



Alameda County Leather Corps Newsletter

March-April-May 2019: Vol 27, Issue 2

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From the Editor

Mr. Allan

It's our second hiatus newsletter! All kinds of cool stuff has been going on, and the board is pleased to share it all with you here!.

Enjoy!

Mr. Allan



State of the Club: Hiatus Year 2018-2019

Sean O'Banion

A survey has been sent to all the membership that we have email addresses for.

If you did not receive one, have questions or would like to offer feedback, or would like a paper (snail mail) copy, please let us know at info@acleather.org.

The four options in the survey (vote for one) were:

1. Dissolve the club
2. Continue Hiatus
3. Return to Regular Order.
4. Update our name to something like *Northern California Leather Corps* (NCLC) to allow participation and activities across a larger geographic region.

If you're interested in options 2 or 3, please let us know what Board position you would be willing to work.

Option 4, however, deserves some explanation.

As we've talked with other groups around Northern California, interest was expressed in working with ACLC to produce events using our 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Changing the organization's name to embrace the larger geography seems necessary, and *Northern California Leather Corps* (NCLC) is one example of the direction.

There are some challenges with this option:

- How do we maintain the 501(c)3 controls over income and expenditures without a trained and trusted member at an event, since having someone travel to another part of the state isn't always practical?
- Requiring the event holder to supply initial funds (the Bank) would leave no Corps money exposed, which is a good start...but would that be practical for some of the event holders?
- In addition, we would probably need to take a cut of the income to be able to maintain our organization (there are no free lunches).¹

No decision has been made at this time, so any suggestions from the membership are encouraged.

Especially for option 4, but also for option 3, we believe we should offer meeting access via remote video (Skype for Business, WebEx, GotoMeeting...), so that members can attend meetings remotely. This is something most mobile phones can do, as well as desktop and laptop computers. Such a service charges around \$14/month, with a 50-user connection limit, but there might be discounts for nonprofits that we can explore.

Sean

¹ Keep in mind that it costs about \$5,000 to "keep the lights on" at ACLC each year. That pays for insurance (absolutely necessary to operate as a charitable organization) and our storage unit. That *doesn't* take into account the costs of things like buying club patches and pins and space rental fees. That money has to come from *somewhere*.

Secretary's Report

Den Calkins

Greeting members!

Alameda County Leather Corps voted to go on a hiatus for October 2018 to September 2019. We're not having general assembly monthly meetings during this time. How is everyone doing?

To recap: the size of the board of directors was reduced from 9 to 3 people. Sean, Nyna and I were elected and given the task of evaluating the future of the club.

We have met 3 times since taking office, on October 7, 2018, January 13, 2019, and April 14, 2019.

Budget Report

We passed a budget and reduced operating expenses by eliminating meeting room fees and insurance.

We also reduced our storage fees by sorting through our locker, and moving the club's usable tangible assets into a smaller storage locker. Now, we're only storing the following items in our storage locker.

- Archives and required records
- Club banner
- Color guard flags
- Sound system
- Beverage booth supplies
- Chafing dishes and beer bust supplies
- Holiday event and party decorations
- Auction and drawing items

Broken items were taken to the dump. Also, we're not allowing individuals to store private items in the locker.

Hiatus Income

'We're not collecting membership dues during the hiatus. However, the club still has expenses to operate; banking, filing fees, PO Box rental, website maintenance, liability insurance and storage.

We've been funding the budget through a variety of methods, including selling large and unnecessary items:

- Joan auctioned off items at Lecherous Leprechaun Lounge.
- Nyna and I sold items at SF Citadel's Kinky Flea Market.
- Sean sold excess shade canopies.
- ACLC had a beverage booth at The How-Weird Street Faire.
- Sean and Nyna are working as block captains at SF Pride.

I'm pleased to report that we're on track with funding the budget.

Increasing Membership

We've agreed on the following recommendations to attract new members:

- Change residency requirements from Alameda County to Northern California.
- Change the club's name to reflect residency of members.
- Update the purpose of the club by adding kinkwear. (Currently our purpose is social interaction with Leather, Levi and uniforms.)
- Change the ongoing composition of the board to just 5 people who are willing to serve: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Member at Large and Sergeant at Arms. Titleholders will no longer be part of the board.
- Revamp the title contest by having male, female and non-binary contestants compete for a single title. The intention is to increase competition and reduce or eliminate the possibility of a given title category having only one contestant.
- We disagreed on not requiring any new titleholder(s) to produce events.

ACLCL was created in 1993, to help our community with the purpose of promoting educational and charitable activities. This was a time when our community was fighting AIDs, discrimination and ignorance. *Does that need still exist today?*

We agreed to survey members. The survey was emailed recently to members in good standing.

Please take the time to do the survey. Sean, Nyna and I want and need direction from ACLCL members.

Our community has changed over the years. We've lost locations to hold events. It's getting harder to staff beverage booths. *How will the club raise funds to donate to charity and operate?*

Keep in mind that if ACLCL ends hiatus and resumes regular operations, we will need members to produce events, staff beverage booths and serve on the board.

Finally, no events benefiting a specific charity have been produced during our hiatus. I predict we will have a surplus of funds. Where should these funds go? Please email suggestions to the board at info@acleather.org

Thank you all for your support!

Den Calkins

Treasurer's Report

Mistress Nyna



1Q Board Oct-Dec 2019 to 2Q 2019 pending final results

Income\$ 231.16
Expenses.....0

Budgeted Income: 2Q19 (Jan-Mar)

How Weird: Beverage Booth May disbursements and tips (\$3,869.61)²
Block Captains (2) Sean and Nyna –June SF Pride)..... (1,000.00)
Spring Beer Bust- SF Eagle (\$800) July 14 (*Volunteers needed!*) (800.00)

Budgeted Expenses: 2Q19 (Jan-Mar)

Storage Locker rental \$1,536.00
Board Liability Insurance1,350.00

2018-2019 charitable disbursements:

None anticipated.

Inventory of Storage and Treasurer Stock:

We have small patches 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.

Remember, you can designate ACLC on Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com>) as your choice for a charitable organization to receive money from each Amazon purchase.

² Booth tips \$1,041, and split of sales \$2,828.61.

Education: Spring Cleaning

Mistress Nyna

March 20 was the Vernal Equinox and the beginning of spring! As we all know, many clothes constrict in size during the winter months (wink), along with exposure to rain, dirt and other elements in the winter, so it is time for review what to keep, discard, clean or donate from the closets.

For us this is a special time of year to negotiate services with each other, from cleaning houses, yards, to leather care. I have started my own donation bags, and want to share my tips.

1. Separate items into easy piles: size, type, damaged, tired of it! Set up 1 hour for one section of clothes. Plan for one hour to sort for once a week for one month. Don't let it go into summer!
2. Then decide: does the size still fit-and will it ever fit? –then put into keep, donate, clean/repair, or discard pile.
3. Donation pile-bag and tag, where is the best location for items? Local community center program such as BAYC? Leather Flea Market? Senior programs? Split into categories two for BAYC, and one to Leather Flea Market (ACLC)
4. Set up a date and time, call the lucky location and get information on drop off and donation letters for taxes. Arrange to deliver, with the list of what is in the bags-approximate value for items. This is the most rewarding step!
5. Next focus on the clean/repair pile-buttons, zippers, or dry cleaning? Is this a good project for the person of service in your life? Do you need to acquire items needed for the repairs? Patches, buttons, etc. Set up a time for planning the discussion with your service person on skills, time and exchanges of interest and labor. Plan time for the return and reward! One item before IMSL/IML date? 4 items done by Dore Alley-and play date?
6. Special items that need to be cleaned and provided TLC-Leather items. Is it an opportunity for a person of service to earn a piece of leather in exchange for providing the leather care to your gear? How many items need some attention, what products are needed to provide that attention? Shopping required at MR S. or on line? What does the finished look need to be-high shine or clean and conditioned? Know what you want and due dates-more planning and discussion, maybe thoughts on what leather piece will they earn for this exchange? Does your person of service need time and class for skills before touching your boots, jacket, vest, etc? If there is one item that needs care now, discuss how to best arrange with someone else –to do the immediate care and possibly teach at the same time.

Enjoy clearing, cleaning and playing this spring!

How-Weird Street Fair

For the second year in a row, ACLC staffed a beverage booth at the How-Weird Street Fair in San Francisco. Our small but dedicated staff of members stepped up to the challenge.

The board thanks the great crew, including Joan, Caity, Den, Beth, Randy, Mr. Allan, Denise, Alex, Lance, Nyna, and others for rocking our world to the tune of \$1,041 in tips and \$2,828.61, which was our split from \$22,980 in beverage sales!

Also, our appreciation to Andy Copper-Hall, who coordinated beverage services for How-Weird.

Way to go, ACLC!



Photo courtesy of Mr. Allan, who notes that this was taken just before all heck broke loose and we ended up with five serving lines backed up across the street!

Recent Events Where ACLC Attended/Represented

Ms. San Francisco Leather Contest

February 9, 2019

As Judges: Nyna Kaiser (Ms. ACL 2002) and Girl Complex (Ms ACL 2016/IMSL 2017). As Judges' Boys: Associate Member Caity Lynch and Honorary Member boy tyler.

Congratulations to new Ms. San Francisco, Bobbee trans mooremon!

Leather Alliance Weekend 2019

February 28, 2019-March 2, 2019

Congratulations to Jawn Marques, Mr. San Francisco 2019/Mr. Powerhouse 2019!

The Lecherous Leprechaun Lounge at the World Famous Turf Club

March 16, 2019

What a great time, and we raised money for ACLC's operating costs during our hiatus year! Big thank-yous to the auction and table sales, including Den, Joan, Denise, Kim, Scotty, Sweetie, Alex, Turf club and everyone else that participated!

Golden Gate Guards' Golden Dildeaux Awards

April 27, 2019

Many ACLC'ers were nominated for awards, and Mr. Allan won a Golden Dildeaux for Best Power Fisting Top! Proceeds from the Golden Dildeaux Awards go to support the Positive Resource Center (PRC) formerly known as the AIDS Emergency Fund.

For the full list of the 2019 Awards, go to <https://ggguards.org/gda/resultsGDA.php>

Northwest Leather Celebration

May 2-5, 2019

This year, NWLC was held in Sacramento at the Doubletree Hilton, and Marc "pony" Owens and Jim Stokes represented ACLC, among others.

Upcoming Events

International Mr. Leather - <https://www.imrl.com/>

May 23-27, 2019

It's time for That Thing We Do Each Year In May, and it's the 25th year anniversary of Jeff Tucker as IML! *Best of luck to all the contestants from the Bay Area!*

ACLC Board Meeting



June 16, 2019

The next Board meeting will be held at Sean's house near Sacramento on Sunday, June 16, 2019. If you are interested, please email info@acleather.org for the address.

Word Pride/Stonewall 50 – New York, NY - <https://2019-worldpride-stonewall50.nycpride.org/>

June 26-July 1, 2019

San Francisco Pride - <http://www.sfpride.org/>

June 29-30, 2019

We won't be staffing a beverage booth this year, but Sean and Nyna are serving as Block Captains to augment ACLC's operating funds.

Castro Valley Pride - <https://www.castrovalleypride.com/>

July 13, 2019

ACLC Beer Bust at the SF Eagle!



July 14, 2019

Come volunteer and help us raise operating funds for ACLC during our hiatus year!

San Diego Leather Realm at San Diego Pride - <http://sandiegoleatherrealm.com/>

July 12-14, 2019

Up Your Alley Fair - <https://www.folsomstreetevents.org/up-your-alley/>

July 28, 2019

"Mount Shasta Summer" Run with the Golden Gate Guards - <https://ggguards.org/events/annualrun.htm>

August 9-11, 2019

It's the Golden Gate Guards' annual run, this year to Dunsmuir! More information available at

Oakland Pride - <https://oaklandpride.org/>

September 8, 2019

Folsom Street Fair - <https://www.folsomstreetevents.org/folsom-street-fair/>

September 29, 2019

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'Banion president@acleather.org

Secretary Den Calkins secretary@acleather.org

Treasurer Nyna Kaiser treasurer@acleather.org

To email entire board..... info@acleather.org

Alameda County Leather Corps

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