

The LLLAC Newsletter



Fall 2010



Recent Events

**May Event Results* Anniversary Party* Memorial Day Picnic* 4th of July Barbie-Q* Wiener Fests* Pride Coffee* Labor Day Barbie-Q **

The club held three barbeques this summer on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. All were well attended free potluck events and were self supporting. It is an important

commitment the club has kept in being open every day of the year including holidays so individuals know there is always a place to go for fun and fellowship even on holidays. We have our members to thank for this and certain angels like the Late Dick Tattleman whose bequest upon his death to the club has helped us survive so far despite declining income and donations thru this economic downturn.

The May Benefit was a great success yielding slightly more fundraising dollars than the previous one. This annual May event is a cornerstone of our fundraising that we hope to build upon for our 30 year super gigantic gala in 2013. Kudos and thanks to all those who volunteered at the event and on the committee. The work was much more difficult this year in fundraising and donations as a direct result of the downturn. Huge thanks to Choo Choo our chair and Marie H. fundraising/publicity chair for their tireless efforts and success transcending difficulties in securing donations and obtaining key yes's after many no's. A tentative entertainment theme for next year's event has been floated by events chair Donald of a Big Band Swing event for next year. Get your dancing shoes ready!

Newsletter Newsletter News

Recent events and who is this guy continued pg 2.....



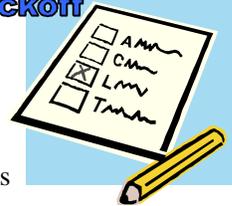
This is our autumn edition of the LLLAC newsletter. The last newsletter was published in May 2010 so theres a lot of news to report about events at the club and the ongoing business of the club. We had a very successful annual benefit in May and a number of events over the summer. The club is facing some challenges now and in the future that we hope you the members may want consider volunteering your time and service to help us meet. First is that we have been unsuccessful in filling 3 vacancies on our board since February. Despite that challenge we accomplished our events this year cost effectively with very few volunteers and 6 Directors instead of 9. At the end of this month, October we will have elections for 6 positions. We hope we will have a full ballot with your help. Letters of intent must be filed by Oct 23. Elections begin Oct 24 thru Oct 30. Elections are kicked off with a general membership meeting on Sat Oct 24 2-4pm where members will be informed of the state of the club, it's finances and have a chance to have their voices heard. We hope our members will make the time, especially after reading this newsletter to turn out for this important annual meeting and help your VOLUNTEER board in it's efforts to serve you and all those in our community seeking recovery and fellowship.

The Newsletter is published 4 times a year and we are seeking a volunteer Editor.....Do you have the 'write' stuff?

save that Date!

**Sat Oct 4, 2010 2-5 pm
General Membership Meeting
&
Election Week Kickoff**

The general membership meeting will be held on Sat Oct 24 2-4pm. Members are encouraged to attend and voice their input and questions



on issues such as financials, fundraising, events, maintenance and service at the club and other issues that concern them. Light refreshments will be served. This is also your opportunity to meet election candidates.

Upcoming Events

- Movie Night Oct 16 10pm Featuring Rocky Horror Picture Show
- General Membership Meeting And Elections Oct 24
- Thanksgiving Pot Luck Nov 25
- Tree Trimming Party Sat Dec 4
- TBA Bitchy Bingo December
- Sunday Semi-Weekly Recovery and Service Workshop Series TBA

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

STEPPING STONE HALLOWEEN!

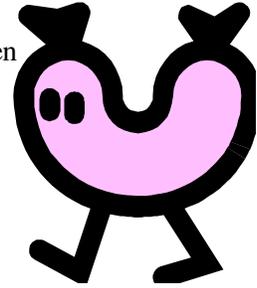


The LLLAC will not be hosting a Halloween Event this year in deference to Stepping Stone's event. We encourage all our members to attend and support Stepping Stones Fabulous sober Halloween Event on Saturday Oct 30. See poster at club for more info.



Recent Events Continued from pg 1

How could you not love this character! This is our Wiener Fest Mascot. A great idea dreamed up by Bd. Member Gretchen for impromptu and yummy food events from 5-7 before the Saturday Meeting to foster fellowship fundraising and fun. So far 3 have been held and we're looking for ideas for more.



Our Pride Parade contingent was wildly well received and cheered on by parade goers shouting their enthusiastic support and sobriety dates! Congrats to organizers Dave S. and Shirley and all our contingent volunteers for carrying the message well. Let's never underestimate how important our presence at Pride is! Join us next year!

Our annual Pride Festival coffee booth was executed fabulously well by our volunteers, Board Members, and Pride Coffee Chair Gretchen. A modest profit was made and it was well received by the pride committee. This annual event is a lot of work for a small financial return but being a presence at pride is the main goal. We are soliciting and floating ideas to pitch to pride to expand from a booth to a recovery pavilion/venue and could use our members help with ideas on how we can increase our profits and carry the message at Pride of recovery, fun and fellowship.

LLLAC Financial State, a little History and Into Action...

by Frank H. Co-Chair

In the last few months some members have expressed concern at Board Meetings and to individual Board Members that the club is in a financial crisis. As with all non-profits at this time there is cause for concern because income and membership is significantly down for 2010. This can be seen in our financial records and Board minutes that are available to all members. The immediate (2-3 yrs) future is assured but action and planning for the future is needed now. There has also been some confusion about block grants obtained in the past that I hope can be clarified here with a little history and then numbers provided to us by past secretary John D.

2010 has been a challenging year for us with a smaller Board (6 instead of 9) and diminishing income. We have been luckier than many non-profits and income was not affected significantly by the economic downturn until the first quarter of 2010.

In 2009 our main income sources of membership, snack bar, meeting and donation income held steady but 2010 has shown steep declines in all these income areas and is cause for concern. Declines in snack bar sales and meeting rents is especially worrying, as it seems to indicate that the majority of those that use the club are feeling the pinch of this downturn. We must develop some new strategies in fundraising and income opportunities or we may be looking at an uncertain future in 2 to 3 years. Historically the clubs income has never fully met its expenses and that gap has always been filled by fundraising and donation income. Thankfully the bequest from the estate of the late Dick Tattleman at the end of 2006 created a large reserve and has helped fill that gap these last 4 years and will for another 2-3 After that California corporate law governing non-profits may allow us to seek the Ca Attorney General's permission to use funds from our temporarily restricted building fund to stay afloat another 2-3 years if needed.

Continued next page.....

Committee News.....

Active Committees: Housing, Fiscal, Membership
See meeting Times on Bulletin Boards
Inactive Committees: Events, Archives,
Policy&Procedure - These need to be staffed by
volunteers:

Membership: Memberships contribute as much as 30% of the clubs income. Enrollment has declined by 25% or 50 members. Your membership is needed now more than ever. 2010 is the steepest decline in membership in the history of the club and is unsustainable long term. If you need to work out arrangements we are always willing to work with you and some members have even volunteered to pay members dues who are in need. Please inquire at the snack bar if you need arrangements or are willing to contribute to a members' dues scholarship fund. The membership committee has been one of our most active committees and has staffed membership tables at every event this year. Despite the many memberships they have obtained our numbers are not going up. Please help us in this endeavor by joining, keeping your membership current and helping us recruit new members.

The Fiscal committee has been meeting to discuss and strategize on a number of issues like cost cutting, declining meeting rent issues, grants, financial reporting and budgeting and fundraising issues. The question of whether meetings are being truly self supporting has come up and a standard is being developed. The question has been raised whether it is appropriate for the club and its member dues to subsidize meetings and if a new rent structure needs to be adopted. If issues like this interest you please join the fiscal committee and/or attend their meetings.

The Housing committee needs new volunteers after the resignation of David S. and Jeff W. who rendered great service to this committee. Please consider joining this committee who is responsible for maintaining and beautifying our home.



"The function of standing committees is to bring as many members as possible into the operation of the Alano club. Standing committees may act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors.

Without a commitment by members, more memberships, and a better, more modern fundraising strategy and better administration of the business, the Club may find itself struggling when we celebrate 30 years in 2013.

Since 2000 past Boards have seen the need for, and tried to execute more focused and effective fundraising. From 2000-2003 frequent small events were held on a consistent basis and fund raising income increased. There was still concern however that it wasn't going to be enough for impending rent increases and rising expenses. In late 2003 or so an advisory committee was convened by Frank L. and other concerned members to seriously address club finances and fundraising and advise the Board. That group was very productive and led to many good new ideas like the Galas that could raise very large amounts at one event. The Galas raised significant income but proved difficult to sustain without major membership involvement which was lacking. In 2006-7 the Gala was discontinued. As a result of that advisory group those Boards (2004-8) also made great strides implementing QuickBooks and audits for better financial management, increasing our building fund, managing expenses, seeking grants, board organization and development, and vigorously pursuing our own building.

For a moment our long standing aspiration for our own building seemed immediately attainable. Through great efforts on the part of co-chair Kevin M and others, block Grants from city the totaling 90K were secured in 2004-07 in an effort to secure our own building. The Block Grants could only be used for capital expenditure like a building and would expire if not used within a specific time period. There was the possibility we would be allowed to take over a site in Balboa Park using the grants but that fell through. Our building fund (60K) was still too small to buy another building so the grants expired and reverted back to the city. The grants were not mismanaged or wasted. They simply could not be used for anything but a building. I hope we the members can still honor those past efforts and always think enough of the LLLAC and our mission to continue that aspiration of our own building and make it a reality in the future.

Since 2008 the Boards pursued a hybrid fundraising approach from those previous boards. There would be small events and one 'big ticket' annual 'signature' event (May Event) that would build to a major gala every 5 years. This approach has proven just as challenging as previous approaches and income has been modest. It has only met 50-60% of our income gap from 2008-2010 and the remainder has been met from donations and our reserve. See next page..

Financial Continued....

As we approach 2011 there is valid concern that the reserve we have will be quickly exhausted within 2-3 years if our monthly income/expense gap escalates. There were large increase in water and utilities in 2008-2009. Our current lease was signed at the height of the real estate expansion and the question of whether our rent is still in synch with going rates has been raised. Many expenses in 2010 stayed the same or modestly lower including payroll but declines in income outpaced those savings. For now, we are okay, but more needs to be done or our long term future is uncertain.

To address these financial issues a new fiscal committee was organized and has been meeting monthly since May to examine these issues and advise the Board. In the last few years efforts have been made to address how we do business and modernize and streamline the business of the club with better tools for our website and email, a membership database, a professional donor/fundraising database and computers that enable a few to do the work of many. Processes and lessons learned have been recorded from events so they are repeatable and can improve each year. Fiscal, Membership and Housing committees have been organized and active. We have more tools and processes than previous boards had at their disposal which could make the Boards work easier but we need individuals to volunteer and help us maximize that potential. Skilled volunteers who can help in areas like financial analysis and strategy, marketing and publicity, and Donor Development are needed.

To stay completely in the black our club needs to raise a minimum of 25k every year. Dances, dinners and small events will never accomplish this. Our events raised (after expenses) 14.3k 16k 13k in 08' 09' and Jan-sep 2010, respectively. Old ways of fundraising will not close that 10k gap.

At this moment the Board is concerned but we are not ready to declare a crisis as was done many times in the 90s. Challenges exist but LLLAC still has great potential and reason for optimism. LLLAC has been serving the LGBT community for 27 years. We have a record, reputation and mission that is worthy of support. Right now at this 'into action' moment we have the funds and the tools to consistently execute and sustain new ways of fundraising, community outreach, and business administration with your help and good leadership. If you have a little free time we need your help now, not next year. Please consider getting involved now by running for Board office or a committee or an event committee or etc... I hope the LLLAC can count on your help and support.

Thank You

Many of the following Businesses and Organizations have generously supported the Club with donations and services for recent events and some frequently over many years. Please help us show our gratitude for their generosity by patronizing, supporting, and Thanking them when you have the opportunity

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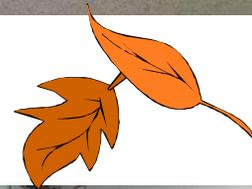
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Happy, Joyous & Free Scrapbook Page



Pride Parade



Pride Festival Coffee

Pay Dues Online!
Visit the website at www.lllac.org and go to the membership and dues link.

