



# Alameda County Leather Corps Newsletter

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## From the Editrix

Here we are again, with our latest update to everything happening with ACLC! Enjoy!

*Lady Cynthia*

## From Mr. Alameda County Leather 2017

Steve "Ox" Geist

It's been a busy couple of months, starting with Big Daddy Santa's Minions Auction in December, where we had a very successful and entertaining evening raising nearly \$3,100 for the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

This one hits particularly close to home, with one out of five Alameda County residents benefiting from their services.

In the future, if you want to contribute to a food bank on your own, please remember that while canned food drives look good, especially around Thanksgiving and Christmas, *what they really want is money.*



By being able to buy directly from the growers and producers and partnering with other for banks in the region, *they can take your dollar and get about six dollars' worth of food.*

### I Was Sold!

At the BDSM Auction, I put myself up for auction. My memory is fuzzy on "How much and to whom" but on February 13, I held up my end of the bargain and did a volunteer shift at the Food Bank. Coming in for the afternoon as an individual, I was put to work bagging onions, potatoes, and an alarmingly large amount of ginger. Maybe I'm easily scared by rhizomes, but two laundry baskets' worth of rough-cut chunks of ginger root seems like an awful lot, but that's the luck of the draw at the food bank. They need to "turn and burn" with perishable items and send them out as soon as possible.

### Mr. Eagle 562.

At the end of January, life took me to Long Beach, where I lucked into being able to attend the Mr. Eagle 562 contest and the selection of Pup Yoshi as the first-ever Mr. Eagle 562. There was an impressive range of title-holders primarily from southern California, plus me and Mr. Alameda County Leather 2016 Ray Middling representing the north. There were nearly as many people in attendance at a bar's first title contest as we had at the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest last year. What are we as a region doing wrong, or what did a small bar do so right?

### On the Calendar...

On **Saturday, March 10, 2018** it was time to get lucky and fist the leprechaun! ***Lucky In Leather: Sharin' o' the Green*** was a fundraiser for the Online Policy Group, better known in the community as QueerNet. They're the leading non-profit online community center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, HIV/AIDS, and SM/leather folks, hosting free websites and

email lists for all of these groups. (QueerNet has hosted ACLC's email services for several years).

42 minutes into our event, we experienced a PG&E outage affecting most of downtown Hayward. Despite this challenge, we moved the festivities out onto the patio, and managed to still have a great time!

We served up corned beef sandwiches and sauerkraut along with other potluck delights, and entertainment was provided by our own Beth Elliott (storytelling, traditional Irish songs) and Miss Lady Bug!

Tax Day is coming, and along with Form 1040 and a shoebox full of receipts, it brings our April event: **Submit to the IRS!** We're still looking for a calculator and penciling in the details, but for now, I can say that it will be **Sunday, April 15, 2018, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM** at the White Horse in Oakland to benefit the Bay Area Youth Center and the Pacific Center

Until next time, whether it's in leather or not, go have some fun!

Yours in leather,

*Steve "Ox" Geist*

Mr. Alameda County Leather 2017  
[mracl@acleather.org](mailto:mracl@acleather.org)

## The Vice President's Moment

*Nyna V. Kaiser*

This year I celebrated my 15th year as an ACLC member. For 10 of those years, I participated on the board or on a committee. It has been more than five years since I was active on the board, but I have always stayed in touch with the Presidents and other board members. A lot has changed and at the same time, much is the same such as structure and processes. It is good to see the dedication and passion of the membership and the board members that devote many volunteer hours to our club. What I value is the commitment, respect, accountability and responsibility we have in our club and the board members. Each board member is tasked to learn to work together with new people and those we already know, share our common values and learn to trust each other as a team.

Mr. Allan wrote in the December 2017 Newsletter that each ACLC board spends about three months or ¼ of the year just getting organized. ACLC is not unusual in this team development process.



*Photo courtesy of and (c)2017 Rich Stadtmiller  
[www.richtrove.com](http://www.richtrove.com)*

When anyone researches the stages of team dynamics they will discover the four stages of forming (creation of the group/team), storming (sorting out differences in work styles and communication), Norming (the group reaching agreement on goals and mutual accountability) to Performing (real productivity).

New members impact the dynamics and slow the process of storming and norming. This is where I come in, as the newest board member.

I'm catching up to the revisions the prior boards made in the policies, and what plans have been made for the year ahead. Thankfully this is not my first rodeo and I catch up quickly. As with any diverse group of board members or team, we will have our "Stormy" meetings, because diversity brings differences, in-novation, creativity, discovery, and the richness of different backgrounds, knowledge and skills.

Here are some common tips for success when building a new board:<sup>1</sup>

- Assume good intent from each other.
- Let people speak and listen.
- Ask more questions and seek to understand.
- Be willing to give a little and be likable.
- Be easy to work with.
- Be professional.
- Do the work.
- Follow through on your commitments.
- Learn together.
- Coach each other.
- Give before asking.
- Go the extra mile.
- Show some humility.

It is not easy to build trust between each other and/or to begin to work well as a new board and within the club, credibility is needed along with vulnerability. Doing the right things, the right way, by following the by-laws and policies. Being ethical and competent, honest, open in communication and clear about motivations and our intentions.

Our first priority must always be serving the best interest of the club, and not ourselves as members of the club or the board.

Yet we as board members are responsible for the business side of our non-profit organization. I bring my strengths to the club, as a past president, titleholder, committee member and M.B. A. (along with RN, etc.). I look forward serving Alameda County Leather Corp. on the 2018 board, thank you for the opportunity to make a difference. I usually enjoy a good roller coaster ride!

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.consultantsmind.com/>

## Community, Challenge, Change...in the Fast Lane!

Alex McGowen

What exciting adventures we are already embarking upon this year as we enjoy this ride, rocketing along through 2018!

As a community and a club, we are as diverse as the many walks of life that have shaped how we are knit and woven into the fabric of Alameda County. We are multigenerational; multi-ethnic; we span the continuum of genders and sexual orientations; we have an array of career paths, hobbies, and interests among us. That means that we can share many ways to have fun and we continue to have much to learn from one another. And, thanks to the ongoing growth of technology, interaction is everywhere: There is always a place for a new perspective, a new idea to spark, a conversation to happen, another windy road that leads to somewhere exciting.

Cruising down all kinds of twists and turns in the road this year, in both my own journey and with the club from the time that I became a full, active member of ACLC back in September 2017, I stopped for moment as I recently came across an inspiring question on Facebook.

The question was: *What are some of your favorite charities?*

As an ACLC member, this question felt relevant to mention and discuss since we are a club that prioritizes charity work and community service for the greater good, and more specifically, to Alameda County.

In previous editions of our newsletter, Mr. Allan and Lady Cynthia have both written about building and sustaining a culture of service and giving back to those in need. Simply put, we are about making a positive difference in the lives of others, within Alameda County, who are less fortunate and are most in need.

One of the biggest challenges that exists right in our own backyard in Alameda County is the disparities that different people face in being able to access relevant, meaningful resources and opportunities. With the many changing faces of new titleholders each year, Board of Directors, and hopefully new members, there are always more questions than answers: How do we define need? Who are most in need, and why? How and when is this decided upon? What causes for charity are most relevant and compelling in Alameda County?

For us to be able to have fun in our community service to others who are most in need, it must, at minimum, also feel enriching and be meaningful on some level to club members.

So, what topics, issues, and challenges in the world and in the community do you care about? What charities in Alameda County hold meaning and significance for you, and why? What drives your passion? Let's hit the throttle on starting those conversations as we bustle more into the fun of 2018 as a club.

In the meantime, be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming club events. Life moves pretty fast; if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

## Meet the Beneficiaries

### Bay Area Youth Center

BAYC provides support and a safe space for at-risk youth who identify as LGBT and may be at risk for homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse, physical or emotional abuse. It provides service to youth in the East Bay/ Hayward area.

### Alameda County Community Food Bank

Alameda County Community Food Bank has been in business since 1985 ... with a vision toward a day when they can go out of business. ACCFB is the hub of a vast collection and distribution network that provides food for 240 nonprofit agencies in Alameda County.

In 2015, the Food Bank distributed 25 million meals -- more than half of the food was fresh fruits and vegetables. Our goal is to ensure every food insecure child, adult and senior in Alameda County knows where their next meal is coming from, by 2018.

Through a network of 240 strategically placed member agencies - food pantries, soup kitchens, child-care centers, senior centers, after-school programs and other community-based organizations - as well as their own direct-distribution programs, the Food Bank distributes enough food to provide 540,000 meals weekly.

Their systematic approach to alleviating hunger includes:

- One of California's busiest – and most efficient – emergency food helplines
- A multilingual outreach effort which serves as the blueprint for pro-grams across the nation
- Dynamic hunger and nutrition education programs
- An innovative advocacy program that promotes policies to benefit low-income residents.

Find out more at <http://www.accfb.org>

## Recent ACLC Events

### Lucky in Leather: Sharin'O'The Green! (3/10/18)

Steve Geist, Mr. ACLC 2017, has already reviewed how brilliantly our stalwart group drove this event forward despite the best efforts of PG&E to darken the Turf Club. We hope to have photos in a future issue of the newsletter!

### Quarterly Education Program (3/8/18)

On March 8th after the General Assembly, Lady Cynthia presented a demonstration of how to tie a Japanese Bondage Harness (Karada).

While an hour was not enough time to let everyone have a try at tying one, Ray & Steve did do a practice harness.

For anyone who would like to give it a whirl, here is a link for a how-to:

<http://www.officerwes.com/ropeman/~hdg1314.htm>

(Thanks to Steve for sharing this link!)

### Holiday Gift Exchange (1/11/18)

ACLC hosted its holiday gift exchange following a brief January General Assembly.

There were many good presents (with a number of steals, particularly for a set of MP3 players and a "Baby Groot" Chia Pet) and some terrific eats as well.

### Big Daddy Santa's Minion Auction (12/2/17)

ACLC auctioned goods and services, and at least one actual minion) to support our community. This year was a hugely festive occasion, raising \$3,100 to benefit the Alameda County Community Food Bank!



## Upcoming Events

### Church of the Poisoned Mind East Bay Leather Meet 'n Beat

**Sunday, March 25, 2018, 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM**

*World Famous Turf Club, 22519 Main Street, Hayward, CA 94544*

Come spend an afternoon in wicked sin with BDSM demos performed by some of our club members and learn tips from a boot-black to rub some love into those boots!

Demos by girl Kim, Christy Busch, Master Scott, Jay Williams and more.

2:00 PM Bootblack workshop with Sweetie Bootblack and puppies playing on the patio.

BBQ and Cigars on the patio starting at 2:00 PM

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/156131498512134/>

### Bottom for the IRS!

**April Date and Time TBA**

*Location TBA*

Come out and join Mr. & Ms. Alameda County Leather, Steve and Jeni, for their joint fundraising event. More details will be announced soon!

### IMsL/IMsBB

**Thursday, April 19, 2018 to Sunday, April 22, 2018**

*Doubletree Hilton San Jose, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA 95110*

The annual International Ms. Leather and International Ms. Bootblack Contest is coming (and boy, will there be a lot of cumming that weekend!)

Our own Ms. Alameda County Leather 2016, Aisia Fletcher (Girl Complex) has had an exciting title year and will be stepping down as the current IMsL titleholder. Let's send her off in style with lots of fun and love!

Also, our club will be hosting the Boots & Cigar Party on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9:00pm to 11:00 pm. Come join the fun and get down and dirty with some boots and cigars!



## Northwest Leather Celebration

**Thursday, May 3, 2018 to Sunday, May 6, 2018**

*Doubletree Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815*

ACLC will have a hospitality suite at NWLC Sacramento on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Join us! More details to follow.

## ACLC In The News

In the February 2018 issue of The Leather Journal, we were mentioned in regard to Big Daddy Santa's Minion Auction at the World Famous Turf Club. This event was our 25th Holiday fundraiser. The beneficiary was Alameda County Community Food Bank.

## Question and Answer Corner

In upcoming issues, we'll provide answers to your burning questions about ACLC, Leather Community and TIG (things in general).

Members can send the Editrix any questions with a simple email to [newsletter@acleather.org](mailto:newsletter@acleather.org)

Lady Cynthia will present your questions to the Board for an answer. If no answer is forthcoming, she will research it.

The questions and answers will appear in the next newsletter. Please remember that the newsletter is quarterly, so send your questions in by the beginning of the month of publication.

There will also be a drop box at the GA if something occurs to you and you would like to scribble a note.

## Club Committees

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." We're still searching for members to join our committees! Please consider joining a committee today; just contact the chair (first per-son listed under each committee below) and we'll get you started!

- **Newsletter and Public Relations:** Lady Cynthia, Alex McGowan, Jeni Finch, Mr. Allan
- **Events:** Denise McLeod, Ray Middling
- **Contest:** Kim Croteau, Steve Geist, Jeni Finch, Ray Middling, Jay Williams, Uncle Drew
- **Education:** Lance Brittain
- **Bylaws and Policies:** Lady Cynthia, Jay Williams, Randy Hensley
- **Membership & Logo:** Uncle Drew

Thank you for reading this issue!

The newsletter can be found on the website. Remember, all members are welcome to submit articles and photos!

Your Editrix<sup>2</sup>,

*Lady Cynthia*

[newsletter@acleather.org](mailto:newsletter@acleather.org)

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<sup>2</sup> (With a little layout assistance from Mr. Allan.)

## **Alameda County Leather Corps – 2017-2018 Board of Directors**

Mr. ACL 2016.....Steve Geist .....[mracl@acleather.org](mailto:mracl@acleather.org)  
Ms. ACL 2016 .....Jeni Finch .....[msacl@acleather.org](mailto:msacl@acleather.org)  
President.....Lance Brittain.....[president@acleather.org](mailto:president@acleather.org)  
Vice President.....Nyna Kaiser .....[vicepresident@acleather.org](mailto:vicepresident@acleather.org)  
Secretary .....Beth Elliott .....[secretary@acleather.org](mailto:secretary@acleather.org)  
Treasurer .....Randy Hensley .....[treasurer@acleather.org](mailto:treasurer@acleather.org)  
Sergeant-at-Arms .....Lady Cynthia.....[sergeantatarms@acleather.org](mailto:sergeantatarms@acleather.org)  
Member at Large.....Uncle Drew, Ray Middling .....[membersatlarge@acleather.org](mailto:membersatlarge@acleather.org)

To email entire board.....[info@acleather.org](mailto:info@acleather.org)

### **Alameda County Leather Corps**

P.O. Box 20759  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

<http://www.acleather.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/47216094228/>