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*January 2024*

# Newsletter

## Presidents Report

Hello again!

It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter and we are looking forward to sharing not only what we've done and where we've been, but also what is coming up soon.

Back in December we held Santa's Service Auction at the Powerhouse in San Francisco, and it was quite an event. Lots of food, a few libations, and a bunch of old and new friends joined ACLC for this event that has become a staple of our year. Together we raised enough funds to donate \$1,780 to Urban Angels and support their holiday gift giving program. Thank you to everyone who donated their services and goodies and to everyone who bid. It was a rousing success!

In January, we held our first Eagle Beer Bust of the year. The weather, for mid-January, was perfect, and the holiday weekend crowd showed up in force. Thank you to everyone who helped serve food and sell jello shots and raffle tickets. The beer busts are one of the main sources of revenue that allow us to continue to produce our fund-raising events and disburse funds at the end of the year to our deserving beneficiaries.

In February, a contingent of ACLC members went to the American Brotherhood Weekend in Las Vegas. We have photos. Check 'em out later in the newsletter. We even got a couple of new associate members. It all sounds like it was a total blast, even if people did get stuck in Vegas due to storm.

Looking ahead, be sure to join us at The Bolt in Sacramento on Saturday, March 30th for the triumphant return of Baskets, Bonnets, and Jock. This is a revival of a beloved ACLC event from Days of Olde™. Put on your Easter bonnet (you know, the one with all the frills upon it) or your best jock (or your worst) or put together a basket to auction off. We will award a "fabulous prize" to the person who raises the most money with their offering. All the proceeds will support Leather Alley at Sacramento Pride in June.

And mark your calendars, because we're doing Mendocino Pride again. Last year was a huge success and we had far too much fun to let the opportunity go. It's Saturday, May 18th in Hopland, CA. We are extremely grateful to have this opportunity, because small-town Pride celebration really seem to bring out the best in our community. I hope to see you there.

I've nattered on enough. I'll see you at the Bolt on the 30th!

Cheers!

Andrew aka Bootdog President, ACLC



# Treasurers Report

Oct-Dec. Treasure report for the January-March 2024 newsletter: Income=\$6145.90 from membership dues, donations, beer bust and Santa Service auction.

Expenses: \$7539.82 included Anniversary, grants, state required fee's, zoom, and storage. (-\$1394) for the quarter, but next quarter we have another beer bust to raise \$. Your membership and participation is very important.



# Vice President Report

*Hello to everyone in the club, it's "Me" your favorite Ms ACL 2012., Christy. This year I will be serving as your Vice President so our goal will be to support Boot Dog at all costs, I'm your alternative. The first thing you can do to support the club, we need people on the events committee, meeting can be done on zoom so members who moved out of the Bay Area can still add their own skill set. Secondly if you really just do not have the bandwidth for meetings, let the committee know you able to attend events and would love to volunteer. Lastly, if you are like I really can't commit to being a volunteer, then we ask that you show up at any event that tickles your fancy and hang out with us.*

*I would like to also promote our 3rd Tuesday of the Month zoom meeting. We start at 7PM generally go until 8PM some months we go a little longer, even if you only have a few minutes, life stories being shared. Link shared on a few platforms, Facebook group generally has the link early. Also we have an instagram account, Acleather, feel free to promote us on this platform, also idk you have images we can use from our events going forward please send them in for our insta act. Thanks....looking forward to a fun year and seeing loving faces again .*



Remember our history:

30 years ago in 1994 -MrACL was Lance Brittain, MsACL was Rhadika Gilmore, that year we held two other contest ACLC Cheeks and Chaps: winners were Den Calkins and Yvonne Driver, then East Bay Cheeks and Chaps winners Tim Johns and Lil Cooper.

Celebrating 20 years-2004 MrACL was Tie James and MsACL-Fawn Luck. That year we also held the AC Bear contest-winner was Ben Boudreau. We recognize all our past titleholders and appreciate all the work they did.



# Education

## The Evolving Power of Language

Jeffrey Wayne

Just last month, Alta California Leather Corps gathered in Hayward to celebrate our clubs thirtieth anniversary. Thirty years is a long time. In a nostalgic mood, I wonder what it must have been like thirty years ago when our leather siblings first came together to establish our club.

Right there, I illustrate one way in which the world has changed. The push to more gender-inclusive language. Instead of “brothers and sisters,” I instinctively reached for the gender-neutral term “siblings.” Gender-Neutral meaning “not relating to or specifying on particular gender.” Often used to refer to items, events, or language, Gender-Neutral is commonly confused with “Non-Binary.” Non-Binary relates specifically to gender identities.

The term can be an identity itself, or it can refer to other gender identities that live on the spectrum beyond male and female. Two examples of these identities include “Agender” and “Neutrois.” Agender refers to individuals that identify as genderless and are usually capable of living without gender dysphoria. Neutrois is similar to “Agender” in that the identity is genderless, but people with Neutrois identities generally experience discomfort with their physical bodies and present their bodies as genderless.

Another change that comes to mind over the last thirty years is the rise of the term “Pansexuality.” Pansexuality is often confused with Bisexuality and that confusion often leads to erroneous attitudes towards Bisexual people. Although the term Pansexual was coined in the early 1900’s and Pansexual flag was revealed in 2010, Pansexual identity has seen significant growth over the last decade. According to a 2017 survey from the Human Rights Campaign, 14% of LGBTQ youth identified is Pansexual. That number had doubled from only five years earlier. So what’s the difference between Bisexuality and Pansexuality? The nuance lies in the Bisexuals are attracted to people’s sexes, and Pansexuals are attracted to people’s genders. One is not inherently better or more inclusive than the other. My personal favorite definition of bisexuality comes from bisexual activist Robyn Ochs who says, “I call myself bisexual because I acknowledge that I have in myself the potential to be attracted—romantically and/or sexually—to people of more than one gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily to the same degree.” This definition perfectly encapsulates the nuance of the term.

The last vernacular change I’ve noticed over the last few years is the rise in terminology to describe how one relates to others outside the realm of sexuality and gender. For example, Sapiosexual. Sapiosexuality is the sexual attraction to someone based solely on their perceived intelligence. Often derided as an elitist conceit, it’s appearing in increased frequency on (ironically) hookup apps. Two other terms, Demisexual and Fraysexual are being used more frequently these days. A Demisexual person only experiences sexual attraction towards people with whom they share a romantic connection. Meanwhile, Fraysexual refers to someone who have an easier time feeling sexual attraction towards someone they do not know or have just met than with someone whom they share an emotional connection.

As much as has occurred over the last thirty years, the human desire to define and categorize can be viewed in either positive or negative lights. Whether you choose to define or not, knowing the terminology can help to navigate the world around us.

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