect the joint knowledge of the organization and to prevent the loss of information through demission of board members. It's serving as an information pool for all officers and adds to the required transparency of the organization.

WorldPride

InterPride has received reports from Pride London stating, that WorldPride 2012 in London is well on its way and the planning commences as planned. At the AGM in St. Pete we had two contenders bidding for WorldPride 2014, Stockholm Pride and Pride Toronto. The members were presented with two very well documented presentations and were offered a choice of two fantastic cities and proposed events.

In the first round of voting none of the contenders could achieve the necessary two third majority of votes. But Stockholm Pride had slightly less votes and therefore dropped out of the voting process. In the second round of voting **Pride Toronto** received the required majority and was awarded with the license for **WorldPride 2014**. The board would like to express its gratitude to Stockholm Pride for bidding a second time and again not being awarded with the license – they proved to be great and fair contenders. InterPride congratulates Pride Toronto for its win and is looking forward to be working with the organizing committee and a fantastic event in Toronto.

Funding

For a consecutive year our aims to receive alternate funding were not very fruitful. Two requests from prospect sponsors for more information were met, but in the follow-up both sources were not responding to our mails. Certainly the continuing fragile world economic situation is also adding to the low interest. Apart from our partners Full Media, publishers of the official InterPride magazine and Club Mondial Travel Ltd there have been no further income.

Dear InterPride Members,

I have been on the InterPride Board for five years now including serving as Vice-President for two years and the past three years as Co-President. As I enter my sixth and final year I realize how very rewarding the work we do is and how much of a difference we as an organization make. This work is achieved by having a strong hard working Board and member organizations that truly understand the importance of the Pride movement world-wide. I am honoured to serve on the Board of such an organization.

I am also privileged to work alongside Mark Chapman as Co-President – a man who I truly admire, respect and appreciate. Co-chairing face to face meetings, running the administrative side of the organization and taking the lead in our numerous Skype conference calls throughout the year has been made that much easier through the working relationship we have.

This year has presented many highlights to me: I was invited to New York in November of 2009 to represent InterPride at the Social Justice Sexuality Initiative meeting to discuss how our organization could assist with a National US survey of Latino and Latina people at Pride events, travelling to Long Island for the NERP conference in February and was in Virginia in March for POSE. I attend the midyear board meeting in April where we had a very productive meeting.

I encourage all LGBTI people through our various member organizations around the globe to never forget the importance of the work you do and, although the road may seem rocky at times, to always remember that we DO make a difference. The work you do in your community makes the world a safer, more accepting place for all to live in – particularly the younger generation and those coming up behind them. Homophobia, intolerance and other breaches of basic Human Rights can't be allowed to be treated as the norm. I assure you that InterPride will continue to do everything in our power to champion the cause of positive change.

I thank all member organizations for their continued support of InterPride and welcome the various new organizations that have joined. Your participation makes InterPride strong and allows us to achieve our goals. I have enjoyed the past twelve months and look forward to serving as Co-President throughout the coming year.

Yours in Pride,

*Yours in Pride,
Trisha Clymore, Co-President*

Dear InterPride Members,

At the coming AGM I will have served InterPride for four years on the board. I'm privileged to have met and worked with many remarkable and dedicated individuals during this time and a pleasure to serve this organization. I believe that I have added my footprint on this association as well. It has been my goal to better organize the operations and make the organization more accessible, transparent and understandable for its members and officers.

Since the time my hometown Pride organization in Zurich joined InterPride and I got involved, the association has become truly international and it has been growing at a steadily healthy pace. But with the inclusion of new members from different countries and different socio-political backgrounds, the demand and perception of what InterPride should be is in transition. The scope of interests has widened. On one side we have members with the sole task to organize a celebratory event and on the other side members that are activist groups which organize protest marches in hostile environments. It is my belief that InterPride has to offer a platform for all kinds of manifestations of Pride events. InterPride is its members. We are a member driven organization and InterPride is as colorful as its members are. Like the Rainbow in our logo and on our publications we cover the full spectrum.

I have continued to listen to members and to include all their interests and suggestions into my work for the organization. Chairing meetings with my wonderful Co-President and friend Trisha Clymore, facilitating Skype Calls and giving this organization a face by formulating a coherent visual identity. I have participated in Pride events, media meetings and interviews, making InterPride more visible wherever I could. I initiated the publication "Pride Radar" – the first issue of which will be available at the end of this year. This publication will offer a view on LGBTI Human Rights issues from the Pride movement's perspective and include a comprehensive list of all Pride events around the globe, not just our members. Currently our Regional Directors are collecting the data. There is still unfinished business on our slate and new tasks to come.

The growth of our membership has challenging effects on the organization. We have to keep InterPride financially sound so that we can fulfill our mission to increase networking, communication and education amongst our members.

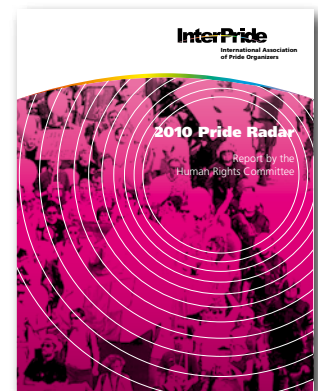
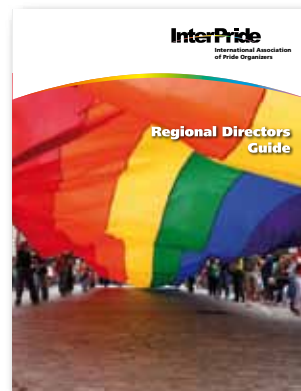
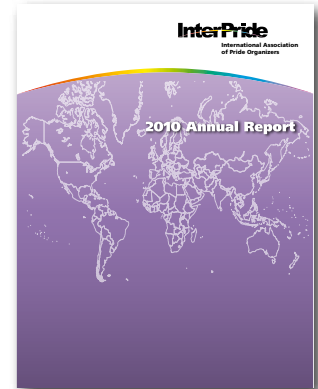
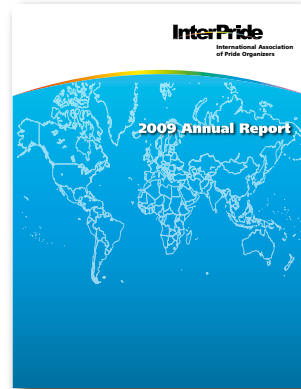
I wish to thank the members of the Executive Committee and the Board for their hard work and dedication to this organization and its members. We will continue to work for a brighter future for us all.

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

InterPride Publications

InterPride offers its members and officers a range of publications and brochures that can be downloaded from the website: the brochures and Annual Report explain and illustrate the work of InterPride and its members to a wider public; the Regional Directors Guide providing a valuable suggestions and checklists for officers serving the organization.

The first Pride Radar, a publication with the focus on LGBTI Human Rights from the Pride movement's perspective, will be available at the end of the year. And it will include a comprehensive list of Pride events around the world that will give a specific insight into the development of Pride events and their reception in their respective societies.



Goals for 2010

The listed goals have been assigned to committees and individuals during the year with the task to find solutions and to see them executed. Many of the goals have been successfully achieved, others remain to be worked on and solved in next months to come. Some will even take more time to be realized and are part of a longer strategic plan.

ORGANIZATION

- **Revision of InterPride's Mission Statement**
Draft prepared but still has to be discussed and approved.
- **The idea to establish a physical office**
This option is being looked into and will be part of long term strategic planning.
- **Implementation of an updated Corporate Design Manual**
Will be completed in correlation to the communications strategy.

BOARD WORK

- **The board needs to keep up clear and constant communications**
The implementation of Google mail and docs has improved the communication amongst the board and committee members. Where some board members use the opportunities to communicate, others participate less and lack in response.
- **Skype monthly conference calls**
The conference calls on Skype are regularly scheduled and well attended by board members. This way of communication has also proved to be beneficial for urgent board matters that need to be discussed .
- **Maintaining a goals list**
The list of goals and tasks that were set at the 2009 AGM and amended at the 2010 Mid-year Meeting is monitored and up-dated by the Co-Presidents and sent out to the board regularly.

METHODS AND STANDARDS

- **Revision and streamlining of the Methods and Standards Guide to simplify procedures and delete unnecessary text**
- **Create a short version of the M&S Guide for conferences and for every day use**
Is still worked on and will be presented at the end of the year.
- **Put in place a system to evaluate board members job performance and have that tied to reimbursements for meetings, regional meetings and conference**
As been looked into. A proposal concerning reimbursements will be presented at the AGM.
- **Leadership development**
- **Up-date and advancement of Regional Directors Guide**
The guide was revised and up-dated with additional information, graphics and checklists. It was sent out to all Regional Directors and is available online on our back office.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Stronger voice in international Human Rights around the world**
Our aim to work closer together with other LGBTI organizations is in progress.
- **Reconfigure the HR Committee to create a sub group for action – tools and materials to assist with this.**
Exhibition materials and other tools have been uploaded into our document archive.
- **Creation of a annual HR documentation «Pride Radar»**
The publication is in progress, data from all Pride events around the world are collected. The publication will be issued as PDF file at the end of 2010.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND INTEGRITY

- **There needs to be clearer and more frequent communication between conference host and members**
The communication has been improved immensely, also due to the proactive communication from the host committee.
- **Look at how there can be more networking/workshops and less business meetings**
The current conference has taken this into account as well as the two bids that will be presented at the 2010 AGM.
- **Create a guideline for conference structure more in-depth than the Standing Rule**
This is still being worked on.
- **Enact the Mentoring Program at Conferences**
There have been conversations about incorporating this into the conference structure but at who's responsibility, Host or InterPride. Further review needs to happen.

MEMBER SERVICES

- **Up-date of member database**
After some difficulties, caused by the change of the website hosting company, the database has been reviewed and is now constantly kept up-to-date.
- **Corrections and amendments to the website**
The major flaws of the website have been removed. And we are continuing to develop the site with more information and services for our members.
- **Investigate options for group purchasing to get better prices**
This issue is being looked into. The challenge for the organization is to develop equal opportunities for all members. There have been some options but they tend to be US/ Canada only.

- **Add more member benefits**

This issue is looked into. The challenge for the organization is to develop equal benefits for all members around the globe.

- **Youth initiatives for conference**

WORLDPRIDE

- **Contract with Pride Toronto for WorldPride 2014**
The contract with Pride Toronto is signed and in effect.
- **Monitoring progress of WorldPride 2012 London**
Reports on the progress have been received from Pride London.

FINANCE

- **Review the current structure of reimbursements for board members**
A proposal from the Finance Committee will be presented to the board and members at the 2010 AGM
- **Look at creating a solidarity fund to assist struggling Prides**
A separate account has been created and the possibility to donate via the website.
- **Balance the budget**
A balanced budget will be presented at the 2010 AGM.

Goals for 2010 continued

FUND DEVELOPMENT

- **There needs to be more involvement in the Fund Development Committee to help balance the budget**
Although the budget will be balanced, no major contributions have been made from alternative funding sources.
- **Media-Card for the sale of advertising space in the InterPride Magazine**
The necessary information for advertisement in the InterPride magazine have not been received by Full Media Publications. This Media-Card still needs to be produced.
- **Creation of InterPride Merchandise for sale at Conferences and Prides**
Apart from Landsend.com where clothing items can be purchased with the InterPride logo stiched on, we are also looking into online shops that offer merchandizing that can be customized.
- **Pursue the possibility of Grants / Grant writers**
Still in process.
- **Pursue the possibility of global Sponsors**
Further attempts have been made by the chair of the committee, but the negotiations were not fruitful.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- **Evaluation and analysis of surveys**
The committee chairs did not receive the necessary response from the committee members. The process needs to be reviewed at the AGM.

COMMUNICATIONS

- **Transition process of mail accounts to Google Docs**
This transition is completed and our documents are constantly stored and made available to the board members.
- **Constant up-date of the website**
The website is up-dated on a regular basis.
- **e-Newsletters to membership on regular basis**
Four e-Newsletters have been sent out to the members and other subscribers to our post.
- **Facebook, monitoring of content, motivation to contribute**
With over 2000 fans on our official Facebook page and over 700 members in our Facebook group the pages are regularly visited and used.
- **Creation of brochure with general overview and short portrait of InterPride**
A trifolded brochure has been created and is available as PDF file for printing.
- **Creation of brochure on LGBTI Human Rights and Prides in Conflict, maybe with sports related content for Pride House in Vancouver and possibly World-Pride/Olympics 2012 in London**
A trifolded brochure has been created and is available as PDF file for printing.
- **Creation of brochure "Contributing and our Solidarity Fund"**
The brochure has not been produced. But an opportunity to donate to the Solidarity Fund has been implemented on the website.
- **Providing and coordinating content for the Pride Magazine**
Content and agenda have been delivered to the publisher.

Committee Reports

MEMBER SERVICES

By Don Mills, Vice President Member Services

2010 has been a challenging year. Changes to the InterPride website, the dues structure and our e-mail system left many of our Members and Board members with questions that were both time consuming and frustrating to deal with. This unfortunately did not produce much Committee activity.

The GOOD news is that Membership is UP! Our current Membership is now over 160 organizations and we have added 23 totally NEW Member Organizations this year thanks to the hard work of the Regional Directors.

Also in the "Good News" column, we have added several benefits this year in the form of businesses that offer discounted services to our members on items such as vinyl banners, printing, t-shirts and more. Unfortunately, most of these are limited to the US and Canada, but we continue to search for benefits that will serve our Members in Europe and other areas. These are currently listed in the Member Section of the website and we continue to work on making them more easily accessible.

Our association with PRIDE magazine still has its problems. While the issue of initial distribution date continues to be an issue, the collection and submission of data for the Global Calendar seemed to go smoothly.

At the Mid-Year Meeting the structure of the Member Services Committee was changed slightly. Due to the discovery of deficiencies in the data management side of the website, the Website and Data Management Subcommittee was established. Comprised of the Co-Presidents, V.P. Member Services, Treasurer, CSIC Chair and Communications Chairs, this committee is responsible for the structure and maintenance of the website. The Front End of the website will continue to be maintained and updated by the Communications Committee.

Subcommittee Activity:

Website and Data Management Subcommittee: is currently working on securing a contractor that can meet our needs for programming and maintenance of the website.

Communications, Marketing and Media Subcommittee: At the Mid-Year Meeting a more structured schedule was dis-

cussed for the Newsletter, and newsletters were produced in the 2nd and 3rd quarters (May and August). Work continues on keeping our website and other social media outlets up to date.

Alumni and Recognition Subcommittee: continues its excellent work in maintaining records of organizational and individual participation, and annual recognition of such.



Committee meeting – discussions and decisions

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND INTEGRITY

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

The Conference Structure and Integrity Committee (CSIC) has 23 members. We have spent the past few months reviewing the bids submitted for the 2012 AGM as well as working with Long Beach Pride on the workshop/conference schedule.

It has become apparent that we need to review the guidelines for bid submission and that needs to be done quickly before organizations start putting bids together for 2013. Some of the things required are no longer practical or necessary. I would also like this committee to review the requirements of the Host Committee to see anything needs to be added or changed there as well.

The CSIC committee had very little to say about the

workshops presented by Long Beach. We applaud their work and all the efforts put into planning this year's AGM. ■

SCHOLARSHIP

By Trisha Clymore, Co-President, Co-chair Scholarship Committee

This year Paul Sanders of Pride Alliance of Long Island stepped down as co-chair. Doña Hatch of Santa Fe Pride was approved by the Board at the Midyear meeting to serve as co-chair of the committee. The scholarship committee has 10 members.

The application was announced in June and by July 28th we had 30 applications submitted. The most in submitted in recent history. The committee met via AOL chat room over several days for approximately 5 hours of discussion on how to distribute about US\$ 18,000 to organizations requesting US\$ 45,000. Out of the 30 applications 19 were offered a grant to attend the Annual Genral Meeting (AGM).

The Scholarship Committee received feedback from members regarding the application process and the application forms. Another suggestion is that it comes out earlier in the year and that the committee works more with the Regional Directors in the process. This will need to be taken up by this committee after this year's AGM.

I want to say that Scholarship only happens because of the generosity of our member organizations and individuals. US\$ 20,000 is a considerable amount of money for an organization of our size and we should be proud of that. Thank you again to past and present donors. However, one issue that we face is that a few pledges are made at the AGM and then not paid. We have spent an enormous amount of time trying to collect about US\$ 1300 this year which would have brought another organization to the AGM. ■

By Doña Hatch, Vice President, Co-chair Scholarship Committee

As part of my activites this year I attended Albuquerque Pride and Taos Pride. This was the first year for Taos Pride. The president of the Taos organization passed away a week before the event so volunteers from Albuquerque and Santa Fe helped with logistics for the event.

The region 3 directors along with Equality New Mexico hosted a state-wide meeting to help several new, emerging prides. As a result of the meeting, Gallup Pride, part of the Navajo Nation has become a member of InterPride and will be attending the AGM in October.

In January I attended the CAPI (Region 1) Conference in San Diego, CA. It was a good conference with some very dynamic speakers. I traveled to New York in February to attend the NERP conference hosted by Pride Alliance Long Island. Two

days before the conference I fell, cracked two ribs and was therefore unable to attend.

At the mid-year meeting in Long Beach I volunteered to be the co-chair for the scholarship committee along with Trisha Clymore. We had a record setting year with 30 applicants applying for funding to come to the AGM. This was a daunting task as we had US\$ 20,000 in scholarship money to disburse and US\$ 70,000 in requests. The committee had four aol chats to discuss all of he applications. In the end we believe we made the best decisions we could for whom to grant money. As a result of our work on this committee, we will be joined with delegates from Mumbai and Hong Kong this year. During this process it became clear that we need to look at the scholarship application and clean up some confusing aspects for applicants. This was especially evident for the non-US organizations.

I have been pursuing American Natural Tobacco as a corporate spononsor for InterPride. I've met with the individual that heads up the corporate funding and have presented him with information on InterPride. He said that we are certainly the type of organization they like to be associated with. They are very supportive of LGBT rights and as such have been one of the major sponsors of Santa Fe Pride for nine years. The committee that makes the decisions on "charitable" contributions meets quarterly. The initial contact was made during the second quarter and hopefully will be on the agenda for consideration at the end of September or beginning of October. ■

STRATEGIC PLANNING

By Hans De Meyer, Vice President and Russell Murphy, Co-chair Strategic Planning Committee

Even though the Strategic Planning Committee chairs had worked out a nice schedule to work on this year, very little input came back from the committee members. This issue had been addressed before, in St. Petersburg at the Committee Meeting and during the AGM. An additional problem we discovered this year was that the committee group email was set up incorrectly. It did not seem to include all the members and others were just not receiving the emails sent through it.

The difficulty we experienced again this year in obtaining information or input has been addressed at this year's mid-year Board meeting last April. We felt that by putting forward some very specific strategic questions to the entire Board we might get further, but no conclusive answers were given at the time. Unfortunately none of the Chairs were able to attend that particular meeting in order to give more input around this issue.

After having thought of several other possibilities in order to be able to continue this work, we came to the conclusion that it's time to face reality. The actual system or way of working in

regards to Strategic Planning that had been put in place 2 years ago is not working.

It is of course clear that change is required and that a Strategic Plan should be put in place, but it is our feeling that we need to look into other ways of obtaining this. We wouldn't necessarily move towards paid services as this would be too heavy a burden on the budget, but a more "external" vision on things might be helpful.

We therefore would like to suggest abandoning the actual committee and dissolving it. The actual work done is not completely lost, as we did determine the fields to be worked and in which our membership felt they would be beneficial for all. These goals are:

- Communications
- Education – Resources (creation of a resource center)
- Assistance to the Membership

During the planned committee meeting in Long Beach, we can try and work on a different approach in order to find a better way of handling the matter at hand. While the chairs are not in agreement on this, a suggestion has been put forward that in place of the committee, one person be appointed by the board to lead the Strategic Planning Process. If the board and membership agrees to this, the person should have experience and a working knowledge of the organization, its history and its operation. The person then would work at the direction of the board, with the Co-Presidents as the primary contact, to conduct surveys and draft a report. Of course, any plan put into place is contingent upon actual participation of the membership throughout the process and not just at the conference(s). Without such participation, the process is moot and should be abandoned all together. ■



Members of the board at the Mid-Year Meeting in Long Beach, 2010

FUND DEVELOPMENT

By Mark Frederick Chapman, Co-President and Chair Fund Development Committee

The Fund Development Committees (FDC) task is to raise and ensure alternative funding for the organization through sponsorships and grants. It also provides the necessary documentation to aid the process of grant writing and approaching prospective sponsors.

During the AGM and the mid-year meeting different approaches have been discussed and found worthy to follow-up:

- Brochures explaining InterPride and the organizations work to hand out to interested donors. Two brochures were created and printed and are available online.
- Creating income through merchandising material has also been looked into but needs to be discussed further. Providers of specialized online shops offering different merchandising material that can be branded with the InterPride design might seem a very good option. The handling of the merchandise is done entirely by the shop provider but it seems there is no real financial gain to our organization at this point.
- The search for grant writers within our own resources has not been successful. InterPride has to consider hiring professionals to do this work.

InterPride was approached by two companies - Barefoot Wines and Images USA. Both contacts were given information about the organization and ways of how to possibly work together. After we received no immediate response we followed them up but neither contact has responded back.

As committee chair I contacted two banks in Switzerland looking for funding. So far no in-person meetings have been scheduled, but the doors are not closed.

Apart from the magazine contract with Full Media and the deal with Club Mondial no further alternative funding could be achieved this year.

METHODS AND STANDARDS

Michael Gorsuch, Chair Methods and Standards Committee

The committee was charged with the following business items since the last AGM:

- Revise and Streamline the MSG to simplify procedures and delete unnecessary text.
- Create a shorter version of the MSG for conferences and everyday use.
- Put in place a system of evaluate board members job performance and have it tied to reimbursements for meetings, regional meetings and conferences.
- Leadership Development.

The committee members who participated in the discussions did not see the need to simplify the procedures in the current MSG as they felt these procedures were already straight forward enough. The interpretation of the procedures in their respective view is the source of concern by those outside of the committee. The members encourage the chair to pass onto the membership and board their view that the board needs to be focus on advancing the organization and not be focus on changing rules that in their opinion are not the issue at hand.

In regards to the creation of a shorter version of the MSG for everyday use, this task was charge to a two person committee who are working deligently on its completion. There have been some slow down in the beginning of this task, but is currently being worked on with the goal of completion hopefully by the end of the year.

The discussion about the evaluation of board members job performance led to some heated talk as previous stated the committee members felt the board is not focus on advancing the organization. The current MSG outlines their responsibilities and should be followed first before considering any type of guidelines for evaluation. If the board or membership feel an individual board member is not performing then the MSG provides the means for their removal. As far as the issue of reimbursement, the committee deferred to the Finance Committee to see what guidelines they developed and are waiting for their time to review them.

Leadership Development is an area in which I took time to work on individually. I have developed a Table of Content for use in the creation of Position Binders that will help in the transition between officers and regional directors and their successors. Also, with the assistance of VP Billy Urich will be facilitating a workshop/meeting for regional directors and those interested in assuming roles of leadership in the future at the AGM in Long Beach. Several other ideas to be considered is a mentoring program, credtials committee and developing criteria for future workshops that will spark the development of the future leaders of InterPride. ■

WORLDPRIDE

By Hans De Meyer, Vice President, Chair WorldPride Committee

At the last AGM, Toronto got elected as the WorldPride host for 2014. The license agreement has been set up and has been duly signed by both parties.

Due to the fact that no WorldPride bids were expected in 2010, discussions were mainly held at the first half of the working year.

During last year's WP Committee meeting, we already agreed on certain changes to the Standing Rule in regards to bidding. A lot of confusion came up last year when Toronto & Stockholm wanted to bid. So the rule will now be adapted as follows:

- Bids will only be accepted 4 years in advance of the event taking place. Specific years will be put forward in which the IP WorldPride Committee accepts WP bids, for instance:
 - 2016/2017 > bid should be done in 2012
 - 2019 > bid should be done in 2015 etc.
- Presentation time will be 30 minutes for each contender.

On the last point we had again a discussion as a lot of members present at last year's presentation, deemed it too lengthy. Also there was quite a discussion about expenditure and so called "side" presentations of each contender. Therefore the following proposal has been put forward:

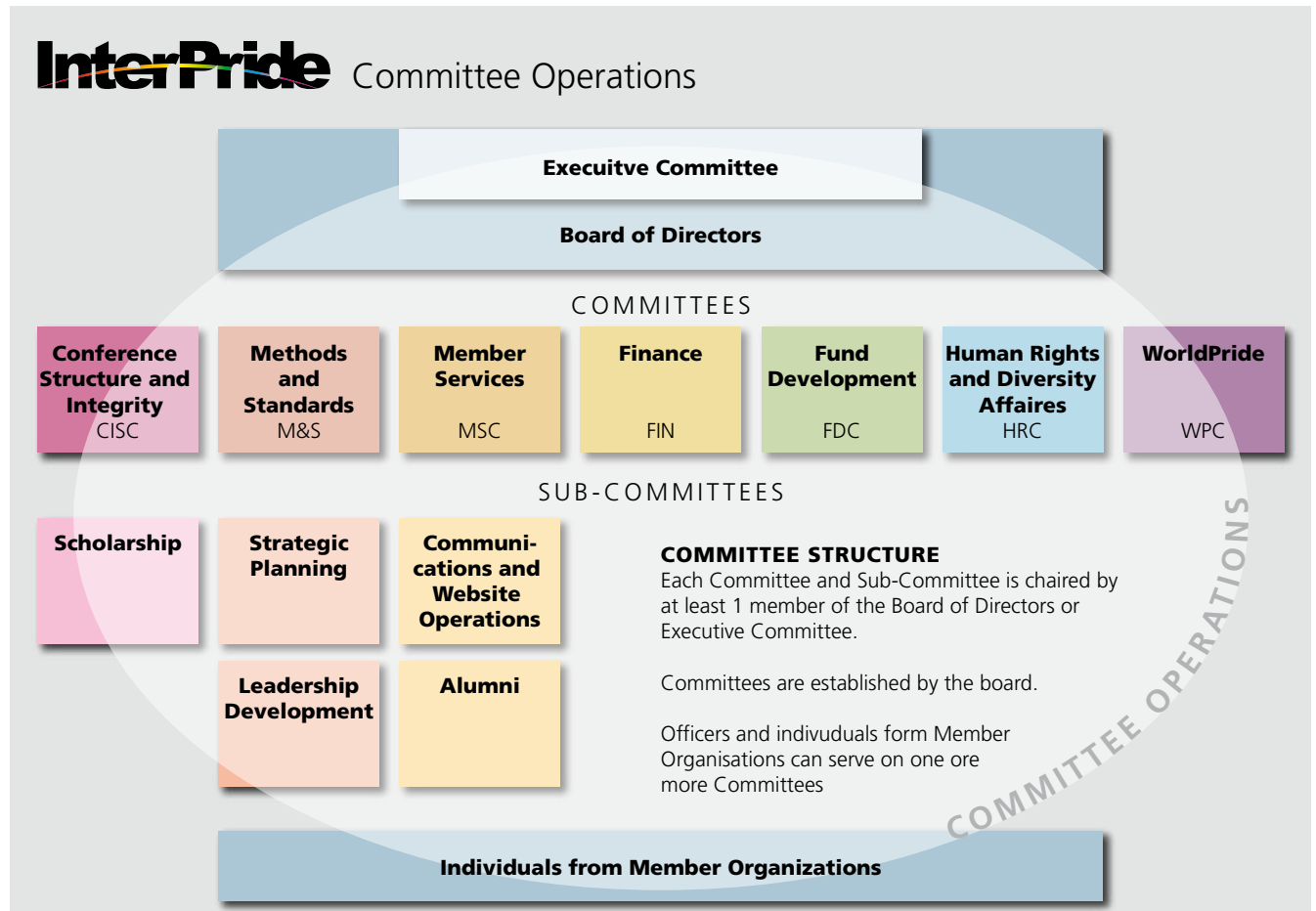
- 30 minutes presentation should include Q&A
- Any other type of presentation should be refrained from, as it will be considered part of the 30 min. presentation. So an external speaker for instance, talking during dinner about the host city will be considered part of the official presentation.
- Also in terms of expenditure we will set up limitations, as not every contender might have the financial ability to splash it out. Some might actually prefer not to, even when capable. A more detailed policy will be put in place and will be discussed during committee meeting in Long Beach.
- It is clear that, if promotional opportunities should be offered to one contender, similar opportunities should be offered to all contenders and that everyone should be informed accordingly in advance.

Another project idea for the WP Committee that was launched by Mark Chapman is the possibility of have a "global" WorldPride event in 2019 as we will celebrate 50 years of LGBTQI-rights. This idea will be worked on over the next 2 years by this committee in close partnership with possible contenders for the WP license in 2019.

Regular progress reports have been sent in by Pride London as a WorldPride licensee for 2012. As the last version was not due by the time this report was written, it will be communicated at a later stage during the AGM.

The same goes for the progress report from Pride Toronto as a WorldPride licensee for 2014. ■

InterPride Committee Operations



HUMAN RIGHTS

By William Urich Vice President, Regions 6, 9, 15, 16 & 19 Chair, InterPride Committee on GLBTI Human and Civil Rights

Conclusion and Goals – from 2009 VP Ops and Human Rights Report

The Human Rights Committee of InterPride continues its mandate to inform and raise awareness within the membership and Board of InterPride. The ongoing communication within the IP Human Rights email group is one of the highest of all InterPride committees. Committee members share information with a host of others and supportive letter writing and petition signing have increased. It is evident, however, that more participation and representation is needed from many areas throughout the global theater. Outreach to some areas continues to be difficult and frustrating, at best. A stronger commitment from InterPride to partner with various international GLBTI Human Rights organizations with firmer holds in some areas could facilitate this outreach and enhance membership recruitment opportunities. This should be included in future goals, not just for the committee, but for the whole of InterPride as well. Further, workshops pertaining to Human Rights and Pride Issues should be mandatory at all AGMs, and at Regional Conferences for those who cannot attend the international conference.

ILGA-LAC and Regions 9 & 17

Although we have periodically had participation from Sao Paulo Pride and occasionally a few others, I have believed for a long time that we, as a mainstream international GLBTI organization have tended to ignore our brothers and sisters to the south and the Latino/a population as a whole. This is just plain foolish, exclusionary, short-sighted and WRONG! There are over 200 Prides in South America alone! We need to tap into this market extensively to increase our diversity, expand our membership base and add to the InterPride coffers.

There was some attempt to remedy this with InterPride's participation at the 5th annual Conference of ILGA-LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) in January. The week-long human rights event was held in Curitiba, PR, Brazil, with representatives of organizations from throughout both Region 9 (Central America and the Caribbean) and Region 17 (South America). Toni Reis, former R17 director and President of ABGLT (which has recently won ECOSOC status in the UN) arranged for InterPride to figure prominently during the conference. I co-facilitated 3 international workshops dealing with: What is Pride?, Repoliticizing Pride, and Building International Alliances and I was also asked to deliver a keynote address at the Opening Ceremonies, an honor in the extreme (speech on following page).

In addition, I participated in a number of separate meetings for both regions 9 and 17 during which delegates went through the process of organizing. Although Region 9 was not

able to fully organize and set up a formalized structure for entry into InterPride, there was attendance from several Caribbean countries and talks were hopeful. The results of the Region 17 gatherings were far more successful, however. Several meetings took place which produced an initial list of 16 interested organizations from the South American continent and elections were held for 2 RDs (one from Spanish-speaking nations and one from Portuguese-speaking Brazil) and an alternate. Unfortunately, much of the IP website was unavailable to show during my presentation on InterPride and subsequently, website issues were problematic with getting these groups on board.



Left: Billy Urich with Lula Ramierez; right with Sherlina Nageer, Guyana and Mario Kleinmoedig, Curacao

The week of outstanding workshops, informative roundtable discussions and phenomenal networking opportunities culminated in the conference attendee's participation in the 2nd annual Trans March through the streets of Curitiba, followed by dancing and merriment under a tent near a city park. I was delighted by the fact that so many people wanted to help me carry the InterPride banner during the march.



InterPride banner at the 2nd annual LGBTI March in Curitiba, Brazil; left to right: Maurice Tomlinson, Jamaica, Mario Kleinmoedig, Curacao, Billy Urich, InterPride and Joel Bedos, IDAHO

Also during ILGA-LAC, I was able to meet and have discussions with Joel Bedos from IDAHO. I believe strongly that with the

purpose of our respective organizations so closely aligned, we should be more closely associated with the IDAHO organization. All in all, the contacts we have made as a result of our participation in ILGA-LAC have been well worth the effort and our gratitude goes to Toni Reis and his people for allowing our

prominence at ILGA-LAC to be so profoundly noticed. It will be incumbent upon us, however, to maintain outreach to organizations in these important and under-represented regions, streamline and facilitate the membership process and welcome them into the InterPride family.

Keynote Address – 5th Annual Conference of ILGA-LAC, Curitiba, Brazil January 2010

by William Urich, Chair of InterPride Committee on GLBTI Human and Civil Rights

Honored guests, distinguished panel, Ladies and Gentlemen and all folks in between, I would like to express my gratitude to the conference organizers and volunteers and thank you for the honor and privilege of speaking with you here today at the 5th international conference of ILGA-LAC. I bring you greetings from InterPride and the world-wide family of Pride organizers.

All of our respective countries are signatories to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a noble document which, by itself has no power or authority. But, its very existence has paved the way for successive international legislation and covenants securing the rights of all people everywhere. However, in some parts of the world, some of our brothers and sisters continue to live in environments hostile to their very existence.

Increasingly throughout the LAC region, more and more nations are standing up and dispensing with intolerance, granting rights and equality to GLBTI people. Yet, while there is marriage equality in some countries, we still suffer transphobia throughout much of Central America, the batty man continues to be hunted, beaten and murdered with impunity in Jamaica, and the horror of HIV and AIDS-related illnesses continues to rob us of our loved ones.

When one person anywhere is imprisoned, tortured, beaten or murdered through ignorance, hatred, bigotry and prejudice, or, is forced to suffer a terrible death because education and lifesaving treatment and medications are not readily available, we are all diminished everywhere, as a community, as a society, as a civilization and as a world.

But these problems are not specific to Latin America or the Caribbean. Gay bashings and murders take place even in gay strongholds like Amsterdam, and all over the world people continue to die of AIDS. The point here is that we are not safe anywhere, until we are all safe everywhere.

We still have much work to do ... and we must do it together.

InterPride is an international, world-wide support network for organizations that produce Pride events. ILGA is well known

for its Human Rights endeavors worldwide, and particularly right here this week in Curitiba as we focus on Latin America and the Caribbean region.

ILGA-LAC and Human Rights and Pride organizations throughout the Latin American and Caribbean regions share a joint mission to insure the safety of all people and to advance the notion of GLBTI Human and Civil Rights and the need for equality; our respective missions are intertwined. And we must work together to achieve our goals and satisfy our respective missions.

Pride events are all about visibility. As Pride event producers, we are educators to the public, showing and teaching the mainstream community that we GLBTI people are their family, friends, neighbors, store clerks, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, teachers, office workers, farmers. As Human Rights activists, we strive to establish that equilibrium in treatment and acceptance of all people ... regardless of their sexual preference, gender identity or HIV status. We're doing the same work ... whether we are Pride producers or Human Rights advocates. We are one and the same. And if we're not doing the same work, we SHOULD be.

We share an inter-dependence with each other, for without Human Rights, there can be no Pride events. Indeed, without Human Rights, there can be no pride.

We are all just fingers on the same hand. We share the same dream of equality and safety for all people. But, we must all learn to work together to achieve our mutual desires, wants and needs and to overcome those who would persecute us. Only when we unite and cooperate together can we grasp, achieve and hold onto that distant equality that is rightfully ours. Without that cooperation in our struggle for equality and fair treatment of all people, we will see our goals slip through our fingers like so many grains of sand. I have recently seen this sadness in my own country with the loss of hard-fought equality in both California and Maine.

I come here with a message of partnership and collaboration, seeking hope for the future. This conference is but a start to what I believe will be a long and mutually beneficial union of our many successful efforts together. And, looking out among all of you here tonight, I have found the hope I seek, for it is in the eyes of all of you with a positive vision who will help to build that future.

Thank you.

The success of South American Prides is unquestioned: the largest Pride in the world takes place in Sao Paulo, Brazil with attendance figures far in excess of 2 million and the sheer number of various Pride events throughout South America is astounding. It has been said, however, that South America has been riding the wave of Pride success from the North. I would disagree with that to some extent. Although the North American effort had indeed preceded Pride events in South America, the South American efforts have been accomplished with minimal positive input from the North. Indeed, what it has taken organizations in the U.S. 40 or so years to accomplish, Brazil, for example, has done in 15. Moreover, South American Pride organizations and events have a distinct focus on education, human rights issues and AIDS prevention in addition to the festivities and celebration. They are riding no one's wave but their own, and with all due credit.



2nd annual LGBTI March in Curitiba, Brazil



2nd annual LGBTI March in Curitiba, Brazil

I believe that one day soon, South America and the Caribbean will take their rightful places as powerful, influential and driving forces within InterPride and the global GLBTI community. And, it's long overdue! As pointed out in the conclusion of last year's

report, outreach to these two regions has heretofore been difficult to achieve. But, with the many contacts made during ILGA-LAC, and the addition of 2 RDs from each region now representing their respective regions on the Board, this should improve in the future.

It may be of interest to note that during the conference, Mexico, which is part of Region 1 in InterPride, opted out of ILGA-NA (North America) to become affiliated with ILGA-LAC. Although geographically part of North America, the Mexican delegates agreed that as a nation, their society is more closely and culturally aligned with the countries of Central and South America than with the US and Canada. As InterPride grows in Latin membership, this change may also be a viable option for Mexican Pride organizations in the future.

Elsewhere in South America, the earthquake and resulting tsunamis in Chile destroyed or severely damaged many GLBT venues including the Frida Kahlo Lesbian Cultural Center. Many of our people in Chile were killed or injured and lost family members, homes, etc. Additionally, a collection was taken up by the ILGA-LAC delegates to send to LGBT groups in Haiti for earthquake assistance.

A most notable change in South America was the recent decision of Argentina to grant full marriage rights to same sex couples.

Turning to the Caribbean, Jamaica is well known throughout the world as a homophobic, hostile and dangerous area for queer people. This is particularly true of the exported "dance hall music" of Beenie Man and others, whose lyrics encourage the continued persecution and murder of gays. Recently, however, there has been a change in the tone of this music brought about by several international boycotts, hitting these performers directly in their pocketbooks. Inasmuch as these performers rarely, if ever, make their financial goals at home with the Jamaican audience at live concerts, their international ventures are their main source of income. This has forced an opening of dialogue on GLBTI issues within the country and Diaspora, as these "entertainers" recognize the need to come to terms with a boycotting world which disapproves of their homophobic vitriol.

A considerably lengthy discussion took place via the HR email group regarding a report of a "Day of Extermination of Gays" planned in Jamaica. This was actually a resurfacing of an idea from a couple years back. Although we were outraged and wanted to do something, we were advised not to respond to this in any way. It was felt that any reaction on our part could be hazardous to the GLBTI population there. Fortunately, this day never took place, although attacks and targeting of our people continue on the Island.

The problem of rampant homophobia in Jamaica and throughout the Anglophone Caribbean, for that matter, has been spurred on by the "Savings Law Clauses" in a number of national Constitutions. These clauses maintain or "save" old laws from colonial times and preclude them from judicial re-

view, no matter how draconian and anachronistic they may be. Therefore, the 19th century anti-buggery laws remain on the books and have not been challenged in the courts even though they represent a clear violation of the right to privacy in the 1962 independence constitution. Sadly, in addition to the Caribbean, the utilization of these “saved” laws continues in nearly all former colonial areas as well, particularly throughout Africa and Asia.

Currently, there are plans to test and overturn these laws in a number of countries through the OAS and Inter-American legal systems. However, the problem has been hampered by the unsuccessful albeit ongoing search for suitable claimants willing to be a test for these cases.



2010 “Walk For Tolerance”, Montego Bay, Jamaica

All is not without hope, however. Region 9 Directors Hsonia Mitchell and Herminio Ortega and others within the region are endeavoring to effect change throughout the area.

On April 7th, 2010, Montego Bay, Jamaica was the site for a “Walk For Tolerance”, complete with marching band, over 100 participants with banners and large rainbow flag followed by a rally with speakers and free lunch under a large tent on the beach for the participants. I was proud to represent InterPride at this historic occasion. (The flag used, by the way, was the Connecticut Pride section of the Absolut 25th Anniversary flag from Key West Pride.) The Walk, the first of its kind in Jamaica, was sponsored by Jamaica AIDS Support for Life and co-organized by JASL member Maurice Tomlinson, a Jamaican attorney I met during ILGA-LAC. Although the Walk encompassed all marginalized groups including MSMs, sex workers, AIDS and human rights organizations, the primary visual focus was clearly LGBT. Surprisingly, this event took place without incident and was considered a resounding success. Given Jamaica’s history of culturally-driven homophobia, this must be considered a major turning point for the entire Region and the world.

Unfortunately, there was considerable backlash from the event. The 7:00 PM news in Jamaica had coverage of the

Walk that evening, but not much and we didn’t see it. The 10:00 news had nothing on either station. It is suspected that they were told not to broadcast anything because there was nothing BAD to say about the event. However, Maurice and the other organizers were getting inundated with phone calls the morning after the event. One participant was caught on the 7 PM broadcast by his pastor and his grandmother. The pastor called him to say “I saw you on the news at that thing. Don’t come back to my church.” Grandma was not any better: “Move out!” Four people found it necessary to seek escape out of the country because they have been identified through TV news clips and become targets of homophobia.

I made a short video of this momentous event and posted it on YouTube. Shortly thereafter, however, I was asked to remove it, as people shown in the video were also subject to personal attacks and persecution. In the interest of safety, it was removed. It is, however, available on the InterPride Facebook page and copies on disk will be made available for anyone who wants one.

At the request of Maurice Tomlinson, a letter campaign was started with a number of InterPride organizations sending letters of equality support to the Jamaican Prime Minister and other officials. In addition, a formal letter commending Jamaica for its advances in Human Rights recognition was sent by InterPride’s Co-presidents following the success of the first Jamaican Pride march.



Groups participating in Jamaica’s first march

I believe it will be months, possibly years, before the full scope of this incredible event can be determined. But, the Jamaican repressed community has experienced the first steps toward the visible struggle for equality. We know that these first steps can prove to be dangerous, and that there is, indeed, a price to pay for visibility. However, I don’t believe they will stop now.

Indeed, the following month, Emancipation Park in Kingston, Jamaica’s notoriously more homophobic capital, was the site for a “Stand For Tolerance”. This second Pride event took place during **IDAHO** on May 17th, The **I**nternational **D**ay **A**gainst **H**omophobia and was held without a prior alert to the

media, much like the Moscow stealth model. A short video of this event is also available on YouTube. The Stand for Tolerance in Emancipation Park was organized in part by Maurice and other activists within Jamaica. Although this group of individuals is not an officially registered and recognized entity within Jamaican statutes, they are members of other HIV-related and Human Rights related groups.

Finally, in Montego Bay again, an organized memorial in to commemorate the brutal homophobic slaying of Victor Jarrett was held on June 18th, making this the third Pride/equality-related event in as many months. Photos of this event appear in the Worldwide InterPride display.

It should be noted that Board-appointed RD Hsonia Mitchell has had modest success in organizing individuals in Jamaica to stand for their rights as well and has facilitated a small gathering, also in Kingston's Emancipation Park. With the success of recent organizing on the Island, it would benefit the community there if all players increased their communications so that greater cooperation could be established between the InterPride RDs and extant indigenous GLBTI community activists. This could aid in coordinating their efforts more closely.

Although we clearly have an interest in InterPride within Jamaica, it was not clear at first which organization would actually seek membership, as the backlash JASL has experienced has caused them to taper from further equality activism at this time. Maurice Tomlinson has informed me, however, that future Pride organizing on the Island will officially be done by JFLAG and we gleefully welcome them into the InterPride family. It stands to reason that the voice of Pride activism has been raised in Jamaica and we can expect to hear more in the future. Jamaica's entry into InterPride will be a most welcomed addition. Quite unexpectedly, Jamaica may very well be the hot spot of Pride/Equality activism in the Anglophone Caribbean.

There has for some time been a growing underground GLBTI movement within Cuba. In recent recent years it has come out of the shadows into the bright light with Mariela Castro Espin (yes, THAT Castro family), who has championed GLBTI equality issues in her country and led the first Pride March last year down the streets of Havana. Recently, with Ms. Castro's serious lobbying efforts, Cuba has passed legislation in an effort to protect LGBTI people and enabling Transfolk to complete SRS. She continues to work with the organization which produces Havana Pride. It may be of interest to note that my first experience with Mariela was at the Montreal Human Rights Conference in 2006, where she spoke of LGBTI Rights initiatives, particularly TRANS issues, transpiring in Cuba at that time.

Wilfred Labiosa (Boston Pride Committee, Boston, MA, USA) has traveled to Cuba for extensive outreach and has met with Mrs. Castro-Espin. Although she is interested in having her group represented and participating in InterPride, she cannot attend the 2010 AGM in Long Beach due to the unfortunate position of the US government to refuse travel visas to Cuban

nationals. However, Wilfred and I will be working in close consort with the Belgian Lesbian and Gay Pride Association to bring Mariela to the AGM next year in Brussels.

For too long, Cuba has been absent from our equation. The archaic arguments between old men and former politicians on different shores can no longer be viewed with any validity in the modern world, and particularly within the modern international GLBTI movement and community. Cuba must and will have a place at our table, and in the person of Mariela Castro, it will be a place of honor, indeed.

There are a number of events taking place throughout the Caribbean. The Dominican Republic holds a Pride. In the Bahamas, there are several themed pageants around the islands based loosely on the "House" system which was popular in the US during the 80s and 90s. However, they do not yet feel that a formalized Pride event can be held without difficulty. Hopefully, this may change in the coming years. Guyana has been holding a Gay and Lesbian Film Festival for 5 years. Although it began small and clandestine, it is now a fairly large and successful event open to the public. However, a formalized Pride March has yet to be organized. Honduras, Costa Rica and more have been producing Prides for several years, but these events are small in both scope and attention. Curacao hopes to hold its first official Pride event during the first week of October this year and I have pledged my support.

Although there is interest among several of the island nations to move forward with Pride activism, the danger of homophobia persists, perpetuated by Saved Laws, a restrictive culture and religious fundamentalists. It was reported to me by several ILGA-LAC delegates that the recent rise in this anti-gay religious fundamentalism has been exported from North American church organizations and is spreading throughout both Regions 9 and 17, not at all unlike what they continue to attempt in Africa, most notably with frightening and horrifying results in Uganda and Nigeria. (Additionally, in Asia, the Republic of China has recently relaxed its ban on local religious groups and is now more tolerant of the ancient indigenous beliefs. It may be of interest to note that this coincides with an increase in Christian fundamentalism in that country as well.)

Region 16

The difficulties of organizing and producing Pride events in Africa remain a constant, with some areas stepping up persecution of GLBTI people. Although the "Kill the Gays" bill has been put on hold in Uganda, it is still pending legislation. A video produced by Vanguard/Current TV entitled "Missionaries of Hate" chronicles the efforts of the American conservative religious movement's involvement in the creation of this vile hate legislation. At present, there are plans to show this important documentary at this year's AGM in Long Beach. Copies will be available.

With the difficulties throughout the continent, communication with Chesterfield Samba (GALZ, Zimbabwe), the lone RD for the region has been sporadic. There was considerable concern brought about by the news of the break-in of the GALZ office. Several GALZ members were arrested, harassed and mistreated, including Chesterfield Samba, GALZ Director.

Reports sporadically continue to come out of the area denoting the horrific treatment of GLBTI people there. The decapitated and emasculated body of activist Pasikali Kashusbe, a member of Integrity Uganda, was found in Makindye Sabagabo, Wakiso District, Uganda in June of this year. His severed head was found some time later in a latrine. One month prior, the Rev. Henry Kayizzi Nsubuga disappeared after delivering a sermon supporting gay people.

Organizations in Kenya, Cameroon and elsewhere throughout the continent work diligently on HR issues. The most successful Pride events continue only in the Republic of South Africa. Clearly, more emphasis on outreach to Africa needs to be considered.

Region 15

Andrea Gilbert has been tireless in her efforts throughout her region, and with great success. Her work has been daunting and her energetic efforts in the region have been nothing less than outstanding and exemplary. She has done extensive outreach and built numerous bridges throughout her region and beyond. Her report has been submitted.

"Beyond Gay" has been shown with an appearance by Region 8 RDs and producer Bob Christie in Athens. Also, the first Region 15 InterPride Conference took place in Athens the same weekend as their Pride event (June 4, 2010).

It is with deep sadness that reports indicate that Trans murders continue to rise in Turkey. Additionally, former contacts within Lambda Istanbul have been lost and replacement members seem to have an unfounded distrust of InterPride.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is being watched closely as it seeks to adopt anti discrimination laws as was done in Serbia and Albania.

The situation in Belgrade has not yet been resolved. There are rumors of another event attempt in September, but as of this writing, very little information is available. I have been in contact with the new organizing committee and encouraged them to seek international support, but they are a new and untried group and their abilities are dubious at best. To their credit, however, they have already held talks with Serbian officials from the President down to the mayor of Belgrade. It will be interesting to watch what develops in Belgrade after last year's brutal attacks and murder.

Region 19

A thorough report of Pride activity has been submitted under separate cover from Edgar Atadero, Region 19 Regional Director.

His outreach to Asian Prides has been extensive, ongoing and with considerable success. Of particular concern in Asia was the forced cancellation of ILGA-Asia's conference in Surabaya, Indonesia earlier this year. Negative reactions and threats from the Islamic religious fundamentalists there caused the premature closure of the event. And in Chang Mai, Thailand, a country more usually tolerant than the rest of Asia, a group of "Red Shirt" thugs forced the prevention of the Pride celebration there last year. It is also interesting to note that the previous ILGA-Asia conference was held in that city just 2 years ago without incident.

Global

In an ongoing effort to increase my own knowledge base, raise awareness of global Pride/Human Rights difficulties and network to establish more international contacts, I have participated in conferences and/or Pride events in Brazil, Jamaica, Connecticut, Long Island, New York, Massachusetts and Virginia (POSE). I have also participated in radio talk shows in Massachusetts and Connecticut and appeared on Connecticut FOX 61 television. Additionally, I have had new printed in both US and European publications. As a member of InterPride, I was also invited to participate at the GLSEN Youth Conference in Boston and facilitated a workshop on global Pride and Human Rights issues and activism. Most of the participating young people had never even been to a Pride event and had little clue as to what goes on around the rest of the world. I found this shocking. We need to do a better job of educating our people including our youth.

Around the world we continue to be plagued with homophobic rhetoric and persecution. Russian activists have been fighting the anti-gay laws and the court decision to uphold the ban on distributing gay propaganda to minors has basically legalized homophobia and struck another blow to Pride organizing in the country. Legislation attempts in Lithuania nearly stopped the Baltic Pride from occurring. However, MEPs Lunacek (Austria) and Cashman (UK) drafted letters to dissuade this from happening. In Recommendation #CM/Rec(2010)5 to member states, Human Rights was discussed by the Committee of Ministers to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Although we eagerly await the decision of the ECHR in Strasbourg regarding the cases pending from Russia, the situations within Eastern Europe have changed little, despite the relative success of the first EuroPride in Warsaw. The Pride movements in Russia, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Moldova and elsewhere continue to be fraught with difficulty from an ever-homophobic right wing, clergy and political officials.

The Middle East region still has no representation in InterPride and minimal contacts in the area continue to keep the outreach challenge at a standstill. Homophobia is rampant throughout the area with an enforced death penalty in some Islamic countries in the Middle East and parts of Africa. Iran

maintains the record for execution of homosexuals by public hangings, but there is no way of verifying figures for more clandestine murders. And in Iraq, despite the continued American occupation, the treatment of GLBTI people there is still appalling. Furthermore, we need to closely monitor the fundamentalist and right-wing religious movements as they expand their foothold throughout the world. We have already seen the damage that they can cause within the nations of Islam (including Asia) and throughout former colonial regions in Africa and the Caribbean.

On a brighter note, the recent success in Asia is most noteworthy. Sunil Pant, an openly gay man and leader of the Blue Diamond Society, now sits on the Nepalese Parliament. With last year's decriminalization of homosexuality in India and greater tolerance increasing in other areas of the continent, we are now proud to welcome new InterPride member organizations from Hong Kong, Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Mumbai, India. As in South America and the Caribbean, continued outreach and cultivation of Prides in Asia will eventually add to our global diversity.

Conclusions and observations

It is a foregone conclusion that the need for increased education and awareness of global Human Rights issues persists. We should all be using our Pride events to do this. And while a great many of our events do so successfully, many do not even make the attempt.

The Human Rights Committee of InterPride continues its mandate to inform and raise awareness within the membership and Board of InterPride and the ongoing communication within the IP Human Rights email group is one of the highest of all InterPride committees. Unfortunately, the organization has been plagued with website and serious email problems since the changeover occurred. Although Joshua and Don have labored intensively to resolve these issues, many problems still persist and they have been ever vigilant in seeking remedy to the various issues. However, this has made communication difficult and sometimes impossible. Still, the HR committee activity continues online and to the greatest extent possible, I maintain contact with my assigned region's directors. Additionally, the Human Rights group continues its support of Pride endeavors with letter campaigns. As reported above, a number of them have already been forwarded to Jamaican authorities, for example.

It is disappointing that regional conferences in North America with the exception of POSE and CAPI (which had the participation of Paula Etlebrick, former Exec. Director of IGL-HRC) had no Human Rights component to them. In fact, the organizer of one conference had it specifically removed from the agenda submitted by that region's RDs. The recommendation from last year that regional conferences maintain a Human Rights component therefore stands. Outside of North America, it is standard practice.

There has been an increase in demands for HR group activity at AGMs and the Long Beach Pride organization has done an unprecedented and excellent job of responding to the membership in this area with the number and variety of offerings available at this year's AGM. Co-chairs need to be selected and a subcommittee formed for the assignment of specific goals with which the HR committee has been tasked, most notably, the administration of the Solidarity Fund and maintenance of the HR section of the IP website. A sub-group has already started discussions on these and other topics and a number of individuals have expressed an interest in the co-chair positions. Hopefully these will be accomplished and in place by the AGM. Moreover, with the advent of our Pride Radar, I maintain that all board members, and particularly the Regional Directors, be made a part of the HR committee so that reports of Pride activity, human rights violations, etc., can be expeditiously reported and assimilated into the Pride Radar mechanism.

Outreach endeavors this year have proven very fruitful in some areas and this needs to continue. Moreover, it should be increased, along with our efforts to partner with other international organizations with similar goals. As we expand our membership base, it is hoped that the resulting influx of dues revenue will offset our financial concerns. To that end, InterPride must cultivate members from and assist growing Pride endeavors within the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, Africa and elsewhere.

As we have seen from recent membership growth and a subsequent and substantial increase in scholarship requests, InterPride as an organization is becoming larger and truly more international in scope. There are concerns, however, that the rate of our growth may exceed the development of the necessary and dynamic infrastructure which must be in place in order for such development to continue efficaciously. In short, although our growth may increase, the organization itself may not be able to keep up with this growth potential and we could very well see diminishing returns as a result. In view of the number of scholarship applications to the AGM which had to be declined (and let's not forget that participation in the AGM is a driving incentive to join InterPride), and our tenuous economic status in a financially uncertain world, money, particularly our lack of much-needed funding continues to be problematic. It is a given that during these troubling economic times, our member organizations as well as InterPride itself suffer from grave financial difficulties and we need to work together to seek greater funding avenues to maintain our viability as an international organization and to provide effective service to our members. ■

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Caryl Dolinko, Vice President Operations and Communications Chair

As VP of Operations and Chair of Communications, I have reached out to my regions with emails updating them of what is being offered to Directors at this time for Pride's in their region to use. I forwarded information about our new Regional Director's Guide, our Brochures (Human Rights Brochure map and information to be updated), and the template for a business card. I shared information about our facebook pages for them to post Photos, news, highlights and links to their Prides. I've asked them to use our website to create their own webpage showcasing Prides in their region. The newsletter continues to be sent out on a Quarterly basis and is now received by approximately 1,000 Pride emails and LGBT organizations worldwide. Our Facebook Group has 684 members; our Facebook Page has 2,039 Fans.



The InterPride website, the eNewsletter and Facebook continue to be excellent methods of shared information both with our members and non-members. With another transition in programmers, we are now able to avert any future foreseeable issues. A new scope of back end and front end management of the website by specific Directors has made the website run smoother. A new team will be put in place to program and further develop the website.

I initiated the sponsorship of PRIDE House which brought international attention to InterPride. We created a Press Release and an advertisement to promote our involvement. I was able to attend both the Whistler and Vancouver launch and talked to the media during both of these occasions. As well, there was an international press conference held during the Olympics at Whistler where I sat on the panel of six and spoke on behalf of InterPride and shared our mandate and purpose. We created two brochures (InterPride information and Human Rights), had one thousand printed and some were distributed at PRIDE House.

I attended two regional conferences: Region 1, CAPI in San Diego, CA and Region 7, FCP in Toronto, Canada. I also attended the mid-year meeting in Long Beach, CA. At these conferences, I brought brochures to share with members and was able to speak to the delegates at the regional conferences a few times on behalf of InterPride. I shared information at both conferences about our Solidarity Fund and Scholarships as well as the upcoming conference in Long Beach and all of our member benefits ■

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Alan Reiff, Secretary

As the secretary I am **mandated to fulfill certain duties**. I attended the Annual General Meetings held in October 2009 in St Petersburg, Florida and will attend the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Long Beach, California. I have also attended both April mid-year meetings of the board held in the same locations as mentioned above. While in attendance, I transcribed all board meetings as well as the plenary sessions. I will do the same in Long Beach and facilitate a smooth transition to whoever is elected to take the position of Secretary as well. These minutes are available on the InterPride website as well as by request. I also attended the 2010 FCP conference (Fierte Pride Conference of Canadian Prides) in Toronto, Canada. I was not able to attend any additional conferences out of my own regional conference in 2009, due to my work schedule. In 2009 I attended my regional conference (NERP) in Philadelphia, PA and the 2010 NERP conference in Riverhead Long Island, NY. NERP stands for Northeast Regional Prides. I have been on the Human Rights committee and the Long Term Strategic Planning committee. During the past two years, I have had 100% of my own pride committee's support. I have been active with the Pride events in NYC while I held my position on the Executive Committee of InterPride. I believe that my involvement in all of these activities has met and surpasses my own expectations as well as the expectations of others.

In addition to the required duties, there have been **other activities I have fulfilled as secretary**. In June 2010 I attended the Long Island Pride event in Huntington Long Island, NY. I also attended the 2010 EuroPride event in Warsaw, Poland. While in Warsaw, I represented InterPride at an official press/media conference as well as doing a T.V. interview representing both Heritage of Pride and InterPride on T.V. Polska. I was also one of the carriers of an international banner in the official March around Warsaw. The board has been holding monthly Skype conference calls to improve communications amongst the regional directors and the executive committee. In two years, I have only missed two of these calls. I also transcribe notes from these conference calls when asked to do so. I continue to assist with Spanish and French translations/interpreting at all conferences and I help with editing English correspondences when asked to do so.

My term as Secretary ends in Long Beach. Although this position will possibly come to an end, my involvement with InterPride will NOT. I have been an active member for over 13 years and will continue to serve in a capacity as my fellow members see fit. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be a part of the pride movement and to hold the position of Secretary for InterPride. ■

InterPride's Sponsorship of PRIDE House at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games

by Caryl Dolinko, Vice President, Chair Communications Subcommittee

During the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics, for the first time ever, PRIDE house pavilions in Vancouver and Whistler provided a welcoming space for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified / two spirited community to come together to celebrate diversity and the achievements of their favourite Olympic and Paralympic athletes. As well, it was a opportunity to raise awareness about the important work that still needs to be done to eliminate homophobia, particularly in the world of sport.



During the Olympics, more than 20,000 people visited one of the two PRIDE house pavilions with hundreds more participating in a number of community outreach events. The PRIDE house story was the third most reported story of the Olympics and that it received over one hundred million impressions from TV, Radio, Print and Electronic (Social Media, Blogs, eNews, etc.).

nerships covering the various aspects of our community'. He continued, "InterPride's association with PRIDE House ensures that we have information on all the various Prides around the world and also helps liaise with the future PRIDE House Pavilion at London 2012 where WorldPride will happen in conjunction with the summer Olympics".



Dean Nelson and Ken Coolen at the opening of Pride House in Whistler

Although only a few LGBT athletes were able to visit either of the PRIDE house pavilions, having a physical and visible presence at major games like these remains very important, especially to the many LGBT team members not publicly out. Blake Skjellerup, a New Zealand speed skater who was not publicly out when competing at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, was able to visit the PRIDE house pavilion in Whistler after he competed. Indeed, Blake credits the Vancouver Olympics with inspiring him to come out of the closet. Skjellerup visited Whistler's PRIDE house during the Games and found the welcoming atmosphere there for gay athletes gave him the courage to go public.

If there were an Olympic category for queer awareness, PRIDE house would take home the gold. PRIDE house, a pavilion at the 2010 Whistler [and Vancouver] Olympic and Paralympics Games, provided a venue for LGBT athletes, the community and allies to celebrate diversity through sport. Although there is still much work left to do to address homophobia in the world around us, particularly in the world of sport, InterPride was able to contribute to the success of the historic first ever PRIDE house. There is hope that the conversations that started at the Olympics in 2010 will continue to be a catalyst for positive change in the LGBT community in the months and years ahead.



News around the globe

InterPride (International Association of Pride Organizers) was one of the sponsors associated with Pride House. Mark F. Chapman, Co-President of InterPride said, "This is a groundbreaking initiative and will enlighten the world with the human rights inequalities existing for millions of LGBT people around the world". Dean Nelson, Executive Producer of the Vancouver/Whistler PRIDE House stated that "Having InterPride's official support of PRIDE House is quite significant for us as it gives us the political voice and compliments other part-

FINANCE REPORT

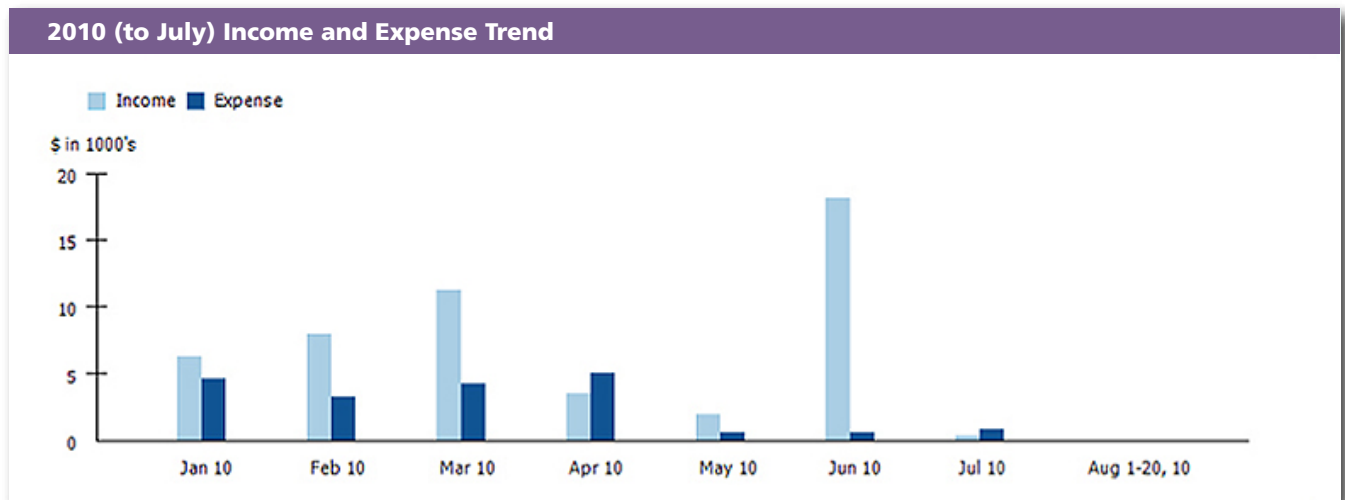
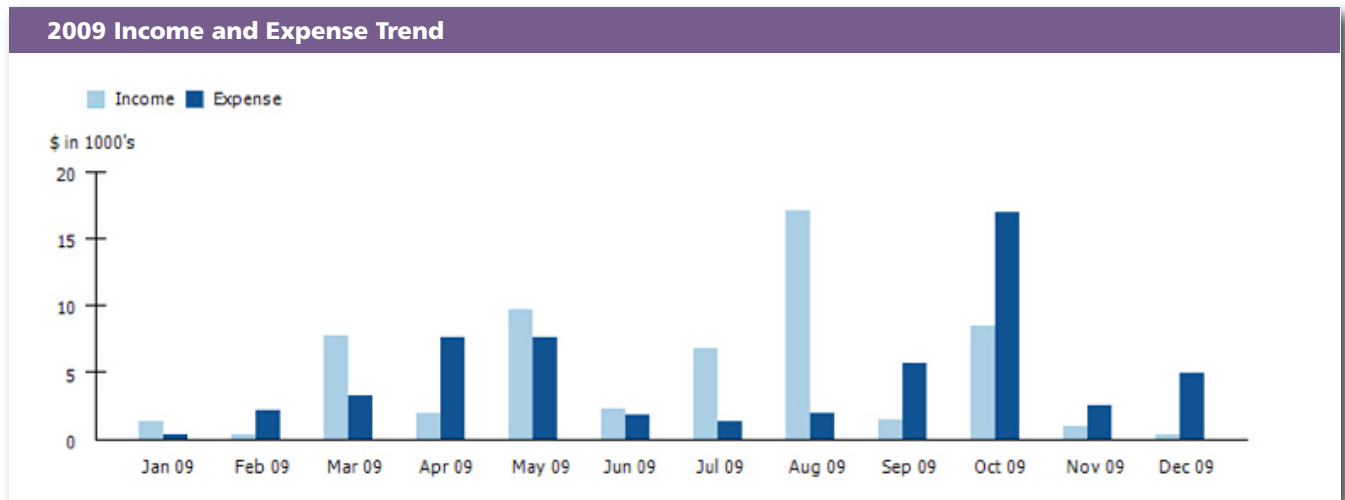
By Jer Megowan, Treasurer

The Finance committee has been working diligently to keep finances solvent. We have looked into other bank options, reviewed reimbursements for board members for Mid Year/AGM and regional conferences. We are also redoing our chart of accounts to make it more user friendly and reflect accounts that we use presently and into the future. Another standing rule is being proposed to better define the amount of matching

funds InterPride contributes to the Scholarship fund.

I am happy to report that currently we have more revenues than expenses; our current net income as of August 20th, 2010 is US\$10,928.19 over budget. Our project net income for the year was a loss of US\$13,071. As it looks now we may break even and possibly have a small net income at the end of the year if AGM reimbursement costs stay under US\$20,000.

Below are Income and Comparison Charts for 2009 and 2010 to date.



InterPride – Profit & Loss 2010

January 1 through September 29, 2010

INCOME	Total US\$
Membership Revenue	
Full Membership Dues	
– Membership Dues	24,667.38
– Memberships Donated	50.00
– Memberships Discounted	-5,320.14
– Full Membership Dues - Other	50.00
Total Full Membership Dues	19,447.24
Total Membership Revenue	19,447.24
Operations Revenue	
License Fees	
– World Pride License Fee	1,000.00
– Contract License Fee	15,000.00
Total License Fees	16,000.00
Total Operations Revenue	16,000.00
Scholarship & Donations Revenue	
Scholarship Revenue	
– Scholarship - Membership	1,250.00
Total Scholarship Revenue	1,250.00
Donations	
– Donations - Membership	1,625.00
– Donations - Individual	445.30
– Donations - Other	3,116.69
Total Donations	5,186.99
Scholarship & Donations Revenue - Other	1,295.30
Total Scholarship & Donations Revenue	7,732.29
Total Income	43,179.53
Gross Profit	43,179.53

EXPENSE	Total US\$
Board & Conference Expenses	
Conferences & Travel Expenses	
– Accomodation & Meals	6,307.35
– Conference Expenses	645.47
– Registration Fees	503.82
– Travel & Transportation	4,458.30
Total Conferences & Travel Expenses	11,914.94
Regional Directors Outreach	356.24
Regional Conference Support	1,413.94
Board & Conference Expenses - Other	750.00
Total Board & Conference Expenses	14,435.12
Administrative & General Expenses	
Administrative Charges	
– Bank & Interest Charges	136.50
– Credit Card Charges	364.30
Total Administrative Charges	500.80
Bad Debts	-113.99
Communications	
Marketing/Advertising	3,000.00
Brochures/Banners	1,648.69
Web Site	561.80
Survey Service Costs	200.00
Total Communications	5,410.49
Insurance	293.52
Office Supplies	79.00
Taxes	
Corporate Filings	600.00
Taxes	108.45
Total Taxes	708.45
Total Administrative & General Exp	7,040.34
Total Expense	21,475.46
Net Ordinary Income	21,704.07
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
– Interest Income	17.61
– Investment Income	6,580.76
Total Other Income	6,598.37
Temp Restricted Revenues	
– Mem Scholarship Pledges	1,600.00
– Ind Scholarship Pledges	-100.00
Total Temp Restricted Revenues	1,500.00
Total Other Income	8,098.37
Net Other Income	8,098.37
Net Income	29,802.44

InterPride – Unaudited Statement of Financial Position 2009

As of December 31, 2009

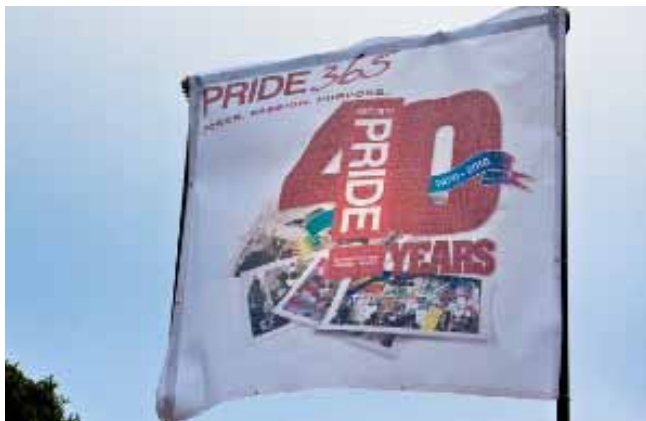
ASSETS	Total US\$	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	Total US\$
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Accounts		Current Liabilities	
1000 Cash & Bank Accounts		Accounts Payable	
1030 Operating Bank	1'329.74	2000 Accounts Payable	2'064.02
1070 Savings Account	14'776.26	Total Accounts Payable	2'064.02
Total 1000 Cash & Bank Accounts	16'106.00	Other Current Liabilities	
Accounts Receivable		2500 Deferred Revenue	0.00
1100 Accounts Receivable	6'240.28	A/P (deleted)	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	6'240.28	Total Other Current Liabilities	0.00
Other Current Assets		Total Current Liabilities	2'064.02
1200 Short Term Investments	0.00	Total Liabilities	2'064.02
1210 Certificates of Deposit	44'698.15	Equity	
Total 1200 Short Term Investments	44'698.15	3400 Temp Restricted Net Assets	
1600 Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	0.00	3440 Temp Restricted Scholarships	-7'299.20
1630 Prepaid Insurance	594.00	Total 3400 Temp Restricted Net Assets	-7'299.20
1670 Prepaid Conference Registrations	5'250.00	Net Income	84'987.28
Total 1600 Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	5'844.00	Total Equity	77'688.08
Total Other Current Assets	50'542.15	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	77'688.08
Total Current Assets	72'888.43		
Other Assets			
1900 Intangibles			
1910 Internet Domain Property	4'799.65		
Total 1900 Intangibles	4'799.65		
Total Other Assets	4'799.65		
TOTAL ASSETS	77'688.08		

Regional Reports

REGION 1

By Jimmy Gruender, Regional Director and Frank Rubio, Regional Director

This year two pride organizations in Region 1 reached milestones CSW/LA Pride and San Francisco Pride celebrated 40 Years of Pride. These organizations started as a direct result of the Stonewall Riots and have grown to be two of the largest Gay Pride Celebrations in the world. The commitment of those members who have volunteered over the past 40 years speaks to the dedication to fight for the right to celebrate and fight for diversity and Human Right for all.



Banner celebrating 40 Years of Pride

This year saw the resurgence and grow of new pride organizations. Orange County Pride produced its first pride event last year. This year their members attended the regional conference in San Diego and have networked with other prides in the area. They attended Long Beach Pride board meetings and worked with their community to form a strong volunteer base. This year's event was held in Irvine, CA, a very conservative part of Orange County. They were hoping for 2-3 thousand attendees and reach that within the first few hours. Sedona Pride in Arizona will be celebrating its second pride event this year. Sedona is also having an increase in the number of attendees at their Pride Celebration. We look forward to these events growing in

the years to come thanks to their great volunteers and dedicated leadership.

Great changes are taking place in Mexico. In a Mexico City where the largest Pride Celebration takes place attitudes are changing towards the LGBT community. In a recent case, the Supreme Court upheld a law that Mexico City's legislators passed in December, 2009, allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry. Mexico's highest court voted 8-2 in favor of the same-sex marriage provision. Their Supreme Court is expected to rule on whether same-sex marriages formed in Mexico City will be recognized across the country and whether same-sex couples can legally adopt children.



Sharron and Kelly Osborn CSW/LA Pride Grand Marshalls at Press conference.



40 Years of Pride, San Francisco

2010 Regional Conference: This year's Regional Conference was held January 22–24, 2010 in San Diego, CA. and hosted by San Diego LGBT Pride. InterPride officers and board members in attendance were InterPride VP of Operations Caryl Dolinko and board members Tony Ross, Jimmy Gruender and Frank Rubio.

This year's conference was very well attended from pride organizations throughout the region. In 2009 the conference was in Northern California and made it accessible to many of the pride organizations in that part of the region who attended for the first time. We fell organizations saw the educational and networking opportunities and that's way they chose to come to San Diego for the 2010 conferences. Several of the larger prides continue supporting smaller organizations in the region by helping out during their events this helps strengthen our region.

The registered attendees were from the US states of California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Hawaii, Tijuana, Mexico and Vancouver, BC. There were 110 registered attendees from 26 pride organizations that attended the conference. The CAPI scholarship program helped bring the highest number of attendees on record to this year CAPI/Regional Conference. There were 28 people from 16 pride committees from 4 states; AZ, CA, HI and NM that received scholarships.

Some of the workshops:

Opening Motivational Address – Presented by Rev. Troy Perry Founder of Metropolitan Community Churches Gay Rights Activist and Author. Rev. Perry has been an international leader in the quest for marriage equality for gays and lesbians. In 1969, he performed the first public same-sex wedding in the U.S., and in 1970 he filed the first-ever lawsuit seeking legal recognition for same-gender marriages.

Political Activist and Champion of Equal Rights – Presented by Midge Costanza. Midge Costanza was the first woman in U.S. history appointed to the position of Assistant to the President, from which she advised President Jimmy Carter on a number of social issues that included civil and human rights. During her tenure, she made history by holding the first meeting in the White House concerning the plight of gays and lesbians in the matters of immigration, naturalization and overall discrimination. Since the conference Midge Costanza passed away.

Ask People for Money (and Your Board Too!) – Presented by Russell Roybal from the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. Think before you accept money. Is it going to cost you more to defend taking the money you received?

Human Rights, Prides and Freedom of Speech – Presented by: Paula L. Ettelbrick. The Civil Rights movement is grounded on the achievement of Human Rights for all people! In this session Paula Ettelbrick discussed and opened the door to the

abuses our Pride brothers and sisters have faced around the world in the past and what they are still facing today.

The staff and volunteers from San Diego Pride worked hard and produced a well attended and very successful conference. There were several social events that took place during the conference bar run and taste of San Diego.



2010 Region 1 Conference, San Diego

The 2011 Region 1 Regional Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. On Thursday, February 17, 2011 a welcome mixer and registration will be held at the host hotel. The Regional Conference is Friday-Sunday, February 19-21, 2011. It will be hosted by Santa Fe Pride and will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Elections were held for the RD and alternate RD positions available. Frank Rubio from Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, Inc. was re-elected to another term his term expires at the 2012 Regional Conference. Jimmy Gruender's term will expire at the 2011 Regional Conference. There was no alternate RD elected at the conference.

We distributed the new brochures that we created to educate everyone on InterPride and Human Rights. The 2010 AGM Conference in Long Beach, CA. was being heavily promoted by the members of Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, Inc. that attended the conference. We have continued to promote the 2010 AGM Conference in Long Beach, CA. and the 2011 Conference in Belgium to the pride organizations in our region.

As Regional Directors we have continued to outreach, support and educate pride organizations new and old on the values of becoming InterPride member. We explain the benefits of membership as it may relate to insurance for pride related events. Also the networking and educational benefits of attending the annual and regional conferences.

Based on the number of pride organizations in our region we as Regional Directors have a lot of work that needs to be done. Building the InterPride membership within our region will not be easy and we will need to work with the InterPride leadership to create a strategy to achieve this goal. ■

REGION 2

By Frank R. Leonzal, Regional Director

2010 was a busy year for Region 2 and making personal contacts in addition to communications projects. Based on the InterPride Region 2 (IPR2) Pride Calendar and subsequent list sent from VP Member Services for the Pride Radar project there are 20 known or know to be possible Pride events of some type within the region. This year the RD visited as many as possible based on personal work requirements, dates and distance. At conclusion of the known region calendar 9 Pride events out of 20 did have personal contact in this reporting period. Those missed due to continued calendar conflicts will have priority for 2011 and better scheduling/planning will also be made to attend other events missed this year, but not due to date conflict or distance.



Throng of people on the center grounds for the Seattle Pride Fest

IPR2 Newsletter seems to be well received, not heard any feedback one way or another. In the latest edition a Regional Survey was created and included touching on the Pride Radar subjects as well as items related to Regional Director performance and issues related to the region in regards to 1) communication, 2) regional meetings and preference for 'face to face' and/or Skype type meetings for the longer distance organizations and 3) membership and/or lack of in InterPride. Also included in the latest issues was a Organization Data Card to make sure that the Region had the most current, accurate and usable information as well as to assist IP VP of Member Services. Still need/working on doing the newsletter in a format that would allow it to be posted on the Yahoo group and our section of the Facebook page (I believe that every region has a space to add info, photos, etc.

In regards to IP membership, I guess it still comes down to the old "what do I get for our dues?" I try to impress on people in conversation and materials the importance of networking, Human Rights issues and advertising (PRIDE Maga-

zine). One issue that I did see a reaction to was the listing of pride events and the reduction of information. In one issue the organizations were able to list- lodging, restaurants/bars, etc. This was (and is) a good tool for Pride organizations to solicit sponsorship from area businesses if they know they are getting that advertising. I would suggest and urge that this be allowed again in future publications. *The other addition to this year's PRIDE Magazine was the listing of the Board of Directors and Regional Directors.



Mid-Columbia Pride Parade Crew, Sue Leathers Chair (far left) Some of the parade participants in the staging from the Atomic City Roller Derby Team and Latino Community



The Eugene/Springfield Pride Committee takes a minute to pose for me, IP Treasurer Jer Megowan (center).

Also included in this report are photo's of the regions events, an example of the IPRD report to be considered for future inclusion in the RD's handbook. I received this when I took the Alternate position and is what I use as my guide. This may be a valuable tool in helping people as a guide or to use when filing their reports and may help by encouraging better reporting practices. *It may need to be updated for today's needs.

The only other issue that I've come across (and Don Mills clarified it at our last Skype call 08/08/10) was that I've received

questions regarding how to join IP- in that currently when you hit the join button, nothing happens. I found a copy I printed off years ago now that used to bring up "fill in the blanks" pages and ultimately took you to a payment page. Would this be something that can be activated again to cut down on back and forth time between IP VP Member Service and/or the Region Directors (unless an issue arises that causes it not to work or go through).



Capital City Pride, Olympia WA, Business Mgr. Anna Schlecht (2nd from left) and volunteers

One question was- Why and/or how did it become a requirement that a Regional Director be affiliated with a InterPride Member Organization to do the monumental task at hand? Due to the believed or perceived idea that the parent organization would be helping to cover the RD's expenses? ■

REGION 3

By Paul Collom, Regional Director

As regional director of region three, one of my goals for this year was to obtain more membership dues from other organizations in our region. I have searched for Pride Organizations, GLBT Centers, and Alliance/Equality groups in our region. Before this research, Region 3 had a listing of approximately 25 organizations for the region. I added the new organizations to our contact list for the region, and now the number of GLBT organizations is at 72. I have been in contact with these groups, letting them know about InterPride and the benefits of joining. The Organizations mentioned are listed below at the end of my report.

This year in the State of New Mexico, Gallup NM held their 2nd annual pride festival. Tony Ross, (2nd regional Director for Region 3) attended and helped with their pride. I was also able to attend Phoenix Pride this year. Taos Pride in Taos NM is holding their first ever Pride event this coming weekend. Tony

Ross, Dona Hatch VP of InterPride and I will attend. 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 year through our website. As of today we have the following paid Members in Region 3: Albuquerque Pride, Austin Gay and Lesbian Pride Foundation, Gallup Pride, Oklahomans for Equality, Pride Houston, Santa Fe Human Rights Alliance (Santa Fe Pride), Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association, Unity Foundation Inc, Wichita Pride Inc, Equality Texas.



Presenting the flag

Albuquerque Pride and Santa Fe Pride have the excellent opportunity to host the Annual joint Region 3 and Region 1, CAPI Conference in 2011. Region 4 and all regions are welcome. The conference will be held February 17-20, 2011 in Albuquerque, NM. Santa Fe Pride will host the Saturday Night Dinner for the conference along with our Annual Gayla in Santa Fe. Our goal is to entertain and educate the regular attendees of CAPI, as well as hoping to bring in prides from our Region to the conference. This will be the second time Region 3 has held a Regional Conference. One was hosted many years ago by Albuquerque Pride, with PJ Sedillo as the organizer of that event. Region 3 hasn't had as much participation with pride organizations in the past to be a self sustaining region, thus some organizations from Region 3 have attended Region 1 (CAPI) and Region 4 conferences in the past. It is our hope that with a conference being held in New Mexico this coming year, that we will have an increase in conference attendees coming from all directions.

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 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

REGION 3 (continued)

By Tony Ross, Regional Director

I began this calendar year by attending the annual meeting and regional conference for Region 1 this year in San Diego January 21–24, 2010.

Albuquerque and Santa Fe Prides will be hosting regions 1 and 3 conference next spring, February 17–20, 2011. Santa Fe and Albuquerque have made a strong plea to invite all members of InterPride and especially members of Region 1, 3, and 4. During the mid-year meeting in Long Beach I made contacts also from Region 2 in an attempt to bring perhaps the whole west coast together for a large event rather than small regional meetings or worse yet, no regional meeting at all.

My goal this last year following the AGM of InterPride was to assist pride committees to gain legal status as corporations and as members of InterPride or to get their non-taxable status with the IRS. To this end, I worked closely with the representatives from Austin to assist them to get their 501(c)(3) application submitted. Further, I was in constant communication with the committee of Gallup (NM) Pride to become a corporation within the state, and then to get their membership with InterPride. I am happy to report that in their second year of existence they have joined InterPride and are a full pledge member.



Gay Pride Taos fence at the Kit Carson Park

Further, I have been very supportive and worked very closely with the committee in Taos, NM. (See the photos on the back of this page.) Although they have not yet incorporated within the state, they very successfully had their first ever Gay Pride event the weekend of August 19–22. I would not feel comfortable in placing a number on those attending, but they had over forty booths, entertainment for all ages with a variety of events for all ages Friday through Sunday. The group of volunteers pulled together after the very sad situation when the founder and organizer of Gay Pride Taos passed away less than two weeks before the event. Santa Fe Pride and Albuquerque Pride pulled together to lend their support and expertise to make it truly a fantastic weekend.

I have also been in contact with pride coordinators in Farmington, NM; Las Cruces, NM; Socorro, NM; and Santa Fe. This year I attended Phoenix Pride the weekend of April 16–18.

I attended the opening of a GLBT Community Center in Las Cruces the same weekend as their pride event. At the opening I made a presentation for those attending talking about InterPride and providing brochures and audiovisual information about the work InterPride undertakes in the area of human rights issues. We discussed the outreach InterPride offers all the various committees around the world and the value of being a member of InterPride.



Miss Fontana DeVine as Hostess for Gay Pride Taos

Johnny Quintanta, CAPI 2011 chairperson, provided information about CAPI and what a pride committee can expect from attending a regional conference. PJ Sedillo, ABQ Pride President shared, with the attendees what ABQ Pride has in store this year, as well as emphasizing the importance of being a part of InterPride and the value of attending the Regional Pride Conference next February. Attendees were from southern New Mexico and western Texas.

I again, as my seventeenth year, worked with ABQ Pride as their PrideFest coordinator for the booths and logistics for ABQ Pride which was held June 10–12. I then attended Gallup Pride and Taos Pride.

An event that ABQ Pride started many years ago was having a visible presence for the GLBT community at our NM State Fair. For a few years there was a parade entry, and then for the last 5 plus years there was a booth staffed for the GLBT community with volunteers from various organizations. Last year was the first year this endeavor was passed on to an organization known as The Centers of NM. This year I have been asked as a regional director of InterPride to head up getting support from all ends of the state to sponsor one day at the fair for this booth. In so doing I have been in communication with pride committees in Gallup, Farmington, Taos, Santa Fe and Las Cruces. ABQ Pride has committed to sponsoring one day on their own, and the other 5 committees will sponsor a day at this community booth. The booth will bring information available to thousands who will be attending the over 2 week event.

I have worked very hard this past year to coordinate and network with various Pride communities in New Mexico. I have stressed the importance of joining InterPride and assisted various pride leaders to support one another especially due to the vast distances of Prides in New Mexico. It is a four hour car trip to Las Cruces or Farmington, a 3 hour trip to Taos and a 2 hour trip to Gallup. The vast distance from one pride to another is probably only met by the distances that are in Texas. This is the reason for my goal this year to get individuals to attend our Regional Conference next spring. Hopefully, after a warm and enduring reception and a very rewarding conference, pride committees in New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Utah, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin will have a far greater appreciation of what it means to be a member of the International Association of Pride Coordinators (InterPride) and of how important it is that we continue to develop relationships, and to build up a network of support. ■

REGION 4

By Michael Gorsuch, Regional Director

This year was faced with a few obstacles as I work with pride organizations within region four alone during the absence of RD Todd Saporito up until the mid year meeting. At that time Todd was replaced with Rick Bumgardner from Kansas City (who became due paying members this past year) to finish out Todd's remaining term.

There were a few new pride organizations' leaders this year that ineffective transition created a learning curve in their involvement with InterPride and Region Four. I worked with them to help their respective organizations to have positive outcomes in the planning of their events. During this time, work with pride organizations in Columbia MO, Bellevue IL and Wichita KS promoting InterPride and our collective resources. I would recognize Rick's work at this time helping to promote InterPride with pride organizations within MO and KS before his selection which made him an ideal pick to replace Todd.

Our joint regional conference was cancelled for a second year in a row due to lack of registrations from region four and region three members which prompted legal issues due to poor fiscal management on the part of the host organization, Rainbow Celebrations.

Kansas City was selected to host the 2011 Region Four Conference, and with Rick being President of their pride organization and my involvement with the planning of the previous two regional conferences hope that we can bring our region

back together with a strong showing with our established organizations and the newer organizations that have inquired and joined InterPride during the past year.

According to VP of Members Services, we have 26 pride organizations registered with InterPride from Region Four of which 15 paid members with 4 of those being new members and 3 having registration fees still pending. Where we are down from 17 paying members last year that fact we added 4 new paying members is an accomplishment, but will be contacting those prides who did not renew to either get them back on board or find out why they didn't renew in order to address any issues affecting us retaining members. As I reported to the board at the mid year meeting, this upcoming year I planned to continue to work on recruiting Black and Latino pride organizations into membership of InterPride.

I personally attended pride events in Kansas City, Omaha, Lincoln and Des Moines this past summer. Kansas City and Des Moines were two great events to attend and see the work paid off by their respective organizations. Rick attended St. Louis pride event stating that organization as well had great return on the work they achieved this year.

Rick and I both look forward to a successful year, and would like to extend a personal invitation to all InterPride members to come to Kansas City for our regional conference. ■

REGION 5

Joshua Wallace and JP Sheffield, Regional Directors

The focus of the regional directors has primarily been on rebuilding the POSE database with updated contact information, creating more effective forms of visibility & communication for POSE (Prides of the Southeast), providing support for the 2010 POSE Conference, and driving organizations to renew their InterPride memberships.

We currently have opening for alternate regional director and will hold an election for any new candidates at the AGM during our regional Caucus meeting

POSE Database

Much of the information we had from prior years was outdated. This issue was primarily a result of massive leadership turnovers in organizations throughout the southeast, but was exacerbated by the 2009 POSE conference being canceled. The annual conference is generally the best platform to reconnect with members and get current contact information.

To try and address this issue, Joshua Wallace built a POSE website that allows members to update their information at any time. It also allows for multiple members of the same

organization to list their contact, so if someone leaves, there is still a point of contact from within that organization. A facebook page was also created to help spread the word and drive POSE organizations to the site.

JP Sheffield began emailing and calling the old contacts and making notes of what information was no longer valid, and asking those that responded to update their info through the site if necessary. He also conducted web searches for current contacts of organizations that he was unable to reach.

Visibility & Communication

The POSE website & facebook page has heightened the visibility of our region and InterPride ... it introduces non-pride organizers to the purpose and existence of both.

In conjunction with the new POSE website, Joshua created a backend member site. This site stores the updated contacts, allows for notes to be made about communication with members, allows for meetings & phone calls to be scheduled with members, and has a seamless email system to connect with all members. This has made keeping up with communications easier and allows for regional directors to always know what each other has done.

2010 POSE Conference

This year's POSE Conference was host by Virginia Pride in Richmond, March 19th–21st. Creating momentum for conference registration was difficult due to the cancellation of the 2009 conference. Besides creating some unrest with members about whether or not the 2010 conference would actually happen, Virginia Pride did not have the opportunity to solicit the event to a captive audience. The current economic state of Pride organizations in the region also made it difficult for some to register or to send multiple registrants.

While the number of attendees was low (a little more than 30), there was great representation from the region with 11 POSE organizations present. There were also 3 NERP organizations present, bringing the total to 14 InterPride registered members in attendance. There were 3 Executive Committee members present: Trisha Clymore (Co-President), Don Mills (VP Member Services), and Billy Urich (VP Operations). We felt like this was an extremely strong showing, particularly coming off such a bad year.

The conference included 9 workshops, which dealt with a variety of topics including Tourism, Sponsorship, Marketing, and Volunteer Management. The presenters were professional and well received by attendees. The post conference feedback was extremely favorable, with attendees pleased with the networking opportunities and information provided. Virginia Pride did incur a deficit on the event totaling about US\$1500.

Business items from the conference included:

- Formation of a subcommittee to create standard operating procedures for the region
- Formation of "State Point People" to assist regional directors in locating new pride events in the region and staying up to date on contact information
- Discussion about revamping the POSE Logo
- Awarding the 2011 POSE conference to Pittsburgh (to be hosted as a joint NERP/POSE conference) March 3-6, 2011
- Awarding the 2012 POSE conference to Blueridge Pride, Asheville NC. Dates TBD
- Re-election of JP Sheffield as regional director
- ARD position left vacant
- Creation of goals list for the year

Renewing Members

While reaching out to members to register for the 2010 POSE conference, we also encouraged past members to pay their dues before the early bird deadline. We shared with organizations the change in fees, and no organization voiced concern over changing the minimum payment to US\$50 (US\$35 with early bird) and maximum to US\$800 (US\$600 early bird).

All 11 organizations attending the conference paid dues, along with several others that were unable to attend the conference, for a total of 24 current members to date. Don Mills has done an excellent job following up with organizations about payment and explaining the process.

2011 POSE Conference

The 2011 Conference will be held in Pittsburgh as a joint NERP/POSE conference March 3 – 6, 2011. Monthly conference calls with the committee have been productive working on workshop design, event planning, and outreach programs to get more organizations to come to conference. Scheduled walk through of hotel for September 25, 2010.

Events this year

Currently 25 organizations are paid members of Interpride, and a Total of 59 in the Interpride Database. For 2010 there are currently 38 different events for Region 5 published on the Interpride Website.

South Carolina Pride Parade	9/11/2010	Columbia	SC
Roanoke Pride in the Park	9/19/2010	Roanoke	VA
NC Parade & Festival	9/25/2010	Durham	NC
Pridefest	3/13/2010	Broward County	FL
Out in the Park	6/27/2010	Chesapeake	VA
Pride Picnic Gainesville	10/17/2010	Gainesville	FL
South Carolina Pride Festival	9/11/2010	Columbia	SC
South Carolina Pride Picnic	9/12/2010	Columbia	SC
South Carolina Pride Rally	9/11/2010	Columbia	SC
West Virginia Pride Parade and Festival	5/28/2010	Charleston	WV
Gainesville Pride Festival	10/23/2010	Gainesville	FL
Kentuckiana Pride Festival	6/18/2010	Louisville	KY
Central Alabama Pride Parade	6/12/2010	Birmingham	AL
Central Alabama Pridefest	6/13/2010	Birmingham	AL
Pride Skate	6/10/2010	Birmingham	AL
Mobile Alabama Pride Fest	4/23/2010	Mobile	AL
Emerald Coast PrideFest	6/26/2010	Panama City Beach	
Pride Paddling (Canoe/Kayak Trip)	7/24/2010	Panama City	FL
Pride Poker Trip	8/14/2010	Bolixi	MS
4 th Annual Family Fun Day			
Pride Picnic	9/18/2010	Panama City	FL
Reel Pride Film Festival	10/16/2010	Panama City Beach	
Kentuckiana Pride Festival	6/19/2010	Louisville	KY
Conway Gay Pride Parade & Festival	6/6/2010	Conway	AK
Drag Show	3/27/2010	Spartanburg	SC
Rummage Sale	4/10/2010	Anderson	SC
Speed Dating – Round 2	4/17/2010	Spartanburg	SC
Blue Ridge Pride	10/2/2010	Asheville	NC
NC Pride Night Festival	9/25/2010	Raleigh	NC
NC Pride Tour	9/24/2010	Chapel Hill	NC
VA Pride Festival	9/25/2010	Richmond	VA
Upstate Pride Poker Run	5/8/2010	Spartanburg	SC
Mister & Miss Upstate Pride Pageant	6/5/2010	Spartanburg	SC
Mister & Miss Upstate Pride Debut	6/18/2010	Spartanburg	SC
Atlanta Pride Festival	10/9/2010	Atlanta	GA
Augusta Pride	6/19/2010	Augusta	GA
“Out of the Closet”	4/24/2010	Augusta	GA
Tallahassee PRIDEFEST	4/9/2010	Tallahassee	FL
Atlanta Pride Parade	10/10/2010	Atlanta	GA

REGION 6

By Keri Aulita, Regional Director, Sherri Rase, Regional Director

Regional Director Team

In June 2010, Doreen DeJesus resigned from her Regional Director position and Alternate RD, Sherri Rase stepped up into the position. She agreed to take on the RD duties until the Regional NERP Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in March 2010.

The current RD Team of Keri Aulita and Sherri Rase continue to have regular phone and email communications to:

- Brainstorm and discuss current and future plans, projects and goals for the region
- Maintain regional task list

Regional Director Activities

- The RDs ensured that there was RD coverage at regional and international conferences throughout the year including the AGM in St. Petersburg, FL, NERP in Long Island, NY and both the 2010 mid-year meeting and AGM.
 - Keri & Doreen attended the 2009 AGM in St. Petersburg.
 - Keri, Doreen & Sherri ran the business meetings at the 2010 NERP Conference.
 - Keri attended the mid-year meeting in Long Beach and Doreen participated at points throughout the weekend by Skype.
 - Keri is attending the 2010 AGM and Sherri Rase will participate via Skype.
- Keri was re-elected to position for another two-year term at the Regional Conference in Long Island, NY in February 2010.
- Keri presented a well-received workshop on “Building a Better Board” at the POSE Conference in Richmond, VA over the weekend of March 19-21, 2010. With approximately 40 people in attendance, including Region 6 delegates Paul Sanders (PALI), Gary Van Horn (Pittsburgh Pride) and Billy Ulrich (CT Pride and InterPride Board Member), the conference was a great educational and networking experience.

Regional Membership

Region 6 has a very active and strong membership. The Northeast is fortunate to be a liberal hot spot and many of our cities are incredibly LGBT friendly, which makes for planning Prides easy, fun and successful. Of course, we do not forget that there are some areas, even in our progressive region, that are not safe, welcoming or friendly. Our current membership list is below and all of these Pride organizations executed their 2010 Pride events. You can find out more about their annual festivities by visiting their websites. Prides marked with asterisks were attended by one of the Regions RDs. Keri also attended a few area Pride celebrations that do not belong to InterPride in the hopes of encouraging them to join.

Boston Pride Committee www.bostonpride.org	Boston	MA*
Brooklyn Pride, Inc www.brooklynpride.org	Brooklyn	NY
Chesapeake Pride Festival www.chesapeakepridefestival.org	Annapolis	MD
CNY Pride www.cnypride.org	Syracuse	NY
Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc. www.connecticutpride.org	Hartford	CT
Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh Pride www.pittsburghpride.org	Pittsburgh	PA
Erie Gay News www.eriegaynews.com	Erie	PA
Erie Gay Pride, Inc. www.eriegaypride.org	Erie	PA
Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley - GAGV www.GayAlliance.org	Rochester	NY
Heritage of Pride www.nycpride.org	New York	NY*
Jersey City Lesbian + Gay Outreach www.jclgo.org	Jersey City	NJ
Jersey Pride, Inc www.jerseypride.org	New Brunswick	NJ*
LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts, Inc. www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org	Florence	MA*
Long Island Pride Parade, inc www.liprideparade.com	Wantagh	NY
New Hope Celebrates newhopecelebrates.com	New Hope	PA
Noho Pride www.nohopride.org	Northampton	MA*
Philly Pride Presents, Inc phillypride.org	Philadelphia	PA
Pride Alliance Long Island www.pa-li.org	Bay Shore	NY
Pride Festival of Central PA www.prideofcentralpa.org	Harrisburg	PA
Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley www.prideglv.org	Allentown	PA
Queens L and G Pride www.queenspride.com	Jackson Heights	NY
Rhode Island Pride www.prideri.com	Providence	RI

Regional Communications & Outreach

- Newsletters were sent to all member organizations in the region plus non-member pride committees throughout the region that we had email addresses for with information, reminders and resources for the region. Some highlights of the newsletters included:
 - Promoting the strategic planning survey

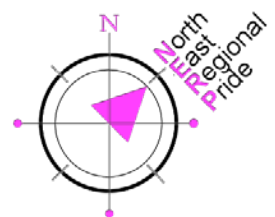
- Goal progress update (i.e. work being done on Regional Standard Operating Procedures manual and logo development)
- Reminding delegates to use our online outreach tools i.e. Facebook
- Requesting for updated contact info from delegates
- Reminding the region about open positions and upcoming conferences
- Putting a call out for plenary agenda items for conferences
- Reminders and reports on all conferences- regional, mid-year and AGM
- Promoting Regional and other Conferences: NERP, POSE, AGM
- Updated member email list and contact info as bounce backs were received.
- Friended new Pride Orgs on Facebook to increase outreach, contact and IP membership.
- Sent reminders to renew membership and pay dues.
- Increased use of Facebook to stay in contact with members.
- Outreach to potential new members including Worcester Pride (MA), Harlem Pride (NY), Jersey Lyfe (NJ), River Pride (NY)

Regional Conferences

- Worked closely with Pride Alliance of Long Island (PALI) on 2010 Regional Conference. The Region successfully tackled a lot of regional business at the Conference and more info can be found on the attached Wrap Up report from PALI and throughout the report..
- From March 3–6, 2011, Regions 5 and 6 will come together to present a joint NERP-POSE Conference being hosted by Pittsburgh Pride. Ongoing planning conference calls are being held between Pittsburgh Pride, the Region 5 and 6 RDs and other interested parties.
- At the 2010 Regional Conference, Rochester Pride in upstate NY secured the honor of hosting the 2012 Conference.

Major Accomplishments

- After much work by a dedicated subcommittee led by Keri, a Regional Standard Operating Procedures Manual was drafted and ratified at the 2010 Regional Conference. Per the new SOP, a Regional Finance Management Sub-Committee was also created. The SOP is a comprehensive guide to running and working within the Region.
- From a pool of designs submitted by delegates across the region, a Regional Logo was selected by membership at the 2010 Regional Conference. The logo is in the process of being amended to include the InterPride logo, but the original is here for your review.
- Began work on a Conference Planning Guide to assist Regional Conference hosts in the nuts and bolts of planning, producing and running a successful conference.



2010 Regional Goals

(as determined at the 2010 Regional Conference)

Goal – 2010 Progress

- **Create functional & efficient Regional Webpage with the following content as suggested by membership:**
 - RD Contact info
 - Regional Contact List
 - Logo
 - Newsletters & sign up capability
 - Newsflash section: keep current info/stories
 - Profiles
 - Upcoming events
 - Regional Conference Call Number
 - Regional Supplier Directory
 - Interactive Map w/Pride dates and locations
 - Document/Resource Library
- **Increase Communication within Region**
 - Include sharing more IP business with region
 - Working on implementing new annual newsletter schedule and system*
- **Complete Conference Planning Document**
 - In Progress*
- **Increase membership including college groups, black and latino prides**
 - In Progress*
- **Look into video conferencing possibilities for Regional Conference**
 - In Progress for 2011 or 2012*
- **Look into establishing a Mentoring Program for new regional IP members**
- **Look into hosting joint conference with POSE**
 - Done! In planning stages.*
- **Facilitate visits/meetings between Prides**
- **Explore the possibility of one day mini-conferences/webinars/etc...**
- **Host a mid-year social/networking get together**
- **Activate new Regional Finance Committee**
 - Draft application, review and approval process for requesting and distributing funds per the new SOP
 - In Progress*
- **Streamline transfer of conference material and resources like website, scheduling documents, administrative materials, evaluation system, etc...**
 - In Progress. 2010, 2011, and 2012 Conference Hosts (Pride Alliance of Long Island, Pittsburgh Pride and Rochester Pride) are working closely to share and pass along as many resources as possible.*
- **Establish a Regional Supplier Directory**
 - Done! Posted for participation by members.*
- **Incorporate IP Logo into Regional Logo selected at NERP 2010** *In Progress.*

Barriers & Challenges

While communication and participation by regional delegates on various projects has increased, we are always looking for new and better ways to get people invested and involved in our InterPride work.

The period leading up to the resignation of one of RDs (which also happened to coincide with the very busy pre-Pride planning season), left the region stressed and once Pride season wended down and the resignation was declared, the two remaining RDs worked to restore faith in the leadership. Transitions like that are always hard on all involved and our Region was no exception.

Also, with Doreen's resignation, the remaining RDs were left to figure out and manage the technical areas of our work (i.e. creating a regional website, e-newsletter programs), areas that they are not necessarily skilled in. Some of those areas remain works in progress and the RDs will work to get new systems up and running. In the meantime, communication is happening although in a less high tech manner (i.e. newsletters being sent as pdf attachments instead of through a newsletter program, like iconcontact). ■

REGION 7

By John Boychuk, Regional Director

Region 7 includes all of Canada where from coast to coast to coast with more than 67 pride related organizations representing the GLBT communities of this country.

From the Spring Report:

Regional Conference – Total Registered Attendees 44 Dates March 26-28, 2010

15 Prides Represented: Okanagan Pride, Pride Winnipeg, Pride Toronto, Vancouver Pride Society, Capital Pride Ottawa/Gatineau, Halifax Pride, Tri-Pride Cambridge/Kitchener/Waterloo, Fierté Montreal, Windsor Pride Community, River of Pride Moncton, Gala Yukon, Edmonton Pride, Guelph Pride, NYC Pride

Workshops and team building exercises: Brain Storming/Team building sessions

1. Common Challenges identified by Canadian Prides that need attention and assistance in the coming years. : Organizational Growth, Board Burnout, Board Retention, Funding Management
2. Presented Solutions in the short term to deal with the identified challenges: Many ideas with succession planning, strong planning of board and committee roles with the development of manuals or expectations to be clearly laid out during recruitment and programming.

3. National Poster to share to promote Canadian Prides needs to be created to show unity
4. Access to a Legal body to allow Prides to have the correct information as they move and grow
5. Greater recognition of rural vs urban prides in approaching description and language when developing programs and workshops to ensure the little guy is not left behind
6. A Rural Pride Association brainstorming session needs to be provided for feedback to strategic planning
7. There needs to be stronger communication to bring in a greater number of Prides within the region and the Phone, e-mail and in person visits to Prides by RD's is a first step to reaching out.
8. The creation of a central registry of Prides to ensure the data is passed along and the ability to communicate in the future would benefit the growth of the region.

Workshops that were presented by the host committee:

1. Revenue Development; Presentation Social Media development; Developing your Pride into a tourism destination, Board growth and evolution, Engaging the Trans community, Managing a growing Pride organization
2. Each of the workshops was well presented and attended with a high satisfaction rating at the close of the conference.
3. With the conference only being 2 and a half days, a lot of information was shared, several team building exercises and social events allowed for the continued strengthening of the representatives and created a refreshed sense of purpose as we move forward into the next year.
4. Taking a page from the InterPride history in the way we help each other, the introduction of a Scholarship Pledge program to assist emerging / struggling prides was presented to the members. Pledges at the end of the conference saw this first time program increase the 2011 scholarship by 80% allowing for more representation at the next conference.

The 2011 conference was confirmed to be returning to Halifax, Nova Scotia where the host committee is working hard to create a strong program and community involvement.

A bid for the 2012 conference was presented by Okanagan Pride and was adopted by the membership with the anticipation of ongoing status reports. A new policy was adopted by the board for our monthly meetings to require future host conference representatives provide updates and status reports. This will create a stronger conference and input from the board in the creation of the workshops and the ability of the host committee to achieve a balanced budget.

Pride Toronto was an excellent host for the InterPride Region 7 and Fierste Canada Pride Conference. With costs continuing to rise in the production and management of a conference, I wish to thank Pride Toronto for their subsidy that was provided to ensure the success of the Conference. Elections for

Regional Representative too place and Marion Steel was re-elected into a two year term, and Paul Leblanc as elected as alternate.

Getting into the Pride Season:

Summer 2010 held a great number of positive results for prides across Canada as the forecast economic uncertainty in North America and the World, had little effect on a majority of the planning and the execution, of the 2010 Canadian Pride season.

Following up with conference calls and a few one-on-one sessions through the spring and early summer a few a common issues continued to come forward for discussion with no resolve:

- a. Geographic challenge over size and distance to travel for RD support as well as local assistance from the National body will continue as a obstacle to break down in the coming years.
- b. More support to emerging prides is necessary by larger more stable prides either through mentoring, sponsorship of volunteers, any help would go a long way as most of the communities support the larger prides through volunteering and tourism.
- c. Development of a National Strategy to gain sponsorship & Funding. In a Country with more than 67 Pride related organizations, more communication and a National Pride calendar and/or Poster could benefit many of the smaller or home grown prides to attract greater participation.

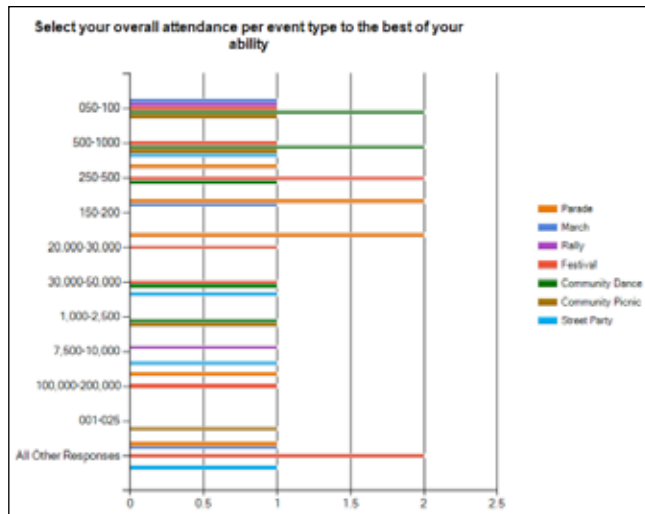
The 2010 Pride season in review – reaching out to Prides across Canada has been a challenge in gathering information as we see the typical burnout and change of the guard shortly after the community events are complete. A 10 question survey was sent out to all Canadian Prides and at the time this report was submitted, 9 organizations provided to Canadian Pride Season snapshot.

Of the survey respondents 7 were current members and 2 were not InterPride members but needed more information on InterPride and membership. When asked if any of the respondents would be attending the InterPride AGM in Long Beach California, 5 were attending, 2 were not able and 2 were trying to raise the support and funds necessary to get them to the AGM & Conference. 2010's InterPride theme was "One Heart, One World, One Pride" and 2 Prides used the international theme, 7 prides chose their own theme and 4 were not aware that there was an international theme each year created by the InterPride membership.

Events make up the majority of each community Pride Season and in Canada we saw 40% of these groups host between 5-7 events and 60% hosted more than 8 community based events in the categories of Parades, Marches, Rallies, Festivals, Community Dances, Community Picnics and Street Parties. On the whole when asked about attendance almost every Pride event saw a noticeable increase in participation and sup-

port from their community. With this continued support a majority of Pride Groups will look to increasing or expanding their festivals and events in the coming year.

An overall attendance chart shows the support in small, medium and large scale prides.



In the survey, each responding pride was given the opportunity to share and were asked; This is your opportunity to share with the international community about what your organizations accomplishments and challenges were in 2010.

- Winnipeg Pride:** In 2010, Pride Winnipeg saw exponential growth. Attendance tripled, sponsorship was up 600% we even launched our own line of festival beer, Queer Beer. Our biggest challenge has been limited human resources and volunteers in order to keeping up with our growth.
- Okanagan Pride:** We featured on the front page (twice) of a local newspaper that is generally very conservative and would not put anything in their paper last year about Pride. More than double the in-kind marketing that we had last year. We are beginning to attract people from outside our community to come and attend events.
- Cumberland Pride Society:** Gaining membership. Became more visible. Strong executive. Very successful Pride celebrations.
- Corner Brook Pride Inc.:** Only major concern was insurance for our non-profit organization to have a peaceful march on the streets.
- River of Pride Moncton:** Moncton Pride saw an increased in press coverage and lack of volunteers
- Halifax Pride:** This year Halifax Pride saw an increase in our number of volunteers. We had a tremendous year of fundraising events and we were able to send four delegates to our FCP conference held in Toronto, Canada in March. At this conference the delegates were able to learn many valu-

able lessons on the organizing of Pride Festivals and Fundraisers as well as network with other Prides and Sponsors. We have managed to take these ideas and build great relationships with our Sponsors and had an incredibly successful year fundraising. We managed to pay down our organizations debt load to a manageable figure as well as not incur debt from this year's Halifax Pride Festival.

In the survey summary, when asked if there was any type of question or direction that could help out a Canadian Pride organization the answers were the same between what was shared at the Regional Conference in the spring to the Survey at the end of summer.

“More sharing of resources, more outreach by the directors, more coordination and collaboration between prides to address external threats”

In the interest of open communications and an understanding to the process each Pride was provided with information on the AGM opportunities for running for the next Regional Directors position.

“At the 2010 InterPride AGM, we will be electing a new Regional Director (R7) for Canada, to fulfil a two year term on the InterPride Board. This position requires the following commitments: monthly Skype meetings apx. 90 minutes each. Attendance to InterPride AGM conferences; Long Beach, Ca 2010, Belgium 2011, 2012 TBD. Attendance and representation at the Regional Conferences; Halifax, NS in 2011 & Kelowna, BC in 2012. Each RD is asked to join 2 InterPride Committees and be an active participant in the committees. Each RD will also be required to provide two Regional Reports to the InterPride Executive & Membership (February & August) each year. Please note: This is not a paid position, you must be representing a Pride member organization in good standing, you must be endorsed by your organization and travel & accommodation assistance is available through InterPride for up to 50% of expenses but is not guaranteed.”

To date two prides have stepped forward with names and the region will look to fill one of the seats that will be coming vacant. With this commitment we hope to ensure a smoother transition and a more prepared individual will be able to fill the role of R7 Director on the InterPride Board.

Information provided in this report was supplied by: Célébrations de la Fierté Montréal, Halifax Pride, River of Pride - Riviere de Fierté INC., Corner Brook Pride Inc., Vancouver Pride Society, Cumberland Pride Society, Pride Prince George, Okanagan Pride and Pride Winnipeg.

REGION 8

Nikolai Alekseev, Regional Director

The Region 8 ...

- ... Includes 11 Eastern European countries (Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine)
- ... Has 5 members Fundacja Rownosci (Poland), GayBelarus (Belarus), GayRussia (Russia), Equality (Russia), Mozaika (Latvia)
- ... 1 country never organized any pride march event (Ukraine)

In 2010, Region 8 hosted ...

- ... 11 Pride marches events in 7 different countries,
- ... 4 Pride marches were banned among which 3 went ahead despite the bans and organizers were arrested and charged for organizing an illegal event in 2 of them.
- ... the first ever EuroPride in an Eastern European country.

Region 8 is very specific as it is the only region within InterPride where Prides can be easily divided into two different groups. First, those who get a permit from the local authorities, sometimes after a heavy pressure from other European States, and second, those who are banned but still take place as organizers go in the street and defy the bans.

But things evolve in the right direction years after years. The development of the Pride movement over the last 5 years in this region is unprecedented and the situation is globally improving. There are more countries joining the Pride movement and less Prides being attacked.

The organization of the EuroPride in Warsaw gave a message of hope for all Poland's neighbouring countries. In 5 years, Warsaw went from banning the Pride to hosting a superb and flamboyant EuroPride.

Though, in Eastern Europe, Pride remains at this stage less a celebration than a political action which gives an opportunity for organizers to raise the issue of LGBT rights in the media once a year. Because homophobia is still high in the region, and because many people are scared to be out by fears of losing their job, the LGBT community is often divided on the Pride issue. The division is more a reflex of fear than anything else. Over the years, we see that Prides have been a considerable leverage to sat the issue of LGBT rights in every countries' agenda. It's probably a paradox, but Pride helped to fight most stereotypes.

Notes: Romania moved to Region 15 and Moldova joined Region 8.

Prides authorized by the local authorities

Lithuania, Vilnius

Pride organizers from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia united in 2009 to create the Baltic Pride. The event rotates every year between the three Baltic Capitals as follow: Riga (2009), Vilnius (2010) and Tallin (2011). As a result, there were no Prides neither in Latvia nor in Estonia this year.

The Baltic Pride was finally allowed by a Court despite being initially banned by the City Authorities. The organizers received a strong backing from the European Commission and the EU Members States. Members of Foreign Governments, Members of European Parliament took part together with local Ambassadors. Security measures were high and participants were required to register at least a day in advance. Police managed to avoid violence against pride marchers despite a high number of anti-gay protesters.

Slovakia, Bratislava

First ever Pride was held in Bratislava this year on May 22. Participants were called by the organizers to march "for human rights of non-heterosexual people, their social and political equalization and first celebration of LGBT pride". The Pride received support from a group of European Embassies and over a thousand participants showed up. The organizers were fined for not cleaning the place.

Hungary, Budapest

A lot of violence happened in Budapest in the past. Last year, U.S. actress Whoopi Goldberg released a video message in support of the Budapest Pride. This year the Pride took place successfully and no incident were noted.



EuroPride in Warsaw. Left: Nikolai Alekseev, Moscow Pride Chief Organizer and InterPride Regional Director, together with Volker Beck, Member of the German Parliament. Right: Mark Frederick Chapman, IP Co-President and Tomasz Bazkowsky, Warsaw Pride Chief Organizer are giving a speech at the end of the Parade.

Poland, Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan, Wroclaw,

In 2004 and 2005, the EuroPride was banned by the Mayor of Warsaw. In 2007, the Pride organizer won a case at the European Court of Human Rights against Poland on the ban of the Pride. The Pride was allowed every year since 2006.

Warsaw: EuroPride was a success and a delegation of InterPride was present in the March. First EuroPride in Warsaw took place 5 years after the Warsaw Mayor banned the first attempt. This was also the first EuroPride ever to be organized in Eastern Europe and Pride organizers from Russia & Belarus were also present in the parade on a float. Anti-gay protesters were cordoned by a massive police presence. See report of the co-president page 48.



EuroPride in Warsaw. Police is surrounding anti pride protesters before the start of the Pride. The anti gay crowd is shouting slogans and throwing eggs in the direction of Pride marchers.



EuroPride in Warsaw. Russian and Belarusian Pride Organizers arranged a float with their banners with the assistance of IGLCN.

Also Equality Marches took place in **Poznan, Wroclaw** and **Krakow.**

Prides banned by the local authorities and/or court decisions

In Russia, Belarus and Moldova, Pride organizers were denied to march. They still managed to gather loads of publicity for their movement and for their campaigns, by going in the streets despite the bans and attempting to host lower scale event.

Russia, Moscow, St Petersburg

In Moscow, the Mayor bans the Pride every year since May 2006 but organizers still go in the streets and have been arrested every year between 2006 and 2009. The Mayor called gay pride "satanic gatherings" and gays "weapons of mass destructions". This year, St Petersburg attempted to host its first ever Gay Pride march.

Moscow: For the fifth consecutive year, the Mayor of Moscow refused to deliver a permit for the Pride. The denial was upheld by a local court on the eve of the planned day. Local activists report that not a single LGBT labelled public action have ever been allowed in Russia. On May 29, the organizers managed to host a 10 minutes March away from the police and the anti-gay protesters.



5th Moscow Pride on May 29, 2010. The event was banned but participants defied the ban by the Moscow Mayor and waived a 25 meters rainbow flag.

St. Petersburg: St Petersburg City Authorities banned the first ever attempt to host a Gay Pride in the city. Organizers went ahead with a group of 25 participants. Five of them were arrested and later released against a fine. In the same evening, organizers managed to shed rainbow lights on St Petersburg's Triumphal Arch for a couple of hours.



1st St Petersburg Pride on June 26, 2010. The event was banned but participants defied the ban. On his photo, Maria Eferemkova, the Pride Chief Organizer is reading the manifesto of the LGBT community to the policeman that is trying to stop the march. Shortly after, she was arrested together with 4 other participants.



St Petersburg Pride, participants are walking with rainbow flags in front of the Hermitage Museum from where they gathered to start their action.

Belarus, Minsk

The Slavic Pride is the union of Russian-Belarusian-Moldovan-Ukrainian Pride organizers (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Minsk, Chisinau & Nikolaev) founded in 2008. Every year, each Pride is holding its annual Pride event, but in addition, one is selected and branded as the Slavic Pride: Moscow (2009), Minsk (2010) and St. Petersburg (2011).

This year, Minsk was set to host the 2nd Slavic Pride on May 15. The city authorities refused to grant a permit for the March. Organizers went ahead with the march which was vio-

lently broken up by the police after only 10 minutes. 12 participants were arrested among which 4 were kept in custody for 48 hours and later released against a fine.



2nd Slavic Pride in Minsk. Participants waived a 12 meters long rainbow flags that they prepared themselves weeks before the event. Participants were arrested shortly after this photo was taken. In the middle, in white, Sergey Androsenko, the Chief Organizer.



Slavic Pride participants stopped for a few minutes during the March in front of the medias. On this photos, Moscow and St Petersburg Pride Organizers are waving Rainbow Flags.

Moldova, Chisinau

Every year since 2005, Chisinau city authorities rejected the request for hosting a Pride Marches. The organizers have filled a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights and are hoping for a decision in 2011, maybe before next year's planned pride event.

2010 marked the 8th attempt to host the first Pride Marche in the city but once again the permit was refused. The festival "Rainbow over the Dniestr" took place during 3 days from April 29 to May 1 and included parties, a press conference, an award ceremony and an attempt to lay flowers at a memorial monument.

Media initiative in the region

This year's PRIDE magazine made a focus on the region and published an article I wrote on the issue of attempt to organize a PRIDE in a hostile environment.

The "Walk With Pride Project (WWP)" by Chad Meacham is a self-funded non-commercial project which covered 15 prides including most of the prides within region 8 during this season. The photographer was a great help for local organizers, showing flexibility and making all his photos available free of charge.

Australian film director, Logan Mucha, travelled across the region during the first half of the year to shoot his documentary "East Bloc Love". The movie which will be released beginning of 2011 is hoping to Premiere at the Berlin Film festival and will be made available for screening at the IP 2011 Annual Conference. "East Bloc Love" is an Australian-Russian co-production, co-funded by my organization. The backstage of Warsaw's EuroPride and Minsk' Slavic Pride are part of the movie.

Development plans for Region 8 (2010-2011)

- To increase the number of members with the target to have IP covering at least 2/3 of the Prides within the region ... to achieve this objective, we will propose a resolution in Long Beach Annual Conference, lowering or waiving the membership dues to respond to a request from Pride organizers of this region
- To host the first Regional Conference in 2010

2011?

2010 was the year of Poland. 2011 might well be the year of Russia. It is expected that a decision of the European Court of Human Rights will outlaw the bans of the Moscow Pride. Will the first-ever Russian Pride be allowed in Russia next year?



Members of Heritage of Pride, New York and InterPride in Warsaw



Liberty! Equality! Tolerance!

No doubt, the 2010 EuroPride in Warsaw was a success and another milestone in the Pride movement in Eastern Europe. Despite the massive counter demonstration from religious and rightwing nationalist groups the parade march through the center of Warsaw was participated by approx. 20,000 people from all over the World.

Under the sunny, hot and cloudless blue sky and under the protection of 2000 policeforces the parade was also watched by many favorable onlookers cheering the march. Along the route many watched very diffidently from their windows waiving small Rainbow flags. And not only young people waived, also many elderly woman cheerfully watched the parade go by.

The organizers of the event did themselves proud with a five week programm of cultural events, confernces, workshops, parties and a most remarkable art exhibition at the National Museum. They showed it is possible with dedication and perseverance to organize and celebrate a big event, even if the surrounding society is still very homophobic and the city officials only do business by the rule. The way to full acceptance of LGBTI people in Poland is still covered with chuckholes and discrimination is still lurking behind corners.

But EuroPride 2010 also showed that Poland is leaving it's communist past behind and is moving towards the West with it's values of liberty, equality and tolerance.

I was honored to adress the crowd at the end of the parade with a speech, participate in a media conference and to hold a short laudation for two award winners of the Hyacinth Award at the palace of culture.

I applaude our friends in Warsaw and hope they will have many happy Prides in the furture. *M.F. Chapman*



Counter protesters lining some streets in Warsaw at EuroPride 2010

Keynote Address – EuroPride 2010, Warsaw, Poland

by Mark Frederick Chapman, President EPOA and Co-President InterPride

Dear friends from Warsaw, from Poland, from Europe and the rest of the world. What a great feeling to be here today.

Liberty! Equality! Tolerance! – EuroPride 2010's motto consists of three words that I must have heard a million times.

Since the beginning of the Pride movement people have been marching and demonstrating for those three words. Words that mean no less than everything to a free society. Words that without no democracy can exist.

Since Stonewall, for the past 41 years, there have been thousands of demonstrations for gay and lesbian rights. Not all of them have been peaceful. However: no stones were thrown by gay people. But lots of stones were thrown at us. Why? Because we just wanted to be who we are.

It's about the right of every man and every woman and any other gender identity, to live life how he wants to, how she wants to. It's about upholding the kind of values that you want to uphold. To believe in what you want to believe without condemning others. To love those, you chose to love. To love them the way you want to love them. And to stand out in public and hold the hand of that person you want to hold hands with without people staring at you.

This, my friends, is not about gay and lesbian people. It is about fundamental human rights. And let it be known to everyone that there are no laws and no morals on this planet that stand above the basic human rights! No law on this earth can tell me not to kiss a man, if I want to kiss a man – well, only that man can tell me not to.

We have somewhat got used to the fact that nationalist groups and parties, religious movements and even large Churches are against us. Prior to Pride events they spread prejudice and hatred, among them the Roman Catholic Church. One would expect, that the church would have learned its lesson by now and stop picking on minorities. If the Vatican wants to stand for moral values around the globe, it would be about time, it sent out a clear, strong message not for but against social exclusion.

After 2000 years of religious conflicts – often connected with violence and bloodshed – isn't it time the church implemented what it is preaching: peace? Wouldn't it be great if next year a bishop would have the courage to speak at EuroPride 2011 in Rome? Or even the Pope himself?

I still had pictures in my mind about Gay Pride parades in Eastern Europe and I wasn't totally free of doubts before I came here. But I am happy now. Happy that Poland has come a long

way, that it is possible to celebrate here and be respected. But then this is still Europe.

What about the billions of people outside Europe? In Africa, Asia, the Middle East? We might feel safe in our communities, but the world out there is not a friendly one if you're a man who loves a man and a woman who loves a woman.

Globalization is not only about trading bananas and mobile phones, it's also globalization of thoughts and ideas. So if a majority of people on this planet don't like what we are doing today we have to change that. We have to globalize Tolerance, and that sounds like a hell of a difficult job to achieve.

What's more: Tolerance is an accomplishment of decades. But social exclusion can happen over night. We all are responsible that our societies remain colourful, remain pluralistic. So that the rainbow does not fade to grey. So we can continue to live in a society where we can be who we are and to believe or not believe in God. I want to live in a country that does not tell me and what haircut or underwear I'm supposed to wear.



Mark Frederick Chapman addressing the participants from the main truck after the end of the parade

Today many lesbians, gays, transsexuals and bisexual men and woman from all over the world are looking to Warsaw with hope for a signal of a better life for them. Let us send them this signal by celebrating what we are with our families, friends and supporters.

Liberty! Equality! Tolerance! – These three words, I must have heard them a Million times.

But, halleluya, I'll never get tired of saying them.

I wish you all a happy Pride

REGION 9

By Herminio Adorno Ortega, Regional Director

Region nine is composed of the many islands of the Caribbean and parts of Central and South America, while there might be a lot of distance to cover and water all about us, the communicate is finally starting to come in and some regions have celebrations going for the past 20 years (San Juan, Puerto Rico) while others took that first bold step this year (Jamaica) which just goes to show there is still a long way to go.

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – while their Constitution states that no person should be discriminated the reality is another, so their way of celebrating pride is via a gathering in a park on the last Sunday of June and what might be call a decorated vehicle parade starting and organized by Cha Club, going about many areas of the city, from small one lane streets to majors highways, with sound trucks, decorated buses and cars and ending at the same starting point with a rally/show.



Parade with decorated vehicles, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

While the police presence might be there to protect, this brings about mixed feelings, and some are intimidated by it others welcome it. There is no structured organization/pride group however some local business people are starting to get together to see what can be done to change this, Cha Club, Arq. Juan Jimenez Coll, and photographer Lorena Espinoza Peña among others.



A private moment, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Montego Bay, Jamaica using a veil with the title “Walk for tolerance” Jamaica held its first PUBLIC show of pride, while the country might have songs and towns promoting intolerance about 100 people walked for tolerance, afterward the have been messages menacing some of the marchers however those first steps have been taken and now needs to multiply in numbers interpride’s own William Urich was there to bear witness of this.



2010 “Walk For Tolerance”, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Boqueron, Puerto Rico celebrating its 8th pride year here again a week full of events. Being usually a vacation fishing town, the week prior to its Sunday parade seems more like spring break in the states, with sporting events, beach events and nite club events all leading to that Sunday parade, which is probably one of the shortest routes I have seen (aprox. 6 city blocks) however the crowd there, one thinks of Carnival or Mardi Gras with the thousands that line up at the end point by the water. There is one major Brewery which is the major corporate sponsor so a lot of drinking a huge contrast to San Juan’s, Celebration. Here they have a king and queen of the parade which is not necessarily a gay or lesbian person but someone that has shown support for the community itself. Curiously this years poster is an artistic rendition of what was in the bay on their first year.



Spectators at the Parade in San Juan, Puerto Rico

San Juan, Puerto Rico – Coalicion Orgullo Arcoiris was incorporated on coming out day, however from this was after the first parade had been held now there have been 20 parades however only 19 under the name of Coalicion Orgullo Arcoiris, as the name states it is a coalition of many organizations, non-profit organization, religious, educational, artistic and human rights to name a few, it is by this coalition that everything is volunteer work and volunteer donation, beside pride parade of first Sunday of June, there is the queer film festival, the festival of the third love running various months, with plays such as the Laramie project, Hedwig, women without corsets to name a few, it is this network of people the have allowed us to go these 20 years, with no major corporate sponsor and no selling of alcohol(people bring their own) being the only parade to still



Never too old to participate – Herminio's mother Epifania Ortega Garcia, with actor Nelson Del Valle (left) surrounded by member of Coalicion Orgullo Arcoiris

be permitted along the tourist zone by a local city ordinance says we are doing something right, the San Juan Carnival and the bed race in the area lost their permission to use this route due to problems created and have been banned, So that first Sunday people from their Condo Balconies hang rainbow flags, beach goers leave the beach to see parade go by and tourists that were unaware get a surprise of thousands marching and lining up the Condado tourist zone, we do not pay performers however we have theater groups, nite-club comedians, singers with dancers all volunteer their talents on stage with the typical vendors offering their works from t-shirts, poetry books, posters and foods it was a great day to spent, with the beach and tourist zone as a backdrop. Photographs of the events covered can be viewed along with others from around the world on the facebook site titled 'pride from around the world'. Of which all are welcomed to add their pride events photographs also. ■

REGION 10

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

InterPride has a very limited active membership in the UK & Ireland, with only Pride London and Outburst (UK) as direct members. Other Prides have joined InterPride by default, through their membership of the European Pride Organizers' Association (EPOA), however the travel involved is off-putting for many smaller Pride events where there is limited scope for international attendance at their own Pride event.

EPOA is often seen as an issuing body for EuroPride, a core brand in Europe, and demonstrated by the membership that it attracts – primarily Pride events that have bid, or may intend bidding, for EuroPride in the future. InterPride lacked such a brand prior to the introduction of WorldPride, and even given that brand's introduction, Pride London's successful bid for that, coupled with the large gaps between awarding years, mean that it is seen as a distant prospect with London's award seen as likely to count against other UK Prides for the next few events.

InterPride's existence and brand are both known to EPOA members and to some of the other Pride events in the UK, but costs are seen as prohibitive and the rules of conference are seen as confusing – interest in hosting the InterPride conference from Manchester Pride faltered on the rules and obligations imposed, for example. This view is not unique to Region 10, as evidenced by the lack of conference bids seen in recent years.

Although EPOA's granting of default membership to InterPride has increased the number of Prides registered with this organization, and this has resulted in greater penetration for InterPride's profile, this has meant that InterPride's own expectations as to participation from those members may be higher than is justified. The award of WorldPride to London should make a significant difference, and it is hoped that a higher attendance could be garnered through the 2011 conference in Brussels: the proximity of that to the UK and Ireland could bring longer term membership benefits from Region 10.

Regional Conference

Given that there are only two active members of InterPride in Region 10, both London based, a conference has not been forthcoming. There was an attempt to revive the United Prides conference, which acts on behalf of UK Pride organizations, and InterPride's involvement was offered to tag a conference on to that event, but the United Prides event did not go forward. Without a UK based Prides conference, an InterPride conference is not feasible.

InterPride Members' Events Summary

2010 saw a many Pride events under stress, but attendance appears to be undiminished. Of note were Brighton Pride's financial and operational woes and Pride London's struggles with street works and licensing. Further challenges were seen with funding from sponsorship and even from trading. Despite this, Pride events in the UK remain strong and well attended, with Pride London remaining at approximately the one million mark.

Pride London

Pride London had several challenges in 2010, most notably the road-works that dominate London. Recent works dug up much of Oxford Street, including the north entrances to the whole of the LGBT district, Soho, where much of Pride London's main event takes place. This led to licensing concerns over crowd control. Pride London had lengthy discussions with the licensing authorities and decided that the capacity offered for the northern section of Soho – 7,000 in an area that can easily hold 100,000, along with stringent crowd control measures was both unworkable as an event, and would simply push the crowd into the southern and western sections of Soho. After further discussions – and the cancellation of the area – Pride London managed to secure agreement for a scaled back version within Soho, cutting the attractions out of the area such as stages and markets, although leaving road closures in and with the bars allowed to entertain.



Pride London 2010

Pride London had another good parade, with over 150 floats and groups and participant numbers of approximately 100,000, and its Trafalgar Square main stage and Leicester Square dance stage pulled in large crowds. Given the restrictions in Soho, numbers were only down approximately 10%, and estimated attendance remained around the one million mark.

Belfast Pride

Belfast Pride attracted approximately 17,000 people to this year's event on 31st July, and remains the largest Pride event in

Ireland. The Parade in 2010 was the largest seen yet and culminated in the Custom House Square main event.

Cardiff (Wales) Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras

Cardiff Mardi Gras took place this year on 4th September, and attracted over 40,000 to its main event, featuring the Mardi Gras Main Stage, the Admiral Cabaret Garden and the Gaydar Dance area.

Cardiff has had several challenging years, forcing its cancellation in 2008 through lack of volunteers, and a lack of police support meaning that the event was advised to scale back for fears of homophobic assaults. Despite these challenges, Cardiff Mardi Gras is now a successful event, acting not only as the national Pride event for Wales, but as a magnet for much of the midlands and north-west of England; its date at the start of September marks it as very much a 'closing' event of the UK's Pride season, alongside the smaller Reading Pride.

Manchester Pride

Manchester Pride had another very successful year, with over 100 floats and groups on the Parade, lead by Grand Marshall Sir Ian McKellan and featuring the a lead float from the hugely popular and long-running Manchester-based soap opera, Coronation Street.

The main site, situated around Manchester's LGBT district, Canal Street, featured stages in Sackville Gardens, the main Gaydar Radio stage, entertainment in the 'Village Square' and a Lifestyle Expo, spread over the bank holiday weekend of 27th to 30th August.

Manchester Pride has had a very successful period in its 21 years, moving from a free event to a full-ticketed event. The fully-ticketed format cost Manchester Pride its charitable status a short while ago, but there is little option over ticketing given capacity constraints that are often attached to license conditions, and ticket prices remain low at £15 for the three days (which is the average cost of entry to a London nightclub).

Outburst (UK)

Outburst (UK) took a year out from event producing in 2010, but remain likely to return to managing their festival in 2011. Outburst is a direct member of InterPride and is not a member of EPOA, and is a London-based black Pride event.

Pride in Brighton & Hove

Brighton Pride, as Pride in Brighton & Hove is informally known, had some major challenges in 2009 / 2010, but still pulled off a very successful event. Brighton Pride announced a deficit of over forty thousand pounds for the 2009, largely down to poor sponsorship availability in the midst of the credit crunch, and down to a fall in bar revenues, one of the event's main financial drivers. This led to the cancellation of the usual Winter Pride festivities as the board grappled with their deficit. ■

17th Annual EPOA Conference, Rome

The 17th annual EPOA conference took place on September 24th-26th, 2010 in the city of Rome, Italy, host of EuroPride 2011.



Mark Frederick Chapman, President of EPOA, chaired the conference which was attended by 18 member organizations from across Europe. The conference was particularly pleased to welcome representatives from new member organizations: Dublin Pride, Ireland, Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier, and Maspalomas Gay Pride.

All the usual formalities of the conference were dealt efficiently. EPOA Treasurer Markus Manegold referred that the EPOA's Financial Report for 2009 shows a profit of 3.362,66 Euro. The conference also discussed and approved some important amendments to its Constitution on the basis of a board proposal. This was primarily due to adequate the Constitution to the Belgian law, since EPOA's headquarters was transferred from Berlin to Brussels last year. The other main amendment is the change of the duration of the Board Officers' term which now last 2 years instead of 1 and alternating years for elections. The Board also presented the new EPOA website that is almost ready and will be launched in few weeks time.

The delegates discussed also the current joint-membership arrangements with InterPride (the International Pride Organizers Association). They agreed to cooperate further with InterPride and maintain the current partnership, giving the mandate to the Board to negotiate a new agreement with InterPride. In order to stimulate a wider and active participation from both organizations, the Board decided that next EPOA Annual General Meeting shall be held in Brussels immediately before the InterPride Conference in October 2011.

Warsaw reported to conference that they have hosted a very successful EuroPride 2010, with a large participation – also from Eastern European countries, where Pride events are still endangered. Positive international and nationwide media coverage hopefully has a good impact on society and politics in Poland. The organization offered to guests from all over the World a large variety of cultural and social events. Despite the success, the organizers are reporting a loss of more than 15.000 Euro.

Rome reported that plans for EuroPride 2010 are progressing well. A big Pride Park, free of charge for all visitors, which will be held in the central and multicultural atmosphere of Piazza Vittorio, and the route of the Parade (from Termini station to Circo Massimo, passing by the Coliseum) have already received approval from the municipal authorities in charge. Art exhibitions, theatre, opera and book reading events, a film festival, music concerts, parties, conferences

and meetings have been planned to be held in prestigious locations in the centre of Rome.

Lastly, there was a general discussion about what the delegates expect from the Conference and from EPOA as an organization. As a result of this, the delegates decided that the Conference should organize more workshops to give the opportunity to every delegate to share information. The Board was assigned to organize workshops for the next AGMs.

Marseille was voted to host the EuroPride 2013

The delegates have particularly appreciated the description of Marseille as a multicultural city with a long history and tradition of peaceful dialogue between many different cultures, religions and languages. The Chair of Lesbian & Gay Pride Marseille Mr Jean Marc Aston said that he is confident that EuroPride 2013 in Marseille would be the perfect occasion to build up an Inter-Mediterranean event, to invite also delegates from the other side of "Mare Nostrum" and the perfect chance to restart the debate about a full equality for LGBT people in France, 16 years after the successful EuroPride 1997 in Paris.

Results of EPOA Board elections

During elections the following were returned to the board of EPOA

President: **Mark Frederick Chapman**
 EuroPride Coordinator: **Juan Carlos Alonso Reguero**
 Conference Coordinator: **Hans De Meyer**
 Diversity Coordinator: **Anita Hillerström-Vagli**

Tomasz Baczkowski, who had served as Outreach and Members Services Coordinator last year, is the new Treasurer.

Andreas Nilsson (Oslo, Norway) joined the board as Secretary, **Niklas Borefores** (Stockholm, Sweden) was elected as Human Rights Coordinator, **Dimitri Tsambrounis** (Athens, Greece) is the new Outreach and Members Services Coordinator, **Andrea Maccarrone** (Rome, Italy) is now Media and Internet Coordinator. Colm Howard-Lloyd who had previously held this position, could not be re-elected, as candidates have to be present at the AGM. The Board and members thank Colm for the dedicated work he did for EPOA and wish him well for the future.

Paul McConnell (Dublin, Ireland) was appointed as Auditor.

The board and members especially thank and pay tribute to **Kurt Krickler** (former Human Right Coordinator), **Vincent Lorijn** (former Secretary) and **Markus Manegold** (former Treasurer) for their long, excellent and dedicated service to EPOA. Even though they have decided to not be on the Board, the Board and members hope they will continue to share their experience and passion with them.

Andrea Maccarrone, EPOA Internet and Media Coordinator

REGION 11

By Håkan Steenberg, Regional Director

General Overview

Region 11 contains Åland, Denmark, The Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Svalbard and Sweden. InterPride is a relatively unknown organization within the region, and very little organized networking exists among the Pride organizations in the region. The focus from mainly Swedish GLBT activists has been on the closer countries in eastern Europe like Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland.

The bigger and more organized Pride events include Stockholm Pride in Stockholm Sweden, Mermaid Pride in Copenhagen, Denmark, Skeive Dagar in Oslo, Norway and Hinsegin Dagar in Reykjavik, Iceland. Helsinki Pride in Finland just started over with a new organization last year. The other Prides in the region are not as established, and does not have regular events on an ongoing basis. Stockholm Pride invited other Prides to a networking meeting in the region on August 1, 2010. Last year only 2 festivals attended the networking meeting, and this year 5 festivals attended the networking meeting.

Pride Organizations

Stockholm Pride, Sweden, July 26–August 1, 2010

Theme: Power

Pride Park: the closed event was held from Wednesday to Sunday at a new place downtown Stockholm. We had 3 stages, 5 restaurants, 1 coffee shop, 1 VIP area and 1 Champagne bar.

Pride House; took over the city theatre and the cultural house for an entire week. We had panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, theatre and a film festival.



Stockholm Pride, 2010

Pride in the City, which is our network of galleries, theatres, museums etc with whom we arrange events all over the city. The centre was in the big downtown mall, that was very accessible for people that wouldn't normally attend the pride festival.

Pride in the City also make sure that the Rainbow flag was hanging from official buildings, busses etc during the week.

The Parade, had 50.000 participants and 500.000 people were watching the parade marching through downtown Stockholm.

Copenhagen Pride, Denmark, August 18–21, 2010

Copenhagen Pride was very successful this year. The Parade was twice as big as it usually is, with over 4.000 participants. The big event was held in front of City Hall, which was renamed Pride Square during the festival days. This year the event also contained a Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.



Copenhagen Pride, 2010

Helsinki Pride, Finland, June 28–July 4, 2010

Helsinki Pride organized the Pride event for the fifth year in a row. It was the biggest one so far, and very successful. It was opened by Secretary of State Alexander Stubb. Unfortunately there was a minor attack to the Pride Parade, by some youngsters with pepper sprays.

Skeive Dager, Oslo, Norway, June 18–27, 2010

Theme: 40 years since the Stonewall riots

As usual the event was held at Oslo City Hall Square. There was a big party, and a Melodi Grand Prix evening (the Eurovision Song Contest). There was a big Drag-Gala including the Swedish Fashion-pack on the program, in addition to Norwegian Great Garlic Girls and a drag king group. The Friday was the women's evening, and a big Mega Bear, arranged by SLM (Scandinavian Leather Men). The Parade was held on Saturday August 27, the final day. The Parade was followed by the Parade Show, an ABBA show and finally, the Closing ceremony: "Skeive night".

Hinsegin Dagar, Reykjavik, Iceland, August 5–9, 2010

The opening ceremony was held at a theater, followed by a big beerbust just like last year. Reykjavik Pride also arranged a concert, and separate dance events for girls and boys. The parade was very well attended as usual, and was held on August 9.



Hinsegin Dagar, Reykjavik, 2010

This year no Pride celebration in **Åland**, the small island between Sweden and Finland. The island is not a country, but belongs to Finland. Until a couple of years ago, there were no people in Åland that were "out". But now, a group of young people have just started a small organization called the Regnbågsfyren (the Rainbow light house).

To my knowledge there was no Pride celebration in the **Faroe Islands** this summer. But it created quite a stir when the leader of the Christian Centre Party Miðflokkurin, Jenis by Rana, refused to attend an official dinner with Scandinavian Heads of State because the Prime Minister of Iceland Jóhanna Sigurdardóttir attended (as she is a lesbian and married to a woman). Miðflokkurin has three of the Faroese Parliament's 33 seats and has worked hard against LGBT rights. The Faroe Islands is an autonomous Danish territory. In contrast to Greenland, the Faroe Islands has not accepted the Danish law on partnerships.

That there would just be one gay Eskimo, as it is sung in a popular clip on YouTube, turned out to be a myth in **Greenland** when they celebrated their first Pride festival in the capital, Nuuk this summer. The whole town seemed to have been there when more than a thousand people joined the parade around the city centre. From small children to senior citizens supported the organizers of what is said to be Greenland's second largest demonstration ever.

As far as I know there are no Pride celebrations in Svalbard or Jan Mayen Islands, since there are no inhabitants. ■



Skeive Dager, Oslo, 2010

REGION 12

By Stefan Baier, Regional Director

Number of LGBTI Pride Organizations in the region

In Region 12 there are 54 Prides (48 in Germany, 2 in Switzerland, 4 in Austria and no Pride in Lichtenstein) to date. 8 Prides are member organizations of EPOA and so at the same time of InterPride (6 from Germany, 1 from Switzerland, 1 from Austria).

Activities

Before Hadi (Patrick Hadi Huber) resigned as Regional Director we had one meeting since the AGM where we spoke about how to get in contact with the other organisations:

- So we started a Facebook Group for Region 12 as a first step to make networking easier. – The group should still get more alive – it is still very quiet – I hope the reviving will happen the next weeks.
- A first letter was sent to the organizations to get their dates of Prides for the Global Calendar (Don was asking for) and as well an invitation letter to the AGM together with the information that there can be applied for a scholarship if there is not enough funds from the Prides.
- We were planning to organize a Region 12 meeting in the end of August in Zürich, (as it is somehow the middle of all the four countries and has the best flight connections) – as Hadi quitted in March I couldn't do this alone – I hope we will find a second Regional Director for Region 12 soon so we can organize the conference.

Prides which took place

Since the last AGM the following prides took place in Region 12:

Germany:

April 15 – 17, 2010	Lörrach
April 16 – 25, 2010	Potsdam
May 23, 2010	Hannover (Festival with Speeches)
May 27 – July 17, 2010	Brandenburg
May 28 – June 20, 2010	Berlin
June 5, 2010	Kiel
June 4 – 6, 2010	Düsseldorf
June 12, 2010	Dresden
June 12, 2010	Regensburg
June 13, 2010	Brühl (Fantasypride)
June 17, 2010	Berlin CSD auf der Spree
June 17 – 20, 2010	Trier
June 19, 2010	Berlin CSD
June 19, 2010	Oldenburg (CSD Nordwest)
June 25 – July 3, 2010	Schwerin
June 26, 2010	Berlin Transgenialer CSD
July 2 – 4, 2010	Cologne
July 10 – 17, 2010	Leipzig
July 16 – 18, 2010	Frankfurt/Main

July 17, 2010	Bielefeld
July 17, 2010	Cottbus
July 17, 2010	Münster
July 17, 2010	Rostock
July 17 – 18, 2010	München
July 23 – 24, 2010	Braunschweig
July 23 – 25, 2010	Saarbrücken
July 23 – August 1, 2010	Stuttgart
July 31, 2010	Mainz
July 31, 2010	Würzburg
July 31 – August 7, 2010	Köln
August 7, 2010	Hamburg
August 7, 2010	Essen
August 7, 2010	Nürnberg
August 14, 2010	Augsburg
August 14, 2010	Lübeck
August 14, 2010	Mannheim
August 14, 2010	Wuppertal (Wupperpride)
August 14 – 22, 2010	Magdeburg
August 20 – 22, 2010	Koblenz
August 21, 2010	Erfurt
August 21, 2010	Kassel
August 21, 2010	Siegen
August 28, 2010	Dortmund
August 28, 2010	Hannover (Demonstration)
September 4, 2010	Iserlohn CSD MK (Märkischer Kreis)
September 11, 2010	Halle

Switzerland:

June 3 – 6, 2010	Zürich
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Austria:

May 29, 2010	Innsbruck
June 26, 2010	Linz
July 3, 2010	Vienna
August 12 – 15, 2010	Salzburg

Prides I visited:

Lörrach, Germany – April 15–17

I visited this first Pride of 2010 in Lörrach (Germany) on 16th/17th of April for the gala and the festival/demonstration. It was their second Pride, very political, with a lot of speeches and about 200 people who joined the demonstration.

They are not yet members of EPOA or InterPride but very interested to attend a AGM of Interpride – this year they couldn't make it, because one of the co-presidents is not speaking english, the other one couldn't make it because of her job.

Zürich, Switzerland – Zurich Pride Festival June 3–6th

I visited The Zurich Pride Festival (formerly CSD Zurich) with it's festival and demonstration on 6th June and had a great day. Zurich is besides CSD Kreuzlingen (which is organizing the bor-

der-crossing Pride with CSD Konstanz every second year) the only regular Pride which is taking place in Switzerland. Zürich is InterPride member.



Zurich Pride festival square



Representatives of Amnesty International at Zurich Pride parade



Speeches: left, Markus Notter, executive council member of the Canton of Zurich and head of the Justice Department at the Zurich Pride Festival. Right, Nathalie Schaltegger, Zurich Pride's new president.

Stuttgart, Germany – July 23–August 1, 2010

I visited Stuttgart on August 1st with it's big and long demonstration through the city and the festival afterwards ... Stuttgart is InterPride member as well.

Cancelled Prides:

The Pride in Duisburg (Germany) had to be cancelled because of missing money and missing of active helpers.

New Prides in Region 12:

This year Salzburg, Linz and Innsbruck in Austria had their first Prides. I will get in contact with them as soon as possible.

Outreach/Promotion

Beginning of April I had a meeting with guys from Bregenz (Austria – very close to the borders of Switzerland and Germany) who are also interested to start a Pride. I will try to help them to organize (as soon as they want to start) as I live only one and a half hours away from them...

When I was writing this report and was checking when all the dates of the Prides have been I found out, that there are two or three different Prides in Berlin organized by different organizations – I will get in contact with them as soon as possible ...

I even noticed that Hannover is organizing two "Prides" every year: In May they organize a festival and speeches, in August they organize a demonstration with a party in the evening. They are working hard, aren't they?

I also tried to reach Robert Kastl (former EPOA president) because I heard there has already been like a regional conference with some prides organized by him for the Pride magazine which is existing in Germany and Switzerland and he is publishing with his company. But no answers on phone calls, facebook messages or e-mails from him. I informed some of the Prides and asked them to tell me if they got an invitation to this Pride meeting – because we in Konstanz never got an invitation.

If Robert is organizing another meeting like that it would be very easy to have a regional conference the same time – let's hope for the best.

When writing to the Prides I also got an answer from Hartmut Schönknecht – I think a very interesting person ... He told me he was one of the people who founded EPOA and was a co-president of EPOA (1994–2001). This as a story just besides ... He is now working for LSVD, a lesbian and gay rights organization in Germany and his jobs there has to do with international human rights. ■

REGION 13

By Ruben De Keyser, Regional Director

Gay Rights situation France

International human rights documents: France has not yet signed Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. France was a signatory to the 2007 UN Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

Criminal law: Consenting same-sex sexual acts are legal. The age of consent is equal for all sexual acts.

Anti-discrimination: Discrimination on the basis on sexual orientation is prohibited in areas of social security, health care, social advantages, education, good and services and housing.

Partnership recognition: In France same-sex couples are able to enter into a registered partnership. It also provides registered cohabiting same-sex couples with a set of limited rights.

Parenting rights: Neither joint nor second parent adoption is available to same-sex couples in France.

Law on hate and violence: Sexual orientation is included in the law on hate and violence, and is recognised as aggravating factor.

Annual Report**Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon "Yes to Diversity! No to Exclusion!" (theme 2010)**

Saturday June 5th, the 16th edition of the Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon was a resounding success with record attendance at the March of Diversities (Gay Pride) of more than 18,000 people (according to police), and 25 floats. It happened one week after the festival.

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



Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon

The atmosphere was festive yet there also was a sense of activism: 25 floats and trade associations to LGP members were present. And it is a first in France, a charito Quarter "Croix d'Argent" Montpellier (Quarter "sensitive") representing the diversity and solidarity against discrimination!

The main square was attended by numerous elected officials and representatives of political parties, unions, human rights associations, anti-discrimination associations, and the presence of civil associations for young people.

On the largest city square (Place de la Comédie), a large group of people went to lay a wreath in memory of deported homosexuals.



Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon

The President has addressed all local and national politicians, telling them that it was time for France to finally implement the republican contract that binds it to its citizens: freedom, equality, fraternity! The President also recalled that the LGP Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon is the candidat of Montpellier and its region for Europride 2014. This event will bring together thousands of people for a program of 10-15 days!

Gay rights situation Belgium

International human rights documents: Belgium has signed but not yet ratified Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Belgium was a signatory to the 2007 UN Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The Parliament of Belgium has endorsed the Yogyakarta Principles.

Criminal law: Consenting same-sex sexual acts are legal. The age of consent is equal for all sexual acts.

Anti-discrimination: Discrimination on the basis on sexual orientation is prohibited in areas of social security, health care, social advantages, goods and services.

Partnership recognition: In Belgium same-sex couples are able to marry. It also provides registered cohabiting same-sex couples with a set of limited rights.

Parenting rights: Same-sex couples are eligible to jointly

apply for a child adoption and each other's biological children. Medically assisted insemination is available to lesbian couples.

Law on hate and violence: Sexual orientation is included in the law on hate and violence, and is recognised as aggravating factor.



The Belgian Pride, Brussels

Annual Report The Belgian Pride

We've experienced a year with a lot of turbulence, internal changes and a new direction. Due to some choices of the new board, a lot of our key volunteers have chosen to leave the organization for other projects. The new board has chosen to continue with the newly hired coordinator and to work more as an active board in regards to the past. New synergies and partnerships have been set up with external partners (City, Tourist Board, Regional Government, local hospitality industry etc.) in order to ensure the future success of our event. This will also be pursued towards the organization of our event in 2011.

This year we celebrated our 15th Pride event under the name of "Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride". Therefore we felt that it was time to get ready for the future and change the name in order to cover the load. The new name of the event that was adopted at our General Assembly was "**The Belgian Pride**" or more commonly referred to as "The Pride – the original one". The name of the organization was changed accordingly.

The political theme put forward was "PRIDE4EVERY1" or Pride for Everyone

Every European!

A new European directive against discrimination has been proposed in July 2008 by the European Commission. It is still in negotiation. This directive is very important because it aims at protecting people against discrimination, particularly in education, access to goods and services or health care. Though it is supported by the European Parliament, the Council lingers to adopt it. If Belgium has chosen to support the text (while lengthening the time of its implementation), many Member States still oppose it.

As Belgium holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2010, the Belgian Federal Government should take leadership in this area, and spare no effort to have this important directive passed. Our country has a heavy responsibility in this regard.

Every Parent!

Adoption is legally open to homosexual parents since 2006. This provision allows full domestic adoption to couples of women who used anonymous donor insemination. However, it still does not achieve fulfillment in other adoption situations, where many gaps still need to be filled in.

For same-sex couples turning to international adoption, major problems are still to be overcome as countries of origin of children with which Belgium is working do not accept gay applicant adoptive parents or those with a transgender past. Knowing that there are countries of origin that would be willing to accept homosexual parents, it should be ensured that they are taken into account in opening new channels for adoption. We want the Central Authorities in matters of adoption, with the support of the competent Ministers of both the French Community and the Flemish governments, to intensify bilateral contacts as far as adoption involving these countries is concerned. We particularly think of the European countries, South Africa, the United States or Brazil.

We also want parents who use gay (international) adoption to be entitled to adoption leave, even in cases where the child is formally adopted by only one of them.



The Belgian Pride, Brussels

Every Gender!

Gender identities and expressions of genders are part of the dignity and humanity of every person and should not be the cause of discrimination or abuse. This includes those called effeminate, androgynous, butch, drag kings, drag queens, transvestites, "tomboys", people in transition or transgender and intersex people. They still face, nowadays, prejudice, mockery and insults, particularly in schools and professional environment but also in the health sector.

To be truly effective, the policy of equal opportunities must include not only equality between women and men but also the fight against gender stereotypes.

In Belgium, transgender people, identified as transsexuals in the psychiatric and legal jargon, are forced to follow a standard psychiatric "man or woman normalization protocol" which does not meet their aspirations in terms of gender identity. According to the Belgian law on transsexuality, individuals are required to receive hormone therapy and / or to be surgically sterilized in order to change their gender or to adopt a first name of the opposite gender.

We demand the right to change one's first name easily and for free, on request, with no medical or psychiatric criteria. The new first name should appear on all official documents. Similarly, the gender specification should be deleted at the request of the person. According to one of the recommendations of the Institute for Equality of Women and Men, we demand the Belgian law on transsexuality to be reviewed. Similarly, access to adoption and medically assisted procreation must be allowed for people with fluid gender identity.

Finally, we demand information and awareness actions on sex and gender diversity to be conducted, as well as actions against transphobia and intersex phobia. Changing mentalities and attitudes passes through legislation but also through actions on the field.

As usual festivities got kicked off with our annual Rainbow Parade, a small folkloristic and colorful march on foot through the old town of Brussels, as well as the official reception at City Hall together with the mayor of Brussels and many other politicians and LGBTQI-activists. We could count on over a 150 participants for this event.

During the entire week preceding the final Pride event, called the National Rainbow Week, all sorts of LGBTQI-events are organized by local groups. This year we counted no less than 106 different activities/events throughout the entire country.

The National Rainbow Week is then closed off with the annual Pride event. Another change from the past is that the event was held over an entire weekend, instead of just 1 day. It does not only include our Rainbow Village, the Pride Parade and the parties, but also a photo exhibition throughout the entire Village, cultural performances and specific events for Muslim LGBTQI people.

Our Rainbow Village was available on both Friday May 14th as well as Saturday May 15th. We had expanded the entire area with 1 extra street and even had to refuse interested stand holders. The whole area counted 3 DJ-booths that played music till 10PM each day. We counted a total of 45 booths.

The Pride Parade, held on Saturday May 15th, could count on the weather gods as the sun was with us all day and temperatures even reached close to 71.6° F. We could count on the participation of over 35 different groups and around 25

motorized vehicles. This year's Parade was more colorful than the past year and we tend to work on that towards the future. It is our goal to make it reflect the political theme.

The event had an overall of 35.000 participants on the Saturday for the Pride Parade alone (both on the side as well as in the Parade) – an absolute record! 10.000 more than the previous year.

In the evening we could count on several official Pride parties that drew several thousands of people. For the first time in 5 years we decided against taking on this ourselves. We turned towards several party organizers who were willing to stage the different events. The main event took place (for the first time) at the National Museum of Fine Arts (BOZAR).

On Sunday May 17th, we finished the festivities with a large street brunch in the Rainbow Village as well as a gay tea dance in the afternoon.

We are now gearing up towards 2011, an event which should even be bigger, better and more cultural than ever before.



Roze Zaterdag in Amersfoort, Nederlands

Gay Rights situation Netherlands

International human rights documents: The Netherlands has ratified Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, moreover The Netherlands was a signatory to the 2007 UN Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The national Parliament of The Netherlands has endorsed the Yogyakarta Principles.

Criminal law: Consenting same-sex sexual acts are legal. The age of consent is equal for all sexual acts.

Anti-discrimination: Discrimination on the basis on sexual orientation is prohibited in areas of health care, education, access to good and services and housing.

Partnership recognition: In The Netherlands same-sex couples are able to marry or enter into a registered partnership. It also provides registered cohabiting same-sex couples with a set of limited rights.

Parenting rights: Same-sex couples are eligible to jointly apply for a child adoption and each other's biological children. Medically assisted insemination is available to lesbian couples.

Law on hate and violence: Laws on hate and violence do not refer to sexual orientation or gender identity and do not recognise sexual orientation neither gender identity as aggravating factor.



Roze Zaterdag in Amersfoort, Nederlands

Annual Report Roze Zaterdag Nederland

The Dutch National LGBT Pride, "Roze Zaterdag", took place this year in Amersfoort.

The main event, the parade and the rally on Saturday June 26 was visited by 45.000 people.

The event was very successful due the nice weather and the good atmosphere in the city.

It was the final of week of events with exhibitions, film, sports and a conference about the necessity of LGBT Pride in the Netherlands. There a study was presented that even in Holland LGBT youth commits more suicides than the heterosexual youth.

It was especially good to have an event without any violence, since the last Roze Zaterdag in Amersfoort in 1982 was disturbed by massive attacks of young homophobic crowds. ■

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

Cyprus

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Greece – Athens Pride*

Kosovo

Montenegro

Romania – Bucharest GayFest

Serbia – Belgrade Pride – in planning stage for September

Slovenia – Ljubljana Pride

Turkey – Istanbul Pride; Trans-Pride (Istanbul)

General Remarks

The countries in Region 15 not currently in the European Union and seeking to join are being pressured to comply with the human rights criteria for entry. EU provisions have impelled these governments to make much needed advances in LGBTQI rights and protections through anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. EU law also provides that Member States both permit public Pride marches and gatherings as well as ensure the safety of their participants.

Needless to say, legislation will not make deeply rooted homophobic attitudes and the violence they foment disappear overnight. On the contrary, extremist groups (religious, nationalistic and neo-nazi) seem to be gaining in steam and numbers, fueled by worsening economic conditions and what they perceive as a loss of their own power. Nonetheless, the enforcement of the fundamental rights of LGBTI persons in these societies combined with the awareness that infractions and incidents will neither go unpunished domestically nor pass unnoticed in the international arena will go a long way to encouraging and safeguarding the visibility that Pride events promote.

Of the thirteen countries in Region 15 only six have established, successfully held annual Pride parades/marches. When evaluating this region, one must keep in mind that most are small countries with powerful, deeply rooted religious and family traditions that breed homophobia and foster closeting. The reality of rightwing violence is an additional deterrent to disclosure and public manifestations. Still, many positive strides have been made, which I detail below.

Regional outreach: short and long-term goals

1st SE European-Balkan Regional Pride Conference, June 4, 2010

After the success of the Solidarity-Exchange Program, initiated by Athens Pride in 2009 (see 2009 Annual Report) with a pledge for its sustained development, Athens Pride organized and funded the 1st SE European-Balkan Regional Pride Conference. As Regional Director, I made every effort to invite activists from all Pride organizations and/or NGOs in each country. With persistence and networking, I was largely successful at making contact even if the invitation was not accepted for one reason or another.

The Conference was held on Friday, June 4, the eve of our main festival and parade, in the Athens Municipal Cultural Center. It was open and free to the public. Approximately 100 people attended.



First Regional Conference at Athens Municipal Cultural Center

Primarily a getting-acquainted meeting, each delegate was asked to make a brief presentation with visual material of their Pride events and local conditions in general. They were also expected to attend our main festival the following day, June 5, and march in the Parade. We provided transportation, a dinner, coffee and snacks, a brunch, and hosted housing for representatives from Zagreb Pride, Sofia Pride, Bucharest GayFest, and Cyprus. The ill-fated Belgrade Pride 2009 was presented by an Athens Pride member who had been there. Speakers also included a representative from ILGA-Europe and two Greek European Parliamentarians from the ruling socialist PASOK party and the Greens party respectively.

More brainstorming with the delegates took place over brunch on Sunday, June 6. We discussed individual organizational issues as well as the possibility of a 2nd Regional Conference and/or Regional (Balkan) Pride in 2011, possibly in Zagreb (it will be their 10th anniversary). I don't know if either of these events will come about. It largely depends on the Zagreb leadership. But one way or another, hopefully this impetus will not be lost, and that if not in Zagreb, then we can hold at least a Conference in another venue.

We also discussed the benefits of InterPride membership: Sofia Pride has since joined and will be attending the AGM in Long Beach; Bucharest GayFest (ACCEPT-Romania) has approved IP membership and is expected to join in the very near future. My long-term goal is to bring all the region's Prides into the InterPride family – not only for what they have to gain but also for what they can bring to the organization. The benefits are mutual.

In addition, at this time, I was invited to represent InterPride and Athens Pride at the Zagreb Pride Round Table, "From Institutionalized Homophobia to a Joint Struggle for LGBT Rights: Opening Institutions for the LGBT Community," on 18 June, the eve of their main event. While in Zagreb I also met with the organizers of Belgrade Pride 2010.

Although it is still spotty and far from perfect, electronic and face-to-face contact significantly improved within the region as a result of the outreach I've done surrounding the Conference. There is still much to do as far as communication is concerned. This is a job that requires persistence and patience. This region would benefit tremendously from a 2nd RD.

Athens Pride: 4-5 June, We Are Everywhere

The 6th Athens Pride festival and several of its pre-festival events were dogged by the labor and social unrest surrounding the Greek economic crisis and the government's proposed austerity measures. Strikes, street actions and violence, even deaths, cast a pall over our events. In fact, we canceled the morning activities at our main festival due to a union rally called for that day with a protest march going right past our venue.



Sofia Pride delegation approaching the Hellenic Parliament. Holding banner far left: Zagreb Pride's Marina Matesic

Typical in times of financial and social strife, the extreme right is gaining strength, particularly the violence-inclined neo-Nazi party, Chryssi Avgi (Golden Dawn), which attacked our 2008 Parade. Our controversial poster featuring the 2010 slogan WE ARE EVERYWHERE superimposed on a photo of an Evzone guard, the traditional symbol of (manly) bravery and nationalistic pride, provoked even more vicious extremist rhetoric and threats than usual. These ranged from the relatively benign

"How dare gays desecrate this symbol of the Greek nation!" to calls for an armed attack on our Parade. On the positive side, the poster and these extreme reactions generated a very fruitful public dialogue about homophobia, prejudice and what citizenship is really all about, and, above all, a lot of visibility. In short, we made our point.



Athens Pride 2010 controversial poster at bus stop

Athens Pride continues to have excellent relations with the police and the Ministry of Citizen Protection, which responded to our concerns with reassurance and thankfully unobtrusive security measures. Happily, the threats remained in cyberspace, with no dissenters in sight. In fact, rather than the deterrent to participation that we also feared, the vitriol appeared to have the opposite effect. The Athens Pride 2010 parade, the largest yet, numbering about 8,000, seemed to be just what the city wanted in these troubled times! Adjectives such as "cathartic," "joyous" and "dignified" abounded. Another milestone: this year our parade had spectators as well as marchers.

The Athens Pride 2010 slogan referred to the existence of LGBTQI persons in all walks of Greek life – an attempt to debunk media-generated stereotypes that still exist – as well as an affirmation of our commitment to international solidarity.

In addition to the regional delegates mentioned above, we also hosted the entire Board of Cologne Pride, a small delegation of Sofia Pride organizers, and three founding members of the new Cypriot LGBT organization, accept-Cyprus (no affiliation with the Romanian organization).



ILGA-Europe's Deborah Lambillotte addressing Athens Parade rally Behind her: Cologne Pride's Board of Directors

Despite the fact that our homophobic mayor still denied us the official city seal, or Aegis, Athens Pride did achieve some recognition from the city – not coincidentally this is an election year. Besides the use of the municipal conference room for our conference, we were allocated bus-stop vitrines in prime locations for our poster. We also had a top-notch stage lineup that included several major pop stars and a French drag-king show, all performing pro bono as usual.

In addition to our main event, Athens Pride also organized several events during the year to keep the organization in the spotlight. The contemporary art benefit auction-exhibition, Artists for Athens Pride, took place for a second year at The Breeder gallery in February. Our principal source of funding, this international exhibition in Athens' premiere art gallery has become a popular and prestigious event for contributing artists, their galleries, art lovers and small collectors, making Athens Pride perhaps the only Pride in the world to be primarily supported by the contemporary visual arts community.

In April we screened the Canadian documentary, *Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride*, to a capacity audience of 400 at the prestigious Goethe Institut of Athens. Our guests for Q&A at the event were filmmaker Bob Christie and Nikolai Alekseev (Moscow Pride and RD 8). (EuroPride-Warsaw's Tomasz Baczkowski was invited but was kept away by the Icelandic volcano ash cloud. The Canadian ambassador attended the event and the Canadian Embassy provided some financial support. The film was subtitled in Greek and the Q&A – like all AP events – offered simultaneous Greek-English translation and signing for the hearing impaired. The event, which included a wine reception, was free.

Sofia Pride: 21–28 June, Love Equality – Embrace Diversity

2010 marked Sofia's 3rd annual Pride Parade. Their 2008 event with some 100 participants was disrupted by violence. The 2009 parade, guarded by three lines of heavy security, occurred without incident, but the uneasy police literally raced the 300 marchers through the streets to get it over with. Thus, overcoming threats and other concerns, this year's parade with an amazing 850 marchers was truly a triumph!



Sofia Pride Parade mustering

The following report is from Sofia Pride organizer and InterPride AGM 2010 delegate Magdalena Guenova.

Sofia Pride 2010 was organized by the same team of activists as the previous years and was backed by the Bilitis Resource Center for Bi & Lesbian Women, the Bulgarian Activist Alliance, the LGBT Action Youth Organization and the ID Club. The Organizing Committee received letters of support from several foreign embassies, from the Greens and the Bulgarian Socialist Youth parties, and, for the very first time, from a party with parliamentary representation, Democrats for Strong Bulgaria, who are positioned to the right of the political spectrum. Official statements of support were received by ILGA-Europe (addressed to Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and Interior Affairs Minister Tzvetan Tzvetanov), Amnesty International and other international organizations.

The media and social climate prior to our 2010 Pride had improved slightly, but still there was strong opposition by religious, mostly Christian groups, political parties and neo-Nazi groups. A protest, organized by the neo-Nazi organization National Resistance was held three hours before our march.

The theme of Sofia Pride 2010 addressed hate crimes and hate speech, as Bulgarian laws do not cite LGBTQI identity as a cause for such crimes, and also because of the numerous hate crimes and violent attacks that have taken place over the past two years.

Some 850 people took part in the event, protected by 400 policemen and Special Forces. Eight or ten people were arrested for trying to break through the police cordon.

Sofia Pride 2010 was funded again by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, donations from the ID Club, and private donations. All financial resources, including the donations were received and cleared by the Bilitis Resource Center for Bi & Lesbian Women, the only formal NGO backing Sofia Pride.

Currently, a group of LGBT activists involved in organizing the first three pride events is working to establish Sofia Pride as an official foundation within the next two months. This foundation will act as the organizing body for all subsequent annual Sofia Pride parades.

The 3rd Sofia Pride Parade took place on Saturday, June 26. It was followed by an outdoor show and an After Party. For the first time our parade was preceded by a Pride week, whose program included: an exhibition, *“Writing History: Prides 2008 and 2009 through the eyes of the participants”*, documenting the first two prides in Bulgaria; the public reading of the winning text in our essay competition *“Why I Am Going to Pride”*, broadcast on Bulgarian National Radio; a fundraising party with Bulgarian pop stars performing pro bono to help make Sofia Pride possible; the official launch of the first *“Almanac for Bulgarian Queer Art”*, containing artworks exhibited during the 2009 LGBT Art Fest; a press conference (Friday, June 25) by the Sofia Pride 2010 Organizing Committee; and an open discus-

sion titled “3rd LGBT pride in Sofia: What happened” on Monday, June 28.

Zagreb Pride: 5–19 June, Croatia Can Swallow It

The 9th annual Zagreb Pride March took place on Saturday, June 19. Official numbers are not particularly reliable, but organizers estimate that there were between 500 and 800 marchers, making this the largest turnout so far. The route is through the center of the city and is highly visible. This year’s parade was supported by Croatian actor Rade Serbedzija and Gender Equality Ombudswoman Gordana Lukac Koritnik, who said that the level of homophobia in Croatia was still too high, expressing hope that this would change. In addition to the mostly young members of the LGBTQI community, a considerable number of participants, as usual, came from democratic, anti-fascist, anarchist and green party factions. Activists from Serbia, Macedonia, Denmark, Athens, and elsewhere also attended.

For the 4th year in a row, two large rainbow flags flew above the city’s central square (Trg Bana Jelacica) for the week preceding the parade. Most significantly, this year’s Pride had the support of Croatian President Ivo Josipovic, who received all 15 members of the 2010 Organizing Committee several days before the event. Josipovic is the first president to officially meet with LGBTQI activists since the inception of the Pride Parade nine years ago. Although the President did not participate in the Parade, he did send an official letter of support, continuing the statements he made in his inauguration speech, in which he emphasized the importance of recognizing the right to public expression of sexual diversity and pledged to fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation.



Drummers in Zagreb March

The parade set out from Victims of Fascism Square (Trg Zrtava Fasizma) under heavy police escort. It made a stop at the city’s enormous central square where some 100 members of the youth organization of the Croatian Pure Party of Rights (Mladez HCSP) rallied in protest. Although their official line is pro-morality and pro-family, which they see Pride as mocking, this group of young men, mostly, is violent in nature. Last year they were permitted to come within spitting distance – literally – from the

marchers. This year, with the authorities under pressure, they were barricaded at a distance from the march. Nevertheless some 8-10 of those attempting to break through the barricades were arrested, and an attack against two Pride participants was reported to have occurred later that night. It should be noted here that in addition to the heavy police protection of the Parade, all the Pride venues (rally and after party) required police barricades and other security measures.



Athens Pride at Zagreb Pride mustering at Victims of Fascism Square

A particularly moving feature of the Zagreb Pride Parade is their designated stop, shortly before the terminus, at the site of what was Croatia’s largest synagogue, destroyed by fascist forces during World War II. This moving remembrance of the horrors perpetrated by fascism in the past is a chilling reminder that these forces continue to exist and threaten society. Never again, indeed!

This year’s Zagreb Pride Parade was preceded by two weeks of related events, which included film screenings, a lecture-discussion on the development of gay pornography, a workshop on gender and sexuality, an alternative prom, a literary evening, and an exhibition of childhood photos of local activists.

“Moms at Mama” was held for the third year in a row, on Thursday, 17 June. A family initiative prompted by the needs of primarily younger gays and lesbians and their parents, this year featured those parents who have accepted and embraced their children’s sexual identities, in contrast to the many who psychologically and physically harm their gay and lesbian children. By focusing on these positive examples, which unfortunately continue to be rare, Zagreb Pride aims to encourage other parents and friends of the LGBTQI community. “Moms at Mama” is closed to the media, and receives financial and organizational support from the Office for Gender Equality of the Croatian Government.

The final event before Pride Parade Day was the round table, “From Institutional Homophobia to the Joint Fight for LGBT Rights,” co-organized by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung and Zagreb Pride. Representatives from the Croatian government, various state institutions, Embassies of EU countries, the media,

and NGOs participated in the discussion. As RD I was invited to represent InterPride and Athens Pride and speak on the importance of public Pride events and the Global Pride Movement.



R.D. Andrea Gilbert (center) addressing Zagreb Pride Round Table

Zagreb Pride is an all-volunteer, non-hierarchical, non-commercial organization. It receives funding and support from national governmental agencies, and international NGOs and IGOs. Organizers have expressed interest in joining InterPride and EPOA. I hope that next year's AGM in Brussels will facilitate membership and attendance.

BUCHAREST GAY-FEST: 17-22 May

This report is based on information received from Bogdan Istrate, ACCEPT Press and Services Coordinator.

Organized by ACCEPT, Romania's largest LGBT rights association, this was Romania's 7th annual GayFest. The event per se comprises a week of initiatives including exhibitions, debates, workshops, plays, concerts, etc. During the year ACCEPT organizes other events under the auspices of GayFest. They are successful but don't benefit from the extensive media coverage that GayFest receives on a local and national level.

Organizers estimate participation at this year's march at approximately 300, down about 10% from last year. But they feel that they can't speak of a pattern here because numbers have fluctuated by about 100 since 2005. However, when in Athens, Florin Buhuceanu expressed his concern to me that their parade numbers were decreasing – or at least not increasing. He seemed to feel that their organization could benefit from the experience of Athens Pride as well as InterPride knowhow. ACCEPT has approved membership in InterPride and hopefully will join in the very near future.

Despite the successful holding of Pride in Bucharest, even in years prior to Romania's accession into the EU, the country has one of the highest rates of homophobia in the EU. In March 2009, a report published by the Agency of the European Union for Fundamental Rights (FRA), "Homophobia and discrimination on the sexual orientation criterion and gender identity in EU Member States," showed that according to the last Eurobarometer, Romania is the Member State with the larg-

est number of respondents who do not feel comfortable having a "gay neighbor." In August 2009, The National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), the only state institution that punishes acts of discrimination, released the data of the opinion poll, "The discrimination phenomenon in Romania - perceptions and attitudes," conducted by the National Institute for Opinion and Marketing Studies (INSOMAR). The research shows homosexuals to one of the most discriminated against groups in Romania. For persons with a different sexual orientation the rejection percentages are 90.5%: only 4.9% of the population would accept a gay family member and only 23% a gay close friend. Over 55% of the population would refuse to accept a gay neighbor or work colleague, and the same number believed that gays should receive "specialized treatment." From the data obtained, it is obvious that this extreme homophobia is generated by certain stereotypes deeply rooted in the collective mind.



Bucharest GayFest Parade 2010

Not surprisingly, the Bucharest GayFest march is conducted under heavy police security. To further avoid incidents and the safety of participants – many of whom come from the foreign diplomatic community – it is held on a Saturday afternoon in a fairly isolated area of the city. In contrast, the two anti-Pride marches, "March for Families" and "March for Normality," were held that morning and permitted to parade along the city's main streets of Bucharest, thus attracting attention from bystanders. GayFest, on the other hand proceeded along closed off streets, past empty buildings. Although this kept dissenters away, it also meant that there were few people to witness the event besides the participants and the media.

This year's GayFest was made possible with financial support from the British Council, the Goethe Institut and from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). However, funding possibilities for 2011 are quite uncertain. The ACCEPT Association is funded by various international agencies.

LJUBLJANA PRIDE: 25 June – 3 July ENOUGH WAITING!

This report is based on information from Ljubljana Pride president Petra Salaj

Slovenia is the most advanced country in the region in matters of LGBT equality. This year was the 10th annual Ljubljana Pride Parade. The 2010 slogan, "Enough waiting!" signifies the 26-year fight by the LGBTQI community for equal treatment, and was spurred by the proposed new Family Law currently under debate in the National Assembly, which, if passed, would give equal rights, including those involving parenthood, to same-sex couples.

Notable also for the region is the quality of official political support the Ljubljana Pride receives. Among the prominent political figures participating in the march was Interior Minister Katarina Kresal, wearing an official parade t-shirt, who marched for the second year in a row. The honorary patrons of this year's Pride were Ljubljana mayor Zoran Jankovič, and Pavel Gantar, President of the National Assembly, who spoke from the Pride stage. A large rainbow flag (lent by Zagreb, their sister Pride) decorated the City Hall.

The Parade, held on Saturday, 3 July, was the culmination of a week of related events, including a 10th Anniversary exhibition, parties, film screenings, lectures and discussions on the BT in LGBT, homophobia & violence, and gender & sexuality and a PFLAG meeting. A roundtable, "Neo-conservatism in GLBTIQ activism," was a response to the proposed new family legislation. The discussion addressed the paradox that the most revolutionary act in the history of GLBTIQ activism in Slovenia was entering the most traditional field, that of the family, and the concern of some over the possible loss of the emancipatory nature of the movement and with that the end of activism.

This year's Pride Parade typically had about 250 participants, which is somewhat less than last year – although the pre-pride events were better attended. According to organizers, the reasons for the decline may be that the homophobic attack preceding last year's event generated a lot of publicity and public support, and the fact that this year's event took place later, the day right after school ended and summer holidays began. Many people had left town. Also, there may have frightened off by the incidents cited below.

There was no violence during the Parade, but organizers and politicians agree that homophobic acts appear to be escalating in Slovenia. This year, too, the march was marred by acts of violence in the days leading up to it. Café Open, the city's only openly LGBT-friendly bar, was once again the target. In week just prior to Pride Week it was attacked three nights in succession: the first two nights with Molotov cocktails; the third night it was vandalized with homophobic slurs such as "Death to Faggots!" and "a hit to the head is a hit to the head faggot," a

reference to last year's brutal assault (during the same period) on prominent activist and journalist Mitja Blažič after a literary evening at Café Open. In May 2010, the perpetrators of the attack on Blažič were sentenced to 18 months in prison – the first such judicial decision on a hate crime on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Furthermore, that same night these neo-Nazi skinheads wrote the same graffiti on the outside of the house of the judge who presided over the case - who is just so happens is also the wife of Minister of Justice. After that the police were very vigilant. According to Salaj, they were present everywhere, protecting every event, so there were no more incidents.

President Dr. Danilo Turk condemned the attacks on Cafe Open, as did Mayor Jankovič, one of the two honorary sponsors of the 2010 parade. Gantar despaired that society today is less tolerant than it was in the 80s, and both he and the Mayor called for tolerance and solidarity and urged that the new Family Law be passed.



Café Open firebombed and defaced with homophobic graffiti

Ljubljana Pride is funded by government grants, and this year received some sponsorship from some businesses and NGOs. Several bars supplied materials and venues. Organizers hope that this will point the way for more companies and organizations to publicly declare their support.

RD note: I was very disappointed that Ljubljana was unable to attend Athens Pride or Zagreb Pride. I hope to be able to set up a face-to-face meeting in the near future.

ISTANBUL TRANS-PRIDE: 11-13 June Not silent, but on the street. Not hiding, but organized. We are walking against hate!

The first Trans-Pride Week in Turkey was held from 11-13 June. Organized by the Trans-rights groups Istanbul LGBTT and Women's Door, EHP's LGBTT, the mission of the event was to draw attention to rampant discrimination, violence, and human rights violations against the Turkish Trans community.

In the past year, violence towards transvestites and transgender persons in Turkish society has escalated considerably. The Euro-

pean Commission's progress report on Turkey's accession to the EU points to the shortcomings of the Turkish penal code, allowing for the systematic persecution of LGBT minorities and the limitation of their freedom of assembly. With no anti-discrimination legislation to allow these acts to be classified as hate crimes, organizer-activists are pressuring the government to amend the law and recognize these acts as hate crimes based on gender identity.

To exacerbate matters, the Minister of State has publically declared that members of the LGBT community are "mentally ill." Such official statements have only served to fuel hate crimes (including a number of murders!), oppression, and discrimination against LGBT persons.

Just days before the scheduled Trans-Pride event, a transgendered woman was beaten by five men in Istanbul. In May, a month earlier, another woman was killed. And it's the same story in Turkey's other major cities: Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Denizli, and elsewhere. When transgender activists from Pink Life in Ankara attempted to protest these actions on the International Day Against Homophobia, they were attacked. To make matters worse, those who have killed or injured members of the transgender community have received mitigated sentences. (See below for earlier Report issued by IGLHRC in February 2010.)

The 1st Trans Parade, with some 500 participants, took place on Sunday, 13 June on Istiklal Caddesi, the city's bustling pedestrian boulevard. The events in the days leading up to the march included a street festival, concerts, film screenings, and panel discussions.

Trans-Pride week was supported by the following organizations: Istanbul LGBT Civil Society Initiative, the Workers' Movement Party of LGBTs, Women's Door Foundation, Lambda Istanbul LGBT Solidarity Association, Pink Life LGBT Association, Voltrans Trans Male Initiative, Cukurova Gay Initiative, Socialist Women's Assembly, Green Party, and Revolutionary Anarchist Action.

ISTANBUL PRIDE: 18-27 June

Turkey is by far the largest country in Region 15, and Istanbul, with some 13 million inhabitants, is the fifth largest city in the world. This year marked the 18th Istanbul Pride, a remarkable accomplishment, especially for a Muslim country.

Despite the legal challenges that the organizing body, LambdaIstanbul, has suffered at the hands of the government, and the widespread institutional and social homophobia in Turkish society, surprisingly, there were no apparent manifestations of opposition during the 1 ½ hour march down Istiklal Caddesi on Sunday, 27 June. Even more remarkable, as a member of Athens Pride there reported, was the fact that there was no obvious police presence, even to manage the crowd that totaled some 5,000 with marchers mingling with the young population normally found on this teeming pedestrian boule-

vard. While it was difficult to estimate the number of actual pride participants, organizers and participants concurred that it was a considerably larger turnout than last year.

The theme of this year's Istanbul Pride Week was the family. Preceding the Parade was a Pride Week that featured an extensive program of workshops, films, performances, panels, forums, sports, plays, exhibitions, and parties – with as many as four or five events each day. Presenters and speakers came from both Turkey and abroad. Istanbul Pride Week is supported by more than two dozen domestic and foreign NGOs and IGOs, and is funded by the MATRA-program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Athens Pride marching in Istanbul Pride

RD note: When I became Regional Director in 2008 I requested that Turkey be moved to Region 15, because of its historical, cultural and sentimental connection to Greece and the LGBTQI activist community here. However, I am disappointed to say that my outreach efforts and the affiliation with Athens Pride and InterPride are at an impasse, at least at present. Despite months of what I can only describe as courting and wooing, my invitation to the Regional Conference and Athens Pride 2010 was bluntly rejected. I have been informed directly and indirectly that the current leadership of LambdaIstanbul does not wish to have anything to do with either Athens Pride or InterPride. I sincerely hope that this situation can be remedied in the future – perhaps with different players.

BELGRADE PRIDE: 10 October

Belgrade Pride has been the tragedy of the Region. Pride marches were attempted in 2001 and again 2009, both with disastrous results. The first was, simply put, a bloodbath; the second, last year, was aborted by the authorities only hours before it was to take place because, they claimed, they were unable to guarantee the participants' safety.

However, as real as the violent climate was – a French tourist suspected of being gay died as a result of a beating – local activists and journalists claim that the Belgrade police are more than used to violent demonstrations and could have handled this situation had they wanted to.

Disheartened, burned out, and at ideological odds with each other, the core group of last year's organization fractured soon after. Since then, the baton has been taken up by the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and Queeria Center, who are in the process of organizing the event.

While in Zagreb I met with GSA acting president Lazar Pavlovi . In a recent communication he informed me: "GSA started and successfully ended the first round of dialogue with the parliamentary political parties and state institutions. One of the main themes was advancement of the right to freedom of gathering of GLBT people in Serbia and the possibility of organizing the first successful Pride Parade. Most of parliamentary political parties (both, left and rightwing) and all state institutions supported the Pride Parade publicly. The last two meetings were held together with Queeria Center, including the meeting [30 June] with the President of the Republic of Serbia, Boris Tadic (who has supported the Pride Parade publicly), and with the Committee of Defense and Security of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (which also supported Pride and stressed the message to the security state institutions that they should provide full security for the Pride participants). [“It was agreed that the Gay Pride in Belgrade is to be a historical event which will show that Serbia is a safe society for all its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientations.” the President's Office said in a statement.] Of course, now we are trying to get concrete support from the institutions (for e.g. to be present on the Pride) and get them involved in the process.

The Pride Parade Organizing Committee consists of the Gay Straight Alliance and Queeria Center, and is supported by the GLBT organizations: Gay Lesbian Info Center (GLIC), Safe Pulse of Youth (SPY) and Support Group for Young Gay Men (from Novi Sad). The wider membership of GSA and other interested representatives of all GLBT organizations are included in those groups."

Organizers are actively seeking support and outreach of all kinds from other NGOs, IGOs and the international community, including attendance at the projected Parade. Pavlovi informed me that the event is proposed for September and that the exact date will be announced shortly. I will send an update when I have more news. Good Luck Belgrade!!!

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL NEWS – GOOD AND BAD

CYPRUS

The creation of the first official LGBT NGO, accept LGBT Cyprus (no affiliation with ACCEPT-Romania) is a milestone for LGBTQI rights and quality of life in this small, conservative island nation. Its ambitious mission embraces education, community outreach and support, advocating the application of EU and Council of Europe legislation and policies on LGBTQI rights, campaigning for partnership and parenthood rights, etc. Its long range goal

is the establishment of a Pride on Cyprus. An accept-Cyprus delegation attended the Regional Conference and was given a booth at the Athens Pride venue.

MONTENEGRO

On 27 July 2010, Montenegro fulfilled its EU membership requirement by protecting the rights of LGBT persons. The Parliament of Montenegro with a large majority (67 votes for, 6 against and 4 abstentions) adopted an all-inclusive anti-discrimination law which bans discrimination on the grounds of various characteristics, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Montenegro is the last country in the Western Balkans to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

On 8 April 2010, a new anti-discrimination law was adopted by the Parliament of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Regretfully, the new law does not include sexual orientation among 20 prohibited grounds of discrimination. This omission has drawn criticism from international and EU institutions and NGOs. ■

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 Edgar Atadero, Regional Director

Activities of the Regional Director

I have been performing a number of tasks for InterPride that included communicating with different Pride organizers in Region 19, requesting for even and organizational information and encouraging them to join InterPride, participate in the AGMS in Long Beach and Belgium, and accordingly to find ways of getting membership fees from different sources.

Since October 2009, I have sent communications to contact persons in Chiang Mai (Thailand), Mumbai and Kerala (India), Kathmandu (Nepal) Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Hong Kong, Taipei and Shanghai (China), Baguio City and Manila (Philippines). Only a few replied, notably Cambodia, China and the Philippines. I have managed to convince Cambodia Pride and Hong Kong Pride to become members, and facilitated the linkages between anonymous donors and InterPride for covering their membership fees. In cases where there were no replies, I scanned the internet sources for reports of accomplished or failed/cancelled Pride events.

I made support trips to Hong Kong (October) and Cambodia (May) Pride events. The trips' objectives were to show material presence of InterPride, invite their leaderships directly for AGM attendance and to document the challenges and successes of Pride event management in their countries. In Hong Kong, I have managed to project InterPride's presence in a television news documentary (see video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ_W8KX4Ajs).

I attended and showed support to the Manila Pride in December 2009. I was helpful in introducing the leadership to sponsorship by a condom-&lube distributor. In my own Pride event in Quezon City, I introduced the InterPride banner as one of the official delegation banners.

I offered Cambodia Pride future assistance in capacity building in their Pride management. On August 12, I was invited to sit as a resource speaker on organizational development by the newly formed QC Pride Council of Quezon City. On August 14 and 15, I was requested by Baguio Pride to provide the leadership a brief course on project grant proposal writing and event sponsorship. Picture on right shows the Baguio Pride organizers during the workshop.

Report summaries from Pride Events in Region 19

CAMBODIA

City: Phnom Penh

Event: **Cambodia Pride 2010: Love Who You are**

Dates: May 11-17, 2010

The event was initiated and led by a group of local and international LGBT volunteers called Rainbow Community Kampuchea (RoCK), and supported by local LGBT businesses, HIV NGOs and Human Rights NGOs. Events this year lasted for eight days and included a film festival, art exhibition, parties, performances, drag acts, singers and live bands. The Community Fun Day, in which LGBT from Cambodia's rural provinces came with their friends, family and children. Workshops included the NGO Stakeholders Workshop, Family Acceptance and Understanding Workshop, Lesbian Sexual Health Workshop and LGBT Rights Workshop. Pride was attended by LGBT from Phnom Penh and from Cambodia's rural provinces and neighboring Vietnam. Picture shows Cambodian transgender drag intermission number at the Queer Film Festival at the Meta House art center.

→ msmasia.org/tl_files/2010%20resources/10-7_resources/PSN_V5.pdf

CHINA

City: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Event: **The 2nd Hong Kong Pride Parade: Be Proud, Be Yourself**

More than 2,000 people attended the 2009 Hong Kong Pride parade, double from last year. The events included launching parties in gay and lesbian bars, video parties and post-pa-

rade parties. The organizers have cancelled the 2010 Pride due to the disappointing financial performance of 2009 pride. Organizers have suffered from official refusal to support the event and a lack of permits for parade floats.

→ www.hkpride.net/2009/eng/news/

→ www.chinadaily.com.cn/hkedition/2010-07/15/content_10107828.htm (Please take note, Interpride was already mentioned in this article)



Participants at Hong Kong Pride, China

City: Shanghai

Event: **The First Shanghai Pride Week: Diversity, Unity, Harmony**

Dates: June 7-14, 2009

ShanghaiPRIDE is mainland China's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) Pride season which started out in 2009. This year, Shanghai Pride returns for a second season with a wide range of activities that will take place on 16-30 October. Slated events are film fests, art shows, panel discussions, theatre productions, sporting events and fabulous parties.

→ www.utopia-asia.com/spec/shpride09.htm

INDIA

City: Mumbai

Event: **Kashish – Mumbai Queer Film Festival, 2010**

Dates: April 22-25, 2010

Solaris Pictures and Bombay Dost Offer cinema as a medium to understand what being queer in India means today and how it impacts both the queer community and the society at large.

Eminent personalities from films, art, fashion and media and queer activists will be part of Kashish selection committee and jury for its competitive sections, which will carry awards. A series of discussions about on Indian queer culture and its portrayal on film, and a photo-exhibition will also be a part of Kashish.

→ www.utopia-asia.com/unews/article_2010_01_13_104808.htm

City: Thiruvananthapuram, State of Kerala
 Event: **First Queer Pride Parade of Kerala**
 Dates: July 2, 2010

Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders demand that they be treated as normal people and improve awareness about them and get better acceptance. According to Pride committee member Arya Krishnan, "We are not expecting more than 300 people, given existing social conditions." The parade marks the first anniversary of Delhi High Court judgment legalizing homosexuality.

→ timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Kerala-to-host-its-first-gay-parade/articleshow/6112610.cms#ixzz0wRQsqc63

JAPAN

City: Tokyo
 Event: **The 7th Tokyo Pride Parade**
 Dates: August 14, 2010

Clearly one of the most successful yet, with support from large corporate entities including Softbank and Google and an attendance of somewhere around 5,000 people. Although there have been gatherings continuously, this was the first full parade for 3 years, with participants walking and dancing behind floats on the route from Yoyogi/NHK Hall through Shibuya and Harajuku. The event received little exposure in the Japanese media.

→ parade.tokyo-pride.org/7th/language/english.html

KOREA

City: Seoul
 Event: **11th annual Korean Queer Culture Festival**
 Dates: 12 June 2010 within a 10-day festival of parties, lectures, exhibitions, film festival and parade.
 → www.utopia-asia.com/spec/seoul10.htm



Members of Amnesty International at the Korean Queer Culture Festival

NEPAL

City: Kathmandu
 Event: **Gai Jatra**
 Dates: 25 August 2010

A centuries-old Hindu festival when Nepalese men tradi-

tionally dress up in women's clothing, and which has in recent years been adopted by Nepal's increasingly vocal gay community.
 → news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100727/lf_afp/lifestylenepalgay-festival_20100727160512

PHILIPPINES

City: Manila
 Event: **The Manila Pride Parade: We Dare We Care**
 Dates: December 5, 2009

The parade in the gay district of Malate, Manila was supported by 2,000 people from different LGBT organizations and supportive political parties. This is the second parade that has experienced harassment from fringe fundamentalist street preachers who were carrying anti-Pride signs along the parade route.

City: Baguio City
 Event: **The 4th Baguio City Pride Parade: Educate, Liberate, Celebrate!**
 Dates: June 8–27, 2010

More organizations supported this year's prolonged Pride celebrations that included free haircuts for folks on the street, lesbian parties, MCC church masses and school forums. The parade itself attracted 500 people representing around 30 organizations.



Baguio City Pride Parade, Philippines

SRI LANKA

City: Colombo
 Event: **Colombo Pride**
 June 11–12: *Respecting Gender and Sexuality: becoming agents for Change – Youth Conference*
 June 11: *Reception for Youth Conference Participants and invitees*
 June 20: *Rainbow Runway – Fashion show*
 June 24: *Rainbow Pride party*
 July 5–7: *Rainbow Visions – LGBT Art and Photo exhibition/ Celluloid Rainbows – LGBT Film Festival*
 July 11: *Rainbow Kite Festival on Mt. Lavinia Beach*
 July 10: *Leave a light on for me – a LGBTIQ theatre performance*

Challenges, trends, and specific details from Region 19 pride event management and summary of "InterPride Region 19" as an entity

In general Region 19 in 2009-10 has seen the emergence of Pride events at a rate faster than seen in the past ten years and we expect to see more Prides growing in the Chinese and Hindu-speaking areas of the continent. This is because of the growing acceptance of LGBTs in political structures, after homosexuality was decriminalized in India last year and in China a few years earlier. Attendance in pride events is growing, overall, pride events report having doubled attendance from the previous event. However, major challenges remain in getting the message across effectively into the mainstream consciousness. Pride managers are still in the early stages of crafting effective strategies of publicizing events and large events like in Taipei (the largest in the region) and Tokyo are virtually ignored by media. Pride managers are also complaining of difficulty sustaining revenue flows large enough to cover entire event costs despite relaxing political atmospheres in previously conservative Chinese societies. Most pride events in the region are NGO-driven, and not corporate funded, and will likely remain to be marginalized curiosities for the public in the next decade.

Despite the improving conditions for Pride events in India, the Philippines and Chinese-speaking territories, there is however a looming threat not only for Pride events but for all LGBT concerns. Last year, the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) openly announced and started its Asian regional conference in Surabaya Indonesia in March. The conference was cancelled by the police because groups of Islamist agitators from out of town amassed at the conference and physically demanded a stop to the conference. The cancelled conference highlights the growing risks faced by LGBT activists and their allies when openly pursuing advocacy work. In Chiang Mai, the mass organization the Thai Red Shirts, who are not linked to Islamic militants in any way, harassed the Pride parade organizers and succeeded in stopping the parade altogether. In the Philippines, street preachers who most likely can be traced from North American sources, are staging harassment actions based on Christian scriptural claims against the pride parade in Manila in 2008 and 2009, and organizers expect them to repeat this for every pride event.

The global economic crisis and the recent spate of natural calamities and threats of epidemics is also becoming a factor in Pride event organizing. Pride organizers in China and the Philippines face increasing competition from other mainstream causes for revenue to sustain at least critical budgets for operations. Corporations remain aloof and do not see their bottom lines improving when asked to invest in openly LGBT events. Two tropical cyclones devastated the office of Baguio Pride and the committee is now based the house of one of the officers. Also in the Philippines, major corporations in beverage and

clothing are redesigning their corporate social responsibility or CSR portfolios to stop cash transfers altogether and force non-profits to accept mere branding equity via merchandise sales. It sounds good on paper, but merchandising in poor communities are way too thin, and it uses the already burdened Pride volunteers as labor, making it extremely difficult for Pride committees to generate actual revenue from such sales. The spate of feared epidemics such as swine flu and bird flu reduced tourist arrivals in the region, making it even difficult for Prides to capitalize on tourism to improve attendance and revenue.

Hong Kong Pride has already announced the cancellation of this year's scheduled event until a sustainable solution for annual funding shortfalls can materialize. Tokyo Pride apparently settled on a formula of putting on Prides with three year gaps in between. As for Bangkok Pride that was last staged in 2006, a recent commentary suggests that commercial interests led by Caucasian gay expatriates find investing in elaborately planned Pride parades unprofitable. What replaced the "unlamented" Prides are routine go-go boy shows. It is possible that activist Bangkok NGOs/nonprofits will take up the slack after years of being marginalized by commercial interests, but it remains to be seen in the next few years.

As for InterPride in Region 19, there is very little likelihood of getting a sustained network to work with LGBT Pride as an organizing principle. What may work is to keep Pride work as one of the many functions of multi-tasking LGBT NGOs working in the region. ■

REGION 20

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

Pride March Victoria – the 15th Annual

This was my second year as President of the organisation. A position I consider a great honour and privilege, particularly serving beside the wonderful people on the Board of this organisation – all of whom have a real passion for what we are trying to achieve and an endless drive to make sure those goals come to fruition. I am also pleased to announce that I was elected for a third term at our AGM in May this year. 99 entries registered to March with an estimated number of participants at around 4000. Around 8 vehicles participated in the March (which was slightly up on previous years) as either audio support or transporting participants unable to travel the whole route, along with the usual and pleasing numbers of Motorbikes.

This year, we were able to achieve several significant changes to Pride March Victoria:

The earlier start time. Essentially this change was brought about as a result of community feedback from 2009

and the result worked on several levels: it allowed our fabulous Rainbow Families the time to enjoy the festivities and get their children home at a reasonable hour for dinner, bath and bed time; it allowed the more mature end of our community easier access to public transport without the over-crowding; and it allowed the media to cover the event and having ample time to get back to their studios and prepare a report for that evening's news bulletins. It also gave the organisation the ability to augment the activities on the day to accommodate the extra time. This was particularly highlighted by the popularity of the inaugural Community Village;

A much larger main bar and bringing everything apart from the Karaoke stage and bar and the amenities back into the park itself. Although it took us quite a few years to accomplish this, it worked perfectly. We did not foresee the shade issue which will be addressed for the 2011 event; and

The community village (which includes our Patrons). This has been a personal goal of mine for several years and I am so pleased that we have finally be able to pull it off. It will now be a permanent fixture at Pride March and the community can expect even bigger and better things from the area in 2011.



2010 Pride March Victoria lead banner

We also entered the history books by producing the world's FIRST original song for Pride – **Proudly Walking**. I would like to thank Will Conyers and David Peake for their amazing writing and production skills, the engineers, Baker Street Studios, the voices of Proudly Walking, Hype for printing the cover, JOY 94.9 (Australia's first gay and lesbian radio station) for the use of their studio, the other sponsors who came on board to help my concept become a reality – including my friend and colleague, Tom McFeely...and the members of the LGBTI community for providing us the words from which the lyrics were written – making Proudly Walking a true community project.

2010 also saw the inclusion of **Toronto Police Constable Thomas Decker** march with the Victoria Police contingent. This was arranged initially through a meeting between Tom and myself while at the InterPride 2009 AGM in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Thomas Decker and the Victoria Police members

Region 20

As I enter my second term as this region's director, I am extremely happy to report that we now have a second member from this region. **MIDSUMMA Festival** is a three week arts and cultural event that kicks off the LGBTI celebrations in Victoria. Pride March Victoria works very closely with this organisation including the sharing of such resources as our volunteer pool and the same event logistics company. I welcome MIDSUMMA Festival on board and look forward to a long and industrious relationship with them.

Media & Public Relations

A couple of challenges arose this year at the mid-year meeting which I needed to tend to. Despite the distance and time differences however this was done with considerable ease and efficiency. I was also given the challenge of writing a "motherhood statement" for the organisation which is now on our website.



Pride March President Brett Hayhoe

Scholarship Reports

PAMELA O'BRIEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*Compiled Paul Sanders, former Co-Chair
Pamela O'Brien Memorial Scholarship Committee*

Every year the Pamela O'Brien Memorial Scholarship Committee awards grants to Pride organizations supporting them to send delegates to the Annual Conference. Following are the reports from the 2009 recipients.

I would like to thank Paul Sanders for his service with the Scholarship Committee over the years. He offered a lot to this committee and it is appreciated.

Trisha Clymore, Co-President and Scholarship Co-Chair

Athens Pride

Paraskevi Dimoudi, delegate

I've been asked to write down my experience at the InterPride conference. That's a task that can't be realistic because those days are beyond words and phrases. I met so many, different people, people with adventurous lives struggling with the narrow minds of their countries, and at the same time I met men and women from countries that respect them and let them live their lives as they want. That had a great impact in my thoughts, my ideas and my perception of what pride really is globally and not just in our own countries or towns.

At the beginning of my teenage life, my sexuality was my issue. Then it became my family and friends' issue, and then was my country's issue. Now I see that it's an issue that concerns all the world. We still have so many issues that need to be taken care of for our human rights and dignity. In addition to that striving spirit that grew in me after the talks and personal contact with the other participants, I learned so many interesting and useful tools on how to cope with some of the problems we still have here in Athens because of the young age of our Pride.

The workshops I attended were:

Day 1

Parade logistics: From the experience of those really big Prides in the US, I realized that we still have a march rather than a parade with an audience, with the benefits and problems that come with that. In general I heard many new ideas.

Advocacy and activism: That was my favorite workshop because it triggered a very interesting discussion about what Pride is what actions have been used around and under the umbrella of Pride in order to advance political issues of the community or to react to homophobic situations. I loved the motto that Billy Ulrich said that day: "Until everyone has rights, no one has rights!"

Keeping and developing volunteers: As the Volunteer Coordinator of our pride, that was THE workshop for me to attend. Unfortunately it was way beneath my aspirations. The fact that the rapporteur had no idea what pride is about, how it works, who the volunteers are and what they do, was a huge obstacle to the discussion. I was disappointed and left with nothing useful.

Day 2

Human Rights Committee: With inspiring talks, wonderful and brave people, and images from places where they struggle every day, that workshop was an eye opening experi-

ence. It is completely different to read about all these things, and completely different to hear the story from those that lived them. This really lit a fire in me. I don't regret because that I missed the Harmony in the hood, at the same hour, which I very much wanted to attend.

Board Development: To be honest, I really didn't want to attend this workshop. Pride in a hostile environment (at that same hour) was closer to my personal interest. But after a talk with Andrea, I decided to attend it and take the knowledge I lack, as these are my first months in the committee of Athens Pride.

Day 3

Youth engagement: That was a very peculiar workshop, since everyone there had a different perception of that youth is, unlike Reb (from Stockholm Pride) and myself. North Americans think "youth" are 22 years old. We in Europe think of youth as 17 years old – the difference between when someone is considered an adult with full responsibility for their lives and actions. It was fun to see how we in Europe trust and respect the opinions of young people who are being treated as kids in North America.

In general if I was asked to give a grade to my trip to the AGM in St Petersburg, I would give it 9.5 out of 10. It was worth traveling almost

the same amount of days to be there, and was a great experience for me! I couldn't wait to get home to start work.

Thank you once again for giving me this life opportunity.



ATHENS PRIDE

Andrea Gilbert, Spokesperson

Once again, on behalf of Athens Pride, I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee for making it possible for us to have the (always) enriching experience of the AGM. It was very important to be able to initiate Paraskevi to the global Pride effort, given that she has never attended a Pride outside of Athens, and to meet organizers with years and decades of experience. As you can see, she has been honest about her experience. It remains to be seen how she will apply this knowledge to her practice in the 2010 organization.

First, to respond to the matter of the application process: The stickiest part of the application is the section on financial information. While I understand the need for this, much of what is asked is based on accounting procedures for US organizations. I'm usually stymied as to what to answer, but I manage. The form itself – the mechanics – is also a bit awkward and there is some redundancy, but again, these are minor issues.

Second, as for reimbursement: We are due some reimbursement this year, which we haven't yet received. Jer told me that he passed the information on to Mark, whose job it was to approve the funds. Mark on the other hand told me that he knew nothing of this and that I was to contact Trisha. I plan to do that after submitting this report.

It is clear from Paraskevi's comments that the main organizational problem was the conflicts in the scheduling of workshops. We since have all agreed that Pride business (including board, committee and first-timers meetings) should not be held at the same time as work-

shops. I too had to make difficult choices – often to my regret – as to what to attend. This is why it is important to repeat certain workshops. St Pete asked for requests on this, but none were repeated in the end.

In fact, I have to confess that I advised Paraskevi to skip both first timers meetings in favor of the workshops given at those times. Paul did an excellent job with the handout, which I passed on to her. Having assisted at this meeting, I feel that there is room for improvement here. Just about all the information regarding the regional organizations is best left on the paper and not discussed in detail. NERP, for instance, is irrelevant to someone in California. EPOA, on the other hand, is NOT just another regional organization, and its relationship to InterPride needs to be explained, as does the EuroPride event. Once again, we see the awareness gap between North America and Europe, and the rest of the world. It is crucial that a non-NA member assist in this workshop.

Of the workshops I attended, Getting the Word Out was the most valuable. I expected more from Harmony in the Hood, since this is a major source of conflict for our organization; it was helpful, but not particularly eye-opening.

So, here let me take issue with some of the Board members and other "old timers" who are conspicuously absent from the workshops.

Workshops are only as good as the people who attend them. Those presenting or mediating have only their own experiences to draw on. Moreover, on occasion they are professionals in the field, but without direct Pride organizational knowledge. Where workshops really take off is when the group itself participates. We all have some common problems and some differences – sharing information is what the AGM is all about. I really want to stress the importance for old timers and officers to provide input at these workshops. What's more, they might just learn something!

I realize that this report is not meant as a critique of the St Pete organization per se, so I won't go into further detail about that here – except for the fact that nowhere in the hotel was there a single Rainbow Flag! The only sign of recognition of our event (and the considerable money we were bringing to Trade Winds) was an (upside-down) flag displayed by the

convenience store across the road.

But, despite the glitches, I feel that we as an organization did amazingly good work at this meeting. The establishment of the Solidarity Fund – something near and dear to me – is a milestone. Paraskevi and I were thrilled to see "Beyond Gay – The Politics of Pride". I've since been in contact with Bob Christie and we hope to show the film here as a separate event. All we need is a date from them to move forward on this.

It is always wonderful to see old friends and meet new people. The networking and casual sharing of information is, as Paraskevi said, beyond the words and phrases. Although I am not on CSIC, I would be delighted to offer ideas and assistance in future planning.

Once again, thank you for assisting Athens Pride. Our InterPride experience is always enriching and exciting. It is also gratifying to realize that we have, in turn, contributed to this experience.

Emerald Coast Pride, Inc.

Michael Greene, Shannon Garrett, Terry Green, delegates

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the delegates that attended the conference, I would like to sincerely thank you for affording us the opportunity to attend the conference on a partial scholarship. If it were not for the scholarship, there would have been no way for us to attend, given the limited funds in our treasury at that time.

Having been to several conferences, both for work and personal, I can honestly say that never have I been to one that provided so much information, along with social interaction, than this one. Being a new organization (not just to InterPride), we have struggled to ensure the organization stayed on path, and to grow in hopes of hosting this area's first major Pride Festival. After attending this conference, forging the friendships we did, along with the countless words of encouragement and extensions of support, we, the delegates feel more empowered than ever that we too can host a successful event with opportunities to grow into one of the largest Pride Celebrations in North Florida.

As pursuant to the agreement of the scholarship acceptance, please find following our scholarship report for the 2009 InterPride Conference/Annual General Meeting.

Again, we are extremely grateful to have attended this conference, and we look forward to attending many more in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Greene, President



Thursday, October 15, 2009

Registration

Hotel: Seem less, friendly, very accommodating

Conference: Quick, friendly, well organized at the registration table, informative. Only suggestion would be to designate a line for first time attendees to ensure that all forms were completed (correctly), and turned in timely as to not interfere with delegation roll call and voting matters.

First Session

First Timer's Orientation: Paul Sanders was very energetic and made the class interesting and informative; however, the class could have been so much more in regards to useful information pertaining to conference details. (Example: There was no need to spend an hour and a half going over the acronyms. The time could have been spent informing us how the conference will proceed and where all the workshops are located.) Since there was no synopsis of the workshops being presented, it would have been helpful to talk about the brief details of all the workshops being presented.

Second Session

Profit Centers: I found the Profit Centers Workshop to be informative, educational, insightful, and entertaining. I took away a wealth

of ideas that I cannot wait to share with my fellow board members. I must admit that I did not know what to expect going in to the workshop, but as the Treasurer of Emerald Coast Pride, the title itself was enticing. As a new member to the ECP Board, I was strangely reassured to find that members of well-established Pride organizations also face such similar challenges with regard to fundraising. It lent a boost of confidence that unequivocally congealed the fact that our efforts are not in vain. Getting the Word Out, Using Media:

We were very impressed with the two presenters, their wealth of knowledge on this subject, and the materials handed out to the participants. There were excellent ideas floating around the room that are going to be very helpful when we are putting the word out about PRIDE. Having two presenters from two separate bi-weekly publications gave the audience a plethora of ideas on how to approach our local publications (both gay and straight) and what they would actually print. This class was not only fun but also informative.

Third Session

Your Non-Profit and the Web: Being the webmaster (novice at that) for our organization, this round table workshop provided some of the details that I think could help us expand and professionalize our website a little more. Even though, the round table discussion was good, I think we could have learned a little more if the workshop was more instructional than round table discussion style. I was not aware of all the free services available to non-profits (such as Google apps, calendars, and email with personalized domain names). This is certainly one of the examples of what I learned and will be researching more to determine "What is the best fit for the organization and our overhead?"

Keeping and Developing Volunteers: Our speaker was wonderful. Coming into the session, she assumed that the group was all paid employees. She was surprised that the entire room was comprised of all volunteers. The group discussion was amazing. I took two full pages of notes that are going to be vital in recruiting and keeping volunteers. Even more importantly, how to get the volunteers excited about their assignments. From learning how to

celebrate and acknowledge their volunteers to picking the appropriate people in the first place. This was one of the most insightful and educational classes that I participated in this conference. Explore and capitalized on your volunteers strengths and talents.

Branding and Marketing: The two focuses of the workshop were if you make promises to your sponsors KEEP THEM and MESSAGE, MESSAGE, and MESSAGE! You need to keep in mind that success does not necessarily mean a "bottom line" success, but more of what the community supports. Also, when a theme is established, keep it consistent across all Medias. Get the feedback from the community, both prior and post. Know your demographic. These are just a few of the items that we noticed the most. Having just self-branded and self-marketing (with no formal education), this workshop really focused on the "how to's" to successfully brand and market not only our event(s) but also our organization.

Speed Networking: The speed networking was a great tool for us as a relatively new organization and new to InterPride. We knew, prior to attending the conference, that invaluable resources are out there, but trying to find and access those resources seemed difficult. This activity not only allowed us to find and approach these resources, it allowed us to build friendships and supporters from around the world! This event also provided an opportunity (for those who may have been a little more shy) to be put into a situation that rather forces them to reach out and establish the connections they might not have otherwise. The only downside was it seemed to go by too fast and we were not able to go through the entire group.

Evening Activities: First off, the free shuttle service was amazing! This type of planning shows how much detail was put into ensuring the safety of those who attended. We were completely reassured when we decided to go out with other conference goers to Georgies Alibi. Both other conference attendees and the locals were completely welcoming and after just one of those mason jars of Long Island Ice Teas we were able to completely "let our hair down" and have a great time! We wish we could have made it to the Tampa Bay Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, however, we weren't sure

what type of location it was in (outside or inside) and with the rainy weather, we didn't want to take a chance of getting sick and missing out on the conference. This also allowed us the chance of getting to know other conference goers on a more personal level.

Friday, October 16, 2009

First Session

How to Approach Corporate Sponsors: We were extremely pleased to learn this workshop was scheduled, so much that two of the delegates attended this class to ensure that all information was absorbed! The presenters were the most informative panel than any of the other workshops we attended. As our organization starts the planning phase of our first festival, this workshop was extremely beneficial and is the direct result of how our sponsorship packet will be organized and the information that will be needed to make the most informative discussion. It was also emphasized to reach out to companies that have LGBT company resource groups. A lot was learned and we were EXTREMELY pleased and grateful that we attended this workshop! We think this would be a great workshop for future conferences.

Funds Development: One of the delegates (our Treasurer) was scheduled to attend what was thought to be the "Funds Development" workshop, later to find out that it was an actual committee meeting. He was greeted nicely but was advised that it was a committee meeting, not a workshop. I would suggest for future conference that committee meetings be some how identified with some sort of indicator (especially if the name of the committee could be that or similar to a possible true workshop).

Second Session

Board Development: Amazing!!! I learned so much in this session. From getting rid of "dead weight", how to pick the appropriate executive board, using each person's gifts to benefit how you assign tasks, keeping your convictions when it comes to voting, not having friends or loved ones on board due to conflict of interest, not being on numerous boards/ having only one focus, delegating assignments, keeping to the subject matter only and not wasting the

boards time, getting to the point quickly and moving on and not focusing on insignificant matters, evaluating your board and making hard decisions if people do not have the Pride passion...and most importantly that EVERY board member, no matter what their background or experience has Pride passion. This is the sole factor when it comes to whom you select or chose to let go.

The First Steps – Building Pride from the Start: I was really looking forward to this workshop; although, I was not disappointed with the workshop but it just was not what I expedited. Apparently, the original instructor was not able to make it and a replacement was assigned that morning. Given the name of the workshop, I was under the impression that it would be more of an instructional style workshop rather than a round table format. Although, great questions were asked (and answers) I think it would have been more beneficial if an instructional format were followed (i.e. PowerPoint presentation) with a Q & A session to follow. There could have been so much more covered (such as permitting, contracts, unexpected expenses, ect.). By NO means am I putting down the instructor, but it could be chalked up to a "lesson learned" to ensure there is a back up that is just as prepared as the original instructor.

Working with the Leather Community: Although there is not much of a Leather Community in Panama City, we thought it would be beneficial to attend this class, as our target cities do tend to have a large Leather Community. The workshop was good and emphasized on inclusion; however, it did not provide guidance as to how. On the other hand I was able to get 3 keys points from the class and those: Include the various communities and to outreach to them to come into the fold of pride and dissolve the "clicks" within the sub-community, media handling (i.e. the media always wants to go to the "outrageous/colorful" type of acts and the instructor emphasis to ensure the media knows about the events that are being portrayed and explain how their actions relate to the cause).

Evening Activities

Holocaust Museum Tour/Taste of Pride: Due to time constraints, we were not able to make the bus for the Holocaust Museum, but we

were able to attend the Taste of Pride, which was an incredible event. The wide variety of cuisine was interesting and I feel that it highlighted the diversity of the St. Pete/Tampa area. The performance from Pepper MaShay and CeCe Pennington were just an added feature that erupted the crowd! This was, by far, one of the better evening activities of the entire weekend; as well as, provided an idea of doing the same type of event for our area.

Saturday, October 18, 2009

First Session

Incorporating Faith @ Pride: This was my second favorite session at the conference. Due to there only being four people in the entire class and three speakers, we had ample time to receive the lecture and have a large question and answer period. I had many questions and the speakers took a lot of time going through each one. Some of the main highlights I took from this class were: incorporate some type of faith based activity in your pride, have all welcoming churches or faith based organizations there at your pride even if it means donating their space in trade for volunteers, what the "church hurt" is and how to help those in our community deal with said church hurt, open your pride to all faiths don't assume that they wouldn't want to extend a hand especially if your are not versed in what the tenants of the faith are and might miss out that they are welcoming, how to integrate the African American community into pride via faith based programs, how to use your faith based organizations for fundraising, how to control the faith based protesters, that it is essential to have a volunteer that is there primarily for faith based protesters...and most importantly even if you are very versed in the bible DO NOT ENGAGE! This was so important as it was spoken by a minister, who himself admits he can recite versus to combat the mobs but has found out that offering silent protest and not engaging and only offering hospitality (i.e. water, bathroom facilities) is the only way to deal with such protesters. This was the most interesting thing I heard all weekend.

Board Development: We heard so much from our other delegate about the Friday workshop that we decided to attend the Saturday workshop, and am I thankful that we did.

Although, the Saturday workshop, focused a little more on the ED process/ role, there was still information discussed that could relate to organizations that do not have ED's. We left the workshop truly thinking, "Do we have the right people in place?" As a result, we have decided to conduct a complete board evaluation and enhance the process in which future board members are nominated/ elected and appointed. This was by far one of the most informative workshops I attended, not only can we take this back to Emerald Coast Pride's Board, but also the other boards in which we might sit on.

Beyond Gay – The Politics of Pride (The Movie): This is an absolute MUST SEE movie for ANY and ALL people who believe Pride is not that big of a deal or the importance of the meaning of Pride. We, the LGBT Community of America, mostly think of Pride has a huge party and celebration, but what an eye opener it was to see the true importance of what Pride really means and how much we take it for granted. Throughout the course of the movie, I found myself in tears and enraged. This has empowered us to not only work harder, but also sign up for the Human Rights Committee, as well as, set dates for screenings in our community. The enagement has rekindled that fire to fight back and push harder in our local community. Although we may not face the physical assault aspects for the cause, we are continually beaten down by the negative verbal assaults from our local faith based community leaders and congregations. The fight has been fought for many years and it took this movie to finally open our eyes that one can truly make a difference no matter how far the distance.

Evening Activity:

The Flamingo Hotel Hosts the Saturday Night "Unformal Dinner" & Party: We are not ones to complain and by no means do we wish to offend; however, the Saturday night dinner fell far below the expectations of many of the conference attendees. I do not know if it was the name of the event or what, but the samplings at the Flamingo were just that, samplings. In no way should this have been considered or titled a dinner. We had one delegate back in the room preparing dinner (we forgot about the dinner that night at the Flamingo),

and it would have been, by far, more filling and tasteful than what was provided at the Flamingo. In addition others, along with us, were under the impression that non-alcoholic drinks would have been free since dinner was provided, however this was not the case. The entertainment was great, but the hospitality did not seem so. It would have been nice to have an owner or manager at the door to say hello and welcome. The only welcome mentioned was by the entertainer, who was awesome!

Personalized notes from the delegation:

Michael Greene (President): In December of 2008 I inadvertently came across InterPride in a search on the web; little did I know what would come of joining it, but I am thankful that our organization took that leap of faith. This conference has afforded me and the other delegates the chance to pick some of the most successful Pride Organizer's brains, and to learn from their experiences. I hoped to leave the conference with a little more insight than what I had going into it, but I came out with so much more. Friends, supporters, sponsors, countless goodie bags, but most importantly more information that I ever dreams of (even though, there is more to learn I am sure). The conference also provided many social outlets, from the concert with Debra Cox to just the social gatherings around St. Pete. Had I known of InterPride 4 years ago, I would have strongly urged Emerald Coast Pride to join. Rest assured, word will travel about all the information and untapped resources InterPride has to offer and I will strongly urge any new or existing organization to join if they have not done so already!

I want to personally thank the delegates of Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride for their unconditional support and direction, as well as their kind hearts for ensuring that the "new kids on the block" felt welcomed.

Shannon Garrett (Vice President): I am so fortunate to have attended this conference. It was amazing to be surrounded by such an audience of "heroes". What I found most interesting was everyone seemed so normal, if you will. Case in point, I attended the Faith Based Organizations seminar and I was unaware of who was sitting next to me. He was a

who quiet spoken Russian who sat in the group with his camera in front of him, and it was only a few minutes later I saw the same face on the big screen. I was in awe that I had been in the presence of a modern day martyr! Then it hit me that the entire room had stories that I had no idea about. As I looked across the room, I saw a sea of heroes and was truly humbled, and teary eyed that I could be in their presence. With this new knowledge I jotted down a list of to do's...use every ounce of passion I have, and the new knowledge obtained from this conference to change the world. I discovered that ONE person could make the change. I will work tirelessly to earn my seat at the table next year!

Terry Green (Treasurer): It was an eye-opening education ya'll, and I am truly grateful to have had this experience. It was my first InterPride conference, and I certainly hope not my last. I sincerely believe that I came away from the conference with information that will prove invaluable in helping to move Emerald Coast Pride forward with our goals. Thank you so much!

GayRussia/Moscow Pride

Nikolai Alekseev, delegate

In October 2009 as President of Russian LGBT Human Rights Project GayRussia.Ru and President of Moscow Pride Organizing Committee for the first time I attended the annual conference of InterPride which took place in St Petersburg, FL.



For me this participation was very valuable in many respects.

1. I took one of the leading roles in the workshop of the Human Rights Committee where

I had an opportunity to show the short documentary about the events of first Slavic Pride which took place in Moscow in May 2009. I was able to give an overview of the situation of LGBT people in Russia and our 5-years fight for the realization of the freedom of assembly for LGBT people in Russia, through Moscow Prides and other public actions, court battles and media campaigns.

2. Later I took part in the workshop "Pride in a Hostile Environment" where I also shared my views on organizing problematic Prides in hostile political and public climate. Together with William Urich we described our impressions concerning the Gay Pride in Belgrade (Serbia) which we attended on 20.9.2009.
3. Apart from that it was very valuable for me to attend several other workshops, mainly the one "Incorporating Faith and Pride" where various religious aspects of homosexuality were discussed. I found it important to continue develop religious topic within InterPride in a slightly different way as many Eastern European countries face big opposition to Pride movements from various religious institutions.
4. On Saturday, 17 October I had a chance to meet nephew of Harvey Milk, gay activist Stewart Milk, conversations with whom were very important to me as it can lead to further cooperation with American gay activists as part of Moscow Pride.
5. On Saturday I also watched Canadian documentary "Beyond Gay – The Politics of Pride" which includes significant portion on Moscow Pride in 2008 and which was produced with the cooperation of Project GayRussia. Ru and Moscow Pride Organizing Committee. This screening provoked much interest of conference participants from various Prides to Moscow Pride and I had many fruitful conversations after the screening. I found it as a very important step from InterPride to screen this documentary during the conference as it shows the importance of shifting activities towards more support for problematic Prides around the world where it is still far from celebration.
6. On Sunday I took part in the plenary session of the conference and voted in the elections of the next hosts of World Pride and InterPride conference.

7. During the Board Meeting on Saturday I was unanimously given the honor to become a Board member and Regional Director for Region 8 together with Tomasz Baczkowski from Warsaw Pride. I think it is very important to realize several ideas to improve cooperation between Pride organizers in Region 8 in order to strengthen Eastern European Pride movement. This is the task I want to fulfill before the next conference of InterPride in Long Beach.

8. For me participation in InterPride conference was also important from media side to increase awareness about the organization in Russia and other countries. Project GayRussia.Ru covered the conference on its website, both in Russian and in English. The articles in Russian can be found here:

www.gayrussia.ru/events/detail

and in English here:

<http://www.gayrussia.ru/en/news/detail>

In general I was very glad that I had an opportunity to attend the conference of InterPride and I plan to work to strengthen the organization in the future in the aspects of strengthening its human rights involvement in Pride movements. The position of Regional Director for Region 8 gives me more possibilities to pursue these goals.

Mosaika

Kristine Garina, Kaspars Zalitis, delegates

Observation on the application process:

Generally application process went smoothly and without any problems, however we would prefer that application for the scholarship would be announced sooner because it would help to save resources both for participants and for the InterPride scholarship fund. With the conference taking place in October, to significantly save on transatlantic airfares tickets should be purchased not later than May, and for that applications should be announced at least 2 month earlier than in 2009.

The major things you learned at the conference: One of the sessions we were most looking forward to attended was the Session on the Pride Logistics. It was very good work-

shop to learn about Pride logistics in North American region, unfortunately there was a little space to learn more about pride logistics in other areas than North America and smaller prides with just few hundreds of participants. We think that this workshop is very important in future especially for organizations that has none or very little experience to get more information on logistics and learn from their colleagues how to organize people and have a successful pride parade. If it is possible that would be great to share different experiences from all over the world, prides large and small.

We see that constructive cooperation with both North American and European speakers would be more welcoming and all parties would benefit from it.



Participation in Human Rights Committee session and workshop on Pride in Hostile environment were both very successful, as they were closest to our heart due to their subjects. We felt welcome and appreciated by other participants, and general atmosphere in both these sessions made us realize once again how important is the work we all do. Sessions were fulfilling in both sharing and gaining information. Latvian situation is very difficult and it was very useful to share more experience with other European and North American colleagues. It is very important that there is platform to share international experience both good and bad. Also it was a great privilege to see our own problems in perspective and get another reminder that there are certain parts of the world where situation is more critical and where perhaps we can help struggling or sometimes even illegal prides and share our experience with organize a pride parade in less than friendly environment.

One of the highlight of the conference was screening of Beyond Gay – The Politics of Pride. Movie that shared real experiences and was both educational and emotional showing successes and difficulties of different prides around the world. This movie helped us a great

deal to share our own experiences with other delegates from all over the world because it opened up everyone's perception of hostile and difficult environment for LGBT community with strong visual images and after the movie it was so much easier for us to describe our own situation.

Constructive criticism you may have in regards to the conference or the scholarship process: For future conferences it would be great to have more workshops or sessions sharing practical information on budgeting the event and planning the financial side of organizing prides, as we felt it was a miss this year.

Also as mentioned before, it would be greatly appreciated if scholarship applications would be available earlier in the year and we'd know if scholarship committee has approved our application or not, in order to purchase cheaper flights.

New contacts, friends and are able to take back ideas and support to your home organizations: At the conference we strengthened our relations with different organization around the world.

We had a possibility to renew contacts with Moscow Pride that we had lost during the last two years, even though MOZAIKA participated in the first attempt to hold a pride parade in Moscow in 2006 and Nikolai from Moscow Pride was one of the honour guests of Riga Pride in 2007. Amazing that we had to cross the ocean to renew our successful cooperation!

It was refreshing to hear about the situation in Athens, Greece. We could relate to Athens pride being closer to us both geographically and by number of participants (of course our number is much smaller but this is as close as we get!)

We were invited to participate as an organization in various parades around the world, including the newly elected WorldPride in Toronto. Kaspars Zalitis from MOZAIKA was honoured by suggestion from Pride Montreal to announce him as one of the Grand Marshalls of their pride parade in 2010 therefore celebrating pride in difficult and hostile environment in Eastern Europe.

We have also successfully arrange the

movie *Beyonde Gay – The Politics of Pride* to be screened at our LGBT film days early in 2010!

All in all we appreciate the granted scholarship and consider the conference to be very successful in terms of networking, learning about the situation around the world and at the same time sharing our own experiences. We'd like to thank the scholarship committee for this opportunity.

Progay Philippines

Edgar Atadero, delegates

Introduction

The InterPride Scholarship Committee granted two scholarship grants to ProGay Philippines in July 2009 for attendance in the 2009 AGM. Because one of candidates failed to procure a travel permit to the United States, the other only candidate and delegate, Mr. Edgar Atadero, was able to attend the 2009 AGM. Mr. Atadero arrived in St. Petersburg on 14 October and returned to his native Philippines on 19 October.

Conference accomplishments

The delegate Mr. Atadero was able to

- attend several capacity building workshops, all the plenaries and the two workshops/presentations of the Human Rights Committee.
- report the accomplishments of the Philippines Pride committee this year to the assembly.
- meet the whole Human Rights Committee and contributed tentative plans for an expanded action in next year's AGM
- be appointed as the representative of Region 19 to the Board

Observations and suggestions on the application and notification process

1. The start and end dates for submitting scholarship applications was not clear. While it was a shortcoming on our part not checking the Interpride.org website for the schedule, it might have been better if members were also notified by email about scholarship application dates. We found out three days late, in any case, we were advised to submit late applications since the Scholarship Committee was not able to meet and

deliberate on applications.

2. The waiting for approval was stressful for ProGay's other candidate, Roxanne Omega-Doron because he couldn't fix a good schedule around his work and school for embassy interviews and flying to Manila from his hometown. In the end, Mr. Omega-Doron lost 1-1/2 months income on visa fees and air travel to the capital city. It was not a problem for Mr. Atadero since he has a long term visa. We recommend that the committee take note of the problems of foreign nationals from poor countries that are required visas in future AGMs. Suggested solutions to this concern include advising Pride committees who have candidates that may need a visa much earlier so that a replacement can be quickly told to apply when the first ones fail the interviews.
3. The reimbursements were quickly done and Mr. Megowan was attentive. We also commend Ms. Clymore for quickly acting on the request for booking a flight when it became prohibitive or nearly impossible for the delegate to make reservations from Manila. We are not decided at this point to pass judgment on which is better practice – airfare bookings done by delegate or bookings done by conference organizers – in terms of savings, ease and convenience for either or both parties.

Observations on the 2009 AGM and Recommendations:

We commend InterPride and St. Pete Pride Committee for the smooth flow of the conference, and we see this as a reflection of the growing mastery of conference integrity through the years. One minor point I have to bring up is the lunch sponsorships. While at least two entities were competing for the lunch on the third day, delegates may have been unprepared for not having a sponsored lunch on the last day. If it is at all possible, perhaps a multitude of lunch sponsors in future AGMs should be spread out throughout the conference.

As we prepare for Long Beach, please communicate the following calls for the 2010 Conference:

- Create a strong conference track on human

rights, in terms of at least 2 capacity building workshops on documentation and reporting of violations and more presentations from Prides in difficult situations

- Offer Pride committees limited number of booths and tables for posters presentation with corresponding “rental” and waivers for added revenue and networking opportunities

Thank you for all your work and effort and please send our organization’s appreciation and personal thanks to all the contributors who make scholarships possible. If the Committee Members feel a need to ask further about this Report, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

InterPrides Scholarship Fund could not support member Pride organizations to send delegates to the Annual Conferences without the generous financial donations from the following individuals and organizations.

2009 Scholarship Donors

- Absolute Vodka
- The Belgian Pride
- Best Buy
- Debra “Tree” Martin
- Don Mills
- Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride
- Phoenix Pride
- Pride March Victoria
- San Diego LGBT Pride
- San Francisco Pride
- Trisha Clymore
- Vancouver BC AGM Conference
- Vancouver BC Pride Society

2010 Scholarship Donors

- Absolute Vodka
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- Emerald Coast Pride
- Eugene/Springfield PRIDE
- JP Sheffield
- Jamie Ferguson and Max Green
- Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride
- Phoenix Pride
- Russell Murphy
- Santa Fe Pride
- San Diego LGBT Pride
- Trisha Clymore
- Vancouver BC Pride Society

Thank you!

Contact

InterPride can be contacted via email info@interpride.org or via our website. Please contact your Regional Director for personal contact.

www.interpride.org

