

**Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area (GALA/LA)
Annual General Meeting - May 16, 2007**

AGENDA

1. Call to order and introductions

2. This agenda: Add new items as required, then accept a motion to adopt it

3. Minutes of our last AGM: Copies will be circulated, and corrections accepted from those who attended the 2006 meeting -- then a motion to adopt the minutes.

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

5. Annual reports:

Chairperson - highlights of year

Vice-chair

Secretary - ongoing matters

Treasurer

Dance Committee - Dave

Website: Twyla

GALA Occasion - Dave

6. Financial audit: We need to name two paid members tonight to verify 2006-07 statement with our treasurer, at a convenient time in coming weeks.

7. Nominations -- Open to all paid members, as of April 16/07 (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

* All paid members (12 months + 6 months grace) eligible for nomination

* 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 then be asked to elect board members to the four executive positions.

8. New business: from members, guests

9. Set time and location for first meeting of the new board

10. 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
Minutes from Annual General Meeting - May 7, 2007
Time: 7:30 pm Lethbridge HIV Connection

Present: Maurice Mackenzie (Chair), Dennis Magson (Vice-Chair), Dave Mabell (Secretary), Greg Knight (Treasurer), and 2006-07 board member Twyla Gurr; plus paid members Andrew Best, Levi Cox, Tyler Gschaid, Hester, Tamara, Sandy Sangster, De-Ann; and (non-member) guests Derrick and Garrett

Regrets: Board member Laura

1. Welcome: Dave Mabell, a board member with Lethbridge HIV Connection and GALA/LA, welcomed all to the officially 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 Twyla/Dennis: that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

3. Minutes: of 2006 AGM were circulated.

M/S by Dave/Twyla: that the minutes of the 2006 AGM be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4 No items arising from minutes

5. Annual Reports:

President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer:

Printed reports were presented by Maurice (president), Dennis (vice-president), Dave (board secretary) and Greg (treasurer).

Dance Committee, GALA Occasion: Dave submitted reports on the year's community dances, and the GALA Occasion newsmagazine, attached to these minutes.

GALA Website: Twyla presented a verbal report on our Newgaylethbridge.ca website, in place of the written report (attached to these minutes) which was prepared but not copied.

M/S by Dennis/Sandy: That we accept the reports with no further discussion. WITHDRAWN. Discussion of the reports followed, eliciting the information that Twyla has a new Website host ready to go. More content for our website -- anything from recipes to new from Amnesty International -- was also discussed.

M/S by Tyler/Hester: that we accept the reports as presented. CARRIED

6. Financial audit:

Members Hester and Sandy volunteered (along with Reid, one of last year's auditors, to review Greg's financial report for the year ended, as required by our bylaws.

M/S by Tyler/Dennis: that those three members be asked to audit the books within a month. CARRIED

7. Nominations:

Dave, speaking for Nominating Committee chair Laura, reported she and the five members of our 2006-07 board who were present had verified their willingness to serve another term - but that no word had been received from 06-07 board members Anita Boettcher, Lyle Boswall, and Jason Holt. Another member elected last year, Micheal Ward, wrote recently to say his schedule does not permit him to continue.

M/S by Twyla/Levi: that the names of those six current board members be placed in nomination for the new board. CARRIED

The chair then called for further nominations to the board.

Levi nominated Tyler: accepted, Twyla nominated Sandy: accepted

Dennis nominated Levi: accepted, Levi nominated Andrew: accepted

Several other nominations of members present were not accepted.

The chair called three times for further nominations; no more were received.

M/S by Tyler/Sandy: that nominations cease. CARRIED

M/S by Dave/Greg: That the 2007-08 board comprise no more than 12 members. CARRIED

The chair then declared the 10 nominees ELECTED.

Executive elections: The chair then opened nominations for the executive committee, starting with President, and allowing any unsuccessful candidates to run for the next position:

Dennis nominated Maurice MacKenzie for **President** (nomination accepted)

The chair called three times for further nominations; none others accepted nomination.

M/S by Tyler/Dennis: that nominations cease. CARRIED

The meeting declared Maurice ELECTED

The chair then called for nominations for **Vice-president**:

Hester nominated Twyla (accepted), Levi nominated Dennis (accepted), Dave no minated Levi (accepted)

The chair then called three times for further nominations; none others accepted nomination.

M/S by Tyler/Greg: that nominations cease. CARRIED

Paper ballots were cast, counted by Derek, and Twyla was declared ELECTED.

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

Greg nominated Dave (accepted)

The chair then called three times for further nominations; none others accepted nomination.

M/S by Tyler/Dennis: that nominations cease. CARRIED

The meeting declared Dave ELECTED.

The chair then opened nominations for Treasurer:

Twyla nominated Greg (accepted), Maurice nominated Sandy (accepted)

The chair called three times for further nominations; none others accepted nomination.

Paper ballots were cast, counted by Derek, and Sandy was declared ELECTED.

8. New Business: Ballots: M/S by Tyler/Dennis: That the ballots be destroyed. CARRIED

Bartender training: Hester asked about GALA's plans for bartender training. Maurice outlined

new provincial government requirements, and said GALA was willing to pay the course fee for members who complete the on-line training.

Casino and Bingo: Dennis outlined issues involved with getting our members involved as volunteers at local bingo or casino nights, earning funds for GALA/LA. Maurice said we'd have to specify what project or program those funds would support. Tyler said some local groups have been unable to find sufficient members or friends to cover assigned nights, incurring penalties or additional costs. Further discussion ensued, and members noted we should develop a program to be funded by the event proceeds.

M/S by Dave/De-Ann: that we develop a plan so we may proceed to apply for casino and bingo volunteer licensing. CARRIED

Bylaws: Tyler asked that copies of the current bylaws be brought to the next board meeting.

Identification: Dave asked for and received verification that all board members agree with their names and positions being listed in The GALA Occasion.

9. Next meeting: is tentatively scheduled for June 12 or 13 , at 7:30 pm at HIV Connection

10. Adjournment: M/S by Dennis/De-Ann: that the meeting adjourn (9:55 pm)

**Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area (GALA/LA)
2007 Annual General Meeting - May 16,2007**

REPORTS

President's Report - Maurice MacKenzie

Well, this year has gone by very quickly -- it's the end of another term for your elected board members.

We have done very well again at all our dances this season, up 10 per cent or more on both attendance and profits. Part of the reason for that was purchase of our own sound equipment, and we have also purchased almost a new set of bar equipment.

We are working hard, but we still haven't put together a P-FLAG group or a new youth group. We need more help for these. And we need more members and board members to get involved in all facets of GALA to make it run effectively for all in our community. We need you!

We have also, in the past month, supported a curling team which competed in the North American OutGames in Calgary. They had a lot of fun.

Our community needs and wants to do more of those things. Get out and get involved, please!

We also want to become fully involved in the community-campus radio station at the U of L, but we need your input and we need people who will go on the air hosts or for interviews.

Please, all GALA/LA members (and non-members who attend our dances) help make our community in southern Alberta work for everyone.

Vice-president - Dennis Magson

Once again it is the end of a good year for our GALA group. We have had a great year. Our dances have seen a big influx of new people attending.

With all the activities we are undertaking over the next year we are going to need more volunteers. So while this is the end of the year, let it be a beginning for you ... let this be a chance for you to show your team spirit by lending a helping hand when you can.

We, your GALA council can not do everything, without your help all of the same people will do the work again next year. So pull up your sleeves and pitch in, to help make these things happen.

Along those lines I would like to thank everyone who did lend a helping hand at the dances and other places we put our GALA team to. My time this year has been a learning experience, insofar as it has asked me to organize my time better to get things done that I have been asked to do. I am thankful that you have put your trust in me to help lead you though last year.

If re-elected I will do a better job of getting my things done. Working alongside the council this year has been great. We have bonded as friends and brothers and sisters united in one cause: To bring understanding and awareness to the public at large about our differences as well as our sameness.

We are not freaks or monsters, we're people as well and just want to be a part of the world and our communities that we live in.

And I know that being a part of GALA can do that in this community. Yes, it will take time for that to happen but we need to persevere and work together to help them see that we can all get along no matter what our differences might be.

Thank you again for all of your support this last year. Please continue to lend a helping hand when asked by one or more of the people on the board. I believe that through mutual co-operation we can effect a change in our own little part of the world community. Thank you for a great year.

Secretary - Dave Mabell

Another busy year for GALA/LA, with many positive results:

Your board: We were unable to get a quorum for our AGM on the advertised date, June 21, 2006 but we rescheduled it to June 26 and attracted sufficient attendance: 14 paid members and three (non-voting) guests.

As a courtesy, we re-nominated several members of the outgoing board who'd been active over the past year but weren't able to attend. Later, we learned some of those wanted to drop out and we elected several new people to the board later in the year.

Of those elected, several board members found it difficult to attend a majority of our meetings. One of our scheduled 12 was cancelled due to lack of quorum (40% of the current board members is specified in our bylaws). We hope incoming members of the 2007-08 board will understand the importance of attending when at all possible, and will make sure we don't have to cancel any meetings this year.

Rylands House: GALA/LA was born in 1996 as a collaboration between the area's queer community and the Lethbridge AIDS Connection, now known as the Lethbridge HIV Connection. Since its birth, our organization has met here in the 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 home on 6 Avenue S., GALA/LA was one of the first to announce its financial support.

While this building was open (main floor) just in time for our 2006 AGM, it took most of the following year for the contractor to complete all details ... and for the Connection to accept the lower floor as well. Once its concrete floor is sealed -- a project GALA has agreed to undertake -- we'll be able to store some of our archival material and once-a-year dance decor items (pumpkins, shamrocks, valentines, etc.) down there. We've also helped move some topsoil and construction rubble here, and no doubt will volunteer our services on other occasions in months to come.

Memberships: Our membership numbers remain high, with more signing up or renewing at each dance. As of our April dance, there were 105 paid members and another 50 who hold cards that expired more than six months ago -- the grace period we list in our bylaws.

To further stimulate membership sales, your board has approved a \$1 increase to our "Guest" admission charges to \$10, effective at our season-opening dance in late August. Our members will continue to pay \$5, however, so the advantages of buying a membership should be increasingly obvious.

Pot-luck Sundays: McKillop is pleased to lend us their lounge and kitchen and we've welcomed members, guests and some members' young family members to our pot-luck dinners on the second Sunday of each month -- two weeks after our dances.

Attendance has fallen over recent months, and your board may want to fine-tune the event. For starters, I might suggest selecting a video/DVD title or two and listing it in each month's issue of the GALA Occasion -- ensuring there's one shown every month. Perhaps GALA might want to buy some (or acquire used ones as donations) which could be re-shown in the future but also loaned out to members.

Apart from our annual Pride BBQ, these dinners are still our only ongoing all-ages events.

McKillop is pleased to welcome the lesbian/gay community to its facilities and its membership, and continues to work on other ways the church can provide support to the GLBT community here and nationally.

Gay-Straight Alliance, P-FLAG: All year, your board discussed ways of getting high school group(s) operating in Lethbridge -- as they are in other high schools in Alberta and across Western

Canada -- and a P-FLAG support group going again. We also discussed it in the GALA Occasion. But so far, our monthly minutes show we haven't got past the talking stage. Can't we make this a higher priority?

GLBT Radio: Nearly two years ago, we responded verbally to an invitation to broadcast a weekly GLBT show on CKXU -- our campus-community FM station -- and welcomed the program manager who spoke at one of our meetings. Sadly, we haven't been able to find enough members who are interested in following up. Can we try for Fall 2007?

Dance Committee - Dave Mabell

We're completing 11 years now, and looking forward to another 10 for GALA/LA's famous community dances. You'll be happy to know they're not just well-regarded, they're also well-supported.

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

We know our success is also due to the hard work of our volunteers -- we need more-and the welcoming attitude shown by many of our members when new people arrive, as they do every year. On top of that, people know they'll enjoy almost all the music selected by our long-time disc jockey Sean or one of our alternate DJs.

The big improvement over this last year, from a financial point of view, was the purchase of the sound and lighting equipment we'd rented for nearly 10 years. Our volunteers have mastered its set-up, fixed problems as they've come along, and then taken care of it between dances. We're hoping when the hall's owners get to work on their long-planned addition, they'll be able to include a storage area so we'd be able to lock up our sound equipment there. Meanwhile, we'll probably start storing it downstairs in this building.

In another step forward, we went smoke-free last September (ahead of the city bylaw's implementation date) and received far more thanks than criticisms.

Looking ahead, your dance committee is now ready to start the dance season at the end of August -- in response to many requests -- and expand the season to nine dances -- on the last Saturday of every month except June, July, and December.

Looking over our last year, I want to thank Michel, Twyla, Laura, Dennis and many other volunteers who help decorate the hall each month, Maurice for continue to manage bar operations (and set up bartender training) along with Twyla, Laura and people who come to clean up on Sundays.

WE NEED more volunteers, particularly for shifts on security -- at the door and on the floor -- and we need coverage until the last guest leaves. More volunteers for other dance duties (or to join the dance committee) are always welcome.

Thanks to everyone for a very successful season -- with more members and guests attending, and greater financial returns year over year.

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 most of our readers, it's the only place members and subscribers can learn what's happening in southern Alberta as well as other parts of the world.

And there's a lot happening these days, here in Alberta and across Canada.

We seldom run out of news that will interest our readers. And the feedback we receive indicates readers appreciate our news selection.

Since we've launched our new GALA website, we've had the opportunity to post news about GALA/LA activities and programs plus other upcoming events. For our next step, it would be good if we could put the Occasion's local news page (and hopefully Page 1) on our own website month by month.

Both print and Internet media are ideal for advertising, of course, and The GALA Occasion welcomes ads from gay-friendly companies in our area -and maybe they could pay to be on our website as well. Classified and wantads 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, but someone who hasn't paid can't expect to get a free service indefinitely. As always, we invite members to submit news, ads, pieces, poetry, whatever they'd like to add -- and we'd particularly welcome occasional columns or opinion pieces. Good-quality digital pictures can also be run, with the consent of people shown.

Not many communities our size can boast their own news magazine, and we're going to keep it coming. With our members' involvement, we can make it still better.

**Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area (GALA/LA)
2007 Annual General Meeting**

**Financial Statement
May 2006 - May, 2007**

OPENING BANK BALANCE (May 1, 2006)		2,173.82
REVENUE		
Dance Proceeds (revenue less expenses)	4,836.17	
Memberships	404.00	
Donations	84.80	
TOTAL REVENUE		5,324.97
EXPENSES:		
Equipment - sound and lights	500.00	
Equipment - bar equipment	136.46	
Phone (cell)	460.40	
Phone (directory listing)	172.08	
Website	1,014.38	
Office Supplies	28.51	
Meetings and workshop	62.18	
Transfer to maintain project bank account	25.00	
Annual Picnic	134.43	
Donations	53.78	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>2,587.22</u>
NET GAIN		2,737.75
CLOSING BANK BALANCE (May 7, 2007):		\$ 4,911.57 =====

NOTE: The Society has no liabilities

Prepared by: Gregory Knight, treasurer
Accepted by Annual General Meeting, May 16, 2006

Audited by GALA/LA Members: _____ and _____