

## **GAYLA Elder Annual Summary**

### **July 18, 2014 Town Hall**

The 5 GAYLA Elders have met over the past year either in person or phone conferences, 13 meetings totaled with much business conducted following the approved July 19, 2013 charter. The five Elders:

Tom Lucas, 1 year 2013 to 2014, Massachusetts

David Sumner, 2 year 2013 to 2015, Massachusetts

Tom Hughes, 3 year 2013 to 2016, Ohio

Brad Cowen, 4 year 2013 to 2017, Massachusetts

Robert Walker, 5 year 2013 to 2018, Ohio

Charter Roles divided into categories identified in the charter with Elders taking a lead, reaching out to other GAYLA brothers for committee (Pixies) and ad hoc members (Hummingbirds).

Archives, History & Traditions of stewardship of GAYLA's past and present with vision development, Tom Hughes leading with Bob Walker and Pixie Theodore Kerecz: researching to find past materials including holdings at University of South Maine, developed excel sheet of basic information from all 36 years of GAYLA, researching, developing and documenting digital files of each year. Learned that USM is best place to keep holdings, and that the Council of Experience (now Elders) was first introduced at GAYLA 20 years ago.

Leadership Development to identify, encourage and nurture potential leadership and work with current coordinators, Brad Cowen leading: researched and developed excel sheet of attendees in recent ten years with hand off to Marketing Committee and then Archives. Went to Gay Spirit Visions to search out Leadership process. Found that GAYLA is already practicing many of the Best Practices found in other gay men's group.

Marketing & Promotion to retain and reach out for membership of GAYLA through multimedia methods, Tom Lucas and Dave Sumner leading: took Ferry Beach lists of past attendees, changed to excel sheets, and then out reached to many past brothers to say hello and missing you from GAYLA.

Bob took lead in in current communications with researching web site and found Gayla.org was lost and currently pirated-too costly to get back; GaylaGroup.org was not current but still active (Phase One and Two brought current billing and administrative info up to date and removed past dates and prices with bring links up to date-completed; Phase Three to bring current GAYLA information onto site-underway; Phase Four to find secured areas of site for brothers only-being researched of how and pricing). Social Media of Face Book already handled well with Ferry Beach and Pixies Mark Koneg, Troy Liston and Tim Fitzgerald. Found that Social Media and old fashioned communications are best ways to communicate to past and future members.

Liaising and close communications essential with Ferry Beach and Coordinators, Tom Lucas initially lead with divisions created later with Brad taking lead with Ferry Beach and Tom Hughes with Coordinators, helping to resolve issues of programing, finance reimbursements and staff of the week musician and chaplain. Found that relations and understandings have greatly improved with Ferry Beach, and coordiators of both Programs GAYLA and Choral Music Fest.