



galanews

THE  LETTER

Serving members and friends of
Community of Christ

April 2017
Volume 30 Issue 1

Save the Date!



The 2017 GALA retreat will be held over Labor Day weekend again (September 1-4), this time at Camp Red Cliffe, Utah, a retreat in the mountains of northern Utah. We're excited about the opportunity to share with folks in that area, and to meet with some of the Latter Day Seekers who have expressed interest in GALA. We will also be blessed with wonderful cooking by one of our own—Dave Brosh—who lives nearby and who has promised delicious meals with fresh vegetables from his own garden.

Michele McGrath of the Presiding Bishopric will be our guest minister. We will share more details as they become available...but we hope to see you there!



Who We Are

GALA envisions communities which witness that persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities have sacred worth; are fully included, celebrated, and affirmed with their chosen faith traditions.

We are dedicated to the celebration of diversity. We are committed to exploring issues of spirituality and justice through dialogue, education, and action.

The purpose of GALA is to affirm the dignity and worth of all persons without regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.

We support and encourage self actualization in an atmosphere of love, understanding, and confidentiality.

(continued on page 3)

GALA

Executive Board

Jerry Dale - President
jerrydalejr@gmail.com

President-Elect
(Vacant)

Stephen Donahoe
Vice-President
sjydonahoe@gmail.com

Gayle Humphrey—Chaplain
gayle.humphrey@sbcglobal.net

Brittany Mangelson
Secretary
brittanymangelson@gmail.com

Pam Robison -
Under Secretary for
Publications
robison_p13@yahoo.com

Lisa Meyer - Treasurer
lisameyer1975@yahoo.com

Members At Large:

Dan Gregory
dgregory86@hotmail.com

David Brosh-Hansen
davidbrosh@ymail.com

Kylei Davenport
kyleidavenport@yahoo.com

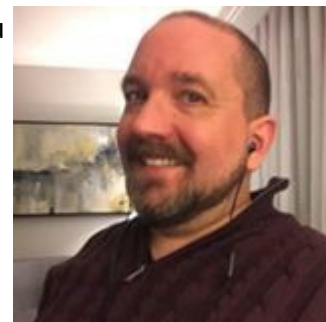
Visit us on the web

www.galaweb.org

President's Message

Jerry Dale, GALA President

I am honored to be your President for the next 2 years and look forward to serving you in ways that best represent our community. For the first time, I believe, the President of GALA has been selected to serve on the World Church Diversity Team for the inter-conference period of 2017-2019. I will be serving along side Peter Smith, another long time GALA member. I will keep you informed of the activities of this group once we start meeting.



Your board has been working on several exciting initiatives for this year. First we are working on getting our administrative records in order and finding ways to better engage with you, our members. If you have not paid your membership, now is the perfect time. Our website contains all the information you need to sign up. The web address is www.galaweb.org.

Next, we are working on our annual retreat to be held at Camp Redcliffe in Utah. Check out <http://www.campredcliffe.org> to learn more about the campgrounds and amenities. **Additional details:** The closest airport is Salt Lake City International and it is about an hour and 15 minutes to the campground and this retreat will be located in the Mountain Time Zone. We are exploring transportation to and from the campgrounds and linen service, so watch for those details...coming soon. As we begin our journey of preparation for the retreat, I ask that you keep the planning committee of Jerry Dale, Lisa Meyer and Brittany Mangelson in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, we are working on a proposal for a Go Fund Mission project. More on this once we have more details. Needless to say your board has been busy in the first few months of 2017!

I want you to know that I am always available to hear your thoughts, concerns and compliments. You can reach me at jerrydalejr@gmail.com or at 202-365-1536 (phone or text).

galanews



(Who We Are—continued from page 1)

Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life. — Doctrine and Covenants 163:2a (Community of Christ)



VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: RECORD KEEPING, NOT RECORD BREAKING

by Stephen Donahoe

It may sound like a minor step, but we have made significant progress over the last couple months in record-keeping. We have long had a spreadsheet back and forth between several board members with contact information of members and friends of GALA. Now we have a Google document with all the contact and membership information we have that can be easily edited by the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. Speaking of edits, if you have updated your contact information in the last couple years, please send this updated information to me at sjdonahoe@gmail.com or Brittany Mangelson at brittanymangelson@gmail.com.

Many members and friends of GALA generously supported the last retreat with additional contributions. Thank you again for your support that helped make the retreat more successful and accessible to people who otherwise couldn't afford to attend. With a better record-keeping system, we will be able to better acknowledge and steward your support.

What we have realized in the process of compiling this database that many of the GALA members whose shoulders we stand on have fallen out of touch with us. So, please take a moment to pass this newsletter

on to a friend who you think would be interested in GALA, perhaps someone who used to be involved who no longer is, or someone who is brand new to GALA.



WELCOMING COMMUNITY NETWORK (WCN) CORNER

by Jerry M. Dale, Jr.

Welcoming Community Network has a new web address www.WCNCofC.org. Don't worry, the old address is still there, this one is just shorter. In January the WCN board met in Denver Colorado and elected Roy Schmidt as President and Jerry Dale as Vice President. Former GALA board member David Woosley (now retired from employment) has agreed to be treasurer and Keith Carter is secretary. We are pleased to welcome Pat Marmoy and Andy Horner as at-large members.

WCN is working on ways to get the message out about welcoming congregations. We are exploring some YouTube videos to help congregations go through the WCN process. Keep on the look out for these new resources coming soon!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please take a few minutes to renew your GALA membership or to join for the first time! A membership renewal form is available on the back page of this newsletter, or you can join online at <http://www.galaweb.org/membership5b.html> Your membership dues help fund GALA activities, and your membership helps us know the kind of activities that are most meaningful to members.

galanews



ELECTIONS MATTER

by Stephen Donahoe

I live and work in Washington, DC and I can say first-hand without a doubt—elections matter. The same is true for GALA. Please contact me at sjdonahoe@gmail.com, Dan Gregory at dgregory86@hotmail.com, or Lisa Meyer at lisameyer1975@yahoo.com if you would like to run for a position on the GALA Board.

In order to be a board member, you have to be a dues-paying member of GALA, so please also take a minute and send in your membership contribution.



TREASURER REPORT

by Lisa Meyer

Well, I have some good news and some bad news.

First, the good news. GALA is looking good financially—we have nearly \$25,000 in the bank as of the end of February. The organization has come out of 2016 about \$5,000 in the black, thanks to generous donations of money and silent auction items. Thank you all for your generosity!

Now for the bad news. So far this year, membership is significantly down from previous years. Last year over the course of the full year, we had 80 memberships (family, individual, or limited income). So far this year, three months into the year, we are only at 24 memberships. Please review your finances and decide if you can support GALA by purchasing a membership at any level. We are also looking into ways to recognize memberships more effectively than we have in the past—perhaps a discount on the

retreat, a recognition method, or a special way to advertise the work that GALA does.

If you have an idea, please e-mail me at lisameyer1975@yahoo.com. We would love to hear your ideas!



GALA IS ALIVE IN MICHIGAN

by Lisa Meyer

Here in Michigan, we have been wondering what we could do to make a difference in LGBT issues in our state. Erin Cavanaugh stepped out in faith and contacted the Michigan Mission Center President and we met with him to determine ways that we could be included throughout the mission center. Dan Nowiski (Michigan Mission Center President) invited GALA to present during the Sunday morning class time at Mission Center Conference, which was hugely successful! Erin Cavanaugh presented on GALA and WCN and the processes of becoming welcoming to LGBT persons in congregations and in the mission center.

In addition, GALA had an informational table/display at the Mission Center conference as well. As part of this display, several events were scheduled for the first half of 2017. So far, Erin and I have planned and carried out a full-day Welcoming Workshop that we plan to replicate across Michigan. At the initial workshop, we had 8 participants from 2 congregations—not too bad considering that Michigan had some nasty weather that weekend. We have another one scheduled for April 8 in the northern half of Michigan. We have already had several requests to offer the workshop in other

(continued on page 5)



galanews



(GALA Is Alive in Michigan—continued from page 4)

congregations around the state. We have also held a movie/panel afternoon at another congregation in Michigan, which had around 10 participants. From these events held so far, we have at least 3 congregations seriously considering/starting the Welcoming process to become officially Welcoming congregations. One of these congregations invited Erin and myself to speak on a Sunday morning to share our experiences and have already invited us back to speak again. GALA is alive and well in Michigan!



DONATIONS

As you are planning your charitable giving, don't forget GALA. We depend on **you** to help support our activities! You can also support GALA when you shop on amazon.com! Log in to amazon.com/smile and select "Gala Gay and Lesbian Acceptance Inc." and a portion of your purchase will be donated to our organization.

THANKS TO ERIN!

GALA does not currently have an immediate past president. While that position would normally have been held by Erin Cavanaugh, she felt that in order to take care of her local church and ministry opportunities, she needed to let some other responsibilities go. We appreciate her service as GALA president and wish her well.



PRAYER FOR PEACE

Regardless of political stance, it is important for us to draw together in prayer for peace in our world. This is especially important in 2017, since one has only to turn on the television or read the newspaper to see the many places struggling with a lack of peace..

Wallace B. Smith, church president from 1978–1996, presented instructions to the 1984 World Conference regarding building the Temple in Independence, Missouri. Included in this counsel are words that set the tone for the building: "The Temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation and healing of the spirit" (Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a). The Daily Prayer for Peace started December 3, 1993, on the first day of the Peace Colloquy at the Temple.

Each day a prayer is offered for a specific country based on the World Council of Churches' ecumenical prayer cycle.

We invite all GALA members to share in this prayer, which takes place at 1:00 p.m. central time. You may find each day's prayer at <http://www.cofchrist.org/daily-prayer-for-peace> or create your own.





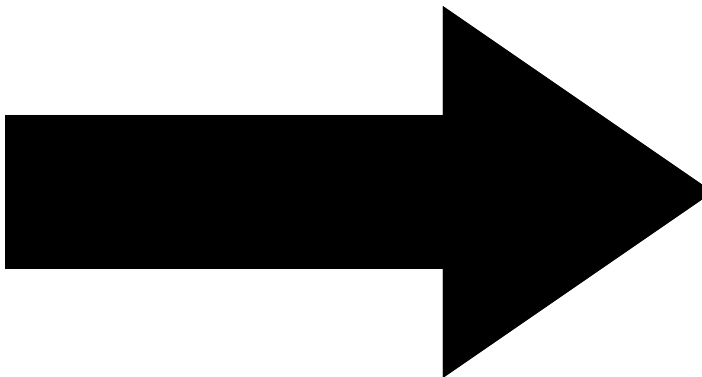
November 2016

P.O. Box 146
Lapeer, MI 48446

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL WORKS

Join or renew your
membership
today here
or online at
www.galaweb.org



2017 GALA Membership

Name(s): _____

E-mail: _____

YES; send me the newsletter by e-mail

Address: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Level (U.S. dollars):

Individual(\$25) Family(\$40)

Limited Income(\$10)

I would like to make an additional donation for the 2016 retreat:
 \$50 \$100 \$200 or \$ _____

I would like to make an additional contribution to advance GALA's outreach and educational goals:
 \$50 \$100 \$200 or \$ _____

Contributions to GALA are tax deductible.

**Please return to: P.O. Box 146
Lapeer, MI 48446**

