



**International Association  
of Pride Organizers**

A white outline map of the world is centered on a solid blue background. The map shows the continents and country borders. A rainbow-colored arc is positioned at the top of the page, above the map, transitioning from red on the left to yellow, green, and blue on the right.

# **2009 Annual Report**

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## InterPride Inc. – International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Pride Organizers

Founded in 1982 InterPride is the worlds largest organization for organizers of Pride events. InterPride is incorporated in the State of Texas in the USA and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under US law. It is funded by membership dues, sponsorship, merchandise sales and donations from individuals and organizations.

### Our mission

It's InterPride's mission to promote Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Pride on an international level and to encourage diverse communities to hold and attend Pride Events. InterPride increases networking, communication and education among Pride Organizations. InterPride works together with other LGBTI and Human Rights organizations.

[www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org)

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## Introduction

When InterPride chose the International Theme for 2009 of “Your Rights Our Rights Human Rights” we didn’t predict how relevant it would be in the current world climate. Many of our brothers and sisters around the globe are still facing incredible levels of political and social homophobia, discrimination, persecution, and, in some cases, incarceration simply based on their sexuality or sero-status. These breaches of basic human rights cannot be tolerated.

InterPride, through our world-wide network of Pride organizers will constantly monitor and vigilantly oppose any and all such injustices against our community, bearing political and societal pressure wherever possible.

There is no greater time of importance for Pride marches and festivals than right now. With visibility comes a very strong element of power. With participation comes an equally strong message that all human beings should be treated with equality, respect and dignity. Pride events achieve this in a manner that nothing else can match.

As you held your events throughout this year, we hope you gave a thought to those people and organizations facing these challenges, know that you are making a huge difference, and be strong in your resolve that together we can realize a world where tolerance and acceptance of gender, sexuality, race, religion and gender identity is the norm.

On behalf of the InterPride Board of Directors and our host, St. Pete’s Pride, we are pleased to welcome you to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual World Conference and hope you enjoy every aspect of it. With Pride we can achieve great things!

Trisha Clymore & Mark Frederick Chapman  
Co-Presidents

## Corporate Governance

InterPride is managed by nine Executive Committee members and a board of currently twenty five Regional Directors representing twenty regions. Listed here is the 2009 Board, along with their member organization affiliation:

### Executive Committee

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**Trisha Clymore**

Co-President  
Atlanta Pride Committee, GA, USA

**Mark Frederick Chapman**

Co-President  
CSD Zürich, Switzerland

**Alan Reiff**

Secretary  
Heritage of Pride, New York, NY, USA

**Ross Chapman**

Treasurer until February 2009  
Pride Toronto, ON, Canada

**Jeremiah Megowan**

Vice President Member Services  
Interim Treasurer since February 2009  
Pride Day Equality Project, Eugene, OR, USA

**Caryl Dolinko**

Vice President Operations  
Vancouver Pride Society, BC, Canada

**Dona Hatch**

Vice President Operations  
Human Rights Alliance, Santa Fee, NM, USA

**Billy Urich**

Vice President Operations  
Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally & Festival, CT, USA

**Hans De Meyer**

Vice President Operations  
Belgian Lesbian and Gay Pride, Bussels, Belgium

### Regional Directors

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**Frank Rubio**

Region 1 Director  
Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, CA, USA

**James Gruender**

Region 1 Director  
Phoenix Pride, AZ USA

**Frank Leonzal**

Region 2 Director  
Out in Tacoma Pride, WA USA

**Debra Martin**

Region 3 Director  
Unity Foundation, San Antonio, TX USA

**Tony Ross**

Region 3 Director  
Albuquerque Pride, NM, USA

**Michael Gorsuch**

Region 4 Director  
Capital City Pride – Des Moines, IA, USA

**Todd Saporito**

Region 4 Director  
Cleveland Pride, OH, USA

**Shel Sheffield**

Region 5 Director  
Atlanta Pride Committee, GA, USA

**Charles Richards**

Region 5 Director  
Roanoke Pride, VA, USA

**Doreen De Jesus**

Region 6 Director  
Brooklyn Pride, NY, USA

**Keri Aulita**

Region 6 Director  
Boston Pride, MA, USA

**John Boychuk**

Region 7 Director  
Vancouver Pride Society, BC, Canada

**Marion Steele**

Region 7 Director  
Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau, ON, Canada

**Tomasz Baczkowski**

Region 8 Director  
Fundacja Rownosci, Warsaw, Poland

**Svyatosov Sementsov**

Region 8 Director  
TEMA, Minsk, Belarus

**Paul Birrell**

Region 10 Director  
Pride London, United Kingdom

**Kristin Saevarsdottir**

Region 11 Director  
Reykjavik Gay Pride, Iceland

**Hakan Steenberg**

Region 11 Director  
Stockholm Pride, Sweden

**Patrick Hadi Huber**

Region 12 Director  
CSD Zurich, Switzerland

**Stefan Baier**

Region 12 Director  
CSD Konstanz, Germany

**Andrea Gilbert**

Region 15 Director  
Athens Pride, Greece

**Chesterfield Samba**

Region 16 Director  
GALZ – Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

**Toni Reis**

Region 17 Director  
Associacao Paranaense da Parada da Diversidade  
Curitiba, Parana, Brazil

**Sahran Abeysundara**

Region 19 Director  
Equal Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Brett Hayhoe**

Region 20 Director  
Pride March Victoria, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

The Regions 9, 13, 14 and 18 are currently not represented by a Regional Director but monitored by the Executive Committee.

# Member Organizations

InterPride counted 134 member organizations in the year 2009.  
96 North American, 3 South American, 30 European, 2 Middle Eastern, 1 African, 1 Asian and 1 Australian member organization.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Albuquerque Pride

Albuquerque, NM, USA

### Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Allentown, PA, USA

### Chesapeake Pride Festival

Annapolis, MD, USA

### Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc.

Atlanta, GA, USA

### Central Alabama Pride Inc.

Birmingham, AL, USA

### Upstate Pride

Boiling Springs, SC, USA

### Boise Pride, Inc.

Boise, ID, USA

### The Boston Pride Committee

Boston, MA, USA

### Brooklyn Pride, Inc.

Brooklyn, NY, USA

### Orange County GLBT Pride Night at Knott's Berry Farm

Buena Park, CA, USA

### Pride Vermont

Burlington, VT, USA

### Pride Calgary Planning Committee

Calgary, AB, Canada

### Rainbow Pride of WV, Inc.

Charleston, WV, USA

### Pride Charlotte

Charlotte, NC, USA

### Pride Chicago

Chicago, IL, USA

### Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH, USA

### Cleveland Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Pride, Inc.

Cleveland, OH, USA

### Cleveland Pride

Cleveland, OH, USA

### South Carolina Pride Movement, Inc.

Columbia, SC, USA

### Stonewall Columbus

Columbus, OH, USA

### Pride/Fierte Cornwall

Cornwall, ON, Canada

### QC Pride, Inc.

Davenport, IA, USA

### Capital City Pride – Des Moines

Des Moines, IA, USA

### Motor City Pride

Detroit, MI, USA

### Pride Committee of North Carolina

Durham, NC, USA

### Edmonton Pride Week Society

Edmonton, AB, Canada

### Erie Gay Pride, Inc.

Erie, PA, USA

### Erie Gay News

Erie, PA, USA

### Pride-SWFL, Inc.

Estero, FL, USA

### Pride Day Equality Project, Inc.

Eugene, OR, USA

### Humboldt Pride Inc.

Eureka, CA, USA

### FM Pride

Fargo, ND, USA

### Northern Arizona Pride Association

Flagstaff, AZ, USA

### Pride South Florida

Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

### Fort Wayne Pride

Fort Wayne, IN, USA

### Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association

Fort Worth, TX, USA

### West Michigan Pride, Inc.

Grand Rapids, MI, USA

### Pride Festival of Central PA

Harrisburg, PA, USA

### Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc.

Hartford, CT, USA

### Montana Pride Network

Helena, MT, USA

### Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.

Henderson, NV, USA

### Pride Houston

Houston, TX, USA

### Indy Pride Inc.

Indianapolis, IN, USA

### Jersey City

Jersey City, NJ, USA

### Hawaii Island Pride

Kailua Kona, HI, USA

**Show Me Pride**

Kansas City, MO, USA

**Okanagan Rainbow Coalition**

Kewohlna, BC, Canada

**Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride Inc.**

Long Beach, CA, USA

**Pride Alliance Long Island.**

Long Island, NY, USA

**Kentuckiana Pride Festival**

Louisville, KY, USA

**Emerald Coast Pride, Inc.**

Lynn Haven, FL, USA

**SouthCentral Minnesota  
Pride, Inc.**

Mankato, MN, USA

**PrideFest, Inc.**

Milwaukee, WI, USA

**Twin Cities Pride**

Minneapolis, MN, USA

**Mobile Alabama Pride, Inc.**

Mobile, AL, USA

**River of Pride Moncton**

Moncton, NB, Canada

**Pride of Monterey County**

Monterey, CA, USA

**Celebrations De la Fierle Montreal**

Montreal, QC, Canada

**Nashville Pride**

Nashville, TN, USA

**Jersey Pride, Inc.**

New Brunswick, NJ, USA

**Heritage of Pride**

New York, NY, USA

**Mark Nelson Events**

New York, NY, USA

**Pride of Greater Fort Lauderdale**

Oakland Park, FL, USA

**Ocala Pride Incorporated**

Ocala, FL, USA

**Capital City Pride**

Olympia, WA, USA

**Rainbow Celebrations**

Omaha, NE, USA

**Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau**

Ottawa, ON, Canada

**Philly Pride Presents, Inc.**

Philadelphia, PA, USA

**Phoenix Pride**

Phoenix, AZ, USA

**Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh**

Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Rhode Island Pride**

Providence, RI, USA

**Reno Gay Pride**

Reno, NE, USA

**Gay Pride Virginia**

Richmond, VA, USA

**Roanoke Pride**

Roanoke, VA, USA

**Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley  
– GAGV**

Rochester, NY, USA

**The Utah Pride Center**

Salt Lake City, UT, USA

**Unity Foundation, Inc.**

San Antonio, TX, USA

**San Diego LGBT Pride Inc.**

San Diego, CA, USA

**Folsom Street Events**

San Francisco, CA, USA

**San Francisco LGBT Pride  
Celebration Committee**

San Francisco, CA, USA

**Pacific Pride Foundation**

Santa Barbara, CA, USA

**Human Right Alliance**

Santa Fe, NM, USA

**Savannah Pride, Inc.**

Savannah, GA, USA

**Seattle Out And Proud**

Seattle, WA, USA

**Pride St Louis**

St. Louis, MO, USA

**St. Pete Pride**

St. Petersburg, FL, USA

**CNY Pride**

Syracuse, NY, USA

**Out In Tacoma**

Tacoma, WA, USA

**Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber  
of Commerce**

Austin, TX, USA

**Pride Toronto**

Toronto, ON, Canada

**Tucson Pride, Inc.**

Tucson, AZ, USA

**Vancouver Pride Society**

Vancouver, BC, Canada

**Long Island Pride Parade, Inc.**

Wantagh, NY, USA

**Capital Pride Alliance, Inc.**

Washington, DC, USA

**Christopher Street West /  
LA Pride**

West Hollywood, CA, USA

**Winnipeg Pride**

Winnipeg, MB, Canada

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**SOUTH AMERICA****Grupo Reveja – Acao e  
Pesquisa da Diversidade Sexual**

Catanduva, Sao Paulo, Brasil

**Coalicion Orgullo Arcoiris**

Levittown, Puerto Rico

**Tijuana GLBT Pride**

Tijuana, Mexico

## EUROPE

### Athens Pride

Athens, Greece

### ACEGAL Barcelona

Barcelona, Spain

### CSD Berlin

Berlin, Germany

### Verein für sexuelle

### Emanzipation e.V

Braunschweig, Germany

### Pride in Brighton and Hove

Brighton, United Kingdom

### Belgian Lesbian and

### Gay Pride vzw

Brussels, Belgium

### Cardiff-Wales Mardi Gras

Butetown, Cardiff, Wales

### Genderdoc-M

Chisinau, Moldova

### Hamburg Pride e.V

Hamburg, Germany

### CSD Konstanz e.V.

Konstanz, Germany

### Pride London

London, United Kingdom

### AEGAL Madrid

Madrid, Spain

### Manchester Pride

Manchester, United Kingdom

### Lesbian and Gay Pride de Marseille

Marseille, France

### ARCIGAY Milano C.I.G.

Milano, Italy

### GayBelarus

Minsk, Belarus

### Project GayRussia

Moscow, Russia

### LuST e.V. / CSD Nordwest

Oldenburg, Germany

### Skeive Dager Oslo

Oslo, Norway

### PortugalGay.PT

Porto, Portugal

### Reykjavik Gay Pride

Reykjavik, Iceland

### Mozaika

Riga, Latvia

### Circolo di Cultura

### Omosessuale Mario Mieli

Rome, Italy

### Roze Zaterdag

Rotterdam, Nederland

### Stockholm Pride Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

### Outburst UK

Streatham/London,  
United Kingdom

### IG CSD Stuttgart e.V

Stuttgart, Germany

### Hosi Wien

Vienna, Austria

### Fundacja Rownosci

Warszawa, Poland

### Verein Gay Pride – CSD Zürich

Zürich, Switzerland

## MIDDLE EAST

### Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance

Jerusalem, Israel

### The Aguda Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv, Israel

## AFRICA

### GALZ – Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe

Harare, Zimbabwe

## ASIA

### Progay Philippines

Caloocan City, Philippines

## AUSTRALIA

### Pride March Victoria

Melbourne, Vic, Australia



# InterPride Inc. 2009 Annual Report

## SUMMARY

*By Mark Frederick Chapman and Trisha Clymore,  
Co-Presidents of InterPride*

This Annual Report spans the time between last years conference in Vancouver Canada, from October 27 – 29, 2008 up to the 2009 conference in St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

### 2008 AGM and World Conference Vancouver Canada

The conference host organization, together with the Conference Structure and Intergity Committee, were once again challenged by the effort to bring the interests and expectations of our diverse members (large established and small rising Prides) under one umbrella. The variety of workshops offered at the Vancouver conference reflected this attempt. The conference was a success with 160 delegates from 17 countries attending. Our hosts Vancouver Pride Society did themselves proud with the organization and offered attractive opportunities to learn, network and enjoy Vancouver. The Annual General Meeting was well organized and problems duly solved.

### Organization

At the conference in Vancouver new officers were elected to the executive committee and the board, others were confirmed in their position. The new board is listed on pages 4–5.

The current Board would like to again thank the following board members whose terms ended at the last AGM: **Russell Murphy** Co-President, **Mike Iacono** Secretary, **Terry Fleming** Vice President Member Services, **Katrin Jonsdottir** Vice President and **David Hill** Vice President. Also many Regional Directors resigned from their positions. The Executive Committee and the board thank all of them for all of their dedication and hard work for the organization.

Due to illness **Ross Chapman** left the board this past February. The board was sorry to see Ross leave – he had contributed immensely to the development of InterPride. We wish him well. At the midyear board meeting the board appointed Jer Megowan, Vice President Member Services, to serve as Interim Treasurer until the AGM in October of 2009.

### Board and Committee work

During the board meetings new goals were identified and tasks appointed to the committees. Most of these goals have been achieved however, some are still on our slate. Most notable this year, were our efforts to increase the quality and amount of communication to our members and within the board. Regular **e-letters** and a brand **new website** to be launched at the 2009 Annual General Meeting are a positive proof of our efforts.

The **strategic planning committee** continued its work and is collecting data through surveys from our members. The collected information should help the board learn more about our members and their needs. The information e.g. shall serve to create more tailored workshops. It will also give us better information to present and market InterPride to sponsors, donors other LGBTI organizations and the wider public.

**Skype conference calls** were put in place this year to facilitate more communication. Where it proved useful to a degree there were several technical issues as well as not being practical for all board members to be able to join in on the calls. Since InterPride is truly spanning the globe, the time difference between the continents is vast and made it very difficult if not impossible for all board members to participate. We will nevertheless continue to use Teleconferencing as means to communicate on the board and continue to look for better ways to do this.

The **virtual office** based on Microsoft SharePoint introduced at the conference in Vancouver is beginning to become the backbone of our document storage. Accessible for every board member, it provides all data and documents produced by this organization. The main idea is to protect the joint knowledge of the organization and to prevent the loss of information through demission of board members. It's serving as an information pool for all officers and adds to the required transparency of the organization.

### WorldPride

InterPride decided that in future WorldPride's shall be licensed every 5 years correlating with the anniversary of Stonewall beginning with the year 2014. There is an option though, that leaves other dates open, but these alternate dates need to be approved by the WorldPride Committee and the member orga-

nizations. Prior to the new licensing rule Stockholm Pride and Pride London bid for WorldPride 2012. A majority of members voted for the bid presented by Pride London and was subsequently awarded with the license.

### Funding

Our aims to receive alternate funding were immensely dampened through the world wide economic crisis. Some of our trusted partners did not support us this year. We are happy though, that we could renew the contract with Full Media, publishers of the official InterPride magazine, securing us yearly revenue of US\$15,000+ for the next 5 years.

The offer from Club Mondial Travel Ltd. has been updated and a contract will be presented to the board for approval, hopefully we can sign the agreement at the AGM. This would be the first truly international benefit for all our members and would generate extra income for both members and InterPride in the next 3 or 5 years depending on the duration of the agreement.

### Membership

The joint membership agreement between InterPride and EPOA for members of EPOA (European Pride Organisers Association), has been considered by both sides as beneficial for both organizations. The duration of the agreement is for two years starting at the 2007 AGM in Zurich and terminating at the coming AGM. The re-negotiation of this agreement will be a topic for the board to discuss at the AGM.

### Dear InterPride Members,

Annual General Meetings and World Conferences are always a time of reflection: A time to take stock of what has been achieved in the previous twelve months and start thinking about how to move forward through the ensuring year.

Throughout my 2 years as Co-President, I have served as the Conference Structure and Integrity Chair and as Scholarship co-chair with Paul Sanders, I have strived to hear the concerns of the membership and guide the organization in a direction that everyone can be truly proud of. This has not always been an easy task but one that I have enjoyed immensely.

Over the past year I was pleased to have been a part of extending the Pride Magazine contract realizing an increase in payments to the organization over its five year tenure. This brings great exposure to InterPride and much needed revenue. It was a privilege to attend two regional meetings: CAPI (Region 1) in San Francisco in February and NERP (Region 6) in Philadelphia in March. We had a very good mid-year board meeting in St. Petersburg (FL) in April.

My Co-President, Mark Frederick Chapman, has been a pleasure to work with for the past year. I have a deep appreciation for him and his ability to see all sides of an issue. I have enjoyed working with him and very much appreciate his level headedness, his vision, his passion for Pride and for Human Rights.

Every organization is only as good as its members, and I am honoured to serve with such a great group of dedicated men and women as yourselves.

*Yours in Pride,  
Trisha Clymore, Co-President*

## A personal note

It was a very great honor for me to be elected as Co-President of InterPride and President of EPOA at the respective 2008 AGM's in Zurich and Vancouver. The trust the members invested in me has made me work with enthusiasm and dedication for both organizations to justify this responsibility. Apart from chairing the board meetings, directing, coordinating and motivating the board (together with Trisha Clymore, my Co-President) I have been utilizing my positions to promote InterPride whenever I could and to give interviews where ever requested.

For the past four years I was involved on the board of EuroPride 2009 to organize and promote the event on a worldwide level. I'm very happy to say it was a great success not only for the gay community in Zurich but also for the city, the region, the nation and Europe. The five week event has left a sustainable mark on Zurich and Switzerland. I'm sure that CSD Zurich will use the extra boost received to continue to produce this unforgettable event on Zurich's annual calendar.

In May, on the invitation from Amnesty International and the Swiss National Television, I visited the Baltic Pride in Riga to show our support and to march with our friends from Mozaika under massive police protection and outrageous verbal attacks from counter protesters. I also had the opportunity to address the participants with a short speech and ensured them InterPride's and EPOA's support. My visit was followed by the Swiss National Television, which resulted in a report in Switzerland's most respected News program aired during prime time.



Left: Baltic Pride March in Riga, Lithuania Colm Howard-Lloyd and Paul Birrell from Pride London marching together with Mark Frederick Chapman Right: Mark preparing for his speech.

I also took the opportunity to participate in the world's first Pride March to cross national borders – which took place between the countries of Switzerland and Germany. It was organized by InterPride member CSD Konstanz in Germany and the new founded Pride organization CSD Kreuzlingen in Switzerland. Here again I presented a short speech to the participants and offered them our compliments and support.



Short speech at the joint Pride Event CSD Konstanz / CSD Kreuzlingen

Together with Trisha Clymore, I have also chaired the InterPride mid-year meeting in St. Petersburg, FL, and chaired both the Spring Meeting of EPOA in Brussels and Conference in Warsaw from September 24 – 27. All meetings were very productive and driven by the will to change and look into the future without neglecting our current tasks.

All in all it has been a very, very active year for me. I learnt and saw a lot and hope I have given InterPride a face and visibility. Working together with the board was a good experience and I'm extremely fortunate to have such a brilliant, hardworking and down-to-earth Co-President like Trisha to share the visions and work with.

*Yours in Pride,*  
Mark Frederick Chapman, Co-President

## Goals for 2009

The listed goals have been assigned to committees and individuals during the year with the task to find solutions and to see them executed. Many of the goals have been successfully achieved, others remain to be worked on and solved in next months to come. Some will even take more time to be realized and are part of a longer strategic plan.

### ORGANIZATION

- **Revision of InterPride's Mission Statement**  
*Still has to be discussed and approved.*
- **Securing the top level Internet domain names (.com/.org/.net) for InterPride and the brand WorldPride**  
*The domain names worldpride.com and worldpride.org have been registered for InterPride. worldpride.net was already registered with InterPride.*
- **Securing the Trade Mark WorldPride on an international level**  
*Is out of reach due to the immense cost. National registration for countries hosting a WorldPride might be our best step.*
- **The idea to establish a physical office**  
*This option is being looked into and will be part of long term planning.*
- **Implementation of an updated Corporate Design Manual**  
*Will be completed in correlation to the communications strategy.*
- **Regional Directors Guide**  
*Is available on the virtual office.*
- **Joining other LGBT organizations**  
*ILGTA and ILGA memberships have been renewed. Other organizations are being reviewed.*

### BOARD WORK

- **The board needs to keep up clear and constant communications**  
*Increased communications via e-mail and Skype have kept all board members informed about discussions, decisions and other organizational business .*

- **Skype monthly conference calls will be held and call will be recorded.**  
*Conference calls were facilitated but due to technical and time difference not all board members used the opportunity to communicate.*
- **Co-Presidents will create a list of what has to be done and deadlines. A list should be compiled by end of this meeting.**  
*A list of goals and tasks were set at the 2008 AGM and amended at the 2009 Mid-year Meeting. The list is monitored by the Co-Presidents.*
- **Pride Magazine – contract sent back to them with amendments for re-approval.**  
*The 5 year contract has been finalized and signed into effect.*

### COMMUNICATIONS

- **Development and presentation of communications strategy**  
*First draft was presented at the 2009 Mid-year meeting.*
- **Creation of a new website for the organization**  
*Website will be launched at the 2009 AGM.*
- **Translation of the website in Portuguese and Spanish**  
*Will be looked into, once the English version is approved and online.*
- **Brochures and other materials for Regional Directors to support their work in the regions**  
*A first draft for a compact portrait about InterPride will be presented at the 2009 AGM.*
- **Member guide explaining benefits and obligations**  
*Has still to be worked on.*

## METHODS & STANDARDS

- **Standing Rules and procedures should be given out and gone over.**  
*The Methods & Standards Committee did not get to work on this issue.*
- **New policy for board members who are not fulfilling their duties.**  
*No proposal for this policy has been forwarded to the board for review.*
- **National Disaster Support to Prides should not be under scholarship committee. Should be its own committee or sub-committee.**  
*This needs to be re-addressed at the 2009 AGM.*

## FUND DEVELOPMENT, SPONSORING

- **Sponsorship package – Looking into sponsors and creating a package.**  
*Due to the new website and communication strategy work has been on hold.  
The Club Mondial offer has been updated and sent to the board for review.*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

- **Strategic Planning Committee to present on first draft for 2009 AGM. Focus should be re-directed to quality of workshops to draw in participants. Possible suggestion First timer's track & Repeaters track.**  
*The Committee has started the work to collect data from the members through surveys. A first summary was presented at the 2009 Mid-Year Meeting.*

## WORLDPRIDE

- **Contracts with Pride London for WorldPride 2012**  
*The contract has been signed.*

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Member Benefits – working on a package**  
*The package still needs to be defined.*
- **Member fees VS benefits received – member services is looking for more benefits to make membership more enticing.**  
*The attempts to find benefits for all members is difficult and possibly has to be looked at on regional levels. The Club Mondial offer, if signed would be the first member benefit to be offered to all members.*

## MEMBER MOTIVATION

- **Member Prides should try to support Prides in hostile areas more.**
- **Request for more critical support and involvement at Pride events, showing negative situations from around the world. Asking entertainers to generate awareness, showing video clips from Prides in hostile environments.**
- **Possible YOUTUBE videos and CDs to be created for general promotion of InterPride and it's causes.**
- **Individual member organizations should outreach – seek higher involvement of trans-youth. Energy should start in individual member organizations.**  
*The board is encouraging all it's members to look into ways how they can implement the above ideas.*

# Committee Reports

## MEMBER SERVICES

*By Jer Megowan, Vice President Member Services*

### Member Services Committee

Currently members of the committee are entering data from 1997-2001 membership records. This combined with records from 2004-2005 and what we have in our current database 2006-present will be used to create a source of data for regional directors to run reports on historical data for outreach in their regions. It will also serve as data to share with sponsors and other purposes as needed. I will be looking to find 2002-2003 records. The Alumni Committee has information that may include these years for attendance at AGM's. The database will be available shortly after the end of the AGM.

I am in the middle of getting a proposal for the committee for a discount at Staples that could help US prides with printing and other supplies. We continue to look for additional benefits that will benefit both US and worldwide.

### Communications

The communications committee has been busy meeting several goals. Communications Chair Caryl Dolinko has been putting out a quarterly on line newsletter. She has worked with a web site programmer to create a new and updated website. She has worked on branding InterPride by creating email signature guidelines. The website will be launched at the AGM.

### Alumni Committee

The Alumni Committee will continue to collect information and present awards for members and organizations that have been InterPride members or attended AGM'S.

## METHODS AND STANDARDS

*By William Ulrich Vice President, Regions 6, 9, 15, 16 & 19 Chair, InterPride Committee on GLBTI Human and Civil Rights Interim Chair, Methods & Standards Committee*

This writer was appointed Interim Chair at the Midyear Board Meetings in St. Petersburg in April. At that time, the M&S Committee was tasked by the Board with the following:

- To address the need for better communication and establish parameters for action to be taken when communication, or lack thereof develops and continues to be problematic
- To draft guidelines for mandatory use of the Virtual Office
- To develop effective behavioral guidelines for non-Board members and others when attending Board meetings
- To draft a precise job description for the Media and PR position
- To draft guidelines for the Fiscal Agent proposal which passed
- To draft guidelines insuring that the Treasurer has clear and specific timeframes within which to issue approved reimbursements
- To draft guidelines for international (group) Board phone (SKYPE) calls

Pursuant to the Midyear meeting, a letter was sent out to M&S from the Interim Chair on 16 June of this year outlining the resulting Board requests for M&S attention. There were responses from 2 committee members, one of whom replied stating additional comments would be sent if there were any, and another who gave suggestions pertaining to the Board's requests and offered an overview, in response to an inquiry by the Interim Chair, of past committee operational procedure which indicated a pronounced hierarchy.

Another lengthy communication was sent out again a month later on 16 July in which the Interim Chair requested a deviation from any established hierarchy in favor of an equal-partnered team approach to committee activity and discussion. A further breakdown and discussion of the previous Board requests was also included with suggestions and requests for input from a



variety of sources were made. Again, 2 responses came back, one from each of the previous 2 respondents.

One indicated that the email was received, that it would be reviewed and comment would then follow. The other respondent indicated that personal scheduling prevented an opportunity to review and respond at that time, but that a detailed response would be forthcoming.

A detailed, well-thought out and well-worded response did indeed follow later on 27 July. It offered a simplified breakdown of some of the tasks at hand in clear detail but omitted others. It was suggested that the issue of Fiscal Agent be referred to the Finance Committee, which had already been done. However, it has not yet returned to M&S for drafting. The response also pointed out that the position of Media/PR is outlined in the MSG. A SKYPE protocol was written by the Interim Chair prior to this response to my 16 July email, but the respondent included SR 09-07 anyway, which addresses remote participation of individuals in in-person meetings. The respondent suggested that this rule be augmented to include remote meetings as well, offered to draft the language and present it under a separate email discussion.

The respondent also had a number of points regarding the Virtual Office and indicated that issues with this include: timeliness in initial setup, lack of access for all concerned, lack of use by those who do have access and a lack of sufficient training on its usage. A suggestion was to make a rule which included training and mandatory usage. However, it is clear that no one on the M&S Committee has the expertise to do so.

With regard to procedures for addressing those who drop out of communication or disappear, abandoning their duties and responsibilities or otherwise vacating their position, the respondent offered the defeated 09-05 Proposal and had a quite valid point in that "we are trying to legislate responsibility." I agree wholeheartedly and am also "... not sure how we can do this successfully." The only suggestion was to design harsher rules with defined consequences.

There was no further communication or discussion by the M&S Committee.

### Conclusion and Goals

The modest communication from this committee during the past 6 months is highly unusual, particularly in light of this group's productive prolific activity in the past.

I do not necessarily side with the establishment of harsher rules and am constrained to point out that our Policies and Procedures should be constructive guidelines, not punitive dictates. However, I have been at loss as to how to proceed. The issues of communication and job abandonment have indeed been problematic. All other pending issues should be addressable either in St. Petersburg or as soon as possible thereafter once a new committee for the subsequent year has been established.

I will request further clarification on the precise wishes of the Board, including specifics on draft wording during the AGM in St. Petersburg so that the new Chair and Committee can address these and other open issues without further delay. As such, all issues not specifically addressed above will be agenda items for the M&S Committee meeting at the 2009 AGM. Realistically, given the dubious nature of these issues, it is unlikely that appropriate and effective legislation for all these considerations will be drafted in time for presentation to the Board during the AGM. However, there will be those present from the Board in St. Petersburg from whom various answers can be sought for specific clarification. In light of this fact, the new Chair and M&S Committee will have the precise and necessary direction with which to proceed immediately following the conclusion of this year's AGM.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

*By Hans De Meyer, Vice President and  
Russell Murphy, Co-chair Strategic Planning Committee*

The Strategic Planning Committee has been tasked to research and prepare a long term strategic plan for the future of InterPride. We seemed to get off to a good start in Vancouver last year, but because of personal issues, time and lack of input from the committee members the process has been delayed.

It was believed that a survey should be done with rather general questions in order to catch people's perception of InterPride as an organization. The answers, sometimes surprising, that come out of that survey can be read in our report from the Mid-Year board meeting.

The results were presented at the Mid-year Board Meeting. The board suggested that as the survey was rather general, other ones should be created that would be more in-depth.

The general subjects suggested were:

- Education-Resources
- Communication
- Assistance to the membership

We hoped to do one survey a month, addressing each subject with multiple choice answer options. After some down time due to the high Pride season, we realized that it might be more appropriate to introduce all three subjects in one survey. A request was made to the committee members to provide questions for the above mentioned subjects. Unfortunately, there was little response to the request.

Since then, a different survey was requested by the Executive Committee that might give us a better understanding of the membership as it is now. The results could help us with the Strategic Planning process and but also Fundraising and/or

sponsorship. This survey will be made available shortly before the AGM, where it will be promoted.

Since the response from the Strategic Planning Committee members has been minimal in regards to the surveys, we have decided to postpone them until after the AGM. They will be discussed face to face with all the committee members and any other concerned persons. The survey will then also be drafted and put out after the AGM for people to fill out. It is hoped that it will run through the month of November, but we will keep it open longer if necessary.

We would like to make it clear to everyone that putting together a proper Strategic Plan does take time and needs everyone's input.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

*By William Ulrich Vice President, Regions 6, 9, 15, 16 & 19 Chair, InterPride Committee on GLBTI Human and Civil Rights Interim Chair, Methods & Standards Committee*

### Region 6

The Regional Director Team of Region 6 (2 RDs and Alternate) continues to work for the benefit of NERP. Their report has been submitted. Additional notable developments from within the region include a planned march on Washington, DC, advances in marriage equality in New Hampshire and an increased initiative by the Right Wing to overturn marriage freedom in Maine.

### Region 9

There is no regional representation from this area. Despite ongoing attempts at outreach within the region and Diaspora, no contacts have been established within this region, known for its intolerant and homophobic atmosphere, and while this remains true of nearly all of the Caribbean, some advances have occurred. Of particular interest is the work of Cuban Human Rights advocate Mariela Castro, niece of the famous dictator, who led a Queer Rights conga line as part a Pride awareness celebration down the streets of Havana this past May. As predicted, Cuba is quickly becoming a hot bed of GLBTI equality activity under her watchful and encouraging eye. In sharp contrast to this, however, Central America's advances have been substantially slower. Equality parody is still an issue in all area nations and Transphobia continues to run rampant.

### Region 15

With only one Regional Director, Region 15 has shown tremendous and exemplary advances in international and inter-event cooperation. Athens Pride organizers sent delegations to a number of events including Sofia, Bulgaria which hosted a Pride event this year, Belgrade and Zagreb. Athens also assisted Sofia representatives to attend Athens Pride and work is already un-

derway by the Athens group to organize and host the first-ever combined Region 15 Conference and multi-national Pride event in that city.

There was a substantial call for support of this year's Pride in Budapest. Of the many who answered that call was activist and Academy Award winner Whoopi Goldberg who videotaped her worldwide public statement of support. In light of threats and past difficulties, city officials provided a safe and secure area for Budapest Pride, which successfully completed with only minor incidences of hostility.

The long-awaited and much anticipated Pride event in Belgrade, Serbia did not take place. Although both city and national officials initially cooperated and promised police protection, this stance was reversed amid frighteningly substantial threats of physical harm and property damage by a well-organized coalition of right wing nationalists, fascists, neo-nazi and skinhead groups. Hours before the first Pride March to be held in Belgrade since the horror of the bloody 2001 event, officials banned Pride in the City Center and offered an inferior alternative location. The Belgrade Pride organizers declined the new venue after the safety of all participants was carefully considered. A small, secure reception for foreign visitors was held and hosted by the Swedish Ambassador to Serbia at his residence in place of Pride. Whether or not Belgrade Pride was banned or cancelled is a matter of conjecture and opinion. A separate in-depth report is available outlining the unfortunate turn of events which led to the ultimate demise of this year's Pride in Belgrade.

### Region 16

Africa continues to be an area where Human Rights violations are a constant, making Pride activism both difficult as well as an ongoing imperative. A report by the solitary Regional Director has been submitted under separate cover. More representation is needed to enable additional outreach within this hostile environment.

### Region 19

Communication from the single Regional Director of the area from a continually troubled Sri Lanka has been sporadic. However, reports from within the region filter through to the Human Rights Committee and the efforts of Manila Pride members and others in disseminating additional information from Asia is both helpful and commendable.

Asia has shown great promise during the past year. Most notably, Singapore held its first Pride, the "Pink Dot" Celebration and Shanghai also held their first Pride event. Hong Kong held a rally for IDAHO to protest the increase of homophobic and discriminatory practices in that city. India further dispensed with its archaic colonial past and finally decriminalized Homosexuality in July. An increase in successful Pride activism has been noted in the country's larger cities, particularly in



New Delhi. Sadly, all contact from the various Prides in Japan has ceased.

In Thailand, however, one of the very few nations in the area with a relative degree of tolerance and acceptance of GLBT issues, disruptive homophobia raised its ugly head this year, forcing a cancellation of Chiang Mai's Pride. It is of interest to note that both international GLBTI Human Rights conferences and Pride events have previously enjoyed success in that city.

Clearly, the addition of a second Regional Director would facilitate an increase in outreach to emerging Pride organizations.

### **Pride and Human Rights in other Regions**

In similar fashion to Budapest, Riga, Latvia (in Region 8) hosted a successful Baltic Pride Celebration in spite of continued religious and right wing protests, and a small Slavic Pride was held with Russian and Belarussian (also Region 8) participants and considerable foreign support. Although there were the usual anti-gay difficulties that this area is well-known for, the continued association between Moscow and Minsk Pride organizers seems to benefit both groups. Moscow's pride event, held concurrently with that city's hosting of Eurovision, was again met with the usual homophobia and arrests. Additionally, a test case has been established in Moscow with 2 women who were denied a marriage license there. Their subsequently scheduled marriage in Toronto is expected to impact on Russian jurisprudence when the wedded couple returns home.

In Minsk (Region 8), a widely successful conference on "The LGBT Movement and NGOs: Prospects for Cooperation with active Civil Society to overcome Homophobia in Belarus" was held last month with international Human Rights activists, and Russian and Belarussian Pride organizers.

And in September, Warsaw Pride (Region 8) hosted the first EPOA conference in Eastern Europe in preparation for their plans to host EuroPride 2010. This is a most noteworthy turn of events in that within the space of only 5 years, Warsaw has gone from an illegal (banned) Pride March to hosting the largest Pride event in Europe.

In sharp contrast to most of Region 9, South America (Region 17), which also has an overwhelmingly Catholic population, has made great strides in equality and tolerance, with Brazil leading the way, boasting

175 Pride celebrations in that country alone. Moreover, and most remarkable is the granting in July of ECOSOC Consultative status to the ABGLT. This indefatigable organization joins only a handful of other queer groups in the more than 3,000 NGOs recognized by the UN. Despite these advances, however, Transphobia throughout the region continues to mount with particular difficulty in Peru and Argentina noted. The situation in the Middle East is still fraught with hostility and death. The murder of queer people in Iraq and elsewhere con-

tinues with impunity. Many Iraqis report that underground gay life was better under the Saddam regime. IRQR continues work with refugees and asylum seekers throughout Iran and the rest of the region, to assist queers in flights for safety. Lambda Istanbul had a final day in court with some success and they have been allowed to remain open. However, a rise in Islamic fundamentalism in an otherwise secular (but Islamic government) has been making matters difficult there. Beirut, Lebanon and Israel are the only areas where Homosexuals can live in relative peace and safety. Although Jerusalem Open House has not been involved since world Pride, Tel Aviv's Aguda was an active participant at this year's EPOA conference in Warsaw.

After a heated debate, the US Census Bureau has finally acquiesced and agreed to include same – sex couples in the upcoming United States Census for 2010. ENDA is floundering but still alive on Capitol Hill and a number of states are continuing the struggle for equality following the devastation of Proposition 8 in California.

### **Conclusion and Goals**

The Human Rights Committee of InterPride continues its mandate to inform and raise awareness within the membership and Board of InterPride. The ongoing communication within the IP Human Rights email group is one of the highest of all InterPride committees. Committee members share information with a host of others and supportive letter writing and petition signing have increased. It is evident, however, that more participation and representation is needed from many areas throughout the global theater. Outreach to some areas continues to be difficult and frustrating, at best. A stronger commitment from InterPride to partner with various international GLBTI Human Rights organizations with firmer holds in some areas could facilitate this outreach and enhance membership recruitment opportunities. This should be included in future goals, not just for the committee, but for the whole of InterPride as well. Further, workshops pertaining to Human Rights and Pride Issues should be mandatory at all AGMs and Regional Conferences for those who cannot attend the international conferences.

## **WORLDPRIDE**

*By Hans De Meyer, Vice President, Chair WorldPride Committee*

The WorldPride Committee has had several issues handled this year. First of all there was the confusion about the correct bidding procedure for future contenders for the WorldPride title. It came down to a vote (and discussion) on the board on adapting the Standing Rule in regards to the bidding procedure for this year from 90 to 60 days before the AGM.

Changes will be made to the Standing Rule and will be presented during the next AGM, therefore avoiding any other confusion in the future.

This year we have 2 contenders for 2014, being Pride Toronto and Stockholm Pride. Bid Books have been received and sent on. Furthermore the WorldPride Committee received the progression reports from London Pride in regards to WorldPride 2012 in due time. These reports can be obtained on demand. An update shall also be provided during the AGM.

The WorldPride Committee also made the decision to look into the generic domain names in relation to WorldPride. After investigation we learned that InterPride was already owner of [www.worldpride.net](http://www.worldpride.net). We agreed on the fact that InterPride should provide the generic names to each WorldPride host. Therefore an enquiry was made towards [www.worldpride.org](http://www.worldpride.org) and [www.worldpride.com](http://www.worldpride.com).

After some negotiations by some of the committee members with the owners of these domain names, we came to an agreement of purchasing both for US\$ 3900. After checking with the Executive Committee and the Treasurer it was decided that this amount was within the allocated budget, therefore there was no need to bring this to the board to be voted on. InterPride is now official owner of a total of 3 generic domain names.

There is also a 4th domain name: [www.worldpride.eu](http://www.worldpride.eu). This is currently owned by the Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride and can not be transferred to InterPride as such. The law states that for .eu addresses the registrant should reside within the European Union. They will of course make sure the domain name is forwarded to the correct WorldPride website at that time.

*Attention:* [www.worldpride.net](http://www.worldpride.net) will expire in June 2010, so possible costs for renewal might need to be budgeted.

The Committee has decided that all other domain names related to a specific country should be obtained by one of the members within that country or by the host of WorldPride when held in that particular country.

Another discussion still on the agenda is the trademark registration of WorldPride as such. As this matter is quite complicated and expensive we have decided to bring in several offers from registration agents for us to compare.

It is clear that a global trademark registration is astronomically expensive. A suggestion was brought forward of registering the entire European Union and then adding the main countries that would matter such as United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, ... More will be addressed after the committee meeting in St. Petersburg.

We also felt that we should at some point look into the same thing for InterPride itself. Even though this is not the cor-

rect committee for this matter, we strongly believe it should definitely be discussed within the appropriate meeting.

## FINANCE REPORT

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*By Jer Megowan, Vice President, Interim Treasurer*

The Finance Committee got a late start, and unfortunately we tried to work through email committee but only two members responded after several requests. As a result nothing was completed in committee through email. We will be bringing some of these items to the AGM committee meeting. Namely, changing banks, looking in to google money as an alternative credit card processor, and a few updates to the current reimbursement policies in methods and standards.

Financially, InterPride remains solvent. As conferences become more expensive reimbursements for board members increases, currently we are spending more than our income and interest. We need to look at ways to increase our income or reduce or reimbursements. Some options to discuss could be an increase in membership dues, fundraisers for the general fund, selling advertising to member orgs in the InterPride pages of the InterPride annual magazine.

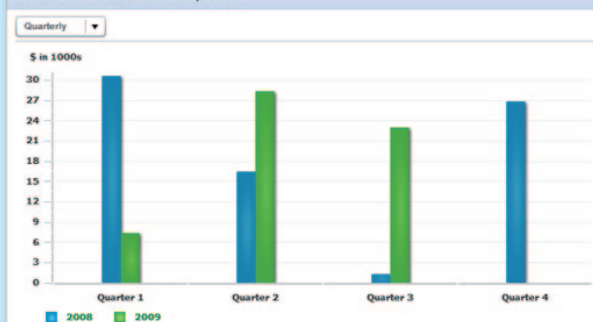
Currently, InterPride will be able to continue to fund at current levels for the next 3-5 years or so incorporating a reasonable 5% increase of expenses annually. At the five year mark our CD would be depleted our savings account would be depleted and our operating funds would be roughly US\$10 000. This assumes current membership dues being the same for each of the next five years, world pride license fees and the continuation of our Magazine contract.

## InterPride – Unaudited Statement of Financial Position 2008

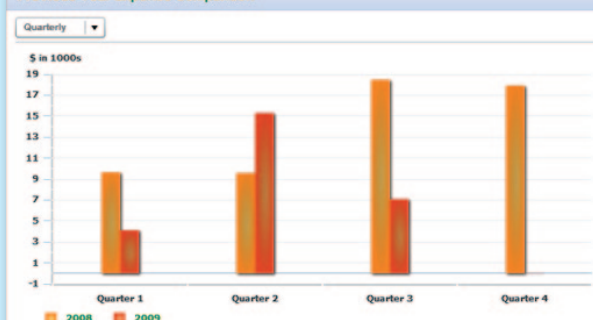
As of December 31, 2008

ASSETS		Total US\$	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		Total US\$
<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>			Current Liabilities		
1000 Cash & Bank Accounts			Accounts Payable		
1030 Operating Bank		2'842.51	2000 Accounts Payable		2'064.02
1070 Savings Account		14'755.59	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>		<b>2'064.02</b>
1090 Conference Petty Cash		313.53			
<b>Total 1000 Cash &amp; Bank Accounts</b>		<b>17'911.63</b>	Other Current Liabilities		
Amalgamated NY (deleted)		0.00	2500 Deferred Revenue		0.00
Colorado Business Bank (deleted)		0.00	A/P (deleted)		0.00
Savings Account (deleted)		0.00	<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>		<b>17'911.63</b>	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2'064.02</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>			<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2'064.02</b>
1100 Accounts Receivable		3'923.10			
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>		<b>3'923.10</b>	<b>Equity</b>		
<b>Other Current Assets</b>			3100 Unrestricted Net Assets		76'126.94
1149 Allowance for Bad Debts		1'160.94	3400 Temp Restricted Net Assets		
1150 Credit Card Receivables			3440 Temp Restricted Scholarships		0.00
1160 VISA Receivable		0.00	<b>Total 3400 Temp Restricted Net Assets</b>		<b>0.00</b>
1170 MasterCard Receivable		-32.00	Net Income		19'028.00
1180 Amex Receivable		468.75	<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>95'154.94</b>
1190 Discover Receivable		20.00	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		<b>97'218.96</b>
<b>Total 1150 Credit Card Receivables</b>		<b>456.75</b>			
1200 Short Term Investments		0.00			
1210 Certificates of Deposit		64'818.39			
<b>Total 1200 Short Term Investments</b>		<b>64'818.39</b>			
1299 Undeposited Funds		0.00			
1600 Deposits & Prepaid Expenses		0.00			
1610 Prepaid Conference Fees		5'000.00			
1630 Prepaid Insurance		48.50			
1670 Prepaid Rents		2'500.00			
1690 Other Prepaid Expenses		500.00			
<b>Total 1600 Deposits &amp; Prepaid Expenses</b>		<b>8'048.50</b>			
Accts. Receivable (deleted)		0.00			
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>		<b>74'484.58</b>			
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>96'319.31</b>			
<b>Other Assets</b>					
1900 Intangibles					
1910 Internet Domain Property		899.65			
<b>Total 1900 Intangibles</b>		<b>899.65</b>			
<b>Total Other Assets</b>		<b>899.65</b>			
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>97'218.96</b>			

Previous Year Income Comparison



Previous Year Expense Comparison



## Regional Reports

### REGION 1

*By Jimmy Gruender, Regional Director and Frank Rubio, Regional Director*

The **Regional Conference** was held February 6-8, 2009 in San Francisco, Ca. and hosted by San Francisco LGBT Pride. InterPride officers and board members in attendance were InterPride Co-President Trisha Clymore, InterPride VP Members Services Jer Megowan, VP Operations Dona Hatch and board members Steve Ganzell and Frank Rubio.

Elections were held for the RD and alternate RD positions available. Jimmy Gruender from Phoenix Pride was elected to fill Steve Ganzell's position whose term expired at the 2009 Regional Conference. Jimmy's term will expire at the 2011 Regional Conference. Frank Rubio's term will expire at the 2010 Regional Conference. There was no alternate RD elected at the conference.

As Regional Directors we will be outreaching to pride organizations new and old to attend the annual conferences and become active members of InterPride. We will continue to promote the InterPride membership values discounted insurance rates for events, global networking, scholarship opportunities and the knowledge acquired at the annual conference workshops.

We distributed information about the 2009 AGM Conference in St. Pete, Florida supplied to us by St. Pete Pride. Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, Inc. announced they will be hosting the 2010 InterPride Conference. We will be promoting the 2009 Conference in St Pete, Florida and the 2010 conference in Long Beach, CA.

This year's conference had many pride organizations that usually don't attend the conference. The fact it was in Northern California made it accessible to many of the pride organizations in that part of the region. Over the last three years these pride organizations have realized the educational and networking opportunities to those attending the conferences. Several of the larger prides have supported smaller organization in the region by mentorship programs and helping out during

their events. We felt that a mentorship program between pride organizations within our region will help strengthen it. We will work with the CAPI BOD to see how we can achieve this goal.

#### **Regional Conference Summary:**

The Regional Conference was held February 6-8, 2009 in San Francisco, Ca. and hosted by San Francisco LGBT Pride. The registered attendees were from the US states of California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Georgia. There were also attendees from Tijuana, Mexico. There were 76 registered attendees from 22 organizations that attended the conference. The CAPI scholarship program helped 15 members from 8 pride organizations attend the conference.

There were workshops on Elders, Diversity, Corporate Sponsorship and Transgenderism. Many attending the conference stated on their registration forms the topics they wanted to discuss in workshops and with others organizations. The common topics were board development, team building, event production and networking. There were several workshops that addressed these specific topics.

The staff and volunteers from San Francisco LGBT Pride worked hard and produced a well attended and successful conference. There were several social events that took place during the conference from bar runs to a Gala Dinner. Some attendees also went to the Annual Chinese New Year's Parade which was held over that weekend.

**The next Regional Conference will be held in San Diego, CA 2010 January 22-24, 2010**, and will be hosted by San Diego LGBT Pride, for more information visit <http://sandiegopride.sitestreet.org/569/CAPI.htm>.

#### **2009 Pride Events in Region 1 and CAPI Members by City and Event Date**

Phoenix, Arizona, USA	April 18-19
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA	May 1-2
Long Beach, California, USA	May 16-17
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	June 5-7
Chico, California, USA	June 6
Fresno, California, USA	June 6

Santa Cruz, California, USA	June 7
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA	June 11-14
Los Angeles / West Hollywood, California, USA	
Christopher Street West	June 12-14
Flagstaff, Arizona, USA	June 13
San Jose, California, USA	June 13-14
Bisbee, Arizona, USA	June 19-21
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA	June 19-28
Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico	June 19-20
Mexico City, DF, Mexico	June 20
Sacramento, California, USA	
Sacramento Pride	June 20
San Francisco, California, USA	June 27-28
Monterey, California, USA	July 11
Santa Barbara, California, USA	
Pacific Pride Festival	July 11
San Luis Obispo, California, USA	July 12
Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA	July 16-19
San Diego, California, USA	July 17-19
Reno, Nevada, USA	August 15
Serafemme Queer Women of	
Color Music Festival	August 16
Humboldt, California, USA	August 29-30
Sacramento, California, USA	
Rainbow Festival	August 30
Lake Havasu City, Arizona, USA	September 12-13
Pasadena, California, USA	
San Gabriel Valley Pride	September 13
Modesto, California, USA	September 19
Sedona, Arizona, USA	September 19
Torrance, California, USA	
South Bay Pride	September 20
Tucson, Arizona, USA	October 10
Los Angeles / Studio City, California, USA	
Los Angeles / Valley Pride	October 11
Bakersfield, California, USA	October 17
Palm Springs, California, USA	November 7-8

On September 19, 2009 Sedona Pride held its first pride event "Pride On The Rocks" in Sedona Arizona. It was very successful and over 1,000 people attended the event. Members from Phoenix Pride, Flagstaff Pride and Regional Director Jimmy Gruender were there to support Sedona Pride. After several years Lake Havasu Pride held a pride event on September 12-13, 2009. In Casa Grande, Arizona a suburb of Phoenix plans are underway to hold a pride event in 2010. Arizona is a state that will see many new pride events in the years to come.

## REGION 2

*No report has been submitted*

## REGION 3

*By Tony Ross, Regional Director*

This is my second year reporting to the Annual General Membership from Region 3. My year began with my attendance to the Consolidated Associations of Pride (CAPI) representing Region 3 and Albuquerque Pride. The event took place in San Francisco the first weekend in February. San Diego was selected to host CAPI January 21-24, 2010.

Albuquerque and Santa Fe have been a part of region 1 and region 3 for several years. At the CAPI conference Santa Fe and Albuquerque had prepared a presentation to host Region 1, 3 and any other Prides who would like to attend the regional Pride event in 2011. The voting membership of CAPI accepted the bid; hence, all regions are invited to attend the regional Pride meeting in early 2011. Dates have not been set as of this date; however, the hotel has entered an agreement with an \$89 per room rate at the Radisson Inn. More details will be provided on various websites when details are arranged.

I attended Phoenix Pride over the weekend of April 17-19. Albuquerque Pride entered the Parade and made contacts with Prides from Tucson, Flagstaff and other regional Prides from all over the Southwest.

I attended the mid-year InterPride meeting at St. Petersburg April 22-27. I provided information that I had accomplished thus far with activities of 2009.

During the next few months I was able to gather contacts from Pride coordinators in Gallup, New Mexico, located near the Arizona border; Farmington, in the far northwest corner in the 4 Corners area of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado; Carlsbad which is in the Southwest section of New Mexico; Socorro, NM, south of Albuquerque; and Madrid, east of Albuquerque both nearly 70 miles from Albuquerque. I arranged for Albuquerque Pride members to attend events in Socorro, Las Cruces and Madrid, New Mexico since I was unable to attend these various events due to schedule conflicts.

With information that was gathered I was able to attend the first ever Pride event in Gallup, NM, June 6. This small town is probably considered near the center of the Native American Navajo community. The event was well attended with approximately 200 individuals attending, and most attending were Navajo. The event was held on a satellite campus of the University of New Mexico.

Albuquerque Pride began its weeklong event with a Gay Day at a local amusement park known as Uncle Cliff's on June 6. The following day there was an Ecumenical Prayer Service at one of the two Unitarian Churches in the Albuquerque area. Various church leaders from Christian and Jewish congregations prepared the service, and it was attended with approximately 150-200.

Wednesday, June 10, Pride moved into the NM State Fairgrounds where ABQ Pride rents approximately ¼ of the total property which lies on over 200 acres in the heart of Albuquerque. This year was the first time amusement rides were a part of the event with a medium size Ferris wheel, an adult thrill ride and various other concessions.

Thursday night was the 5<sup>th</sup> annual prayer vigil held at the Morningside Park. This is the location where the original 25 marchers ended in 1976. PJ Sedillo & Tony Ross worked with the City of Albuquerque's, 1% of Arts in the Parks program to get an art sculpture dedicated to the GLBT/Ally community. There were well over 500 who attended the event including Mayor Martin Chavez.

Friday evening, June 12, we had our main entertainer, Taylor Dayne on our main stage. Friday evenings are becoming Albuquerque Pride's headliner entertainment.

Saturday, June 13, we had our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual parade from the University of New Mexico campus to the NM State Fairgrounds. Our grand Marshall was the Honorable Gilbert Baker leading over 120 entries. Governor Bill Richardson, Lieutenant Governor Diane Dennish and Mayor Martin Chavez were among the honored dignitaries riding in the parade. We had a Wells Fargo stagecoach in the parade, the first for Albuquerque. The parade ended at the Fairgrounds where record attendance of over 32,000 enjoyed the various activities. Albuquerque Pride has an indoor car show with 75 cars, a Queer Bake Off, Juried Art Show and this year a Vodka Lounge entertainment stage with two other stages. Albuquerque Pride continues to have a dedicated children's area to make it truly a family event.

As Regional Director and with PJ Sedillo, President of ABQ Pride, I joined the Santa Fe GLBT community at their annual event chartering a steam engine pulled train from historic Santa Fe to Lamy, NM. It is an event sponsored by Santa Fe Pride as a fund raiser and an event to stir interest for their Pride event a few days later. I attended Santa Fe Pride on June 27, their first ever at the new Santa Fe Rail yards.

In addition I attended the Pride events in Stockholm, Sweden, Copenhagen, Denmark including the closing of Gay Games.

On September 12 Pride Organizers from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Carlsbad, Gallup and Farmington gathered to network. Dona Hatch, V-P, InterPride; Tony Ross, Regional Director; PJ Sedillo, ABQ Pride President; and other community lead-

ers led the discussion on the value of InterPride. As a result of this meeting, Gallup has begun to become incorporated as a Not for Profit corporation with the State of New Mexico with intentions to file for tax exempt status.

I have worked very hard this past year to coordinate and network with various Pride communities in New Mexico. I have stressed the importance of joining InterPride and assisted various pride leaders to support one another especially due to the vast distances of Prides in New Mexico. This past year I have had a few electronic conversations with my Co-Director, Debra Martin, from San Antonio, TX. In addition to communicating with Prides in New Mexico, I have attempted to network with coordinators in Oklahoma City with little success.

This will be my 9th InterPride annual general membership meeting. I have attended many regional pride meetings to learn and to assist Prides to develop their own identities.

## REGION 4

*By Michael Gorsuch, Regional Director and  
Todd Saporito, Regional Director*

Todd and I have worked together to enhance the opportunities for pride organizations within our region by attempting to get them more involve with each other. We will be exploring in the coming months more opportunities for collaboration and sharing of information and resources with each other.

Region Four did not have a regional conference this year due to the host organization, Capital City Pride-Des Moines, cancelling due to financial condition and organizational instability caused by the cancelling and rescheduling of their 2008 pride event because of previous summer flooding.

### Our current membership includes:

Capital City Pride-Des Moines
Cleveland Pride
FM Pride
Fort Wayne Pride
Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati
Indy Pride, Inc.
Motor City Pride
Pride Chicago
Pride St. Louis
PrideFest, Inc.
QC Pride, Inc.
Rainbow Celebrations-Nebraska Pride
South-Central Minnesota Pride, Inc.
Stonewall Columbus
Twin Cities Pride
West Michigan Pride, Inc.



### Goals Achieved

This year was spent accomplishing the goals previously identified by the membership of this region.

First goal was Communication among the membership and the Regional Directors. This was accomplished through the distribution of a monthly newsletter written by myself about business items and matters of interest. Also the development of both a Facebook and MySpace page in order to one outreach to those pride committees who did not have websites but had events advertise through these other resources, but also to promote current membership events to other pride committees listed as friends by each of these sites.

Second goal was Building Structure and Support of our regional organization by recruiting individuals to serve as state coordinators to help assist the regional directors with identifying pride organizations with each of the states and communicate regularly with them. Also developed Guidelines for Regional Conference Bidding and working on the development of Regional Conference Operating Procedures Manual to assist future conference hosts.

Third goal was Promoting Pride Organizations and their Events within our regional boundaries. I researched and secured pride dates from all know pride organizations within region four to create and distribute a calendar of pride events. Pass on information received from membership about events being held by pride organizations and distributed to Facebook and MySpace communities. I also provided these calendars as well as list of pride organizations to pride attendees at the festivals that I attended this past summer.

One goal not fully accomplished was the creation of the regional website. Bill Nienaber from Twin Cities Pride is working on this project. Through our dialogue a web design was created and request for information from pride organizations was sent out and have been slow to be returned. I am hopeful that this goal will be accomplish soon, as well as the website for the regional conference being available soon too.

### Outreach

I distributed the regional newsletter to all existing pride organizations within region four with the hopes this might encourage a dialogue with non-members. I was in contact with pride organizations in Quad Cities, Iowa City, Lincoln, Kansas City, Cincinnati and Peoria. Quad Cities and Cincinnati did join InterPride with Iowa City, Lincoln and Peoria hopefully joining within the next year.

I attended pride events in Kansas City, Des Moines, Omaha, Twin Cities and Lincoln this past summer. There were good turn outs at each of these events, plus had opportunity to discuss membership recruiting and benefit of membership with pride organizations hosting and attending these events also.

### Current Events

The 2010 Joint Region 3 & Region 4 Regional Conference will be held in Omaha, NE in March 12-14 and is being hosted by Nebraska Pride. The conference hotel selected was the Magnolia which is located near the Old Market in Downtown Omaha. Online conference registration will be offered, but will have to make hotel reservations with the hotel directly.

We had two organizations expressed interest in hosting the 2011 Regional Conference but no one submitted a bid so the membership will have to discuss this at the AGM.

There are many pride organizations here in the Midwest that are in contact with groups planning on attending the March on Washington taking place of NCOD, October 11.

Marriage Equality is under attack here in Iowa as right wing religious conservative groups are pouring money into the state to help republican candidates for governor and legislative offices, as well as demanding a ballot initiative for a constitutional amendment. We were very excited here in the Midwest for this past pride season as we recognize and celebrate the decision of the Iowa Supreme Court this past spring which upheld the right of gay and lesbians to marry within the State of Iowa. There are many efforts happening within each of the member states of our region and are hopeful for more advances to come.

## REGION 5

*By J Sheffield, Regional Director*

Region includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

- We will be electing a new regional director and alternate regional director at the AGM during our regional Caucus meeting
  - The reason for this is that the 2009 POSE conference was cancelled by the host organization, due to financial hardship in the region. Therefore, the RD post currently held by Charles Richards and the ARD post held by Brian Stipsits were not filled.
- I have had tremendous issues getting any responses from any member organization over the past year. I believe this is due to turnover within those organizations, and also the state of the economy.
  - Folks were nonresponsive about the POSE conference, because they couldn't afford to travel (even a road trip) and I believe they have been nonresponsive about InterPride

for the same reason. I have reached out on a variety of issues via phone and email numerous times, and have gotten virtually nothing back. I even sent notifications about attending InterPride on scholarship, and nothing ...

- The 2010 POSE Conference will be held in Richmond Virginia March 19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> at the Crown Plaza Hotel.
- Couple of issues:
  - The most current region 5 member list I have is much smaller than what is on the website ... are the people listed on there dues paying members?
  - I still contend that region 5 is much too large, which makes regional cohesiveness very difficult

Only reports I got on events in the Region (Including this so you can see how little I am getting back from such a huge region:

- Roanoke Pride celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on September 20 with an attendance of 2300
- **SC Pride 2009, Sept 12<sup>th</sup> in Finlay Park, Columbia, SC**  
Celebrating 20 years of Pride in South Carolina – “Hope = Pride = Equality: You gotta give them hope!”

Festivities began at noon with a Parade down Main Street toward the SC State House. Drag Queen Patti O’Furniture and local personality Larry Hembre provided live colored commentary on WXYR 99.3FM, the parade’s premier sponsor, as the parade passed their studios. The Celebrity Grand Marshal Ongina, from RuPaul’s Drag Race, lead the parade of 30 entries as it retraced the historic first SC Pride march of 1990.

Parade ended at Finlay Park where live entertainment kicked off with greetings from the Mayor of Columbia, Bob Coble. Featuring local entertainment including J Setters, Street Poet, female vocalists, local drag kings & queens. Headliners included Ongina, former American Idol contestant Frenchie Davis, and 80’s Pop Superstar Tiffany.

“My Pride Color is GREEN” an initiative to promote recycling and serve beer & soda in reusable cups continued to be successful for a second year. Additionally the presence of golf carts in the park added in assisting persons with disabilities and sign-language interpreters provided translation from the stage throughout the day.

Special highlights included the on-stage proposal of SC Pride President Ryan Wilson to his partner of two years, a VIP tent with special meet & greet opportunities and Gay.com hosts, over 70 vendors, 36 sponsors, and the largest Pride Guide in SC Pride history (72 pages plus cover & insert). Approximately 6-7,000 people attended the festivities and SC Pride is please to announce close to \$18,000 in profit to be used for operational expenses in 2010 and as seed grant for SC Pride 2010.

**Tentative Date: SC Pride 2010 – Sept 11, 2010 – Columbia, SC**

## REGION 6

*By Keri Aulita, Regional Director; Doreen DeJesus Regional Director and Sherri Rase Alternate Regional Director*

### Regional Directors Communication

Throughout the year, RDs Keri Aulita and Doreen DeJesus, and Alternate RD Sherri Rase participated in regular bi-weekly conference calls to:

- Brainstorm and discuss current and future plans, projects and goals for the region
- Maintain regional task list

### Regional Communication & Outreach

- Newsletters were sent to all member organizations in the region plus non-member pride committees throughout the region that we had email addresses for.
- Every email received from a delegate of the region received a response by one of the RDs.
- Sent three regional newsletters loaded with information, reminders and resources for the region. Some highlights of the newsletters included:
  - Re-introducing the RD team
  - Launching a call for logo submissions and then a subsequent update on submissions and the voting process
  - Promoting the strategic planning survey
  - Conveying an update on the regional Standard Operating Procedures manual
  - Reminding delegates to use our online outreach tools such as Facebook and MySpace
  - Requesting for updated contact info from delegates
  - Reminding the region about open positions and upcoming conferences open for bids
  - Putting a call out for plenary agenda items for NERP09 and the AGM in St. Petersburg
  - Reminders and reports on all conferences- regional, mid-year and AGM
  - Promoting Regional Conferences: NERP10 and NERP 11
- Besides attending the regional conference and the AGM, the Region 6 RDs have been in contact with many of the member organizations via email.
- RDs have had on-going contact with PALI as they plan for NERP 2010. Keri attended a planning meeting during summer 2009 on Long Island.
- The RDs ensured that there was RD coverage at regional and international conferences including the AGM in Vancouver, NERP in Philly, Mid-Year meeting in St. Petersburg, and the AGM in St. Petersburg.



### Current Tasks & Goals

- Organize a sub-committee to work on creating a draft of a Regional Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual
  - Committee was formed and worked via email through the summer and fall of 2009.
  - The SOP manual will be a comprehensive guide to running and working within the Region. There will be a section on how to plan a regional conference including both requirements and suggested guidelines for future conference hosts to utilize.
  - Goal is to have a final draft ready to review in Regional Plenary of AGM and then vote to accept the manual at the Regional Conference on Long Island in 2010.
- Determine a strategic plan for reviewing and voting on a regional logo.
  - After a request for logo submissions via the first newsletter, which only garnered response from two individuals, an attempt was made to implement an online voting plan, but since response from the region has been slim, the RDs thought it best to table the vote until the next regional conference in 2010, when more delegates will be able to participate.
  - Therefore, presentation and voting on the regional logo will take place at a plenary session at NERP 2010.
- Maintain and Update regional Facebook account.
- Update the regional member database
  - Ongoing work in progress that relies on further response from the regional delegates and member organizations

### Barriers & Challenges

- The Regional MySpace page is being maintained and updated by someone that we don't know/recognize. Numerous attempts were made asking her to turn over the account info and password but no response was ever received therefore we could not gain access to site.
- There was very limited contact from delegates in the region when asked for input on various projects including requests for logo submissions, updated contact info for the regional database, pictures from regional pride celebrations, and input on the SOP manual. Minimal response from the region as a whole makes it very difficult for the RDs to accomplish regional goals without doing the bulk of the work themselves. Not three to shy away from work, the RDs/ARD wouldn't necessarily mind completing tasks on their own but that would mean that projects are accomplished without input, thoughts, ideas from delegates. Would love to hear from some other RDs about their experiences and the trends and response rates in other regions.

### Future Tasks & Goals

- Complete vote of logo
- Complete SOP Manual Project

- Determine how to better elicit regional responses, communications, participation and investment in work that the region is doing

## REGION 7

*By Marion Steele, Regional Director*

I am still noticing a real disconnect between the Regional Directors, local Prides and InterPride. I feel that I am missing information and although I try to contact the individual Pride's through email, I get very little response. The Annual Region 7 meeting was held in Montreal in March 2008 and was well-attended and very professionally conducted. Again, very little contact from smaller Prides and I think this coming year is the time to look at some resolutions to this problem.

### Ontario

**Ottawa:** creation of the Capital Pride Youth Committee (CPY)

- connected with the entire community in Ottawa by enhancing our Community Partnership Program (CPP)
- with local cities by creating a sisterhood with Kingston Pride and continuing our strong ties with Toronto Pride and Montreal Pride
- created extensive e-mail banks with professionals, members of the community and community change agents
- established community standards to guide behaviour and to build a more professional organization
- largest Capital Pride Parade to date (79 entries consisting of over 1,800 participants, up from 68 entries and 1,200 participants last year) and had a few firsts: RCMP and the Canadian Military marched in our parade!

### However;

- We have difficulty attracting volunteers and professionals
- We still face a challenging financial burden which will stunt our growth moving forward

**Peterborough Pride:** Up to now has been several small committees through community groups working on individual items such as Parade, Info Fair, etc and will this year be incorporating and working as an organization to prepare 2010's Pride Festival.

**Toronto Pride:** The 2009 Pride Week was held in the last week of June. The format of the festival was very similar to last year, with the same stages in eight different locations and two days of entertainment on most of them. South Stage at the corner of Church and Alexander and Central Stage next to Crews had programming on the Friday night as well. The three main beverage gardens were full all weekend and our revenue from these achieved a new record. We had some major international artists perform this year, including the Regeneration Tour with Wang

Chung, Cutting Crew and ABC, Deborah Cox, Divine Brown and Kelly Rowland, one of the founders of Destiny's Child. Many old favourites were there as well including DJ Zahra with Funk Asia and Blockorama had their own stage.

Toronto also held; Parade /Human Rights Program/5th Annual Gala and Awards

Approximately 50 peripheral events were held and recognized by Pride under the Official Events program, including longstanding favourites such as the Aids Vigil held by the 519, the premiere screening of The Baby Formula, and A Night at the Indies.

This year's official survey has provisionally put the total economic benefit at over \$200 million, with \$124.7m coming from visitors travelling more than 80km to Pride – some through the purchase of Pride's travel packages managed by Conxity/Rainbow High Vacations. Economic impact from people living closer than 80km was \$98m. 485,000 unique visitors came to Pride Week and each visited an average of 2.9 times, totaling 1,38m visits.

Pride Toronto has submitted its bid to host World Pride in Toronto in 2014 and will be presenting the full offering at InterPride 2009 in St Petersburg, Florida (USA) in October.

#### Others:

No further reports were received from the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland or New Brunswick.

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*By John Boychuk, Regional Director*

#### Region 7 Conference (Montreal)

The last weekend in April saw 7 prides represented and our host committee (Fierté Montreal) received a great deal of support both as their organization and community. This three day conference saw additional opportunities in building a stronger outreach program and building a stronger network to cover Canada.

Smaller Prides continue to be a challenge in keeping the dialogue open, fiscal challenges and internal pride struggles in smaller communities cause to doors to close and make it hard to re-open unless they are able to have a person sit down with them one-on-one.

It was agreed that there needs to be a greater focus on not only the outreach to prides but to provide the benefits and support that the individual organizations can truly use.

Over the past year, in addition to the regional conference, I had the opportunity to meet with and sit down or visit in person with representatives from Prince George Pride, Victoria Pride, Salt Spring Island Pride, Kelowna Pride, Calgary Pride, Edmonton Pride and Vancouver Pride.

#### Western Canada Report

**British Columbia:** The overall economic downturn saw increased interest in the participation levels on both spectator and attendance to events. This result was based on a growing momentum and GLBT support. This did not necessarily see a greater return to local prides in sponsorship or overall sales.

**Alberta:** Edmonton continued to hold another successful year with a smaller net return providing fewer opportunities for members to attend conferences. Calgary in 2009 chose to change their pride dates to later in the summer and no information has been provided at the time of this report.

**Saskatchewan:** With four recognized pride organizations in this province, communication and feedback has been very slow and in some cases disconnected. No additional information was available at the time of this report.

**Manitoba:** Winnipeg continued to see modest growth in their attendance and support but is seeing continued fiscal challenges to be able to have representation outside of the province.

**Overview:** Emerging and struggling west coast prides still are disconnected from being part of InterPride because of geographical isolation and a lack of understanding as to the benefit of being international a member. The communication or representation was appreciated and the validation was important.

**Recommendations:** A survey with specific questions asking dates, attendance, % increase or decrease, and other simple questions may create a better overall response if kept under 5 minutes or 10 questions. This will at least for prides that do not know what to say, the chance to be recognized. A regional newsletter keeping information on a quarterly basis as part of a member benefit may allow for other prides to opt-in and learn about who we are.

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## REGION 8

*No report has been submitted*

## REGION 10

*By Paul Birrell, Regional Director,  
Chairman Pride London, WorldPride 2012*

### InterPride membership in Region 10

InterPride remains fairly unknown in the United Kingdom and Ireland, taking second place to the better-known European Pride Organizers' Association (EPOA). Nonetheless, there has been a significant increase in awareness of InterPride following on from Pride London's successful bid for WorldPride in 2012.

The only current active members of InterPride remain Pride London and the recent joiner, Outburst (UK). Other members include Pride in Brighton & Hove, Manchester Pride, Cardiff Pride, and now Dublin Pride, but these organizations are EPOA members, and, under the recent deal between InterPride and EPOA, have become InterPride members by default rather than through actively joining InterPride as Pride London and Outburst (UK) both have.

Establishing a regional conference has proven difficult, both because of the lack of interest in actively engaging with InterPride of many of these institutions – primarily because of the cost involved in attending conference, and also because of a lack of clear member benefits to joining, outside of the conference and aware of WorldPride: that latter being out of the reach of many of the smaller Prides.

The UK's national Pride organization, United Prides, collapsed after the 2008 conference, largely down to the conference having turned into a sales pitch towards Pride organizations. There have been limited, and so far unsuccessful, attempts to resurrect it by both Blackpool and Reading Prides. Pride London has recently started discussions with the Gay Business Association to see if they would be able to host a conference for Pride organizations with Pride London's support, and that looks as if it may have some scope to go on.

Nonetheless, without a coherent national Pride organizers' association, and with many members being more concerned with EPOA than InterPride, it remains a challenge to establish InterPride properly within the United Kingdom. Outside of the UK, both Dublin and Cork prides have shown interest in InterPride membership, but have so far not progressed that, albeit Dublin is now a default member through its membership of EPOA.

### United Kingdom current background

#### Political

The Government is currently steering the Single Equality Bill through Parliament. This Bill aims to combine various equality strands under a single piece of legislation, including legislation on race, gender and disability, and on sexual orientation. There is currently some criticism of the government's apparent delib-

erate exclusion of sexual orientation from the harassment clauses of that Bill, and it is hoped that this omission will be picked up and rectified as the Bill progresses through Parliament. So saying, with the current Labour government nose-diving in the popularity ratings, there are fears that it will instead insist that the Bill stands as it is, particularly as the Bill is a flag-ship piece of legislation of the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Harriet Harman: the fear being that she will push the legislation through as it stands rather than adding what could be a controversial clause.

Aside from the legislative process, there has been an increase in the number of out LGBT Prospective Members of Parliament. The Labour Party has had several successful candidates for some years, but it is the Conservative Party's appointment of marketing executive Margot James and the right-wing blogger and political publisher Ian Dale as LGBT candidates in winnable seats that is attracting interest, joining as they will be the Shadow Prisons Minister, Alan Duncan, who was recently demoted by David Cameron following on some ill-advised comments during the recent expenses scandal surrounding the Houses of Parliament, and two of London's three Deputy Mayors, Richard Barnes and Sir Simon Milton, as high profile LGBT party-political operatives. This shift in Conservative representation may mark the end of the Party's poor perception on LGBT issues: this is particularly important given the fair-certainty of David Cameron's Conservative Party romping into government in 2010.

#### Social

2008/09 has seen some changes to the UK's LGBT scene. The Pink Paper, the longest-running 'serious' LGBT print newspaper finally gave up the ghost and moved to an on-line version, robbing many of the UK's LGBT venues of a quality insight into national and international LGBT news. That on-line venture has progressed, but the Pink's standing is being challenged by daily news-feed Pink News, and by the upstart new website Pinkwire. Ian Dale's (see above) right-wing blog is now firmly established as one of the top political blogs in the UK, challenging the scurrilous but hugely entertaining and influential Guido Fawkes for top position, but bringing an LGBT perspective to much of the modern political scene.

Looking forward, 2010 marks the 40th Anniversary of the UK's Gay Liberation Front (GLF), which brought to direct-action campaigning on LGBT rights to the fore, and much of 2010's LGBT celebrations will be focussed around that movement.

## InterPride member Prides around the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

### Pride London

Pride London enjoyed another year of growth, with numbers hitting the 1,000,000 mark, and firmly establishing Pride as one of the United Kingdom's capital's premier events. Pride London also saw several successes in 2008/09, including winning a Visit London Gold Award (the tourism board's highest award for attractions within London), and Pride events attended by the Labour Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, the Conservative Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, David Cameron, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, Nick Clegg, and the Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Pride London has also been short listed for the current Visit London awards, this time for the publicly-voted People's Choice award, against stiff competition from regulars such as the British Museum.

Pride London also pushed forward with its first serious Arts Festival, twinning with the National Portrait Gallery for their 'Gay Icons' exhibit, with the South Bank Centre for their Udderbelly festival, and with Outburst (UK), a London-based black and minority ethnic LGBT festival. That latter element has agreed with Pride London to formally umbrella under Pride London for 2010 and beyond.

Preparations for WorldPride are continuing apace, and the event's growth has been supported by the local authority, Westminster City Council, which should allow for additional space: in 2009 Oxford Street became so packed that the parade was briefly halted and the barriers broken to halt crushing, although this had little impact on the event itself.



Mayor of London, Boris Johnson

At the recent European Pride Organizers' Association (EPOA) conference in Warsaw, Pride London also confirmed that it would step in to host the EPOA conference in 2011: the conference is usually held in the city where the subsequent year's EuroPride is being held, but with no EuroPride in 2012, following on from Pride London's win of the WorldPride 2012 title at the 2008 InterPride conference, EPOA had been left without a venue.

Pride London has also recently announced its new magazine deal, agreed with incumbent publishing house Talent Media, and some of the proposals for the 2010 festival, as well as expanding the voluntary base significantly in preparation for 2012.



Pride London 2009, Trafalgar Square

### Brighton Pride

Brighton Pride has had a difficult year. The event was marred by rain on its main day, and that, combined with a difficult year for sponsorship, has meant that the charity has been left with a £50,000 deficit. To date, only 10% of that has been covered. Pride London has offered assistance, but believes that only fundamental structural reform, including the slashing of the staff budget and a move towards volunteerism, will fix this deficit in the longer term.

Brighton Pride's numbers were significantly down on previous years, with an expected 100,000 attending, compared to the 130,000 of previous years, which added to its financial woes.



Nonetheless, the event enjoyed a hugely successful (and sunny) second day at the Sunday street party, and assuming that the charity survives the current financial turmoil, the event looks to be stable, and remains affectionately held by most.

### Manchester Pride

Manchester Pride had another hugely successful year, with a high profile list of acts within its 40,000 capacity ticketed event site. Although Manchester is unable to grow its capacity, it has had great success in building on the quality of its acts, and it is a regional gem in the UK Pride movement's crown.

### Cardiff Pride

Cardiff Pride returned to the scene in 2009 after a year-long absence following on from problems with volunteer recruitment and finances in 2008. The event staged its first ever two-day event – a two day event had been promised for some years, but local hostility and the reluctance of the Welsh police force to assist meant that the event had been unable – although very willing – to do this previously. With an estimated 40,000 attendance, Cardiff Pride remains a strong contender, and is the foremost of Welsh Pride events.



Cardiff Pride 2009

### Outburst (UK)

Outburst (UK) has been running for four years and is one of the UK's sole black and minority ethnic (BAME) LGBT events. Outburst has recently registered as a Community Interest Company (a form of charity for smaller organizations in the United Kingdom), and has recently joined InterPride as a member.

Outburst has had some modest success in attracting people to its events, this year attracting a modest – but for a BAME LGBT

event in the UK still relatively high – 2,000 people at its events. Following on from a first-year partnership with Pride London in 2009, Outburst (UK) is keen to integrate more fully with Pride London, allowing its festival events to be contained within the Pride London festival, and creating a main BAME stage within Pride London's event on Pride Day, whilst still maintaining a separate identity. Outburst (UK) has also taken on Pride London's BAME community engagement work.

Directors and volunteers of Pride London and Outburst (UK) have some cross over following on from this arrangement.

### Dublin Pride

Dublin Pride had an estimated 15,000 at its event in 2009, marking solid growth for the venerable but small Irish Pride organization. Recently, Dublin Pride has expanded into a ten day cultural festival, and its run of theatre, comedy and other shows has proven a highlight for LGBT people in the Irish Republic.

### Soho Pride / Soho Live (former member)

Soho Pride in London collapsed in 2008 following on from a failure to secure sufficient sponsorship and a drastic decline in numbers, from the 100,000 that were seen in 2005 and 2006 to about 60,000 in 2008.

An alternative event, Soho Live, was pushed into the vacant slot by a the combines business partnership of Gaydar and local LGBT entrepreneur and bar owner Andy Jones. Soho Live promised high production values and a circuit-party style event. The reality was disappointing, with attendance down even further than Soho Pride's – estimated at 30,000 – which was blamed on poor pre-publicity, fairly poor quality of site production, and higher-than-average bar prices. It remains to be seen whether Soho Live will return in 2010.

### Conclusion

2008/09 has proven a difficult year for United Kingdom Prides, with Manchester Pride failing to attract sponsorship – although buoyed up by its ticket sales – the collapse of the London based Soho Pride, and the insolvency of Pride in Brighton in Hove.

Nonetheless, this should detract from the very real successes that have been seen with the growth of Pride events in Region 10's capital cities – Pride London, Cardiff Pride and Dublin Pride have all put in strong showings.

InterPride membership growth remains slow, despite the apparent boost given by the EPOA / InterPride membership deal, and remains hampered by the collapse of United Prides. It is hoped that Pride London's efforts with the GBA will revive that organization, and its progression with WorldPride will highlight InterPride. It's a slow start, but there's scope for belief that growth will come. Outburst (UK)'s direct membership of InterPride – they are not EPOA members – shows that InterPride does offer some very real potential benefits, particularly around networking, that Pride organizations may well take to as the years come.

## REGION 11

*By Kristín Sævarsdóttir, Regional Director*

In region, 11 things have changed from last year with the fact that now we have two regional directors, myself and Hakon Stenberg from Sweden. That gives us many opportunities for the future. Hopefully we will manage to have a regional conference next year. This year it was not possible.

In Iceland we are struggling with economical crisis and that affects the work of Reykjavik Gay Pride. We took notice of the situation in our planning of Pride events this year. We cut down in the cost as much as we thought possible without damaging the quality of the Pride.

This year's Reykjavik Gay Pride program started at the 6th of August and ended at the 10th. This year we did some new things that really were very successful. We had a Gay cruising that became very popular, especially among the many foreign tourists that attended Reykjavik Gay Pride. Also we participated in ArtFart, with a the performance of art group Maddý, which had a special exhibition in which modern day queer reality is addressed, and questions regarding what lies beneath the glitter and glamour are raised.



*Reykjavik Gay Pride 2009*

To the Board of directors and the Pride committee it has always been important to invite foreign LGBT artist to perform in the Reykjavik Gay Pride. This year we had to cut down the cost but still had few artists from Germany and Norway. Of course the festival also featured a colorful line of Icelandic artists from the LGBT scene in Reykjavik. The local artists were in the majority of the entertainers and that became very successful.

Reykjavik Gay Pride has had the fortune to get a grand support from the City hall for many years. The Mayor of Reykjavik, Hanna Birna Kristjansdottir, and Gay Pride manager Heimir Mar Petursson, renewed the City's commitment and support to the

Gay Pride event with the signing of a new twelve million ISK contract for the next three years. At the same time Mr Petursson presented the Mayor with the Gay Pride honorary reward, "The Pride" (IS: Stoltið), for the City's long lasting support of the event and commitment to the advancement of human rights.



*Reykjavik Gay Pride 2009*

On receiving the reward the Mayor stated "we want to live in a city of diversity – where people are free and can choose their way life and way to happiness. The Gay Pride event reminds us of the importance of this understanding..."

Reykjavik Gay Pride has become the second largest event in the country and continues to grow. Never before have more tourists attended the festival, which has become one of the most vibrant and popular events in Reykjavik's cultural calendar. Reykjavik Gay Pride parade attracted 80.000 people this year (For comparison, the population of Reykjavik is around 120.000). A record number of floats, or 37, were in the parade this year.

Gay Pride is an unquestionably important event for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Iceland. The festival promotes visibility and courage and provides us with a platform to manifest our pride before our fellow citizens. The celebrations do not only mark a successful stage in our struggle; Gay Pride is also one of the most vibrant and popular events in Reykjavik's cultural calendar. By participating in the event in such large numbers, the Icelandic people have shown us valuable support, recognition and respect.

One of the things we learned from this year is that Gay Pride is even more important for the people of Iceland now than before. In the times of economical crisis, people need to find some source for colors, joy and solidarity. Reykjavik Gay pride is that kind of source and will hopefully continue to be the rainbow heart of Reykjavik. Our committee will try to be active, alive and open to new things that could make our Pride even better next year.

*By Håkan Steenberg, Regional Director*

### General Overview

Region 11 contains Åland, Denmark, The Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Svalbard and Sweden. InterPride is a relatively unknown organization within the region, and little or no networking exists among the Pride organizations in the region. The bigger and more organized Pride events include Stockholm Pride in Stockholm Sweden, Mermaid Pride in Copenhagen, Denmark, Skeive Dagar in Oslo, Norway and Hinsegin Dagar in Reykjavik, Iceland. Helsinki Pride in Finland just started over with a new organization this year, and held it's first event in April. The other Prides in the region are not as established, and does not have regular events on an ongoing basis. Stockholm Pride invited other the other Prides to a networking meeting in the region on August 2, 2009. Last year 11 festivals attended the networking meeting, but this year only two other festivals joined the event.

### Pride Organizations

#### **Stockholm Pride, July 27-August 2 2009, Theme: Hetero**

Stockholm Pride received a lot of media attention when releasing this years theme: Hetero, and our twitter-test: How Hetero Are You.

*Pride Park:* the closed event was held from Wednesday to Sunday in one of the park downtown Stockholm. We had 3 stages, 3 restaurants, 1 coffee shop, 1 VIP area and 1 Champagne bar.

*Pride House;* took over the city theater and the cultural house for an entire week. We had panel discussions, workshops (which include participating companies as Volvo and IBM), exhibitions, theater and a film festival.

*Pride in the City* which is all our sponsors, partners etc. arranging events all over the city. The was in the big down town mall, that way we could reach people that wouldn't normally attend the pride festival. Pride in the City includes our collaborations with museums, theaters, galleries etc. They also make sure that the Rainbow flag will be on official buildings, busses etc during the week.

*Pride Garden;* was an open event right in the city center. We had one stage, one coffee shop and some exhibitions.

*The Parade,* had 45.000 participants and 450.000 people were watching the parade marching through down-town Stockholm.

#### **Mermaid Pride, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 25-August 1 2009, Theme: Celebrating the Right to Love**

Mermaid Pride is traditionally held the week after Stockholm Pride. This year they moved the festival to be the exact same dates as Stockholm Pride, which hit both our businesses since people could only attend one of the pride events.. Copenhagen

also hosted the Outgames this week, and the big Human Rights Conference.

#### **Helsinki Pride, Helsinki, Finland, June 22-28 2009**

*Theme: Homo Finland 2009*

Helsinkinejdens Seta organized the Pride event for the fourth year in a row. It was the biggest one so far, and very successful. The theme was a kind of imaginary journey or trip in homo-Finland. They also had a "Homo-Suomen Hehkein", and anyone could register for it on their website. Famous people like Jani Toivola and Rosa Meriläinen started blogging on the Helsinki Pride website. Kike Elomaa and Annika Eklund were the big, main performers at the event, hosted by well known TV personalities Janne Kataja and Ellen Jokikunnas. From September 1 this year, the new legislation legalizing adoption for every citizen regardless of their sexuality came through.

#### **Skeive Dager, Oslo, Norway, June 19-28 2009**

*Theme: 40 years since the Stonewall riots*

The event was an open event and took place at Rådhusplatsen as usual. The Parade day was on June 27. The event also included live music, club nights, art exhibitions, comedy acts, theatre, photography workshops and sporting competitions.

#### **Hinsegin Dagar, Reykjavik, Iceland, August 6-9, 2009**

The opening ceremony was at a theater, followed by a beer-bust. They also arranged a concert, and separate dance events for girls and boys. The parade was very well attended as usual, and was held on August 7.

This year no Pride celebration in **Åland**, the small island between Sweden and Finland. The island is not a country, but belongs to Finland. Until a couple of years ago, there were no people in Åland that were "out". But now, a group of young people have just started a small organization called the Regnbågsfyren (the Rainbow light house).

To my knowledge there was no Pride celebration in the **Faroe Islands** this summer. I know that they had celebrations in 2006 and 2007, but I'm not sure if they had something last year. This group of islands is really small, and their festival also included Greenland. When they did have their celebration in 2007, it was with support from the Nordic gay student organization. There were some Swedish and Danish politicians that attended the event, since the celebrations was threatened by local politicians and the church. Speakers included Tina K. Jakobsen, Ósk Hlökkversdóttir and Johan Tiedemann who represented the Swedish government.

As far as I know there is no Pride celebration in **Svalbard** and **Jan Mayen Islands**, since the islands doesn't have inhabitants.



## REGION 12

*By Patrick Hadi Huber, Regional Director and Stefan Baier, Regional Director*

### Tasks achieved

On March 5<sup>th</sup> the two new Regional Directors of region 12 held their first meeting in Zurich. The main task was to discuss and create new goals. After this meeting we could successfully collect contact information on Gay Pride and CSD events mainly in Germany, some in Austria and the Netherlands. The Contact to the Dutch LGBT-group COC could be initialized by a visit in Amsterdam beginning of 2009. Up to now our efforts could not be utilized to get Canal Pride as an InterPride member but we will continue to stay in contact.

During EuroPride 09 in Zurich and the worlds first border crossing Pride Event between Germany and Switzerland in Konstanz and Kreuzlingen we could successfully talk to some Pride organizers of our region. We told them of our plans to bring them to the next InterPride conference in Europe likely to be in Brussels 2011. The e-mails we sent to attract new regional Prides to be member of InterPride did not bring the expected feedback. Still: we have put together a list of all members possible and will do follow-ups to get them involved, by e-mails, calls and personal contacts.



*Stefan Baier, Regional Director (far right) crossing the boarder between Switzerland and Germany*



*Parade crossing the boarder*

### Goals met

- We have a list of the Pride events in our Region we can work with
- We had a lot of contact with other Pride Organizers during EuroPride 09, CSD Kreuzlingen/Konstanz and EPOA-Conference.

### New goals set

The regional directors set the following goals:

- Get phone numbers of the persons responsible in all Prides in region12
- Get and study former Reports on our Region
- As a long term goal we want to bring as many of those organizations as possible to the next conference in St Pete, increasing the number of them in Long Beach 2010 and get the majority of them to the next conference in Europe (maybe in Bruxelles in 2011?).
- Organize a regional conference and initialize it with the organizations attending EuroPride 09.

### Challenges

It is more difficult to get connected with Prides because there is a lack of personal contacts. We therefore focus on the point to get these contacts on a personal level.

### What outreach has been accomplished

Patrick Hadi Huber took part in the EPOA-Conference in Warsaw and could talk to members of the Region.



*The City of Zurich proudly flying the Rainbow flag*



## europride 09 zürich

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
WITH PRIDE

### A month of Culture, Sports and Politics

About 50,000 people took part in the huge Parade on June 6<sup>th</sup> and demonstrated for their equal rights: *Your rights are my rights*. With 24 Trucks and 25 Floats, it was the longest and most colourful Parade ever seen in Zurich. Thousands of visitors were enchanted by the two-day festival in the City of Zurich. More than 100 mobile stars and tusk cones illuminated the streets and rainbow flags were visible everywhere, even on the front of trams and busses. Zurich thereby proudly presented itself as the Gay Capital of Switzerland. Visitors came from all over Switzerland, from Europe and even from overseas; everyone danced into the early morning hours.

A five week programme, full of variety – that was the motto of the organizers from the start. In the end, it was certainly achieved. Altogether 218 single events made up the programme. It included 70 films, 51 cultural events and 51 parties. The number of visitors was more than satisfactory, and many events such as the *Pink Apple Film Festival* or the “warm May” cultural events were sold out. At the Sport weekend over 300 athletes from Switzerland and Europe fought for medals. In the political discussions, broad spectrums of views were represented, and many different subjects could be discussed, from the rainbow family to Diversity Management. The first *Gay and Lesbian Economic Forum* in Switzerland was also held during EuroPride 09.

We look back on many exciting conversations and unique events, on the first international dance tournament since the Euro Games 2000, on the presentation on the website about the story of gay life in Switzerland, on an elegant Gala dinner and on a two-day festival with three stage, held right in the heart of the Limmat City – Zurich.



All Trams and Busses in Zurich were decorated with Rainbow flags.



Full streets at EuroPride 09 in Zurich



Illuminated stars and tusks decorate the festival square at EuroPride 09



The Mayor of Zurich, Corinne Mauch opening the parade by cutting the ribbon at EuroPride 09



Corinne Mauch with AI Human Rights activist Mihaela Copot from Moldova

## REGION 13

*By Hans De Meyer, Vice President*

At the moment we only have 2 official members, being Belgian Lesbian and Gay Pride, Brussels, Belgium and Lesbian and Gay Pride de Marseille in France. Both had very successful events even though the financial crisis had some influence.

Marseille's theme this year was "Marcher pour ne pas oublier" or "March in order not to forget". This was their way of commemorating Stonewalls 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Like any other year, Pride at the summer capital of France was again a great success. They have managed to raise the number of participants each year and also to integrate straight people more and more.

A new concept has also been added to their agenda: "Festival AquaPride", a big party at a subtropical swim paradise. This event takes place a couple of weeks after the Pride Parade in order to end the summer with music and festivities.



*Gay Pride de Marseille 2009*

Brussels with the theme "Change Your Mind!" had over 25.000 participants, showing a raise of 5000 participants in comparison to last year. This was mainly due to the fabulous weather and the change of concept towards a full fledged street fest. Also the more active participation of both gay commerce's and the city helped to establish this year's success.

This concept will even be more developed in 2010 as Brussels will be celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> pride event under the name of Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride. They will attempt to hold the event over 2 days and include a Pride in the Park area.

A little side project was also developed this year as the Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride starts of the European Pride season, this year together with Baltic Pride in Riga, Latvia. They established a 'link' between the two cities and were able to use a short speech from the Baltic organizing committee to start off their annual political debate. It surely sparked off quite the debate. The mayor of Brussels also gave a short statement which was

shown in Riga after their Parade, together with several other statements.



*Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride 2009, Brussels*

At the moment Region 13 is a rather small region, containing mainly French speaking countries. Therefore we first of all would like to propose to make some changes to the actual repartition of our region by adding the Netherlands to it. Both Belgium and the Netherlands have the same official languages. We are aware that this question was also raised for some other regions.

Some new contacts were established with Marseille Pride during the last AGM of EPOA (European Pride Organisers Association). It is clear that France has already a sort of centralized organization called "Coordination InterPride France" which deals with all Pride organizers in France.

They make sure that no 2 Prides take place within the same regions and has as a goal also to defend Lesbian & Gay Prides throughout the country among some other specific tasks. Having established this new contact (or renewed contact) we might be able to bring some more organizations on board within the coming year. But especially with the French, it will all about 'what is the added value'.

Region 13 would also introduce a new candidate for the position of Regional Director.



## REGION 15

*By Andrea Gilbert, Regional Director*

**Region 15 (Balkans, South East Europe-Mediterranean) consists of the following countries** (bold indicates successfully held organized Prides):

Albania

Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Bulgaria (Sofia)**

**Croatia (Zagreb)**

Cyprus

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**Greece (Athens)**

Kosovo

**Moldova ?**

Montenegro

**Romania (Bucharest)**

Serbia (Belgrade) †

**Slovenia (Ljubljana)**

**Turkey (Istanbul)**

### General Remarks

Region 15 is the most problematic area in Europe, but also the most exciting in terms of potential. Activists love nothing better than problems to solve! These countries – many newly emerged themselves – need all the support that the world Pride community can give them.

Speaking from personal experience, nothing is more rewarding than organizing a Pride in a difficult area from scratch and watching it grow and eventually flourish. But Athens, to begin with, had to deal with reluctance, not violence. Attacks, however, have become a concern. As LGBTQI persons become more visible, they become more of a target for hatred. There are strong and escalating extremist and fascist movements throughout the region, with governments either unprepared or unwilling to regulate their existence and curb their attacks.

Pride, however, is a powerful unifying element: witness Croatia and Serbia, which were slaughtering each other a decade ago and are now “Sister Prides”. I strongly urge InterPride to make every effort to bring these Prides and LGBTQI organizations (where prides do not yet exist) into the fold, even if it means bending or breaking some of the standing rules.

I would also like to add that communication with organizations and individuals from this region has been spotty. Some are very forthcoming and anxious to collaborate (Zagreb, Belgrade, Sofia and Bucharest), others are notably silent, more because of dysfunctionality, I expect, rather than unwillingness or paranoia. Hopefully, with some persistence I will succeed in communicating directly with some pride organization or activist in every country of the Region.

*In addition, I have made several changes to the geographical composition of Region 15. I removed Hungary and added Kosovo. After researching the region, I also request that Moldova be moved to the Region that includes Russian, Belarus and other ex-Soviet countries. This makes more sense geographically and culturally. They also seem to be already aligned with Georgia, the Ukraine, etc. Besides which, Region 15 is enormous and fraught with enough difficulties.*

### Short and long-term goals

#### Solidarity-Exchange Program

This year, in response to an invitation (plea) from the organizers of Sofia Pride, Athens Pride (AP) initiated a solidarity-exchange program, which we intend to continue with other Prides in the region. We invited and partially subsidized the attendance of a nine-person delegation from Sofia (we provided for twelve but only nine could attend) at Athens Pride on June 13, and organized and partially subsidized a bus of twenty-five Greeks to attend Sofia Pride on June 27, 2009.



*The Greek Delegation marches for Rainbow Friendship, Sofia Pride*

I now plan to propose to the AP Organizing Committee that we collaborate with Belgrade in 2010, with more extensive outreach that will also bring our other organizations into the picture. Community involvement is critical here for economic support, but also to improve morale and relations within in the community. (I will have more on this at the AGM.) Short range, I want to invite activists and organizers from around the Region to round-table or discussions, either leading up to our Pride or during the year.

Long term, I envision a Regional Conference, some sessions of which would be open to the press and public. Other sessions would be closed workshops in preparation for a Regional (Balkan?) Pride. Ideally, this conference would take place in 2011, with a joint regional of some sort Pride to be held in 2012. But don't hold me to these dates!

### Athens Pride

The 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive Athens Pride festival was held on June 13. The main day-long, free public event (10 a.m. – 1.30 a.m.), as usual, was held in a central square lined with booths presenting an increasing number of LGBT, human rights and health organizations, as well as political parties and media sponsors. This year we had 50. The Parade through the historic city center past Parliament took place at 6 p.m. with an ever ascending number of participants. This year we had some 5-6,000 people in the Parade, a 30-40% increase over last year. Following this was a live show and party back in the square. This year we had popular, mainstream performers, all of whom performed pro bono.



*Athens Pride Parade 2009, 30-meter Rainbow Flag*



*Athens Pride 2009 6000 parade past the Hellenic Parliament*

Unlike 2008, when our Parade was briefly interrupted by the neo-nazi group Chryssi Avgi (Golden Dawn), our 2009 event encountered no such problems. Some months prior, we did receive a very threatening email warning us to stay away from the area around their office. After much debate we decided to slightly alter our Parade route to avoid these streets, not out of fear of this group but because of anarchist elements attached to us, who itch for confrontations not only with the extreme right but with the police that routinely end in tear gas and chaos.

Although we have no real government support, and our right-wing mayor steadfastly refuses to officially acknowledge Athens Pride, the police have always been very cooperative and supportive. (The socialist PASOK party, expected to take office in the October 4, 2009 elections, will hopefully be more responsive.)

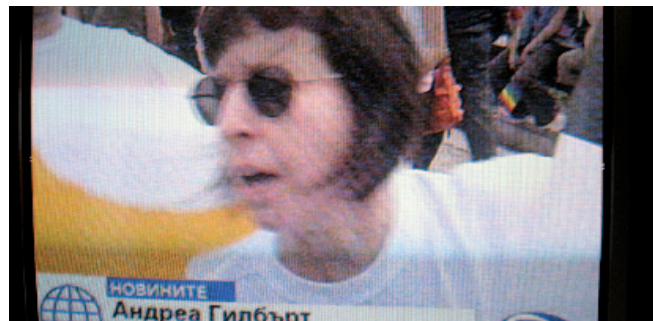
Since 2008, it has been a policy of Athens Pride to hold free events throughout the year in addition to fundraising parties. These serve to maintain and increase our visibility and general interest, as well as contribute to LGBTQI culture in Greece. This year's events included a benefit exhibition of contemporary Greek art at the most prominent gallery in Athens, a screening of Greek LGBTQI films (some previously banned) and a related discussion, and a one-day academic symposium on Gender and Sexuality, the first of its kind held in a Greek state university.

### Sofia Pride

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sofia Pride was held successfully on June 27. Approximately 300 people marched in the parade. The 1<sup>st</sup> Pride, in 2008, with about 150 marchers, was disrupted by ultra-right wing violence; marchers were attacked with Molotov cocktails and stones.

This year Rainbow Friendship received broad political and financial support from Amnesty International, ILGA Europe, several EU embassies and politicians such as Michael Cashman, the UK European Socialist MEP, as well as from Bulgarian authorities and police. Even though they were assured of well-organized police protection, the organizers wisely spent most of their budget on 200 private security guards. Not entirely joking, they also provided hardhats for their foreign guests. The extremely well-orchestrated security measures surrounding the rather short but extremely joyous Parade prevented the hostile elements, clearly present on the sidelines, from penetrating the ranks and causing any incidents.

However, the organizers have been attacked on other occasions and generally fear for their lives. Immediately following Sofia Pride, the two principal organizers left Bulgaria for jobs elsewhere. But I have just been assured that their organization is in the process of regrouping and they are anxious for continued regional collaboration.



*Rainbow Friendship Sofia 2009 Andrea Gilbert interviewed on Bulgarian TV*

### Zagreb Pride

On June 13 Zagreb held its 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive Pride (the first was in 2002). Zagreb Prides usually gather some 300 people. This year they were delighted to report record numbers of about 800 participants.

They have no resistance from the authorities and receive financial and logistical support from the City. Whereas in earlier years they had problems regarding their right to assembly and freedom of expression, communication with the police has improved over the last three years. From 2003-2006 they had no attacks from organized homophobic or fascist groups. But in 2007 they experienced a Molotov cocktail attack, and this year they encountered the first organized fascist counter-protest. Fortunately, the extremists were a small group, around 30 individuals, and were well outnumbered by Pride participants. However, the police did nothing to prevent the demonstrations of Nazi rhetoric and gestures that are in direct violation of Croatian laws on public order and gatherings. In addition, the counter-demonstrators were permitted to gather and remain in the main square, which prevented the Pride marchers from assembling there as planned. (See addendum for official report on this from the Zagreb Pride 2009 organizers.)



Counter-demonstrators occupying the Zagreb Pride 2009 venue



Extremist elements skirmish with police at Zagreb Pride 2009

By way of Regional activity, in 2006 Zagreb organized a South Eastern Europe Pride, inviting delegates from the 13 countries where Prides are either banned or difficult to hold. (I don't have details on the success of this.) Since 2003 Zagreb has been working to establish a general LGBTQI activist platform based on solidarity, non-violence, understanding, anti-nationalism and LGBTQI inclusiveness, including right to self-definition and freedom of expression. Coordination with the Region has been difficult, but they have had the most success with a program of Sister Prides with Ljubljana and Belgrade.

### Ljubljana Pride

Ljubljana Pride has existed since 2001. It consists of a week of cultural events and parties culminating in a parade and final party. The dates this year were June 20-27. In the past, attendance typically has been about 200, but this year they had a record 800-900. In general they do not encounter violence. However, a literary evening held at a café on June 25 as part of the pre-parade events was attacked by masked men wielding flaming torches and rocks and shouting homophobic statements and threats. Five of these men brutally attacked Mitja Blazic, a prominent LGBT activist and journalist, who was standing in front of the café. He was beaten severely enough to require hospital treatment. In 2008 his partner, Victor, was attacked on his way home after the parade. (See addendum for Amnesty International report of this incident.)

There is little or no police protection of the Pride event and no special strategy regarding security. Apparently none has been needed. Although the right-wing government never openly supported Pride, this year, ministers from the newly elected center-left and liberal government spoke from the stage. Their Mayor is also supportive and gives the opening address.

### Bucharest

#### Gay-Fest and Official Romanian Gay March

Bucharest has been holding a week-long annual Pride event since 2004. This year's program, held May 18-24, included debates, exhibitions, lectures, film festivals, classical music concerts, workshops, parties and a press conference culminating in a march and after party.

The March, alone, was attended by about 350 persons. They encountered no violence this year, but have in previous years. However, there were two counter-demonstrations, one promoting "family values" and the other "normalcy." They receive no government funding, but are financed by international institutions, mainly the Open Society Institute (Soros) receive support from the British Council, the Goethe Institute, the British Embassy, the Czech Center and others.





*Bucharest Gay-Fest 2009*

### **Moldova (Chisinau)**

From what I can tell from their website, no public Pride event was held or attempted in 2009. Attempts to contact the organizers have gone unanswered and it seems that their program of discussions and parties, "Rainbow over the Dniester" was held indoors. As I said previously, I believe that Moldova should be passed on to the Region that includes Russia. However, I will briefly cover their history.

The 2008 Moldovan Pride (apparently 7<sup>th</sup> such attempt) was thwarted by extreme violent opposition from large, aggressive coordinated groups including religious extremists, the "New Right" neo-fascist organization and legionnaires. In brief: a bus carrying some 60 participants to the Pride venue was surrounded and violently attacked for 45 minutes by some 200-400 persons. The police did nothing to assist the pride participants or obstruct the aggressive protesters. In fact, there were no police observed on the scene, with the exception of six traffic police cars some distance away, who took no action. Repeated calls to the police went unanswered. The offices of the Pride organizing group GenderDoc-M were simultaneously attacked, and a group of several hundred people of all ages gathered in Great National Assembly Square with banners promoting Christian and "family" values.

### **Istanbul Pride**

Istanbul has been holding Prides for at least several years, with some difficulties in the past. I have repeatedly attempted to contact individuals, the Lambda-Istanbul organization, as well as Greeks who attended Istanbul Pride this year and last, but have not gotten any response from anyone – this despite assurances from people here that Istanbul is anxious to collaborate with Athens! From what I can tell, this year's event, in the most central areas of the city (Taxim, Beyoglu, Istiklal Avenue, etc) was successful and unhampered by protests. It consisted of a well-organized week-long program, from June 21-27, culminating in a press conference and a Parade, which was attended by between 1000 and 2000 people. The pre-parade program

consisted of political debates, film screenings, parties, cultural discussions, etc.

My short range goal is to establish direct contact with the Istanbul organizers.

### **Belgrade Pride**

I have saved the worst and most recent for last. The devastating events of September 19, 20, and the days that followed shocked and dismayed the LGBTQI community and human rights agencies worldwide. For the first time in eight years following the bloodbath of 2001, LGBTQI activists in Belgrade attempted to hold another Pride. After months of intensive planning among local and regional activists, the authorities, the police, and the international community, including the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the UN, the event was scheduled for Sunday, September 20. (See addendum for details.) Like Sofia, extensive security measures and safety directives were supposedly in place. However, unlike Sofia, the violent extremist elements were in enormous numbers, with bands of well-orchestrated youths roaming the city eager to brutally attack not only anyone who "looked queer" but also anyone who looked "different" – meaning simply anyone clearly foreign. Groups were also stationed at the airport and train station, aware that Pride participants would be arriving from out of town. The Athens Pride delegation of four young people was accosted upon their early morning arrival at the train station, and barely escaped injury by boarding a taxi. They witnessed an Australian man, who was not even gay, brutally attacked in a public restroom; he was hospitalized in critical condition from his injuries.

Conditions were so out of hand that, at a press conference held on Saturday, the day before the planned even, the Serbian authorities revoked the permit for a Pride in the center of town. They proposed an alternative venue in a park outside of the city, a plan rejected by the organizers as not only counter to the principles of Pride but unsafe as well. Rather than re-describe the events in greater detail, I have attached a personal account by Filippa Diamanti, one of the Athens Pride representatives, the cancellation and call for action by the Belgrade Pride organizing committee. It should be noted that the Greek contingent to Belgrade numbered eight – the largest national group there.

### **Personal account by an Athens Pride delegate to Belgrade Pride 2009**

*Sept. 19, 2009*

Here they kill people just because they look a little bit different and because they assume you are gay.

What we lived through today, at midday in the central part of the city, was shocking.

There were fascists everywhere, they judged you by your looks and they followed whomever they thought was gay.

They followed a group of tourists thinking that the boy looked

gay and when the latter entered the public toilet, they went in after him and beat him to pulp. I will never forget his cries. The fellow was not even gay and he was Australian. He didn't even know about the Pride and all that went with it.

Who knows how many people were attacked today without knowing why.

The good thing was that the police arrived immediately and called for an ambulance. The incident was shown on the news and they showed us as well (people from Athens Pride) being escorted to get a taxi.

We decided to leave for to Zagreb the next morning because we did not feel safe and we were very frightened. It's a pity because [Belgrade] is a beautiful city and we could not enjoy it.

The organizers have done a fantastic job with the media. Everybody now talks about Pride and they are giving it a lot of coverage. Today they even showed a documentary about Pride showing the organizers talking about it. These people who appear on television really and truly risk their lives.

The police were rushing wherever their presence was requested and one cop even apologised to us.

These fascists, though, are very well organized. They have filled the city with hate graffiti and have described in their blogs what gays look like, and there are a lot of them. They are young male hooligans between 12 and 25 years of age.

Foolishly, we did not show the banner we had prepared for the Pride, but it would have been dangerous to carry it.



The banner not carried – 100% EQUALITY



At the Swedish Embassy, Belgrade, September 20, 2009 – left to right Billy Ulrich, Filippa Diamanti and Nikolai (Moscow Pride)

### Belgrade Pride Call for Action, September 19, 2009

This morning organizers Beograd Pride held their final press conference before tomorrow's pride parade. Except pride will not be held, due to high security risks and a lack of cooperation on the part of state and police to secure the event.

Serbian police have cancelled permission for the pride to be held in its planned location in the centre of the city. This is after months of planning by the organizing team, and repeated assurances from government at all levels, the Minister for Minorities, and the Serbian Premier and President, that the pride will be secured and protected.

A full security study was commissioned more than three months ago by pride organizers and executed by the university defense department constructing a detailed strategy for all logistical possibilities to carry out pride safely with full instructions for how police would secure pride participants entrance to the parade, their safety during the event and their ability to leave the event unmolested.

This security study also made detailed recommendations for preventative measures that could be taken by police in the months leading up to pride to minimize the risk of violence. Police did not undertake these measures and despite months of meetings with pride organizers and daily meetings in the past two weeks have failed to act on security measures, instead choosing the tactic of pressurizing organizers to cancel the event.

In the last 48 hours the police in meetings with pride organizers refused all cooperation for the securing of the pride applying further pressure to organizers to cancel. Police refused to take responsibility for maintaining public order during the event. Instead telling the pride organizers that they would be held responsible for any public damage caused by the hooligans and fascist groups who have been organizing a violent response to pride.

In the past week the logistical plans of fascist groups for their violence towards pride participants have been published in Serbian media, these plans include calls for the lynching and beating LGBT people attending the pride.

Serbia has laws against hate speech but at no point has there been any move on the part of authorities to prosecute, instead the official line has been that this is \*a debate, an exchange of opinions.\*

Public statements in support of pride have been made at the level of European Parliament as this is an important step forward for human rights in Serbia and would signal an end to the rule of right wing violence over the rights of minority groups and an entry of Serbian society into a new era of more open equality.

Police have offered an alternative venue on the edge of town, though how this event might be better secured than the location formerly agreed upon is not known.

Today pride organizers have officially requested that police take action against fascist and right wing organizations who have issued hate speech against LGBT groups and pride in the press. Pride organizers continue to meet today to discuss possible courses of action to demonstrate against this failure by Serbian state and police to defend our most basic human rights, the right to safely walk the streets.

*We want to ask you for your support and action.  
Please spread the Information,  
write protest notes to the following Politicians or  
organize protests at Serbian embassies.*

**Support and High Hopes – excerpt of email from  
Belgrade Pride organizer Sept. 2, 2009**

*So far, we have established the Belgrade Pride Organizing Committee, which consists of representatives from LGBT groups and individual activists. We have started the cooperation related to organization of Pride March with some democratic political parties (Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, League for Social Democracy of Vojvodina, etc.), the Republic Ombudsperson, and Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. We have also received the support of more than 70 HR, women's, and LGBT organizations, both Serbian and international, which signed the Declaration – Let there be Pride March. Some of these organizations will also be involved with some parts of the event organization. We have also contacted and have assured the support of several celebrities from Serbia in order to ensure and increase the security of the event. In the end, we have contacted and have assured the support of international organizations, such as ILGA Europe, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, etc. On Friday some of these 'celebrities' will make short TV clips and call people to join us, and TV B92 will do the advertising with these clips.*

*The safety of all participants of Pride March is the most important for us and there is a good cooperation established between police and the organizers of Belgrade Pride. The police representatives assured us they will do their best to ensure the protection of the participants. After we have contacted the high-level representatives in the police administration hierarchy, they have assigned the police officials which will be responsible for the operational issues of protection and preventive measures for safe realization of Belgrade Pride 2009. The presence of the internationals, celebrities and public persons will help us increase the safety and security of the participants of this march for equality.*

**Addena**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: EUR 68/002/2009

26 June 2009

**Slovenia: Violence surrounds the Ljubljana Pride**

*Amnesty International condemns the recent attack on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people which took place on the night of 25 June 2009 in Ljubljana, capital city of Slovenia. The organization calls on the Slovenian authorities to conduct prompt, independent, impartial and thorough investigation of the incident and to bring those responsible to justice.*

*Amnesty International also urges the authorities to publically condemn the attack and to express their support for the participants and organizers of the Ljubljana Pride which is planned for Saturday, 27 of June 2009.*

*On the night of 25 June 2009, as part of a week of cultural events preceding the Ljubljana Pride a literary evening was organized in the Cafe Open in Ljubljana. At around 9 pm between seven and eight unidentified masked men carrying stones and torches gathered in front of the Cafe. They started shouting homophobic statements calling for the death of LGBT people. Shortly after, they started throwing stones and torches at the Cafe which resulted in material damage to the Cafe.*

*Five of the men approached Mitja Blažič, well known Slovenian LGBT activist and journalist, who was standing in front of the Cafe building and started assaulting him. He was severely beaten up. The perpetrators hit him with torches and threw stones at him which resulted in a head injury, burns on his neck and damaged finger. Following the attack Mitja Blažič was taken to hospital where his head was stitched and other injuries fixed.*

*Amnesty International calls on the authorities to ensure the right of everyone to effectively exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly without discrimination.*

*The organization urges the authorities to provide effective and adequate protection to LGBT people during and after the Ljubljana Pride.*



## **A short report about human rights violations on Zagreb (Gay) Pride 2009**

*By Franko Dota and Marko Jurčić, Zagreb Pride 2009*

### **Condemnation of police conduct**

The Zagreb Pride Organizational Committee would like to express its dissatisfaction with police conduct before and during the Pride March of LGBTIQ persons. The police violated human and civil rights on multiple occasions, permitted an unconstitutional fascist gathering, permitted hate speech and, therefore, drastically decreased democratic standards of public assembly that have been established in the past years through work and cooperation with the police.

1. The Croatian Police and the Minister of Interior Affairs allowed for the violent and unconstitutional gathering to be held against us, citizens of the Republic of Croatia. We have, along with other civil society organizations and some political parties, during the days before the Pride March, warned that the gathering, according to the method and messages it promoted when announced, obviously promotes and glorifies fascism, neo-nacism, the ustashe and calls for hate speech. When we reached the Main Square, it became clear to everyone that we were right and that the gathering that was granted permission openly advocates against the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia. We would like to know if the Croatian Police would issue permission for a gathering that was announced as anti-Jewish, anti-Serbian or maybe anti-Roma? We hold that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not react in accordance with laws and that through permitting the «anti-gay gathering» it legalized the open expression of hatred and fascism.
2. The police did not react in accordance with the Law on Public Assembly in the cases of the call for murder and hate speech (chanting «Kill, kill faggots», «Faggots to concentration camps»...) on Ban Jelačić Square. The police reacted only to a few incidents and only in accordance to the Law on Public Order. No one was held responsible for the calls for hatred and death which took place at the main city square. The Police also did not react to some citizens outside of the area of that gathering on Ban Jelačić Square who also used hate speech, spat on their fellow citizens in the Pride March and threw objects (cans and one old cell phone). Also, some participants of that gathering were publicly consuming alcoholic beverages (contrary to the Law on Public Assembly).
3. This year, the police limited the constitutional right to freedom of assembly of the Zagreb Pride March. It constantly tried to prevent the leader of the March from stopping and addressing the citizens, which has been a practice during Pride and other gatherings for years. This type of police conduct is completely unacceptable and illegal, and we will

therefore do everything in our capacity to ensure this conduct will never happen again.

All of this information will be reported to the relevant domestic and European institutions; the European Commission, embassies of EU countries, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. We would like to remind you that Croatia has been blocked in the accession process due to the chapter on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. On Saturday, the conduct of the Ministry of Internal Affairs sent a message about police that permits fascist gatherings, hate speech and limits the freedom of public assembly of the peaceful and non-violent citizens.

### **Condemnation of violence**

Zagreb Pride condemns the physical attack on a participant of Pride March, our friend, who was first verbally harassed and then beaten up not far away from his home at around 5:30 pm, when coming back from the assembly. We expect the police to find the gang that obviously planned the attack as he was followed and to criminally prosecute the perpetrators on the basis of hate crime and to investigate the connections between perpetrators of this crime with the groups that organized anti-gay gathering and called for violence.

We ask the president of the Republic of Croatia, the president of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, leaders of institutions, Ombudspersons offices and political parties to publicly and without hesitation condemn violence and identify the hate crimes committed which were instigated by homophobia.

### **Assessment of Pride**

This year's «Zagreb Pride for an Open City – Participate!» was undoubtedly the largest Pride March so far – 700-800 participants! We have shown and proved, for the eighth year in a row, to the entire society what a peaceful assembly is, by expressing our dignity, courage and pride despite intimidation and the permitting of an undemocratic and unconstitutional gathering on Ban Jelačić Square.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual EPOA Conference, Warsaw



The 16<sup>th</sup> annual EPOA conference took place 25-27 September in the city of Warsaw, Poland; hosts of EuroPride 2010.

Mark Frederick Chapman, President of EPOA, chaired the conference, which was attended by 17 member organizations from across Europe. The conference was particularly pleased to welcome representatives from Moscow Pride and Gay Belarus who were celebrating Slavic Pride the same weekend.

All the usual formalities of conference were dealt-with efficiently including the Financial Report for 2008, during which EPOA Treasurer Markus Manegold reported that the organization has made a loss that year of EUR 3,161,28. This was attributed to outstanding EuroPride 2007 license fees still due from Madrid. President Chapman also updated conference that in order to simplify administration the organization would be moving to Brussels where it would have an office in Rainbow House with other LGBT-organizations such as ILGA. This will also make applying for EU funding simpler and the board intended to do so as soon as the organization had registered in Belgium.

Other exciting news reported was that a new website for EPOA will be launched in the fall and will include profiles for all member organizations as well as an opportunity to share information and best-practice.

It was confirmed that EuroPride would not be awarded for 2012 in light of London's successful award of WorldPride for that year. London agreed that, with no EuroPride 2012, it would be happy to host the 18<sup>th</sup> annual EPOA conference in 2011.

Conference went on to discuss the current joint-membership arrangements with InterPride (the International Pride Organizers Association). Concerns were raised that the deal is not currently financially beneficial to EPOA as all membership dues are paid-over to InterPride. Concern was also raised that InterPride's lack of lower-limit on membership fees meant that for very small organizations it was cheaper to join InterPride directly than via EPOA. However the membership agreed to continue the deal for a further two-years and instructed the board to negotiate better terms with InterPride.

Zurich reported to conference that they had had a very successful EuroPride 09 and expected to pay full licensee fees to EPOA shortly. Warsaw reported that plans for EuroPride 2010 are progressing well and launched [www.europride2010.eu](http://www.europride2010.eu) at

the conference. A number of organizations agreed to make donations to Warsaw to help with costs. Further assistance with marketing was also offered.

There was a general discussion about what delegates wanted from conference and from EPOA, this concluded that conference should include more workshops and opportunities to share information. Pride London noted that the 2006 EuroPride conference had collaborated on the Prides Against Prejudice publication and suggested this be reissued. Athens Pride also suggested a Balkan Pride Conference would be valued.

During elections the following were returned to the board of EPOA

President:	<b>Mark Frederick Chapman</b>
Secretary:	<b>Vincent Lorijn</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Markus Manegold</b>
EuroPride Coordinator:	<b>Juan Carlos Alonso Reguero</b>
Human Rights Coordinator:	<b>Kurt Krickler</b>
Conference Coordinator:	<b>Hans De Meyer</b>

**Colm Howard-Lloyd** (London, UK) joined the board as Internet and Media Coordinator and paid tribute to **Andrea Maccarrone** (Rome, Italy) who had previously held this role, and been of excellent service to the membership. Also new to the board is **Tomasz Baczkowski** Outreach & Member Services Coordinator. Paul Turner who had previously held this role, could not be re-elected, as candidates have to be present at the AGM. The board and members thank Paul for his dedicated work he has done for EPOA and wish him well for the future.

The board also met and agreed to appoint **Anita Hillerström-Vagli** (Stockholm, Sweden) as Diversity Coordinator in her absence. **Dimitri Tsambrounis** (Athens, Greece) and **Youri Raes** (Brussels, Belgium) were reappointed as Auditors.

Outside of the conference delegates were treated to a full social programme organized by Pride Warsaw including a gala dinner and city tour. Delegates also had the opportunity to meet with the Chair of the City Council Mrs. Ewa Malinowska-Grupinska and discuss what impact EuroPride 2010 would have on the city. Whilst not agreeing to provide funding for the event (due to it being an election year) she did emphasize how pleased they were to be hosts and that she would be doing her best to ensure the event was successful, peaceful and fun.

*Colm Howard-Lloyd*  
EPOA Internet and Media Coordinator

## REGION 16

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*By Chesterfield Samba, Regional Director*

### Events

GALZ managed to host the 2008 Jacaranda queen festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2008. There was record attendance by the GALZ membership. It was a fun evening despite intermittent power cuts to our property alone, every 10-15 minutes power would be disconnected to frustrate the event. We had a generator on stand by and we decided to have the event powered by generator to avoid more cuts.

On a more positive note however is the acceptance by the police to cover our events although they are still doing so without their official uniforms, it is encouraging to have them present to witness the proceedings.

When I left Canada, part of our goal was to get South Africa on board i.e. Joburg Pride and Capetown Pride as they are arguably the largest Prides in Africa. Capetown Pride initially expressed interest in becoming part of Pride but as more communication between us became intensified, the responsible entities stopped responding to emails. The same goes for Joburg Pride which was far more forthcoming, we are not privy to internal decisions that have been taken. We do express optimism that these two groups will undoubtedly become a part of InterPride in the not too distant future. We are attending Joburg Pride 2009 that will be running under the theme "you need pride" and we were hoping that we would use **promotional materials from InterPride** to increase visibility there.

GALZ will also be having its Pride celebrations provisionally set for the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2009. We are hoping to attract a bigger crowd again and as with previous years hoping for no disturbances to this event. Although this event operates on a shoe string budget, efforts to fundraise and keep it going are always stepped up each year. We hope InterPride continues to provide platforms for us to fundraise for this event to avoid none hosting of the event, some pride is better than no Pride at all!

### Communications

It has been difficult to take part in the Skype meetings do to scheduling that is not convenient to our working hours, although these issues have already been highlighted during various email discussions, I hope that the executive would be able to provide us with **better ways of communicating** that are all inclusive and convenient to use. It would also be prudent for InterPride to devise ways of including members that are unable to attend AGM's due to high travel costs e.g. it would cost me more to travel to St. Pete's than it is to host our event. Our events cost no more than two thousand dollars and the better use of resources would be to finance the event although we have highlighted the need to support prides in hostile areas, I think InterPride should look into supporting prides that run on low cost budgets too.

### Plans for the Future

A number of Initiatives supporting Pride have established themselves in Africa, Out in Africa that promotes gay and lesbian films is one such initiative the InterPride can work with. This film festival has grown and each year continues to organise a film festival as part of SA pride celebrations. This Initiative has distributed films to a number of LGBT organisations in Africa and InterPride could also look into ways of working with this group. There is also the Soweto Pride festival which is taking pride to a "hostile" part of South Africa addressing issues of violence against lesbians in particular and the LGBT community at large. A big thank you to all the committees that we have worked with during the past year, you have all been very supportive. We wish you all the best in St. Pete and here's looking forward to a successful AGM and brighter plans for the future.

## REGION 17 & 19

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*No reports have been submitted*

## REGION 20

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*By Brett Hayhoe, Regional Director and  
Media & Public Relations Assistant*

### The Region in General

Several challenges continue regarding increasing membership of InterPride in this region. One is most definitely geography and therefore a limited ability to physically get to all Pride Event in the area (Australia has six Prides and New Zealand has several spread across that country). Through conversations I have had with some organisers the main misconception that is that InterPride is an American organisation. This is further complicated by a lack of general solidarity amongst the events in the region itself i.e. each organisation works very much on its own with very little collaboration.

I have however had conversations with GLISA-AP. Part of these negotiations include a reciprocal membership deal between the two organisations, sharing of resources, and GLISA-AP joining InterPride. I look forward to a very exciting and mutually beneficial relationship.

One angle I am taking (particularly here in Melbourne) is to promote the advantages of membership through our website. This is something that has fallen on deaf ears under the current design. I am hoping to change this with the new website. I have received in principle support from at least two other organisations once the mooted beautification of the website has been completed.

### Pride March Victoria 2009

Held on the first Sunday of February, this year's event was a huge success – in terms of finance, participation, publicity and general feel. We received incredible support from all sectors of the community including mainstream media, state and federal politicians and the Victoria Police. Having the Chief Commissioner of Police both marching and speaking at the event saw one of the country's largest television networks (the Nine Network) doing a live news feed on the day. It also gave the GLBTi community positive publicity to the broader community sectors.

I have recently received confirmation that the newly appointed Chief Commissioner Simon Overland will continue the tradition of Police involvement at Pride March Victoria by both marching and speaking at the 2010 event.

At the 2009 Pride March I was also given a Sainthood by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (Australian chapter). It was a very humbling experience.

As reported at the mid-year meeting, I have been re-elected as President for a second term. It is my clear direction as President to grow the organisation and Pride March Victoria itself. I have already started negotiated to have a Pride Magazine (for the first time), extending the length of the celebrations on the day of the march and augment the event with a Human Rights Forum. These are all progressing very well.



Chief Christine

### Media and Public Relations Assistant

My call for every region to supply Media contacts for the specific use of InterPride to react to events affecting and effecting our community across the globe did not completely work, however I do have some contacts from several regions. Hopefully this will increase over time. Once this sort of information is gathered I can play a much more direct role in disseminating information to the world media about what is happening to our members and their communities.

Again this year I was privileged to be asked by the co-presidents to write their introduction to Pride Magazine. I also designed

the header for the e-newsletter and worked with the communications chair on the website by reviewing and editing (where applicable) the content.



Brett Hayhoe

### Communications / Membership / WorldPride committee participation

I have enjoyed immensely working with the other members of these committees over the past twelve months. Although a tad heated on occasion, I have been personally pleased with each resolution reached. I look forward to continuing to play my part in shaping the organisation through these committees.

### Pride Event Attendance

One of the highlights of my year personally has been attending Pride London. Although the trip was arranged through Visit London, British Airways and my magazine, Q Magazine, it was deliberately scheduled to coincide with Pride London. Paul, Emma, Colm and the entire team made me so welcome. I was also extremely honoured to be asked to march with Head of Parade and introduce one of the major acts on the Trafalgar Square stage. The experience is one which I will treasure for the rest of my life. To top it all off I was also appointed the Australia and New Zealand Ambassador to WorldPride 2012.

At the time of writing this, planning was well underway for Pride March Victoria's major fundraiser, the Great Aussie Bake-Off and Pride March Victoria 2010.

## **Contact**

InterPride can be contacted via email **[info@interpride.org](mailto:info@interpride.org)** or via our website. Please contact your Regional Director for personal contact.

**[www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org)**



