

September 6, 2009 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

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Annual Business Meeting, GALA Gay & Lesbian Acceptance

Sunday, September 6, 2009

Camp Doniphan, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

4:12 p.m. ; We Share A Mission.

Attendance: 40

Call to Order, D. Howard

Opening Prayer, A. Fiscus

Minutes Approval

MOTION: Nathan Phillips/Fran Zimmerman: to approve the Annual Business Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2008, Temple Grove, Transfer, PA ; carried

Annual Report to Membership; D. Howard

Introduced & recognized members of the Board of Directors.

GALA Board Accomplishments 2008/2009; copy included with minutes.

Treasurer's Report; P. Danielson

10/01/09 - 09/02/09 Report included with registration packet; copy included with minutes.

Reviewed Actual figures from 10/01/2008 - 09/02/2009 (A) vs. Budget (B).

Income A = \$17,459 vs. B = \$22,105

Expenses A = \$14,738 vs. B = \$22,105

Income in excess of Expenses = \$2,721

Balances: Checking \$8,597 Savings \$5,040

Total Cash on Hand, 08/30/2009: \$13,637

Discussed:

Region/Mission Centers

Banner and other public relation items should ONLY contain "Community of Christ" when referring to the church known as such; NEVER use the term "church" in conjunction with the name of the institution.

Donations to Allan Zimmerman Memorial are believed to have all been sent to GALA Gay & Lesbian Acceptance; some had advertently been sent to a GALA organization in PA in error by a funeral home.

Presentation of 2010 Budget; D. Howard/P. Danielson

Report included with registration packet; copy included with minutes.

Grant items have yet to come to fruition in pervious or current budget(s) and therefore have been dropped from the 2010 proposed Budget.

Annual Retreat income/expenses will be handled separately as we move forward; anticipating \$500 income over expenses for 2010 Retreat.

Reviewed items from proposed Budget.

Recognized Mike Hewitt for design & execution of plants at the Temple that was accomplished this year; planning to participate in this program again next spring. Detailed the 50th Anniversary Organ Project; C. Hewitt indicated he can get wholesale flowers. Dates for the events are listed on the church website.

Seed money will continue to be provided for local Pride Celebrations around the country.

Income & Expenses: \$12,250

MOTION: Andrew Chesnutt/Erin Cavanaugh, to approve as presented; carried.

Discussion of Retreats; D. Howard

What is feeling about pulling off two (2) retreats on opposite coasts held the same weekend?

Could we hold them on different weekends?

Alternating coast/alternating years meetings?

- There is visibility, support, familiarity...when we utilize "church" sites.
- Board representation at meetings, regardless of when they are held could be an issue.
- Could we have discussion(s) with Affirmation or any other group that might have interest in joining a joint meeting with GALA?
- Ministry has been to various areas around the country; we do not necessarily see folks attending when the retreats are held outside their area.

If we had two retreats a year, how many would support if on different dates? (15)

Spring and Fall Retreats (14)

Two on Labor Day, every other year (5)

Cost of \$175; how many would be willing to pay more than this amount? (5)

Is there a way to tier the fees to increase fees to local attendees and reduce fees for those that travel to attend to help offset their costs?

Student or teen reduced rate could be helpful.

Are costs reduced at "church camps" if we do more things ourselves?

- Generally any reduced costs for us doing more provide a negligible reduction.
- Also, people tend to get tied up in things that need to be done and miss some or all of meetings, events and/or functions.
- When we all have to do additional work, then it is not a "retreat", but becomes a "chore."

We might want to change how we reach out to teens/youth for GALA Retreat(s).

National GALA info line; C. Hewitt

GALA Reunion (like for a weeklong event)? (6)

How many would like us to do one retreat Labor Day and revised regional retreat (two or three) that local GALA organizations would hold? (25+)

Is there support for a Retreat on a weekend other than Labor Day Weekend? (25)

4th of July (15), MLK/President's Day (20), Easter/Thanksgiving (zero), Veteran's Day (15)

Social trip, like a cruise that would be three or four days, or some such event that might interest people? (20)

Election of Officers & Board Members/Report of Nominating Committee; C. Frey

MOTION: Sharon Troyer/Donna Swall, to affirm the slate from the Nominating Committee's recommendation for:

President-Elect: David Howard

Undersecretary for Publications: David Woosley

Member at Large (3 year term): Saundra Merth

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde Frey, Secretary

GALA Gay & Lesbian Acceptance

GALA Board Accomplishments 2008/2009

- Invested GALA funds in higher interest savings account
- Developed and printed new GALA brochure
- Process for mailing to congregations in US, Canada, Australia, Europe
- Designed new GALA website
- Upgraded quality of the GALA newsletter
- Increased GALA paid membership to 126 paid
- Increased mailing list to include all WC officials; including mission centers
- Pushed for cost saving by encouraging email newsletters
- Increase account balance to nearly \$14,000
- 2009 GALA retreat
- Convened meetings with WC officials
 - First Presidency
 - Apostles (4)
 - Evangelists
 - Bishops
 - High Priests
 - Seminary

- Herald Editor
 - Conflict Resolution office (Sandee Gamet)
 - Seventy
 - World Conference organizing committee
- World Conference Planning
- Retreat Strategic Planning
- Sponsored viewing of "For the Bible Tells Me So"
- Supported Pride Celebrations in Buffalo, Kansas City, and San Francisco
- Submitted hymns for Hymnal project and may have a commissioned piece
- Developed new policy on memberships
- Amended By-laws
- Prayer for Peace services
- Planting of Temple entryway
- Adopted new tagline for logo to be more inclusive
- Developed WC resolutions
- Modified GALA logo
- Developed new GALA merchandise
- Designed and printed banners
- Board Retreat planning
- Pastoral Care
- GALA/WCN Task Force on World Conference
- Filled empty Board position/expanded geography and diversity of Board
- Addressed issues of marriage with WC
- Started Facebook page
- Started discussions on Ontario chapter