

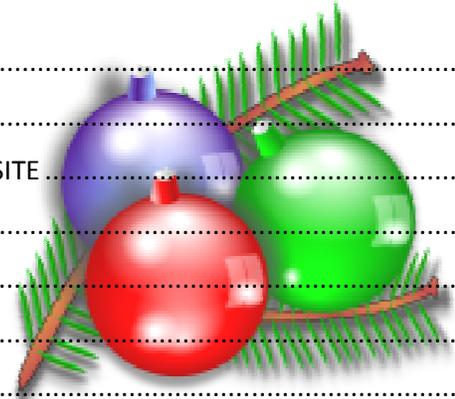
# LLLAC MEMBER News and Information

4th Edition Dec 2012

Our last Member Communication/update was in Aug 2012. We currently have no newsletter editor volunteer and hope someone in our membership might have an interest in taking such a commitment. If you are interested in helping with this please fill out a volunteer application at the snack bar and we will contact you. If you want more detail on anything mentioned here please see a board member and/or inquire at the snack bar to direct you to a board member.

## Contents

Wishing our Members a Happy Holiday Season .....	1
New Years EVE fundraiser for Stepping Stone .....	2
Keeping our Members Informed with this Newsletter and WEBSITE .....	2
Information regarding Members Area of Website.....	2
Physical Changes at the club.....	2
2012 Financial Year End Outlook .....	3
Recent Awards and Grants LLLAC has Received .....	3
Member Thank You Brunch Followed by General Membership Meeting.....	3
Thanksgiving Recap .....	4
VOLUNTEER – JOIN THE BOARD – RUN A COMMITTEE – we need the help!.....	4
How you can help in 2013.....	4
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	4



**Wishing our Members a Happy Holiday Season** Here we are again at the Holidays and we wish you all the best for a happy, safe, and sober season. Our current calendar includes our usual Christmas Day Potluck. We start at 2:30 on Christmas Day. A signup sheet is in the snack bar if you can bring a dish to share. The Board of Directors will provide entrees. We hope to see you there.

This year we have no alkathons planned for either Christmas Eve or New Years. That could change if volunteers come forward but we don't see that as likely. Alkathons at the club in recent years have been very sparsely attended because of the many other 12 step-athons around town. In order to serve our

members and the community we will publish a list of sober events during the holidays on signage at the club and on our website.

**New Years EVE fundraiser for Stepping Stone** For 3 years Wayne B. has produced a terrific New Years Eve event as a fundraiser for Stepping Stone. The LLLAC will be cooperating with him this year to help make this a big success for Stepping Stone. We strongly recommend all our members support this fundraiser for Stepping Stone. The LLLAC has had a supporting role with Stepping Stone since our earliest days and it is a benefit for both our organizations to sustain and nurture that mutual support. We should also remember that almost every sober event done by any of the organizations, including ours are usually staffed by Stepping Stone volunteers. Look for more detail of the New Year's Event on our website and announcements at the club.

**Keeping our Members Informed with this Newsletter and WEBSITE** We wanted to make sure to inform you of news before the Holidays but some information may not be covered completely and we will be asking our members to visit our website for more frequently updated and more detailed information especially in the Members Area which you will receive instructions for in a separate email. General news will be published on the website and our community calendar which the public can view. Internal club news will be published in a Members Area of the site which you will need to login. This will help us keep in better touch with you and news of the club. Please take a look at the website for activities and announcements through the Holidays.

**Information regarding Members Area of Website** This is something we want to try but we do not have a lot of resources to administer it. Requests from you for attention on how to use it may take some time so we ask for your patience and for you to make your best patient effort to figure it out. We have tried to make it simple and will send full instructions in a separate email which we'll ask you to save for reference. Access will be given quarterly (jan,may,sep) only to members who are current and in good standing (6 months of continuous membership). You will have access to a archival newsletters, financials, pictures, committee news, and a Board news blog for internal news and Board announcements. Your login will be your email address and a password you choose.

**Physical Changes at the club** If you've been to the club lately you'll see some changes. The old carpeting that covered the back ½ of the club has been replaced with a new vinyl wood plank floor and the Snack bar and hallway areas have been given a facelift with a new coat of paint. Paint was paid for by the club almost entirely through donations.

In July the LLLAC Board applied for grant from San Diego County Supervisor Rob Roberts (4th District) under the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program which helps fund community and neighborhood programs for health, recreation and other purposes. We requested funds for flooring, new chairs, and new ceiling tiles. We received word in early November that we had been awarded a \$15000.00 grant for the above purposes. We want to Thank Supervisor Roberts and his staff for this award which will greatly improve our facility. We also owe Thanks to City Commissioner and LGBT Weekly columnist Nicole Murray-Ramirez for his advocacy of the LLLAC to Ron and his staff. He worked directly with us through

many phone calls and was a great help in securing this grant. Nicole has always been a great booster for the LLLAC and its mission. Thank You Nicole!

In the next few weeks you'll see new ceiling tiles and all new chairs for the facility. Once the work is done we would like to host some open houses for community leaders, organizations, business owners and our members so we can show the community the great work the LLLAC community does.

**2012 Financial Year End Outlook** The LLLAC Board is Confident that we will close out 2012 in the black after many years of deficits. We are not including any of the funds from the NRP grant from Ron Roberts in this equation. What that means is that the club met its expenses from its income which includes meeting rents, membership, snack bar, fundraising and donations. In 2012 we saw a decline in meeting rents and snack bar sales. Membership has done better but it is still about 5000 below what it was before the downturn. Our Membership drive yielded more member retention but very few new members. We are still at the 200-210 mark we have been at for many years. Income from events was low especially since it was necessary to cancel our annual benefit. In 2013 we hope to do more fundraising events, develop more donors from the LGBT business community and launch Bingo as a fundraiser for the club in January 2013.

You can help guarantee we are in the black for 2012 in the coming days by making sure your membership is paid up and/or making a yearend donation directly or on our website.

We do not expect a large surplus because we have been unable to execute the kind of fundraising and events we would like to due to lack of 'active' volunteers. We simply need more hands. The primary lesson of 2012 is that with good management, cost containment, and resource management, we can live within our means and still fulfill our mission. We would like to do much more and hope that 2013 will be a pivotal year for us as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and build a larger base of support in the community for our mission. In late January we will release an annual financial summary for our members with more detail.

**Recent Awards and Grants LLLAC has Received** In addition to the NRP Grant we received we also received a grant from pride and a service award from the Gay Men's Spiritual Retreat for our service to the community. See the website for more information.

### **Member Thank You Brunch Followed by General Membership Meeting**

The Board of Directors will be holding a Member Thank You Brunch 1:00-2:30 followed by a General Membership Meeting 2:30-4 on January 13, 2013.

It was recommended by the current membership committee that our members who donate 1/3 of our income through dues should be honored with a Thank You Brunch for thier support and contributions. RSVP will be required for the Brunch. Members will receive notification after the xmas holiday via email and/or phone on details of the event and how to RSVP.

The General Membership Meetings will entail a short presentation by the board followed by member questions, comments, suggestions etc. Please bring your ideas.

**Thanksgiving Recap** Our Thanksgiving potluck was attended by about 100 people this year. There was plenty of great food and company. Thank You to our volunteers and Board Members who ran this event.

## **VOLUNTEER – JOIN THE BOARD – RUN A COMMITTEE – we need the help!**

2013 is a very important year for us as we build up to our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club is in good shape financially but we really need more help and input from our members and community to get the LLLAC going so it really thrives. Over the last 1 and ½ years the club shifted from having a manager to being volunteer run. We have been successful because of the extraordinary efforts of a couple Board members and a few very dedicated, loyal and committed volunteers but we need more help. The general rule of any organization is that 20% do 80% of the work and we see that at LLLAC. If 20% can accomplish so much in these last 18 months just imagine what we could do with more. Those of us who are active are rewarded not just with what we see accomplished but mostly by the faces of new people and those struggling with or without time when they come into the club and feel at home. If you don't spend a lot of time at the club you may not see it but it is still happening after 30 years. People's lives are transformed. Visitors and past members who live out of town know there is a place here that is always here for them where they are welcomed for the first time or welcomed back. Perhaps with less discrimination against LGBT folks today (especially in California) the LLLAC may be less important as a safe haven but it is just as important a center for community. Whether you think the LLLAC is a 'need to have' or a 'nice to have' we invite you to help us thrive through service.

**How you can help in 2013.** A number of initiatives are being worked on for the coming year where you might help. Don't worry if you don't know HOW...neither do we! – but we'll figure it out together!

We would like to develop some kind of HOMECOMING marketing campaign and/or event to attract past and out of town past members and 'alumni' to join us in supporting our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. OPEN HOUSES to attract donors and community support. Our archives need organization and selection for what we'll display/highlight at the gala. BUSSINESS OFFICE ORGANIZATION...have you worked as a secretary or admin assistant – then we could sure use your help in organizing our office so Boards and volunteers can do more work with less stress! These are just some of the areas we need help in and we're sure you can think up more. Join us!

**UPCOMING EVENTS** You can always check our news and events section and community calendar at [www.lllac.org](http://www.lllac.org) for latest events at the club and in the LGBT recovering community.

Yours In Service and Fellowship,

The LLLAC Board of Directors