

GAYLA Council of Elders Charter

(as APPROVED July 19, 2013 GAYLA Town Hall Meeting and REVISED July 20, 2018)

Purpose

The GAYLA Council of Elders offers wisdom of experience and love of GAYLA in support of the GAYLA Coordinators and our larger brotherhood. The Council tends to the long-term growth and vision of GAYLA, freeing the Coordinators to focus on organizing our amazing conference.

Roles

The Council will support the Coordinators: by taking on projects to benefit GAYLA's long-range goals; offering wisdom of experience; and nurturing long-standing relationships with members and partners. The Council may take on projects at the request of the current GAYLA Coordinators the GAYLA Treasurer, the GAYLA Town Meeting, Leadership of Ferry Beach Park Association, or through their own collective wisdom informed by experience. Annual programming will continue to be guided by the elected Coordinators. The Council may organize Working Groups to engage the larger brotherhood. Roles of the Council may include:

Stewardship of History and Vision *For example:*

- Hold institutional memory about GAYLA's history, programming, relationships and evolving vision, and share with the GAYLA leadership and brotherhood in service to GAYLA's long-term vision, the Coordinator's goals, the health of GAYLA, and right relationships
- Assist the Coordinators in the relationship between GAYLA and Ferry Beach (e.g. volunteer compensation, expense reimbursement, conference dates, co-conferences, etc.)

Leadership Development *For example:*

- Identify, encourage and nurture potential Coordinators
- Serve as a sounding board for current Coordinators
- Bring Coordinators new ideas, gay theories, ways of thinking about our lives, and GAYLA

Marketing & Promotion *For example:*

- Retention – explore why men return to GAYLA year after year, why they don't come back
- Organize outreach to past conferees
- Website
- Social media
- Electronic mailing list
- Participation in current and future events that support men loving men at the local-state-national level, such as Pride Events

Membership and Structure

The Council is an agile, focused group that embodies love of GAYLA, history and vision.

- Five members, each serving a 5-year term
- One new member is appointed each year by the current Coordinators. The initial group of members will be appointed by the Coordinators of GAYLA 35. Appointments will be announced at the GAYLA Closing Ceremony.
- Initial members will decide who will serve what length of time (1 year, 2 years, etc.). Thereafter, one member will rotate off each year and one new member will be appointed by the Coordinators
- Coordinators will appoint new members to complete the term of any member who resigns before the conclusion of his term
- Members will decide how frequently to meet, how to reach decisions, etc.
- The group may accomplish its work directly, or may create Working Groups to engage additional volunteers
- Council membership is purely voluntary, offered for the greater vision of GAYLA; members will not be compensated

Annual Summary Report at each Town Hall Meeting

Guidelines for Selection

Suggested attributes:

- 1) Love of GAYLA
- 2) Engagement – service as a Workshop Leader, past Coordinator, Treasurer, Check-in Circle Leader, Friv, Reunion Coordinator, etc.
- 3) Demographics
- 4) Maturity
- 5) Skills, talents and expertise

Required attributes:

- 1) Attended 5 of the most recent 10 GAYLAs, including the current and previous years, or at least 10 GAYLAs including current and previous
- 2) A man may not serve as a Coordinator and member of the Council simultaneously

The GAYLA 34 Town Meeting (2012) charged a committee with creating a proposal for an ongoing group to ensure the long-term growth and wellbeing of GAYLA. The committee was comprised of men who expressed interest at that meeting and following a call for volunteers through email and Facebook. The committee met last week via conference call and twice this week.

The committee offers this proposal as a gift to the GAYLA brotherhood for consideration at Town Meeting.

The men who helped create this gift are: Brad Cohen, Tom Cowen, Andy Guy, Jim Harry, Ted Kerecz, Mark Koenig, Rick Lewellyn, Troy Liston, Tom Lucas, Tom Malone, Bill Mitchell, Dave Sumner, Bob Walker, Ron Willett and Chaser Rue.