

**Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area (GALA/LA)
Annual General Meeting ~ June 21, 2006**

AGENDA

1. Call to order:

Dave Mabell, Secretary (and VP, Lethbridge HIV Connection) - Welcome members and guests to the Connection's new facility.

Self-introductions, then introduce chairperson for the evening.

2. Agenda: Add new items as required, then a welcome a motion to approve

3. Minutes of our last AGM: Copies will be circulated, and corrections accepted from those who attended the 2005 meeting -- then a motion to adopt the minutes.

4. Questions arising from those minutes, to board members: Any follow-ups?

5. Annual reports:

Chairperson, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Dance Committee, GALA Occasion, Website

6. Financial audit:

We need to name two paid members tonight to verify 2005-06 statement with our treasurer, at a convenient time

7. Nominations -- Open to all paid members, as of May 21/06 (Secretary has list) *Minimum of 6 board members needed but no maximum specified* Dave: Statement of how many paid members attending, eligible to vote Names of board members willing to serve another term

Former board member: Will chair the nominations and election of board members:

Nominations from floor -- Three calls for further nominations Motion on how many members to elect Paper ballot, if required, then counting and declaration of members elected

Executive elections: from list of members elected, paid members will be asked to elect board members to the four executive positions

8. New business: from members, guests

9. Thank-you motions

10. Set time, location for first meeting (June) of new board:

11. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTE:

To protect the privacy of members sometimes only first names have been used in these documents.

GALA/LA members may ask to see the complete reports by submitted a written request to the Board.

No assumption should be made of anyone's sexuality if they are members of GALA/LA or their name appears anywhere on these reports.

Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area (GALA/LA)
Minutes from June 26, 2006 Annual General Meeting
Lethbridge HIV Connection

(This meeting was post-poned from the previous-announced date, June 21, when those in attendance decided insufficient board members and other GALA/LA members were present.)

Present: Dennis Magson (Vice Chair), Dave Mabell (Secretary), Greg Knight (Treasurer) and 2005-06 board members Twyla, and Laura; paid members Joseph, Reid, Jason, Maurice, Devin, Michelle, Christine, Micheal, Josh and (non-voting) guests Tyler Gschaid, Auwin. and Geo.

Regrets: Board members Anita (Chair), Bente

Absent: Board members Lyle, Allyson, Shannon, Rhonda

1. Welcome:

Dave Mabell, a board member with Lethbridge HIV Connection and GALA/LA, welcomed to the newly opened home of the HIV Connection, built on the site of our earlier home, Rylands House. Those present then introduced themselves.

2. Agenda:

An agenda for the evening was circulated.

Moved/Seconded by Laura/Maurice: that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

3. Minutes of 2005 AGM

Minutes were prepared but had been accidentally been omitted from the agenda material.

M/S Reid/Dave: that the minutes of the 2005 AGM be accepted, pending review and adoption by members at our next board meeting. CARRIED

4. No items arising from minutes.

5. Reports:

President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer: Printed reports were presented by Dennis (vice-president), Dave (Secretary) and Greg (treasurer) -- *attached to these minutes* -- and a handwritten report was read from Anita (president, unable to attend due to illness).

M/S Reid/Laura: That the executive reports be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Dance Committee, GALA Occasion: Dave submitted reports on the year's community dances, and the GALA Occasion newsmagazine, attached to these minutes. New GALA Website: Twyla presented a report on our Newgaylethbridge.ca website.

M/S by Laura/Maurice: That the three reports be accepted. CARRIED

6. Financial audit:

Board members Laura and Reid volunteered to audit Greg's financial report for the year ended, as required by our bylaws.

7. Nominations: Dave presented a list of nine board members (*attached*) who have expressed interest in serving a further term. Several of them who are not in attendance had indicated continuing interest,

he said, while others not on the list (Allys on and Rhonda) were not able to serve another term. Following precedent, he recommended the names of 2005-06 board members Anita, Lyle, Twyla Gurr, Bente Hansen, Greg Knight, Shannon, Dave Mabell, Dennis Magson, and Laura be placed in nomination.

Dave also recommended nomination of Micheal Ward, who had put his name forward earlier this spring to fill a board vacancy -- only to have that meeting fail due to lack of quorum. The meeting accepted those recommendations, and Dennis (as meeting chair) called for further nominations to the board.

M/S by Greg/Dave: That Maurice MacKenzie be nominated to the board. (Nomination accepted)

M/S by Dave/Reid: That Jason Holt be nominated to the board. (Accepted)

(A further nomination, for Devin Metecheah, was not accepted.)

The chair called three times for further nominations, then declared nominations closed.

M/S by Laura/Twyla: That we elect up to 12 board members. CARRIED

The chair then declared the three new nominees and nine continuing board members ELECTED.

Executive elections: The chair then opened nominations for the executive committee

President, (allowing an unsuccessful candidate to run for the next position)

M/S by Laura/Dennis: That Maurice MacKenzie be nominated for President.

M/S by Dave/Greg: That as the incumbent, Anita Boettcher also be nominated.

The chair called three more times for nominations, then declared them closed.

Maurice spoke briefly, stressing the importance of GALA getting a youth group and a PFLAG group operating once again. He suggested GALA might be successful once again in applying for a health promotion grant from the Alberta Council on HIV/AIDS.

Secret ballots were cast, and Maurice was declared ELECTED.

The chair then called for nominations for Vice-president:

M/S by Dave/Maurice: That Anita's name be placed in nomination

M/S by Laura/Twyla: That Dennis be nominated as vice-president.

Reid Hollander, acting as chair for this election, called three times for further nominations. Hearing none, he declared nominations closed.

Secret ballots were cast, and Dennis was declared ELECTED.

Resuming duties as chair, Dennis called for nominations for Secretary:

M/S by Devin/Reid: That Dave be nominated as secretary.

M/S by Laura/Twyla: That Anita be nominated as secretary.

The chair called three times for further nominations, then declared them closed.

Dave spoke, urging GALA to adopt a higher profile in the community, organizing or cosponsoring shows or other events as deemed appropriate, supporting some other groups' community projects, but also raising our voice when an injustice is being done.

Secret ballots were cast, and Dave was declared ELECTED.

The chair then opened nominations for Treasurer:

M/S by Maurice/Twyla: That Greg be nominated as treasurer.

M/S by Laura/Twyla: That Anita be nominated as treasurer.
The chair called three times for further nominations, then declared them closed.
Secret ballots were cast, and Greg was declared ELECTED.

8. New Business:

M/S by Reid/Devin: That the ballots be destroyed. CARRIED

Potluck Sundays: Dave reported McKillop United is hopeful our monthly dinners will continue, and suggested they could continue through the summer as GALA's only year-round event. There was general interest from members present, so he agreed to find what dates will work in the coming months. Suggested dates included July 9 and Aug. 13.

Right to Marry: Tyler voiced concern about the Harper government's plans to re-open the same-sex marriage debate, three years (and about 8,000 marriages) after the courts decided the issue. Some Conservative MPs are leading the campaign to re-open the debate, he said, although other Conservatives want to see the issue left alone. GALA/LA should be more vocal on the issue, he said.

9. Thank you motions:

M/S by Reid/Devin: That the board send thank-you letters to board members who's completed their term, as well as to those who volunteer at dances. CARRIED

11. Adjournment: was declared by Dennis at 9:03 pm

REPORTS

Vice-President - Dennis Magson

I would like to say thanks to everyone who helped make this year a very successful one.

This has been a year of change and development for all our members. We have a new website to be proud of, which will be a help to our community as well as to the public looking for information about our community.

We have the potential to do great things for our community as long as we continue to work together to that end. I count it a pleasure to have served with good people on a number of good events in the past year. I know that as a community-minded group of dedicated people, we can make a difference here.

It has been a great pleasure to a part of this community this year. Thank you for helping me make it a good year.

Be honest, have fun, continue to be a bright star in our community.

Secretary - Dave Mabell

Another busy year for GALA, with mixed results. As we enter a second decade perhaps we will look at 2005-06 as a watershed year of opportunity and achievement.

Board: We were unable to elect a full slate of executive members at our AGM a year ago, but a month later we were able to appoint Anita by consensus. Just the same, it was the first time no one was ready to take on the challenge at our AGM. After the AGM the board scheduled 12 monthly meetings.

Once elected, many board members found it difficult to attend a majority of the meetings. Two were cancelled for lack of quorum (40% of the current board) and at least another was abbreviated to accommodate the schedule of board member who had other commitments. Hopefully, incoming board members will be able to agree on a meeting day which will allow most to attend most of the time. We only had one resignation (David C) because of changing time commitments. We were able to appoint Laura Popovic. We attempted to appoint Michael Ward but failed to reach quorum at that meeting.

Rylands House: GALA was born in 1996 as a collaboration between the area's queer community and Lethbridge AIDS Connection, now known as the Lethbridge HIV Connection. Since its birth, GALA has met in Connection offices and supported its projects, including the annual Red Ribbon Run or HIV Walk.

When the Connection announced plans to replace its sagging and energy-inefficient office on 6 Ave South, GALA was one of the first to announce its financial support.

Just in time for our meeting today, the Lethbridge-built manufactured building is open (although some landscaping and other niceties remain to be finished) and we're back at the old address in a brand new facility. Once downstairs work is finished, we hope to be able to store some of our archival material and once-a-year decorations (pumpkins, valentines, shamrocks, etc) items for the dances - and consider taking office space in the future.

Memberships: It's a technical miracle! Well, maybe not, but changing our technology - to laminated cards and an old fashioned hole punch - has helped double our paid membership roster. As of the May dance, we had 1008 paid members - our highest ever - and perhaps another 20 whose memberships recently expired but have to be considered likely to re-new.

What's changed, as discussed at previous AGM, is the mechanics of our sales approach. Now, whenever a person joins, they pay for a full 12-months period and receive a numbered membership card with the expiry month punched out. Membership information is maintained to ensure delivery of GALA Occasion (application forms are kept as back-up). With our present 'guest' admissions prices, nearly double what members pay, memberships are easy sell.

Educational Event: Board members began meeting more than a year ago to start planning an educational event, somewhat like one held 18 months ago at McKillop United Church. Shannon headed the committee, and welcomed members and guest to an interesting event last fall at McKillop. One of the issues in planning these events, of course, is attracting a reasonable number of people. Though we met often, we didn't discover any new answers on that one. But there is always positive things come out of these events and it was to have regular Sunday afternoon events.

Potluck Sundays: McKillop United Church was pleased to lend us their lounge and kitchen once again and we welcomed members, guests, and some youth to a potluck dinner on the first Sunday of each month (one week after our dances). Dinner, socializing, meeting new people is usually followed by a movie.

We'll continue meeting over the summer, hopefully, using email as reminder. We publicize the potlucks in GALA Occasion and notices on tables at the dances.

Significantly, this is our only ongoing all-ages event. McKillop is pleased to see it continue and hopes to provide further support to the GLBT community when we express a need.

Gay-Straight Alliance: The board frequently discussed ways of getting high school GSA groups operating in Lethbridge - as they are in other high schools across Alberta and western Canada - but this remains a work in progress. Could we get something going on this?

GLBT Radio: Similarly, we responded to an invitation to broadcast a weekly GLBT show on CKXU - the campus/community FM station - by inviting the station's program manager to speak at one of

our monthly meeting. Sadly, we did not get quorum at the meeting and a radio program seems to have met a similar fate. Can we try for Fall 2006?

Website: Our biggest advance, from an information and awareness point of view, was the opening of our GALA owned and operated website. While the service provider was tardy, our board member Twyla kept pushing the company until the site was finally up.

Hopefully, we'll be able to post our local new from GALA Occasion each month, as soon as it's mailed. And if anyone wants to read them, it's suggested we post the minutes from our board meetings.

Website - Twyla Gurr

As of March 22/06 all of GALA's site was up and running, including the People Post registration page. The www.newgaylethbridge.ca website was designed to welcome everyone to be a part of Lethbridge's new Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Trans-Identified community. We are pleased to have this site as the source for its annual calendar of events and resources. As well, we are looking to provide the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Trans-Identified users support and contact information for key issues in many areas.

As we continue to build the site, to suit your needs, it will continue to bring more of what the Queer members of our community want. We are a community based organization striving to work with educators and the general public to break any barriers which any Queer individuals may be experiencing.

Joining the site is free. We welcome everyone to become a member of the GALA/LA site by simply clicking on "Join GALA/LA" on the site. While there, everyone is welcome to keep us current with events affecting Queer people throughout other areas and to keep us in tune with their opinions in the People Post.

Access to the Message Board is activated once you're accepted as a member and is only available to GALA/LA site members. You must apply to join the GALA/LA site and receive approval before you can gain access to this message post-board.

Basically those are the steps involved in joining the Post Board of the site which, itself, contains six separate pages including the Main Page, Information Pages, News Pages, Youth Pages, the Message Board (Post Board access) and the Contact Page. The purpose for development of a new site for GALA/LA was to bring a point of resources and contacts, in the community, to the community.

The pages serve:

- Main Page is a basic summary of the site as well as a Public Post Board which invites anyone to post comments to the site which will be screened for future posting.
- Information Page allows for general coverage of various events, articles or associations, etc. which we want to notify the public about. This is kept active for events when location or personal information would not be an issue.
- News Pages are simple links to various other GLBT or noteworthy sites.
- Youth Page provides useful links and support counselling advice available in the city for our Youth.
- Message Board is the site for becoming a Post Board member as well as connecting to the Post Board.
- Contact Page is GALA's Peer Support number, the HIV Centre, GALA's mandate and the Lethbridge Regional Police support services information.

- Post Board itself is divided up into separate sections for the GLBT community. It involves separate sections for Gay, Lesbian and Youth groups as well as a group post board for all Members. This was designed with group privacy in mind and to encourage openness amongst members joining the site. To encourage use of the Post Board, information on upcoming events or notices have been transferred there. General notice has been made on the Information Page to encourage people to join the Post Board to pick up any information on private functions, etc. being held. Public events will still share a listing on the Information Page.

Although development of the site has taken a considerable amount of time, the site has been well serviced and stable since it was first opened. It is very easy to maintain both through Round Street Media as well as off-site via the web.

Currently we have 38 registered Post Board members, two of which are Youth (17 & under). One of the Youth members is currently suspended due to us not receiving our copy of the letter of consent for Youth 17 & under. At this time, usage of the Post Board has been minimal. Although input is always encouraged for new discussion boards.

Future hopes for the site include:

- support resources both legal, medical and psychological
- a potential radio lnk for CKXU FM
- an increase in member usage on the Post Board with their needs met
- expansion of content for the Youth members section
- development of a Trans-Identified members section, if the request is there
- exploration of advertising for gay-friendly retailers on the site

Site design cost \$1,385.00 (including \$ 500.00 discount) with Annual maintenance:\$ 204.40
Total cost: \$1,589.40

GALA Occasion - Dave Mabell, editor and publisher

Since the early 1990s, our GALA Occasion has been serving the queer community across southern Alberta and beyond. For many readers, it's the only place members and subscribers can learn what's happening in our part of the world.

Here in Lethbridge, and across Canada, there's a lot happening these days. So we seldom run out of news that will interest our readers. The feedback we receive indicates readers appreciate our news selection.

With the introduction of our new website, we now have an opportunity to post stories of GALA/LA programs and other upcoming events on our own website. For out-of-town guests who visit our site, we could also provide a link inviting them to subscribe to our monthly mailings. Hopefully, we can master the technology!

The print medium is also suited to advertising, of course, and we're happy to welcome ads from gay-friendly companies in our city and region. Classified and want-ads are also welcome, free of charge, and perhaps we could put those on our website as well.

With the growing number of members taking out GALA/LA cards this past year, our circulation continues to grow -- and we increase our press run to meet that demand. We've also continued to send copies to people whose memberships have recently expired but who continue to come to dances,

sometimes including a little notice reminding them to renew their membership.

With postage costs rising every year, perhaps your board might want to consider how many months of free copies we should provide. A part of each person's membership dues covers the costs of printing and mailing so, obviously, someone who hasn't paid is getting a free service. (At the same time, we don't want to offend long-time members who've "forgotten" to renew despite a few reminders.)

As always, we invite members to submit news, ads, opinion pieces, poetry, whatever they'd like to add to our local magazine. Good-quality digital pictures can also be run, with the consent of people shown.

Not many communities our size can boast their own newsmagazine, and we're going to keep it coming. But with our members' help, we can make it even better.

Dance - Dave Mabell, for your Dance Committee

We're celebrating 10 years now, and looking forward to another 10 for GALA/LA's famous community dances. But they're not just well-regarded, they're also well attended.

Your dance committee would like to think one of the reasons for that is the themes and decor we select for each dance. We promote each theme through our newsletter, usually mailed out in the week preceding each dance. Then we try to develop a decoration design to fit the occasion.

But we know our success is also due to the hard work of our volunteers, and the welcoming attitude shown by our members when new people arrive -- as they do every year, particularly in September.

On top of that, people know they'll enjoy most of the music selected by our long-time disc jockey Sean or our alternate DJ, Gio.

The big news this year, without doubt, was our purchase of the sound and lighting equipment we've rented for nearly 10 years from a local entrepreneur, Paul Bradley of Sound & Co. After many years of poor health, Paul died this spring and his wife contacted us with an offer to sell the equipment to us -- their number one client. The deal was concluded before our May dance and the final payment (a fraction of the funds we generate each year) was made at the end of our 2005-06 season.

Looking ahead, your dance committee - in response to many requests - has booked the final weekend of August 2007 for that year's kick-off dance. That means our September dance -- and each one that follows - would be held on the last Saturday of the month ... not hard to remember.

That brings our frequency to nine dances a year (up from seven until recently) and with more unpaid advertising, we should be able to continue drawing guests from Calgary, Medicine Hat, eastern British Columbia and beyond. As a further incentive to most who attend, your board has decided that GALA/LA dances will be smoke-free as of September 2006 rather than waiting until next January when the city will make this compulsory.

Looking over our last year, our dance committee wishes to thank Michel, Twyla and many other volunteers who help decorate the hall each month, Maurice for returning to manage bar operations once again, and chairperson Anita along with her friends for their efforts at recruiting volunteers to cover the key posts.

**Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area (GALA/LA)
2006 Annual General Meeting**

**Financial Statement
2005 - June 26, 2006**

OPENING BANK BALANCE:		4,379.67
REVENUE		
Dance Proceeds (revenue less expenses) + membership	2,601.60	
Additional memberships	90.00	
Project residual	879.95	
Donations	124.80	
TOTAL REVENUE	3,714.55	
EXPENSES:		
Equipment - sound and lights	1,500.00	
Phone (cell)	636.11	
Phone (directory listing)	157.71	
Website	855.25	
Office Supplies	10.91	
Meetings and workshop	308.88	
Transfer to maintain project bank account	100.00	
Annual Picnic	657.24	
Travel (Camp FYREFLY)	176.49	
Donations	500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,902.59	
NET LOSS		(1,188.04)
CLOSING BANK BALANCE:		\$ 3,191.63
		=====

NOTE: The Society has no real estate and no liabilities

Prepared by: Gregory Knight, treasurer
Accepted by Annual General Meeting, June 21, 2006

Audited by Members: