



Alameda County Leather Corps Newsletter

October/November 2018: Vol 26, Issue 5

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From the Editor

Mr. Allan

You're not *quite* done with me...yet. I've agreed to handle newsletter and other external communications (website and social media) for the Hiatus Board.

I know the new board is working their behinds off to figure out ACLC's next steps, and I'm looking forward to seeing what new perspectives they bring to the Corps.

Enjoy!

Mr. Allan



President's Moment: The Hiatus Year

Sean O'Banion

Welcome to the beginning of the Hiatus year at ACLC.

The Board, and Attitude Keeper Joan Norry (see below), will pursue alternative paths for the Club across the coming year, with feedback from Members and the community.

Everyone, take a breath...no, don't hold it, this is not a breath control demo.

So, I have a story to tell you:

We've been living in Sacramento for about 6 years, and my getting to the GA with my job wanting me to say within two hours during the week was impractical, although the occasional weekend event was possible.

Then while I, Nina, Joan, and Den (I *think* Den was there...) were working the How-Weird Street Fair booth, our discussion turned to dissolution of the Club, the comments from other Members and involvement in the Past Presidents meeting the month before, our experiences, and what we thought.

With the legal requirement of one Board meeting a year (though the IRS likes to see four), I suggested that the three or four of us could give the Club a break, no big booths, no Contest, no monthly GA.

As the Board for a year, we could hold just the meetings we needed while researching what could be done *within reason*, and give the Members the year off to collect their thoughts, do something else, find a different perspective, and after a year come back together to decide if ACLC could continue in a way that they could take part in and support the community.

And if not, *then* dissolve the Club, but with everyone knowing that thought and respect was given, and this was the best choice.

Joan pointed out that as an Emeritus member, I couldn't even vote, much less run for office, so I paid Randy a years' worth of dues at the Fair, changing to Regular member.

I realized then that Joan and Nina had each been President twice and I only once, so I could tell that I would be running for President in this.

I proposed updates to the Bylaws that others evolved into what was passed, elections were held, the Anniversary took place, and...here we are.

We'll keep you updated here and in person, and invite your thoughts.

By The Way: Joan wondered how she got through all this without being assigned anything, so with no direction or advise from anyone, or permission from her, I've assigned her the Official Keeper of Attitude for the Hiatus year (might have to become honorary Sargeant at Arms). I think she's well-qualified.

Your President,
Sean O'Banion
President, ACLC



Secretary's Moment: Meet Den Calkins

Den Calkins

I'm quiet, but I get around...a lot. A bit about me:

I've been a resident of Alameda County for many years. I frequented the Turf Club on Mission Blvd in Hayward. I attended the Mr. & Ms. Alameda County Leather contests in 1992 and 1993. Randy Wright asked me to join a new club he was forming with Beth, Mark, Robert, Lil, Dan and Harry, the Alameda County Leather Corps. We sold squirt guns and promoted east bay businesses at the 1993 Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco.

I have served on the bylaws, membership, newsletter, events and other ACLC committees over the years. I produced several events; Rub a Dub Dub, Skivvies and Fetish Dance Party. I was ACLC Member of the Year in 1995.

I have been on the board several times; Vice President 1995, President 1996, Titleholder 1998 and Sergeant at Arms 2004.

I was ACLC's first representative to the Forum and the ICF. I secured ACLC's first booth at SF Pride in 1997.

I won the Lee Bell award and became Mr. Alameda County Leather in 1998.

I was ACLC's archivist for many years and helped the club become a nonprofit in 1997.

I look forward to working with Sean and Nina; our combined history and knowledge will benefit the Corps. Together, we'll work as a team to explore the possibilities.

Den Calkins

Secretary, ACLC



Photo by Dan Lloyd www.richtrove.com

State of the Club: Hiatus Year 2018-2019

Mistress Nyna

What to expect this year?

We will have quarterly board meetings –Next one will be Jan. 13, 2019, location To Be Announced-and they will be posted on website 30 days in advance of the meeting.

We will *not* conduct general assembly meetings until 2019. Again, specific date and location for the next General Assembly is To Be Announced.

Any ACLC-sponsored events need to be presented to the board electronically for approval two months in advance. For example, any events in March-April need to be presented by Jan. 13. 2019.

The next newsletter will be after the Jan. board meeting.

There are no current ACLC sponsored events scheduled for Oct. Nov or Dec. Enjoy the holidays!

However, social gatherings of the members are encouraged (see recent events)

Also, a reminder that you can designate ACLC as your beneficiary whenever you shop on Amazon by going to <http://smile.amazon.com> A small portion of each purchase that you make will be donated to ACLC

In leather love,
Mistress Nyna



Photo by Dan Lloyd www.richtrove.com

Consent What Does It Mean? How Do We Navigate Discussion?

by Alex McGowen

Consent: [kuhn-sent]

An informed, un-coerced, enthusiastic, revocable permission for something to happen.¹

See synonyms:

Agreeability. Transparency. Ongoing interaction to find what we can agree to. Knowledge of what is being asked of someone and agreeing to what feels right based on feelings and values. Communication and discussion. Asking first. Saying yes in a conscious, sober, state. An explicit yes, with honesty- and the ability to withdraw that at any time without fear or retribution.



Did you know that only eight states require sex education classes to mention consent?²

Yes, you read that right.

Given the uproar of triggering current events, political climate, and the #MeToo movement, I wasn't at all surprised to learn of this unacceptable fact. As a registered 501(c)(3) organization, ACLC believes that sex education, and education in general, is important beyond those high school classrooms! In the edition of this newsletter, we're here to spread the word about consent.

When you first entered the world of Leather, BDSM, and erotic play or joined ACLC, you probably learned about, or read of and heard about, these two popular phrases right away: Safe, Sane, Consensual and Risk Aware Consensual Kink. Consent is the backbone of our lifestyle- it is what differentiates BDSM from abuse and highlights conscious relationships, bonds, and interactions with other people. We often hear about consent when it references sex- which is valid, and definitely important. More than that though, consent is about safety and boundaries, and creating a culture where everyone feels physically, spiritually, sexually, mentally, and emotionally safe enough to say yes (consent- yay!) or to say no (and to have that answer respected).

Equally important, consent is also about knowing what you are saying yes or no to, and why. Consent is asking yourself: What do I know about what someone's intentions? What is someone asking me? How do I feel about what is being asked of me? Does it feel good to me;

¹ <http://www.bdsmwiki.info/Category:Consent>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/29/health/sex-education-consent-in-public-schools-trnd/index.html>

why or why not? Is it something that I am confident I can accept responsibility for? Will I feel good about this choice in the aftermath?

So, how do we go about navigating discussion and obtaining consent? Simply, we can continue using the example that the Folsom Street Fair set this year as it applies to our interactions with others:

Gear is not consent.

Nudity is not consent.

*Ask first before photographing or touching someone.*³

Ask First!

Asking helps the other person to feel respected, safe, and in control of their decision about what they will agree to or not agree to. So, what does consent look like (or not)? Some examples are shown below:

Scenario #1:

You've just negotiated a scene with a new play partner and you both like impact play.

Your play partner is known to be a heavy, sadistic Top who flags black on the left regularly.

They ask you, "Are you okay with marks on your body?"

You think about this for a moment and reply, "I am okay with marks anywhere on my backside, but I am not okay with any visible marks above my shoulders."

During your scene, you do not feel any impact occur above your shoulders. Afterwards, you both feel that the scene went well, and now it is time to part with each other for the night. At this time, you're really feeling the soreness in your body.

Your new play partner asks you, "Can I give you a hug?" after they walk you to your car.

"Yes," you reply, feeling warm and enjoying the touch from your play partner even though your body feels sore.

This is consent!

Scenario #2:

You are working at a boot stand and caring for the steel-toed jump boots of someone who is new to BDSM and who you have never seen before.

The person who is receiving your service is excited by mindfucks, military play, and rough impact play.

So far, you've flirted with each other a little, but they don't you or about your likes/dislikes or triggers.

³ <https://www.kqed.org/news/11695625/consent-highlighted-at-annual-folsom-street-fair-in-san-francisco>

While you turn your head and glance at your tools as you are getting your brush and saddle soap ready, without asking first, or any prior discussion, the person sitting in the stand smears Hershey's chocolate on the tops of their jump boots to be shined and tells you to lick the shit off their boots before you clean them.

You decline and say "No, I will not do that. I did not agree to this."

*This is **not** consent!*

Scenario #3:

You and your regular play partner have engaged in a suspension bondage scene that also included sensory deprivation, needles, and impact play.

You and your play partner have always been very transparent about discussing any health issues, limitations, skill levels, and safe words.

During the scene, you were blindfolded and placed in an inverted suspension position. Your play partner also placed needles in your back and used a single tail on your back as well, while you were blindfolded and suspended.

After the scene, you and your play partner are enjoying some food to eat. The next morning, you wake up and you feel a sensation across your back where the rope was placed over your torso, similar to the feeling that you experienced in the past that was from an injury as a result of a traumatic car accident.

You have never felt this sensation after a scene before, did not anticipate that this sensation might occur for you after your play, and did not know that this trigger would arise for you as a result of being suspended by the rope.

Your play partner has had a long day at work as well as a young child who fell ill that evening with the chicken pox.

At the end of the day, you text your play partner at the usual time as per your agreement with them and say, "I want to talk about something that is difficult. Are you in a space where it is okay for me to do that right now?"

Your play partner texts back and explains the circumstances and says that they need to give their child some medication and put them to sleep before they can talk. They ask if you will be able to text in a few hours to check in.

You say yes, that you will be available later that night. Two hours later, your play partner texts you and then you begin to talk to them about what happened for you.

This is consent!

Consent requires the agreeability of all parties that are involved, so it is important to communicate clearly and to be honest about one's motives and intent.

Consent says, *I care about how you feel and your experience.*

2017-2018 Charitable Disbursements:

\$3,071.00 Alameda County Community Food bank (Big Daddy Santa's Minion Auction)

\$607.00 Online Policy Group for Queernet (Lucky in Leather)

\$329.00 IMSL Foundation-Hospitality tips and sales-cash

\$203.50 Bay Area Youth Center (Bottom to the IRS)

\$500.50 Pacific Center (Titleholder Travel Fund balance)

\$4,711.00 Total

Inventory of Storage and Treasurer Stock

We have small patches available for regular and affiliate members (\$5), and large patches available for regular members (\$25), replacement member pins and replacement prior anniversary pins (\$5).

In the future we will make items from storage available for sale to members to reduce storage space.

Contact treasurer@acleather.org if you are interested in purchasing a patch or pin.

Also consider designating ACLC on Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com>) as your choice for charitable organization to receive monies from your Amazon purchase.

Below photos: Happy guests at ACLC's 25th Anniversary Celebration at Hayward City Hall. All photos courtesy of Dan Lloyd and Rich Stadtmiller at www.richtrove.com.



ACLC 25th Anniversary Celebration

ACLC celebrated its 25th Anniversary on September 8, 2018 with dinner and a program of events in the Hayward City Hall Rotunda.

This was a very special celebration to commemorate the 25 years of community service that ACLC provided to those most in need in Alameda County. ACLC showcased its 26-year history of title contests, and awards won over the many years. ACLC remains the longest consecutively held women's title in California.



Photo by Dan Lloyd www.richtrove.com

The Anniversary celebration was very well-attended, with about 80 people from ACLC and from the Leather community.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, and guests enjoyed a catered dinner and entertainment.

Special thanks to Mr. ACLC 2007 Ronnie Grigsby and Irene McCalphin for providing entertainment!

Congratulations to all of our award winners this year:

Bob Kleypas, Mr. ACLC 2006..... Lee Bell/Silver Bell Award
Point0Eight.com (Andy Copperhall) Business of The Year
Nyna Kaiser, Ms. ACLC 2002 Member of the Year
Alex McGowen..... Rookie of the Year
Jim "Bear" Stokes and Mr. Allan Unsung Hero Award
Ray Middling, Mr. ACLC 2016 Titleholder Award
Marc "Pony" Owens, Mr. ACLC 2010..... Dave Barker Award
Lady Cynthia Quinton President's Award (posthumous)⁴

Additionally, The Lavender Seniors extend their congratulations to our club on 25 years of community service and thank us for supporting them over the years.

Pacific Center sent a Thank you for our charitable disbursement and to Jeni Finch, Ms. ACLC 2017, for her support.

We thank all our beneficiaries over the last 25 years for their support as well as the City of Hayward for the venue.

We also thank all who helped to sponsor us for this special event in our program: Randy Wright, Mr. ACLC 1993, ABW, all the past Presidents and Titleholders, Alexander Hamilton Post 448, the Golden Gate Guards, Scotty's Cigar Socials, Lance Brittain, Mr. ACLC 1994, Ms. San Francisco

⁴ Accepted by Lady Cynthia's husband, Yoyo Yeoman.

Leather, and Larry Gray & The Turf Club. We also thank Den Calkins for his generous donation. Special thank you to Dan Lloyd and Rich Stadtmiller for generously providing photography services of the anniversary celebration.

We also thank our Founders and all of our past Presidents and Titleholders for their leadership and hard work over the years.

Finally, a special thanks goes to to the Anniversary Committee Joan Norry (Chair), Nyna Kaiser, Uncle Drew Blanchar, Jim Stokes, Marc "Pony" Owens, Bianca Vigil, Randy Hensley, Den Calkins, Lance Brittain, and Alex McGowen for their service in making this a successful, memorable night.

Special thanks to Cory's Catering for food, Golden Gate Guards for the beautiful flowers, and Randy -Carmenarty for the revised video of 25 years ACLC history.



Photo by Dan Lloyd www.richtrove.com



Photo by Dan Lloyd www.richtrove.com

Recent ACLC Events

Alden Spafford Progressive Dinner

September 22, 2018

ACLC members Alex McGowen, Minxy Jeni (Ms. ACLC 2017) and Marc “Pony” Owens (Mr. ACLC 2010) attended the Alden Spafford Progressive Dinner held in SOMA, San Francisco, our Leather Cultural District. This event is held annually by the Bay Area Leather Alliance in honor of Alden Spafford, to bring together kinky individuals in a casual environment. The event began at The Stud at 4:00 pm, with successive courses at Mr. S, Wicked Grounds, The Powerhouse, The SF Eagle, and The Lone Star Saloon.

LeatherWalk 2018

September 23, 2018

The 27th Annual LeatherWalk was held beginning at Jane Warner Plaza in the Castro, and ending at The SF Eagle, where the Leather Pride Flag was raised to kick off San Francisco’s Leather Week. It was a day of blue skies and sun! ACLC members Ray Middling (Mr. ACLC 2016), Steve “Ox” Geist (Mr. ACLC 2017), Marc “Pony” Owens (Mr. ACLC 2010), and Alex McGowen enjoyed taking part in the walk.

Exiles All Genders Folsom Social

September 28, 2018

The Exiles club hosted an all-genders social event at the Center for Sex and Culture in San Francisco as part of Folsom weekend. ACLC members Joan Norry (Ms. ACLC 2006), Laurie Aguin (Ms. ACLC 2007), Luna Bear Chase (Ms. ACLC 2014), Krystal Cade (Ms. ACLC 2015), Aisia Fletcher (Ms. ACLC 2016), Alex McGowen, and pledge Caity Lynch attended this annual event and enjoyed **the entertainment and** socializing with other members of our community.

Leather Cruise on the San Francisco Bay

September 29, 2018

ACLC Members Joan Norry (Ms. ACLC 2006), Marc “Pony” Owens (Mr. ACLC 2010), Alex McGowen, and pledge Caity Lynch attended the Eighth Annual Leather Cruise hosted by the Golden Gate Guards, enjoying a tour around the waters of Angel Island, Treasure Island, Sausalito, and Alcatraz Island as well as a beautiful sunset and cigars among other Leatherfolk from the Bay Area and the greater Leather community. The views of the Bay Bridge and the San Francisco skyline at night were unforgettable!

[Folsom Street Fair](#)

September 30, 2018

Leather Week concluded with the Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco. ACLC members Joan Norry (Ms. ACLC 2006), Krystal Cade (Ms. ACLC 2015), Aisia Fletcher (Ms. ACLC 2016), Alex McGowen, and pledge Caity Lynch enjoyed time at The Playground as part of the Folsom Street Fair, continuing to be active out in the local Leather community.

[American Brotherhood Weekend](#)

October 5-7, 2018

Joan Norry (Ms. ACLC 2006 & American Leatherwoman 2008), Tyler Fong (Honorary ACLC Member & American Leatherboy 2011), and Caity Lynch (pledge) attended the 29th annual American Brotherhood Weekend in Chicago, Illinois. Joan was awarded the Vern Stewart "Oh I See" Award for her continued hard work in the LGBT & Leather communities since stepping down as an ABW Titleholder. Congratulations, Joan!

Upcoming Events

[Kinky Poly Happy Hour](#)

October 11, 2018

Join other LGBTQ+ Leather and Kinky Poly people at the SF Eagle from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for a casual meet and greet. Talk to others about your own poly experiences, or ask questions to see if poly is right for you. Make friends and meet new lovers while enjoying happy hour pricing! Look for the Poly Pride Flag. This event is open to the public and is hosted by Mr. SF Leather 2018 Matt Welch. You can also see it posted to ACLC's public Facebook page.

[Ms. Sacramento Leather Contest](#)

October 12-13, 2018

The Ms. Sacramento Leather Contest is being held in Sacramento, CA for the first time since 1998. The contest weekend will begin with a Meet and Greet at the Bolt Bar located at 2560 Boxwood Street, Sacramento, CA at 8:00pm on Friday, October 12th. The contest for the title of Ms. Sacramento Leather will take place on Saturday, October 13th at The Reason Center, located at 1824 Tribute Road in Sacramento, CA. Interviews and Presentations begin at 3:30pm and are open to ticket holders. The event will provide ASL interpreters. A Victory Celebration will follow, after the contest at the Bolt.

[Mr. San Francisco Rubber Contest](#)

October 20, 2018

The third annual Mr. San Francisco rubber contest will be held at the SF Eagle from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Come support the rubber community to continue promoting and fostering kink awareness through events centered around inclusivity, respect, and mentorship!

Mr. San Francisco Eagle 2019 Contest

November 3, 2018

The Mr. SF Eagle Contest will be held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at, you guessed it, the SF Eagle! Bring yourselves and find out who will be Mr. SF Eagle 2019!

Turn Back Time Beer Bust

November 4, 2018

Come to a beer bust to benefit the SF Bay Area Leather Alliance! Gear up in your favorite 80s leather or sexy sailor attire from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the SF Eagle. \$15 for the beer bust; jello-shots will be sold and a raffle will be held. This event is hosted by Mr. SF Leather 2018 Matt Welch and is posted to ACLC's public Facebook page.

Exiles Carnal Carnival

December 21, 2018

All women (trans and cis), femmes & butches, non-binary/genderqueer/gender fluid folks who feel their space is in the Leatherwomen & Leatherdyke community and those whose gender self-identification is other than male are welcome to take part in this annual play event at the SF Catalyst from 7:30pm to 10:30pm. Admission is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Ms. San Francisco Leather Contest

February 9, 2019

Mark your calendars now for the Ms. SF Leather Contest to see who will become Ms. SF Leather 2019! The contest will take place at SOMARTS, 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco, CA. Doors open at 6:30pm. For more information, go to www.mssfleather.org

Oakland Apartment Available

three blocks above Lakeshore and Brooklyn: a stand-alone (private entrance) in-law townhouse, one bedroom, with a 14x14 living room downstairs (laminated flooring) and a 19x10 high-ceilinged-bedroom upstairs (carpeted). The kitchen behind the living room has a dishwasher. In front, a shared vegetable garden. Off the living room, a small enclosed patio past a sliding glass door; vertical blinds can be opened for light. There's a 9-foot wide closet upstairs (and a washer and dryer in another alcove), a spacious storage room under the stairs, and another closet in the bathroom.

It's an all-electric home, with a wall heater downstairs and baseboard heaters upstairs (you would pay the electric while I cover water and garbage).

\$2,700 per month in advance plus a \$2,700 deposit (compare with one-bedroom units in the apartment building at the corner and across at \$2,900 but none of the cool stuff. Rental and credit references requested. Sorry, no pets.

This block is single-family houses, most with in-law units, and it's friendly here. It's also walking distance (15-20 minutes) to all the Grand Lake amenities: Saturday farmer's market, Trader Joe's, Grand Lake Theater, casual carpool to S.F., and more shops and restaurants. Buses 29, 33, NL and NX1 are nearby; the 29 and 33 run to and from BART.

And, of course, Lake Merritt is just down the hill for your walking and basking in the sun pleasure.

For more information, please contact Beth Elliott at beth3b@mindspring.com

Thank you!

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 Editor,

Mr. Allan

newsletter@acleather.org

Club Information

Alameda County Leather Corps – 2018-2019 Board of Directors

President Sean O'Banionpresident@acleather.org
Secretary Den Calkinssecretary@acleather.org
Treasurer Nyna Kaisertreasurer@acleather.org
To email entire board.....info@acleather.org

Alameda County Leather Corps

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