



October 2009

## The Newsletter of BLIND LGBT PRIDE INTERNATIONAL

Blind Pride is a Special Interest affiliate of the American Council of the Blind and is dedicated to facilitating the free exchange of ideas, opinions and information relative to matters of concern to blind people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Visit us at [www.blind-lgbt-pride.org](http://www.blind-lgbt-pride.org)

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

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## **## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Fall is certainly in the air here in the San Francisco Bay area as I sit down and write this column. As John Donne once said about this time of year, "No Spring nor Summer Beauty hath such grace As I have seen in one Autumnal face."

I am pleased to report that following a rather spirited discussion and a democratically held election, the members present during our Business meeting in Orlando voted to adopt Blind LGBT Pride International (Blind Pride) as this organization's new name. In my last column I expressed my support for the then proposed name change. I believe the name "Blind Pride" distinctly defines this organization while proclaiming a sense of pride in who we are.

Under the leadership of Blind Pride's newly elected Secretary Don Wilson, we have completed the arduous administrative tasks involved with migrating over to the new name. These tasks ranged from filing the requisite paperwork with the IRS to managing internal and external Information and Technological changes. As a result, you can now find us on the web at [www.blind-lgbt-pride.org](http://www.blind-lgbt-pride.org).

See the Convention Report and amended constitution in these pages for more details on what transpired in Orlando.

As we move into our tenth year, I'd like to take a moment to identify Blind Pride's projects for 2009/2010:

### 1) The Awareness Through Accessibility Project

This is an ongoing effort on Blind Pride's part to work with LGBT Community Centers across the country to assist centers with ensuring that its programs and services are accessible to and usable by individuals who are blind and vision impaired specifically and people with other disabilities in general. Over the past year, Blind Pride has developed an evaluation check list centers can use to determine if its programs and services are accessible to its consumers and potential consumers who may be blind and vision impaired. Blind Pride will make itself available to centers and offer practical recommendations to address any accessibility issues identified by the evaluation. Additionally, Blind Pride will offer as a service the review of centers materials and web sites for accessibility and assist LGBT centers with offering its information in alternate formats.

### 2) Blind Pride on-line community center

The on-line center is a collaborative community for individuals and organizations that have an interest in LGBT issues. The focus of this community, which is a service of Blind Pride is to provide a virtual space where participating members can receive information and referrals, local, regional and national resources, exchange information in real time and engage in ongoing communication about their shared interest in enhancing the quality of life for GLBT people who are blind and vision impaired.

Along with these projects the board's Fund raising committee will launch an annual fund raising campaign in early October. How can you help? I am glad you asked. In the next couple of weeks members will be sent a fund raising letter you can forward to members of your network. This letter describes the organization and provides instructions as to how individuals can safely and securely make a tax deductible donation. Please look for the letter in your inbox soon and distribute it far and wide. Your participation in this campaign is greatly appreciated.

For those individuals interested in serving on one of Blind Pride's many committees, please go to [www.blind-lgbt-pride.org](http://www.blind-lgbt-pride.org) and get involved.

Did you know that Blind Pride's monthly board meetings are now open to members and the public? For more information visit [www.blind-lgbt-pride.org](http://www.blind-lgbt-pride.org).

In closing, I'd like to thank all of you for your continued support and I strongly encourage you to get involved with the organization with the new name and new attitude!

Enjoy this edition of InsideOut.

With pride,  
Don Brown, President

## **## A SURVEY OF LGBT HISTORY**

By Connie Tourissi

Throughout history, homosexuality has been generally unaccepted in most cultures. Gay men and women were often subject to ridicule and harassment and sometimes imprisonment or worse. They lived in fear of discovery and gay rights were unheard of.

Prior to 1924 there was no open support for gay rights in the United States. It was then that Henry Gerber, a gay postal worker in Chicago, founded the Society for Human Rights. The following year, Gerber was arrested for distributing the organization's newsletter. The organization dissolved shortly thereafter. Albeit slowly, Gerber's courage and desire to work for gay rights opened the door for others to follow in his wake.

In Los Angeles, in 1950, Harry Hay with some friends organized the Mattachine Society in an effort to fight for equal rights for gay people. Secret meetings were held and members used aliases. The Mattachine Society slowly grew into a national organization that lasted until the 1980's.

Meanwhile, in 1955, the lesbian organization, Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) was formed in San Francisco by four lesbian couples, including Del Martin and her partner Phyllis Lyons. The organization was originally considered a social alternative to the bars, which were frequently subject to police raids and harassment. The DOB mission eventually evolved into a support organization emphasizing education about female homosexuality. DOB flourished as a national organization until the 1970's.

The 1960's were a time of transition and unrest on many fronts in the United States; civil rights and women's rights began to surge while the push for gay rights moved forward at a crawl. But one little known event would become the forerunner of things to come: the Comptom's Cafeteria Riot in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco in 1966.

Comptom's was a gathering place for transgender people, gay men and street people who were used to police harassment. One August night, the cafeteria manager called the police to quiet some unruly customers. As the police tried to arrest one transgender person, a riot ensued. The long term result of this event was the formation of the National Transgender Counseling Unit, the first support and advocacy organization of its kind, ever.

In 1969, gay history took a giant step forward when police once again raided the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village. This event is considered the beginning of the gay rights movement not only in the United States but around the world. In the early morning hours of June 28<sup>th</sup> the police raided the popular bar and attempted to load patrons in to the paddy wagon. Onlookers outside taunted the police and as the size of the crowd grew, so did the crowd's displeasure. It remains unclear exactly what happened next, but a full blown riot broke out as people began throwing bottles and other objects at the police. At one point, the police were forced to take refuge inside the bar while waiting for backup to arrive. It took riot police over an hour to take control of the situation. The next night saw a continuation of what was called the Stonewall Rebellion on a lesser scale. Throughout the following week, demonstration continued.

In the aftermath of Stonewall, the gay rights movement grew and blossomed starting with the formation of the Gay Liberation Front. Gay men and lesbians joined together to fight against

oppression and discrimination. With the rise of the Women's Movement, however, lesbians broke away from many of the gay male dominated groups and filtered into the straight women's groups. The National Organization of Women (NOW) was in fact troubled by the influx of lesbians.

Not long after the gay rights movement developed into an "in-your-face" type of movement, AIDS began to spread throughout the gay male population. Along with the demand for equal rights, gays and lesbians demanded that a cure for AIDS be found. Meanwhile, religious fundamentalists and others began to campaign even stronger against gays, using AIDS as proof of God's punishment against gay men.

Beginning the year after Stonewall, Gay Pride celebrations began to spring up every June. Over the decades, Gay Pride grew and spread across the United States. (In time, countries all over the world would build and demonstrate increased gay pride.) Although initially some groups, such as African –Americans felt left out, eventually people of color, bisexuals and transgendered people were welcomed under the Rainbow umbrella of the Gay Pride Movement. The rainbow now represents a coalition of all these separate groups.

Today, life is quite different for gay and lesbian people. However, that does not mean gays and lesbians are universally accepted. Discrimination is still alive and well. But the passage of time has brought change and most of those changes are for the better.

The new battle front is over same-sex marriage. Civil unions are no longer sufficient to quiet gay voices. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Iowa have legalized same-sex marriage, with New Hampshire scheduled to begin allowing same-sex marriages in January, 2010.

Ever so slowly, things are changing for the better. But the LGBT community still has a long and difficult fight ahead as we press toward achieving full equality.

## **## 2009 CONVENTION REPORT**

This was the year of big changes for our organization.

Following a lengthy discussion, the membership adopted "Blind LGBT Pride International" as the official name of the organization.

The membership also voted to amend the constitution to provide members the opportunity to attend regularly scheduled board meetings. These meetings are teleconferences with members calling in through a toll-free number. Another change to the constitution was to include a code of conduct for board members.

Speaking of board members, 2009 marks the first year that there was a full compliment of board members in attendance. And, for the first time in our history, we now have two women on the board of directors.

The following individuals were elected to the board:

George Abbot, Treasurer  
George Ashiotis, At large  
Connie Tourissi, At large  
Don Wilson, Secretary

Nearly 100 members participated in this year's convention events.

Despite the hot weather, members had the opportunity to attend outings to Ripley's Believe It or Not and the Titanic Experience.

One important feature this year was the Blind LGBT Pride suite was open for most of the time and available to members as a central meeting place—avoiding people trying to find each other in the vast lobby of the hotel. Members were able to just hang out in the suite, enjoying refreshments and just getting acquainted. We plan to continue this custom in the years to come.

Next year in Phoenix, we will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary...and plans are already underway.

## **## First Pride March in Spartanburg, SC Exceeded the Marchers' Wildest Dreams**

By Barbara Mattson

Those of you who read my article entitled Organizing the First Pride March in Spartanburg, SC, will remember that I said that South Carolina is not known as gay friendly, and the city of Spartanburg is no exception. So people in my church took a bold step when they decided to organize a march here.

Publicity extended from business size and postcards to magazine and news paper articles, and Facebook—the latter spawning a lot of controversy as anticipated.

The sale of merchandise such as bracelets, mugs, T-shirts, and magnets helped to swell our treasury. We also received funds from supporting individual donors and organizations.

In planning this event, we anticipated no more than 50 participants, but the count on the day of the march numbered about 300—astounding us all. Indeed, the post march planners were much more optimistic in their planning and it was good that they were.

Just as Blind LGBT Pride has had obstacles to overcome, so did our planning committee. One such obstacle required that we bring in an outside mediator to help us resolve the issue of whether or not marchers would be permitted to cross dress. Some felt that we were going far enough just having the march. They were concerned that it would discourage participation by parents trying to get used to their children being gay. Others thought it would be wrong to turn drag queens and kings away. This faction felt strongly all aspects of gayness should be permitted and in the end this was the case. I don't know if anyone dressed in drag—particularly the men, because it was a warm day.

There was quite a deal of concern that there would be some not-so-friendly protesters. Though we knew we were going to have police in the area, we still didn't know whether the marchers would have eggs or anything else thrown at them. The planning committee knew that there were at least 2 groups who'd sought protest permits, and another group secured a permit to have a "family" march at the same time. There was going to be a church gathering to hopefully draw potential onlookers.

I had a sign made with the Blind-LGBT-Pride's new logo. On my way to the march, as I passed some protesters with it and my Spartanburg Pride shirt on, I didn't get hassled, but I think it might have been because they didn't know that I was going to be in the pride march. Of course, the bystanders might have been too engaged in talking with the outsider or didn't want to talk to the strange blind lady. For whatever reason, I was glad they didn't talk to me.

A lady from Columbia who was in a wheelchair in front carried my sign since the wind was making it difficult for me to hang onto it and her wheelchair at the same time. I was using her wheelchair as a guide with another pusher on the other side.

The march went well with the protesters simply singing hymns, and a minister proclaiming some of the usual dogma about being gay, but all keeping their distance as directed. The marchers were instructed not to engage in any dialogue with the protesters which also kept things peaceful. I doubt either side convinced anyone of leaving their ranks, but at least we all exercised our freedom of speech.

The two things the marchers chanted on the route were: "Two, four, six, eight, God does not discriminate," and "What do we want? Gay rights. When do we want them? Now!" Some of us sang, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world,"—a testament to diversity.

Because of the pre-march newspaper publicity and the controversy that ensued, we received post march coverage as well. It was a testament to the fact that despite differences, South Carolinians with opposing views can gather peacefully.

Even though I'm not on the planning committee for next year's march, I will be there carrying Blind LGBT Pride International's sign again. And because of our name change, it will be much more clear to all what kind of organization I represent.

### **## Connie's Trivia Box**

There are at least thirty-three towns in the United States that include the word "gay" in their name. Here are just a few examples: Gay Creek, Alaska, Gay Mountain, California, Gay, Michigan and Gayville, New York.

### **## BFLAG'S EVOLUTION LEADS TO ITS NEW NAME**

By Don Brown

During our annual business meeting in Orlando and following a healthy and spirited debate, the membership voted overwhelmingly to adopt "Blind LGBT Pride International" as this growing affiliate's new name.

Why a name change? Since being chartered as a Special interest Affiliate by the American council of the Blind in 2000, the acceptance of this organization both inside and outside of ACB has been nothing short of remarkable. True, our early beginnings were met with some expected resistance. However, the eventual and overwhelming acceptance of the organization by the ACB family vastly over-shadowed and quieted the small minority of dissenting voices. ACB's long standing tradition of embracing diversity is exemplary and served as the catalyst for our move to a name which effectively conveys our sense of pride as blind people who are also gay, or gay people who are also blind—take your pick. There are three main premises embodied in the term Gay Pride or LGBT Pride.

They are that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people are proud of their sexual orientation and gender identity, that diversity is a gift which is reflected in all of nature, and that sexuality and gender identity are inherent and cannot be altered without devastating psychological and emotional ramifications. The word "pride" was adopted by the LGBT

community as an antidote for the yoke of shame used throughout history to control and oppress anyone who did not acquiesce to the heterosexual mold.

Our organization's work is two fold. We continue to gain acceptance within the blindness community, while at the same time pursuing acceptance by promoting awareness among LGBT people who are sighted. Our, blind, sighted, LGBT and straight members are teachers, students, government employees, attorneys, parents, and retirees who, like other blind and vision impaired people, are interested in affordable assistive technology, accessible transportation, employment disparities, educational and training opportunities, and rehabilitation programs and services.

As the first and only organization of its kind, our mission is to promote the betterment of LGBT people who are vision-impaired. We do this by: (1) providing a forum for the free expression and exchange of views and concerns of our membership, (2) equipping our members with re-printed articles from mainstream LGBT publications via InsideOut, our quarterly newsletter, (3) assisting our members in acquiring services from agencies and institutions serving consumers who are blind, (4) helping members get in touch with their local LGBT centers, and (5) making LGBT centers nation-wide aware of our existence and promoting integration and mutual growth through acceptance and understanding. .

During the 2010 convention in Phoenix Blind Pride will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as an ACB special interest affiliate. Imagine, in the year 2000 we had 27 original charter members; now we can boast over 200. We are proud of our existence and our growth and we want to share our enthusiasm with you in Phoenix. Workshops, tours, events (both inside and outside the hotel) are already being planned, not to mention a 10-Year Birthday party! Come, help us celebrate this incredible milestone.

To stay up to date on Blind LGBT Pride's news and activities visit us at [www.blind-lgbt-pride.org](http://www.blind-lgbt-pride.org) . While there, feel free to become a member and join one of our community forums.

## **## Around THE WORLD IN BRIEF**

### **## GENDER INEQUITY AND EYE HEALTH**

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has published a report to mark World Sight Day , which examines the current situation, and highlights effective strategies which are successfully addressing gender inequity in eye health, particularly in developing countries. London, UK, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009:

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has published a report to mark World Sight Day, which examines the current situation, and highlights effective strategies which are successfully addressing gender inequity in eye health, particularly in developing countries.

IAPB is the partner of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the [www.VISION2020.org](http://www.VISION2020.org) VISION 2020: The Right to Sight global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness. Its member organizations include virtually all international eye care NGOs worldwide, whose projects and programs make up the report's content.

The report cites compelling evidence that in most developing countries, women are less likely to receive eye care services than men, and that additionally, women comprise more than half of the elderly population, and the natural incidence of some blinding diseases (cataract and trachoma) is higher among women than men, which results in a situation where women account for nearly two-thirds of blind people worldwide.

According to the British Journal of Ophthalmology, “blindness and severe visual impairment from cataract could be reduced by around 11% in low- and middle-income countries if women were to receive cataract surgery at the same rate as men.” The strategies described in the report are simple, achievable and it is hoped they will contribute significantly to reducing blindness in developing countries.

According to the report, which includes case studies, program reports and statistics from around the world, “the systematic approach to ‘gender and blindness’ can serve as a model to help other health areas to address gender inequity.”

Activities and events are planned around the world, including Washington, USA, Sydney, Australia, Prague, Czech Republic, Tehran, Iran, Delhi, India and Port Au Prince in Trinidad & Tobago. The event in Washington will be the first of its kind, as a coalition of USA-based non-profits collaborate in the name of the global initiative.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October, organizations around the world will plant a tree to mark WSD09, and photographs are being collected from around the world, to create an international photo montage. In 2008, an estimated 300 events were held, and reports were received from over 50 countries.

About VISION 2020: The Right to Sight

VISION 2020 is the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness, a joint program of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) with an international membership of NGOs, professional associations, eye care institutions and corporations.

#### RELATED FACTS:

- 45million people worldwide are blind, and a further 269m are significantly vision impaired
- 90% of blind people live in low-income countries
- recent research suggests up to 517m are severely affected by presbyopia (age related refractive error)YET
- 80% of blindness is avoidable – i.e. could be prevented, cured or treated
- sight restorations, and blindness prevention strategies, are among the most cost-effective interventions in health care
- The world’s leading cause of blindness is cataract – yet it is curable by a simple, cost-effective operation

### **## Activists Seek to End U.S. HIV Travel Restrictions**

The comment period on the proposed regulatory change that would end the U.S. ban on travel and immigration by HIV infected foreign nationals has ended.

The 45-day public comment period on the proposal, suggested by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and approved by the Obama administration, ended recently with little fanfare.

Lifting the HIV travel ban is an important legislative victory for groups working on LGBT immigration rights issues.

“Ending the HIV travel and immigration ban removes a federally-sanctioned stigma and sends a strong, clear message that the United States is working to end discrimination against people living with HIV,” said Victoria Neilson, legal director for Immigration Equality, a group that advocates on behalf of LGBT immigrants.



During a June White House reception for gay and lesbian leaders, President Obama listed the upcoming regulation change among his gay rights accomplishments.

“In addition, my administration is committed to rescinding the discriminatory ban on entry to the United States based on HIV status,” Obama told a cheering East Room crowd. “The Office of Management and Budget just concluded a review of a proposal to repeal this entry ban, which is a first and very big step towards ending this policy.”

While Obama might in fact be committed to lifting the ban, using it to bolster his gay rights resume is a bit of a stretch; Congress approved and then-President George Bush signed the United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 on July 30, 2008.

Immigration Equality worked closely last year with Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, California Congresswoman Barbara Lee and former Oregon Senator Gordon Smith, a Republican, to pass the legislation.

“There is no reason for this policy to remain on the books,” Kerry said in a statement. “I sincerely hope we can continue to work in a bi-partisan manner with the help of the public health, religious, LGBT and immigration groups to make this proposed rule final as soon as possible.”

### **## New gay ‘house’ for 2010 Olympics**

At each Olympic games, several “houses” are organized for athletes and diplomats to socialize and relax. They include houses like the U.S.A. House, a Russia House and a Holland House. At the 2010 Olympics, a new Pride House has been organized for LGBT athletes and officials.

Dean Nelson, executive of the GayWhistler production company, is organizing the house. His company has been the organizer of Winter Pride, formerly Gay Ski Week. This year they attracted 2,800 people.

The Pride House is believed to be the first house organized for LGBT athletes, their family and friends.

Some Olympic houses require feats to enter. Nelson says the Pride house will be different and that there will be no requirement for entry.

“Our space is very inclusive,” he told The New York Times.

### **## Miss India Transgender to be held in Chennai**

India is set to join a select group of nations like Thailand and the Philippines in holding a national level beauty contest for people who are transgender.

The country’s first Miss India Transgender contest is planned to be held here in December by a city based non-governmental organization (NGO) in an attempt to change the majority view towards this community and also integrate them into the mainstream.

“Transgenders are viewed as sex objects and are ridiculed. We want to change this perception,” A.J. Hariharan, founder secretary of the Indian Community Welfare Organization (ICWO), told IANS.

Speaking to IANS, Ross, a celebrity transgender anchoring television shows, said: “Thailand and other countries hold such events on an annual basis. Such contests will motivate transgender individuals to take care of their health and also increase their self esteem.”

“It will give some meaning to a person’s life with something to aim at.”

Around 150 transgender people from across the country are expected to compete for the Miss India Transgender title. Contests would also be held for Miss Beautiful Eyes, Miss Beautiful Hair and Miss Beautiful Skin.

“We expect around 2,000 people to witness the show. Around 500-1,000 of them will be people who are transgender. Through press and other media we hope to reach out to one core people,” he said.

ICWO is holding talks with NGOs and other AIDS organizations to share the cost burden of the first such event in the country.

Queried about the germination of the beauty contest idea for transgenders, Hariharan said: “We were discussing various contests like cookery, music, song and dance and the like. Then it struck us to hold a beauty contest.”

The judges panel will be equally divided amongst transgender people and famous personalities.

Does not a beauty contest for transgender people with costs being shared by AIDS control societies mean stereotyping of this community as sexual objects with high AIDS risk?

Explaining his point of view, Hariharan said: “The AIDS control societies and NGOs working for the welfare of transgender people have an existing infrastructure. We would like to use that so as to reduce the cost.”

He hopes the corporate sector will come forward with sponsorships either as a commercial opportunity or as their corporate social responsibility activity for the upliftment of a neglected community.

“There will be song and dance performances from those who have made a mark in those fields.”

According to Hariharan, the challenges ahead for holding such an event are not just financial but also many other things – like people opposing the event at the venue.

He hopes to get the Tamil Nadu government’s support for this event citing the government’s decision to set up a welfare board for people who are transgender – the first state in the country to do so.

Kalki Subramaniam, a transgender who runs the Sahodhari Foundation which works for the welfare of transgenders, said: “It is a good idea to have a beauty contest, however, if it is only based on physical beauty, then I am not in favor of it.”

“There should be some intellectual component to the contest also. And if there are questions for the participants they should not be AIDS related – that would be stereotyping the community,” she added.

Subramaniam is also planning to hold a contest in November with more stress on the intellectual component.

**For the latest in legislative and governmental news, call the American Council of the Blind's "Washington Connection" toll-free at (800) 424-8666, 5 p.m. to midnight Eastern time, or visit the Washington Connection online at <http://www.acb.org>.**

### **## DNC governing body gets first trans member**

The Democratic National Committee voted last month to welcome a transgender woman to its ranks, the first time that a major U.S. political party has appointed an openly transgender person to its national governing body.

Transgender activist Barbra Casbar Siperstein, president of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats, a statewide LGBT organization, was among six new LGBT people nominated Sept. 7 by DNC Chair and Virginia Gov. Timothy Kaine for at-large seats on the 447-member DNC.

The six LGBT nominees were among 75 at-large DNC nominees that the full DNC approved Sept. 11 during a meeting in Austin, Texas. The additions bring the total number of LGBT people sitting on the DNC to 25, up from 15 in 2008, and boost the membership of the DNC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Americans Caucus to its highest level since the party officially recognized the caucus in 1998.

"It reaffirms that we are completely a part of the Democratic Party's vision," said Andy Tobias, a gay DNC member from New York who serves as party treasurer.

Siperstein agreed. She said the addition of more LGBT people to the DNC governing body was a significant step.

"All six of the new LGBT at-large members got named to a committee or elected to a caucus office," she said, "so appointments had meaning and were not just for show."

Traditionally, DNC members almost always approve new at-large members to their ranks that are nominated by the party chair. A minority of at-large members appointed by the party chair and members who are elected by Democratic voters in cities and states across the country help comprise the DNC.

In another development viewed as significant by gay Democratic activists, Kaine appointed lesbian DNC member Heather Mizeur of Maryland to the DNC's 50-member Executive Committee.

Mizeur, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, is the second open lesbian to serve on the Executive Committee. The late Jean O'Leary of California was the first open lesbian named to

the DNC Executive Committee, serving on the panel for eight years from the late 1990s to the early 2000s, according to Rick Stafford, chair of the DNC's LGBT Americans Caucus.

In its first official meeting since the 2008 elections, the LGBT Americans Caucus also voted last week to re-elect Stafford as caucus chair. Caucus members also re-elected Sue Lovell, a Houston City Council member, as vice chair, and gay Democratic activist Jason Rae of Rice Lake, Wis., as secretary of the caucus.

In addition to Siperstein, the new LGBT DNC members nominated by Kaine and approved by the full committee include Terry Bean of Portland, Ore., co-founder of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which helps elect LGBT people to public office; Earl Fowlkes of Washington, D.C., a member of the board of the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute, an arm of the Victory Fund, and president of the International Federation of Black Prides; Evan Low of Campbell, Calif., a member of the Campbell City Council; Lupe Valdez of Dallas, the elected sheriff of Dallas County; and Randi Weingarten of New York City, president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

Stafford said DNC regional caucuses, which have authority to elect DNC Executive Committee members, voted Sept. 11 to elect gay DNC members Gary Shay of California and Tonio Burgos of New Jersey to join Mizeur and gay DNC member Raymond Buckley as Executive Committee members. Buckley also serves as a DNC vice chair and chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

Stafford said that in addition to approving Kaine's appointments, the DNC voted to approve a change in its governing charter by adding the category of "gender identity" to its non-discrimination clause.

He said the charter change also included an official change in the name of the LGBT caucus. Before last week's meeting, the caucus was listed as the Gay & Lesbian Americans Caucus. The revision changed the name to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Americans Caucus.

## **## TO YOUR HEALTH**

### **## Gay to Straight – No Way Says the American Psychological Association (APA)**

Not that this is startling, but nevertheless, it is important, especially when it comes to those nightmare institutions such as Exodus International who think that being gay is a choice that one can "pray away".

The American Psychological Association (APA) declared in August 2009 that mental health professionals should not tell gay clients they can become straight through therapy or other treatments.

The APA urges therapists to consider other options for those who feel plagued by their sexuality including the options of celibacy and switching churches.

The APA adopted the resolution with a 125-to-4 vote by the APA's governing council, and in a comprehensive report based on research conducted over a two-year period. The APA's 150,000-member association has officially gone on record in opposition of "reparative therapy" or attempting to change one's sexual orientation.

The report states that no solid evidence exists that people can change their sexual orientation, but does say that some efforts aimed at producing that change could be harmful or even fatal if suicidal tendencies persist.

In the past, the APA had criticized reparative therapy but a six-member task force added weight to this position by examining 83 studies on sexual orientation change conducted since 1960. The comprehensive report has been endorsed by the APA's governing council in Toronto, where the association's annual meeting was held.

### **## Smoking Rate Higher Among LGBT's**

According to the results from a review study conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, gays and lesbians are more likely to smoke (cigarettes) than heterosexual men and women.

The results of the study showed that as high as 37% of Lesbians and 33% of gay men smoke as compared to 18% of heterosexual women and 24% of straight men, concluded in the 2006 National Health Interview Survey.

The reviewed findings came from 42 studies of tobacco use among sexual minorities in the U.S. which were published in a twenty year span between 1987 and May 2007.

Joseph Lee, the lead author of the review and a social research specialist with the Tobacco Prevention and Evaluation Program in the UNC School of Medicine said, quote "Recognizing and understanding the increased risk in a particular population can help policymakers, health-care officials and others provide support for people more likely to start smoking or who may want to stop smoking."

End

Lee contributed the higher smoking rates among gays and lesbians in part to, "the success of tobacco industry's targeted marketing to gays and lesbians, as well as time spent in smoky social venues and stress from discrimination."

### **## Sex Twice A Week: Reduces Flu Risk, Heart Disease, Depression**

Sure sex is enjoyable, but would you believe it's good for you, too? There are some surprising health benefits to sex that can not only put a spring in your step but help you to achieve better health overall. Understanding just how sex is good for you and what it can offer to your bigger picture of health can be quite enlightening. So if you needed a reason for sex before, now you can find several that can prove just how sex is good for you and what it can do to make you feel better and even look better.

#### **Health Benefits Of Sex You Never Knew**

1. **It Can Boost Your Immune System.** There are studies that show having sex at least once to twice a week releases certain antibodies within the body that help to boost the immune system. This results in less colds and viruses and ultimately creates a better picture of health. So it goes to show that regular sex can boost the immune system and leave an individual less likely to catch the common cold or flu.

2. **Sex Burns Calories.** Though many recognize that sex is a physical activity in nature, they may not realize that it is legitimately an activity that burns some major calories. This means that you can enjoy sex on a regular basis and look at it as an excellent and enjoyable way of burning excess calories.

Who would have thought that something enjoyable could help you keep up with your fitness regimen?

3. It Reduces the Likelihood of Depression. Studies show that those individuals who engage in regular sex are far less likely to suffer from depression.

This is due in large part to the fact that certain hormones and endorphins are released during sex that can leave a person feeling happier. So the more frequently one engages in sex, the happier they are overall, and the less likely they are to feel any sort of depression in the long run.

4. It Can Help with Pain Relief. Along the same lines as a reduction in depression is the fact that sex can act as a sort of pain relief. As endorphins and certain hormones are released throughout the body, they go to work on relieving any pain felt within the body. So if you are suffering from a headache, sore throat, or any sort of minor pain, sex can go after the pain and help to relieve it. No more excuses of having a headache apply here!

5. Reduces Your Risk of Heart Disease. Your risk of heart disease or even stroke goes down dramatically when you engage in regular sex, at least twice a week that is. The body responds well to this physical activity and therefore your chances of developing heart disease later in life go down dramatically.

Need I say more? Probably not, and this is probably a good place to stop. But isn't it just wonderful to know that one of nature's most basic activities is good for you in so many ways?

### **## Accessible World presents "My Journey with Weight Loss" October 8, 2009**

Accessible World is very pleased to welcome Mrs. Vickie Parker into our virtual family. Vickie is a marriage and family therapist and will be hosting a weekly program discussing her journey with weight loss.

She will discuss her struggles with weight loss and ask us to share our similar issues with her. We wish to make it very clear that Vickie will not be practicing therapy, but just sharing and perhaps together we can come to terms with our weight issues.

Vickie proposes that we consider the following topics:

Getting started, where to begin?

How can I make this time losing weight different?

Why lose weight?

What does weight loss mean to you in your life?

If I were thin, what would my life look like?

Why self-talk is so important in developing an awareness of food?

Why not eat with gusto and relish every bite?

What other life or behavioral changes will I need to make?

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. PDT, 8:00 p.m. MDT, 9:00 p.m. CDT, 10:00 p.m. EDT  
and elsewhere in the world Friday 2:00 GMT.

Approximately 15 minutes prior to the event start time; go to the Accessible World Classroom at:

<http://conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs0f1c528bd81b>

Or, alternatively,

Select the Accessible World Classroom at: [www.accessibleworld.org](http://www.accessibleworld.org)

## **## Breast cancer risk and blind women**

Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) have found that totally blind women have more than a 50 percent reduction in breast cancer compared to visually impaired women and that this same group of totally blind women have an earlier menarche, or first menstrual period, when compared to blind girls with some light perception. These findings are published online in two separate papers appearing in *Cancer Causes and Control* and *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*.

The role of light on human reproductive development is unclear and much of the research has been focused on the differences between blind women with varying levels of vision compared to women with no visual impairment. Researchers in these studies evaluated the differences in nearly 1,400 blind women who either had no light perception or were blind but retained some light perception.

In the first study, researchers report that of the 66 cases of breast cancer, there was a significant difference in the number of cases in each group even when controlling for known reproductive risk factors for breast cancer, with 11 cases of breast cancer in blind women with no light perception compared to 55 cases in blind women who retained some light perception.

In their second study, researchers looked at the age of the first menstrual period in these blind women and found that blind women with no light perception have their first period at an earlier age when compared to blind women with light perception. Researchers also found that the earlier the loss of light perception in blind girls, the earlier the age of the first period.

"These reproductive differences are opposite of what you would expect for a group with decreased cancer rates," said Erin Evans, the lead author on both papers and a doctoral candidate in the Division of Sleep Medicine at BWH. "An earlier menarche is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer in sighted women, so taken together; these two recent findings suggest that it is not reproductive differences that account for the lower risk of breast cancer among blind women. More research is needed to examine how production of the hormone, melatonin, and the internal circadian coordination may be responsible for this observed lower risk of breast cancer," she added.

"Although these findings are not entirely new discoveries, they are more detailed than previous research and provide additional insight into the role that light plays in cancer risk as it relates not only to blind women with no light perception, but also to shift workers and to those who sleep for short durations throughout the night," said Steven Lockley, PhD, senior author of the papers and a researcher in the Division of Sleep Medicine at BWH.

## **## IN REVIEW**

### **## PORTRATES IN LAVENDER: Flash Biographies of Some Famous Lesbians for the Newly Out Lesbian**

Book

By Connie Torrissi

Discover the Inspiring Achievements of the World's Most Famous Lesbians

They founded enduring institutions, wrote some of the most famous works in English literature, served in Congress and won the Nobel Prize. All of them were lesbians - and while their sexual orientation was often obscured from the public in their own time, today the full character of their lives can be celebrated.

Portraits in Lavender presents 15 of the world's most accomplished women who loved women (and one very notable axe murderer - just to show lesbians aren't perfect, either). With its predominantly positive message of role models and sense of history, it's recommended reading for anyone coming out or thinking about doing so. This engaging book will introduce you to:

- First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, whose correspondence reveals a passionate romance with the journalist Lorena Hickok
- Iconic American author Willa Cather, who went by "William" for four years as she led a masculine double life
- Artist and sculptor Rosa Bonheur, whose decision to wear pants in the 19th century required police permission
- Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, one of the most articulate and powerful women ever to serve in Washington
- Katharine Lee Bates, the woman who penned America the Beautiful - now one of America's favorite anthems

No matter whether you're newly out, questioning or a longtime out lesbian, Portraits in Lavender will change the way you see lesbian history - and your own place in it.

From the Author

One goal of my book is to introduce some famous lesbians to modern-day teen lesbians who not only need role models of achievement, but also the knowledge that they are not alone. The book is also for women beyond their teen years who are just coming out. The book is for any lesbian who wants a glimpse into

the lives of historical women who just happened to be lesbians. Such women as Susan B. Anthony, Jane Addams and others will comfort and inspire the reader.

## **## BASKETBALL JONES**

Book

by E. Lynn Harris

AJ Richardson, the hero of Harris's raucous latest, has been the secret boyfriend of NBA star Drayton Jones for seven years. AJ is only too happy to keep their relationship under wraps—after all, with European trips and spending sprees financed by Dray, what's there to complain about? But when gold-digger Judi Ledbetter nets Dray and his fat wallet, things get tricky. Soon, they're married, Judi gets pregnant, and she's gunning to drive AJ out of Dray's life permanently. Blackmail, intrigue and double-crosses round out this fun little romp.

## **## Ask Dot**

Dear Dot,



I'm just wondering if you have any advice on how I can support a close friend since childhood who is transitioning from female to male. I absolutely adore him, but sometimes I feel so bad for him because he has to go through a lot of awful stuff with society and his family. I know I can't fix things for him, but is there anything I should be doing/saying to constructively make him feel better? What should I do when he gets depressed?

Supportive in San Antonio

Dear Supportive,

It's great that you want to be the best friend possible. Helping a loved one deal with the pressures of society and family difficulties is not easy, but there are things you can do and resources you can seek out to help you and your friend cope. One consideration is to remember that your feelings and your friend's feelings about being transgender may diverge; that is, while you sometimes feel bad for him, he may or may not be feeling bad for himself. Acknowledging your observations that he faces some hard situations and asking for his perspective might be a good way to begin a conversation.

As an opener, you could opt for frankness and say something like "I've noticed that [so-and-so] is having trouble accepting you being a guy — does that bother you? Can I do anything?" Or you might want a more general, subtle approach, like "It seems like you've had a rough time with your family lately, do you want to talk about it?"

Talking with peers can help you and your friend learn ways to deal with difficult situations, hear from others with similar experiences, and feel like you are part of a larger community. You might consider looking for a support group in your area where you and your friend can meet others who identify as transgender or are in a supportive relationship with a trans-identified person. ([www.TGForum.com](http://www.TGForum.com) has a listing of transgender support groups by state and country.)

Another way to show support for your friend could be to join an organization or advocacy group on your own.

Having open and honest conversations about your friend's and your own experiences with gender identity and expression may be a good way for you both to express your feelings and show each other your concern. Try being open and honest about how you are feeling and ask him to share his feelings and the type of support he appreciates. At the same time, be aware of his needs and don't pressure him to talk. Above all, it's a good idea to treat your friend as a well-rounded person, who has many identities, interests, and experiences. If he senses that you feel bad for him and/or pity his situation, this could be doing more harm than good. During your conversation you might also ask your friend what he loves and appreciates about himself, so that you can remind him of his great qualities when he does feel down.

If he is feeling depressed, you can do your best to support him, listen to him, and let him know that you care. You may consider encouraging him to see a professional who has experience dealing with these issues.

Dot wishes you and your friend the best life has to offer!

## **## BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **ADVERTISE IN INSIDEOUT**

This newsletter welcomes advertisements from businesses, organizations, educational programs, as well as for products, and services.

Blind Pride's Board of Directors retains sole discretion to reject ads, which are considered to be offensive or inappropriate for the intended audience of the newsletter.

**INSIDEOUT** is published in, October, March, and June. Material to be published of interest to the membership is welcome. All material to be included must be received prior to the first of the month prior to publication. Items for publication should be sent to: Don Brown, Editor [president@blind-lgbt-pride.org](mailto:president@blind-lgbt-pride.org)

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## **# 2009 Amended Constitution and Bylaws**

As adopted by the officers of Blind, Friends, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People elected on July 7, 1999 in Los Angeles, California

- Amended by the membership on July 5, 2000 in Louisville, Kentucky
- Amended by the membership on July 5, 2002 in Houston, Texas
- Amended by the officers on February 13, 2003 through meeting electronically to be ratified by the membership on July 8, 2003 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Amended by the membership on July 8, 2003 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Amended by the membership on July 5, 2004 in Birmingham, Alabama
- Amended by the membership on July 4, 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada
- Amended by the membership on July 3, 2006 in Jacksonville, Florida
- Amended by the membership on July 7, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky
- Amended by the membership on July 6, 2009 in Orlando, Florida

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **NAME:**

The name of this organization shall be Blind LGBT Pride International known as Blind LGBT Pride.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of Blind LGBT Pride is to provide for the betterment of the lives of those who are visually impaired and who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

- A. Through a membership organization primarily of visually impaired persons who accept and affirm the purposes of Blind LGBT Pride.
- B. By providing a forum for the views and concerns of visually impaired persons interested in issues facing those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.
- C. By providing information about publications of interest to members that are produced in accessible format and by encouraging the production of such material in accessible format.
- D. By facilitating the free exchange of ideas, opinions and information relative to matters of concern to blind people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.
- E. By seeking to assure adequate services to those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender by agencies and institutions serving the blind.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **AFFILIATION:**

- A. Affiliation with ACB  
Blind LGBT Pride is organized and chartered as an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind. As an affiliate, Blind LGBT Pride and each of its members and affiliates individually, are bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Council of the Blind.
- B. Affiliation with Blind LGBT Pride
  1. Blind LGBT Pride may grant recognition to any organization that seeks affiliation with Blind LGBT Pride at the Annual Convention of Blind LGBT Pride by majority vote, provided such organizations affirm the constitutional purposes of Blind LGBT Pride and that such organizations adhere to the Constitution and Bylaws of Blind LGBT Pride.
  2. Each member of an affiliate must be a member of Blind LGBT Pride.
  3. A majority of members of such affiliate must be legally blind as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.
  4. The Board of Directors may grant provisional affiliation to an affiliate between conventions, but such grant must be ratified by a majority of members present and voting at the convention immediately following such action.
  5. The Board of Directors may suspend the charter of an affiliate for cause, but such action must be affirmed by a majority of members present and voting at the convention immediately following such action.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **MEETINGS:**

- A. A regular meeting of this organization shall be held once a year to be known as the ANNUAL CONVENTION.
- B. A MAJORITY of all votes of voting members in good standing at the CONVENTION shall constitute a QUORUM to do business.
- C. Regularly scheduled board meeting shall be open to the membership, pursuant to published guidelines established by the Board.
- D. Procedure: In the absence of procedures contained herein or in the Bylaws, all proceedings, of this organization shall be governed by ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **MEMBERSHIP, VOTING AND DUES**

- A. Membership  
Any person who affirms the purposes of this organization is eligible to become a member of Blind LGBT Pride providing she or he complies with the provisions herein.
- B. Voting  
Each voting member and affiliate in good standing attending an Annual Convention of Blind LGBT Pride shall be entitled to one vote. A person casting a vote on behalf of his or her affiliate may cast both his or her individual vote and the vote for his or her affiliate.

- C. Dues  
Members shall remit dues in accordance with the Bylaws herein contained.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **OFFICERS:**

- A. The Board expects of itself and its members ethical and businesslike conduct. This commitment includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum in group and individual behavior when acting as Directors. Failure to do so will subject a Board Member to disciplinary actions contained in Section H of this Article.
- B. The officers of this organization shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the Immediate Past President and three At-Large Board Members.
- C. These officers together constitute the organization's Board of Directors.
- D. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall be legally blind.
- E. The term of office of each officer shall be two years and shall begin at the close of the Annual Convention at which he or she is elected. A one-time exception to this will be made so that the Secretary and Board Member At-Large elected at the 2000 convention will serve one year terms, these positions then being elected for two year terms again starting in 2001.
- F. Only a voting member of the organization may be elected to office.
- G. If a vacancy should occur between Annual Conventions in any position on the Board of Directors, except the President, the Board of Directors, in conformity with the requirements for holding office contained herein or in the Bylaws, may by a majority vote elect an individual to serve in the position until the next Annual Convention, at which time, if necessary, the membership shall elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the term. If a vacancy should occur in the office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to that office and shall serve for the remainder of the term.
- H. Removal from office:
  - 1. An officer may be removed from office for her or his failure to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws.
  - 2. The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend a Board Member, which will result in permanent removal from office if the Board Member in question does not request a hearing.
  - 3. The Board of Directors may vote for an officer's suspension only after the officer for whom suspension is contemplated has been given twenty-one days' notice at his or her postal address of record in a pre-determined format which is accessible to that individual or at an email address that had been given by that individual as the preferred location to contact her or him.
  - 4. A quorum for a meeting to suspend an officer shall be three Board Members and the vote to suspend must be unanimous.
  - 5. The officer against whom suspension is contemplated may not cast a vote.
  - 6. If the suspended Board Member does request a hearing prior to the next Annual Convention, a two-thirds vote by Blind LGBT Pride members present and voting at that convention shall be required to confirm permanent removal from office.

7. Each affiliate shall name a representative to attend board meetings, but such representative shall not vote

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CONVENTION AND OF THE OFFICERS:**

The Annual Convention of this organization shall be the ultimate authority within this organization on all matters except those matters delegated herein or in the Bylaws to the final authority or discretion of the officers.

- A. Officers of this organization shall perform the usual functions of their offices as prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise provided for herein or in the Bylaws.
- B. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of this organization between conventions, provided that it shall make no policy decisions and take no official action in conflict with existing decisions or actions of the convention.
- C. Any voting member of this organization may make or second motions, propose or second nominations, serve on committees, and are eligible for election to office at each Annual Convention or special membership meeting of this organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **AMENDMENTS:**

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any Annual Convention of this organization, Constitutional amendments by a two-thirds vote and Bylaw amendments by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **DISSOLUTION:**

This organization may be dissolved only at an Annual Convention by a four-fifths vote of the members present and voting.

- A. Any assets held by the organization upon its dissolution shall become the property of the American Council of the Blind, or a like-minded organization.

## **BYLAWS**

### **BYLAW 1**

#### **DUES:**

- A. Dues for membership in the organization shall be twelve dollars per year and shall be paid to the Treasurer or to the person or persons designated by the President.
- B. Student membership shall be six dollars, per year and shall be paid to the Treasurer or to the person or persons designated by the President.
- C. Lifetime memberships shall be three hundred dollars, and shall be paid to the Treasurer or to the person or persons designated by the President. Lifetime membership dues shall be paid in one installment or in a series of installments over a period not to exceed one year.
- D. Dues may be subject to change by a majority vote by members present at the Annual Convention.

- E. Dues may be waived for an individual at the discretion of the president or his or her designee.

## **BYLAW 2**

### **VOTING BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Between annual conventions, the Board of Directors may cast any needed vote by mail or by electronic means.

## **BYLAW 3**

### **IRS COMPLIANCE:**

- A. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.
- B. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.
- C. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **BYLAW 4**

### **AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Each group requesting affiliate status must submit the following, for Blind LGBT Pride Board approval, prior to receiving recognition as an affiliate
  1. A copy of the proposed affiliate's Constitution and Bylaws.
  2. A full membership list with each members full information as set forth by the Blind LGBT Pride board and ACB.
  3. A signed "Service Mark and Trade Name Agreement".
- B. Each affiliate must keep their Membership list submitted to Blind LGBT Pride up to date.
- C. Each affiliate will pay Blind LGBT Pride dues, as specified in these bylaws, each January for all of its members.

## **BYLAW 5**

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

- A. Blind LGBT Pride will maintain an "Endowment Fund" for the purpose of generating interest income to be used for services such as web costs and convention program support.

- B. All funds from “Life memberships” and other donations specifically donated to be placed in the “Endowment Fund” will be added to the fund and the fund will be invested in “Secure” investments. The interest will be re-invested until the principle reaches ten thousand dollars, at which time the interest can be transferred to the convention or general account.