



Alameda County Leather Corps

December 2009_January_February 2010

16th Anniversary Party

On October 24th we celebrated our 16th Anniversary. It was good to see so many friends and members present.

Schon Wade is our Rookie of the Year. Terri is the Unsung Hero of the Year. Ranelle and Schon are our Members of the Year.

We also inducted our new officers:

- President: Billy Aviles
- Vice President: Fawn Luck
- Secretary: Erika Rawlins
- Treasurer: Schon Wade
- Sergeant Of Arms: Joan Norry
- Member at Large: Chino Gressel
- Member at Large: Jay Hemphil



President's Message from Billy

Alameda County Leather Corps

Our Mission:

The purpose for which this corporation is organized is to promote educational and charitable activities through social interaction among people with an interest in leather, Levi's and uniforms.

Our Pledge

I agree to abide by the By Laws of ACLC, including the "Code of Conduct". I promise to never bring dishonor to ACLC, and to hold as first priority in all ACLC activities the well being of my fellow members, my community and my club.

Know your By-Laws!

Article VI Membership
Section 14. Dues. Dues, in the amount determined by vote of the general membership, shall be payable in October of each year, and shall be delinquent on the first day of the following January. Dues are paid for the fiscal year and are not pro-rated, except that newly approved members who first pay dues in July, August or September shall not be required to pay again in October. Members who are delinquent may not vote on any issue before the General Assembly, nor hold office of any kind.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

Billy Aviles	President
Fawn Luck	Vice-President
Erika Rawlins	Secretary
Schon Wade	Treasurer
Joan Norry	Sergeant of Arms
Jay Hemphil	Member At Large
Chino Gressel	Member At Large
Richard Sprott	Mr. ACL 2009
Deborah Wade	Ms. ACL 2009

Hello All!

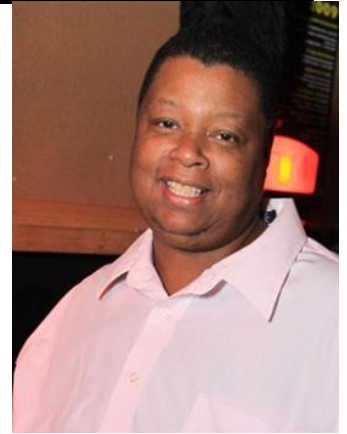
Welcome to the President's Corner, where I am supposed to write something insightful...not!

In fact, I am not sure what I should write. I do, however, want to take this time to thank my board, even though we just started you are all awesome and it's good to know that we all have each other's backs and that our goals for the club are one and the same. I am looking forward to this journey with all of you, it is sure to be a wild ride!

As for the members, hold on to your hats as we all have as much fun as possible as we help those in need. We not only want to work hard but play just as hard. Let's make it a year to remember!

Your Pres,

Billy



New Members: Mercy, Judith, Tony and Richard

We welcomed four new members into the club the last three months. Please welcome Mercy, Judith, Tony and Richard to our Club when you see them at the next event!

Mr. Alameda County Leather 2009—Richard Sprott

Why be a Titleholder?

That is a good question. I mean, why exactly?

In some ways, the bad reasons come more easily to mind than good reasons: to “be” someone (as if a contest can make a person), to prop up your image, to be relevant, to get other people to pay attention to you.

And for every good reason — to raise money, to build community, to be a leader, to help — there is always the clear argument that you don’t need a title to do those things, you can do those things without a title. So why be a titleholder?

Here is my current answer, an answer that is still forming even as I write this.

A title is an organizing role in the community. It doesn’t actu-

ally create anything unique — something that wouldn’t exist if there were no title — but it does facilitate action and it does foster community.

Now, action and community are functions that would have to happen, title or not, so if the title contests disappeared tomorrow, the Leather Community would find some other way. But for right now, titles and titleholders help us come together a little more easily. They focus our attention and they help us focus our attention together, in the same direction — in other words, they organize us (whether we rebel and reject them, or support them).

I want to make things happen, and I want to build community. I can do that without a title — but holding a title makes those things happen a little more

quickly, a little more easily, a little more efficiently.

We all know people who make things happen in our community, without titles. We all know people who bring us together or articulate a vision of what we could be, without titles.

But those people have been able to do that by taking a path that is harder, lonelier sometimes, longer and rockier. If they are persistent and caring enough, they end up creating events, businesses and institutions that do far more good, in the long run, than a particular titleholder can. They end up earning our respect. But it is a long haul, I think.

Being a titleholder is “faster but not as far” in terms of making things happen, bringing people together, than doing so without a title.



So why be a titleholder? Ultimately, the answer is personal. For me, taking on a title means I can make faster progress in building community and supporting our community — but I know that the more enduring aspects of community-building and organizing will take place farther down the road, after I am a “wuzzie” — if I stick to it.

Ms. Alameda County Leather 2009—Deborah Wade

The last few months have been a whirl of events, fund raisers and gatherings. It has been a great joy to represent the club.

I am currently working on a presentation for the Leather Leadership Conference on Building Collaborations in leather communities. I love teaching it has been something I have missed in the last five years.

I was truly saddened by the death of Mr. Marcus and was honored when asked, along with Richard, Nyna and Joan to be Guardians

of the Altar. This, for me, brings my spirituality and my leather together.

I send my sympathy to Queen Cougar. Her care, love and constant vigilance for his welfare is an inspiration of leather commitment and family. The respect for our elders, the ability to love and care for one another is vital to our community.

The Leather Alliance’s grants can help our community members financially.

Their website: <http://www.sfbayarealeatheralliance.org>, will let you know the process for grant applications.

We have a great gift in our community through the Leather Alliance to help others when life is stressful. It is hard for us to ask for help when we need it most.

In the next month I will be contacting members to help a member through a difficult time. It is time to walk the talk of our oath: “to hold as first priority in all



ACLCLC activities the well being of my fellow members, my community and my club”.

Our reputation, as a club, is that we “step-up”. This is the wonder of us. I am blessed and humbled to represent us.

In Loving Memory of Mr. Marcus

March 13, 1932—October 8, 2009



Mr. Marcus Hernandez
Memorial Service
November 21, 2009

Where in the World is Baby?



“No body puts Baby in the corner.”

Baby gets around.



Alameda County Leather Corps presents

Benefits the
Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus
and the
Charlotte Maxwell Clinic

**Santa's Slave
Auction
2009**

Yes, Yes, Yes!



Saturday December 5

6:30 to 10 pm
at The World Famous Turf Club
22519 Main St, Hayward, CA

Mama's Toy Drive -
Please bring a brand new, unwrapped toy
www.aclather.org

Join us for an evening of
Slave Auctions,
Item Auctions,
Raffles and
Sitting with Santa



2009 Rich Stadtmiller www.RichTrove.com

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The Blessing of the Animals



Pride, Dore, Folsom Oh My!

Three times a year we, as a Club, have the honor of running a beverage booth at three events: Pride, Dore and Folsom. While most people wander, play and shop our members and helpers work hard serving the public. It is a great deal of fun and builds team spirit.

These three events pay for our operating costs. Last year not only did it pay our expenses, we were able to give several thousand dollars in grants. Each board, at the end of the fiscal year and their term, rolls over a certain amount for the new board and distributes the rest to charity.

Our club members hard work at these three events allows us to give every dollar we fund raise directly to our charities.

Thank you for all your arduous efforts. Thank you for all the laughter, too!



Erika, ACLC Secretary, serving at the Folsom booth.

How Leaders Succeed

McCall and Lombardo (Morgan McCall and Michael Lombardo 1983) researched both success and failure identified four primary traits by which leaders could succeed or 'derail':

Emotional stability and composure: Calm, confident and predictable, particularly when under stress.

Admitting error: Owning up to mistakes, rather than putting energy into covering up. Being able to sincerely say you are sorry when a mistake is made.

Good interpersonal skills: Able to communicate and persuade others without resort to negative or coercive tactics.

Intellectual breadth: Able to understand a wide range of areas, rather than having a narrow (and narrow-minded) area of expertise.



“...the use of humor does help improve morale, help in the accomplishment of organizational goals, and relieve workplace stress. All three subjects provided examples of leaders (either themselves or others) that had improved their leadership style by incorporating humor as a part of their personality.” Blane Andersen



“having fun is a key ingredient of keeping morale up, and inspiring people to continue to work aggressively toward a common set of objectives”

Richard Gorham

Website:
<http://www.sfba-leatheralliance.org>

Alameda County Leather Corps
P.O. Box 20759
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Calendar Update!

December 2009

- 3rd—Board Meeting, 7:30pm The Lighthouse in Hayward**
- 5th—Santa's Slave Auction**
- 6th—SFBA Leather Alliance Holiday Dinner for Volunteers**
- 10th—GA Meeting, 7:30 pm, The Lighthouse in Hayward**

January 2010

- 7th— Board Meeting, 7:30pm The Lighthouse in Hayward**
- 14th— GA Meeting, 7:30 pm, White Elephant! The World Famous Turf Club in Hayward!**

February 2010

- 4th- Board Meeting, 7:30pm The Lighthouse in Hayward**
- 11th- GA Meeting, 7:30 pm, The Lighthouse in Hayward**
- 13—Daddy's Dungeon, TBA**

Look ahead!!!!

- March 5-6 Leather Alliance Weekend**
- March 20th—Lucky in Leather**

For a complete Bay Area Calendar: SFBA Leather Alliance website:
<http://www.sfbayarealeatheralliance.org>