

**An Important, Open Letter to
Sonoma County Queer Community.
Please read and forward this letter.**

Sonoma County Pride Planning Committee



**Connect all friends and relations through your
e-mail broadcasts; it concerns PRIDE 2010.**

Hello, everyone!

Sonoma County is home to an enormous number of GLBTQI folks (and the second largest population of gay and lesbian US veterans), but a common refrain is that we have no center, no “zocolo,” no unity. June is GLBTQI PRIDE month, so shouldn’t we unite for a homegrown parade and celebration?

**A 2010 PRIDE committee has begun generating a buzz raising funds and friends,
but we are hardly enough people to produce the event that our county deserves.
It’s time for YOU to join the party planning!**

Things you should know:

- **PRIDE Organizing** The original Sonoma County PRIDE Committee held a community celebration for 15 years (big thanks and appreciation). After the committee ended, Toni D’Angelo and crew stepped up for two years (thanks, also). 2010 is the third year for a group nurturing the GLBTQI tradition of holding an event that celebrates our past, and inspires us towards a future of equality and equity. This year’s site is right by the river and it’s beautiful!
- **SCPPC** The Sonoma County PRIDE Planning Committee meets twice a month, and has established a structure to accomplish the tasks necessary to prepare for 5,000 people. We promote other PRIDE events (Comedy Night, for one) but the *Family Sunday/Parade* and *Interfaith Service* are the focus of the SCPPC effort.
- **“Servant Leadership”** We operate under principles of agreement to assure integrity, transparency and accountability. A former SCPPC member suggested using the Narcotics Anonymous guidebook, and our interpretation is on the PRIDE website. You’ll be inspired by its clear articulation of the practice of “servant leadership.” All volunteers interact with a commitment to honest communication and respect; no hidden agendas, no drama, etc. Meetings are enjoyable!
- **“Many hands make light work”** Rather than be a closed committee vulnerable to community criticism, we’ve created a structure that can constantly integrate new energy and new ideas so anyone will feel welcome to contribute. In other words, rather than “Why did **they** decide that?!!@#*?,” we want to provoke, “Hey, **I’ll** do that better next year!” We strive to transform “they” to “we.” The SCPPC’s real work is to provide a structure for people to contribute what they enjoy doing, whenever and however they can. Are you a graphic designer? Electrician? Sound Engineer? Stage Manager? EMT? Nurse? Clown? Face painter? Bartender? Doctor? The list is nearly endless, so the core committee, a sub committee or a volunteer shift awaits you.
- **“Bucks for the Bills”** In the past, charging an entrance fee has created tension, so we are committed to an open gate. However, there are bills to pay! A no-charge gate means that we must generate funds in other ways. Without hard liquor and/or gambling sponsors, we need cash for **permit fees, site, equipment and hygiene systems rentals, printing, etc.** Even with 100% volunteers, last year’s costs were \$16,000.

Consider this: Between now and June 6th, just 2,000 of us popping into the website and kicking in only \$10.00 each will pay the entire event cost! All donations go directly to PRIDE expenses.

- **Community** Think Provincetown. Think Fire Island. Think West End, Vancouver. Guerneville is a deserving “jewel in the crown” of the wine country, and by helping restore it as a safe recreational mecca, hundreds of thousands of tourism dollars could flow into our economy. Helping queer businesses thrive could result in a sustainable source of funding for Sonoma County PRIDE activities.
- **Donations** For the third year, we’re operating under the umbrella of Positive Images (LGBTQQI youth) as our fiscal sponsor. PRIDE has our own program budget, and a receipt is available for your tax deductible donation over \$50.00. Should the SCPPC become our own 501(c)3? This begs discussions about our collective vision for annual celebrations. Who would like to lead? Any attorneys out there interested in helping advise us?
- **Environmental Responsibility** We’re committed to Green events that demonstrate conscious, community sustainability. However, **Green events cost more to produce**. Are you an expert on these issues? Do you have suggestions? Join our *Green Team* to help at events.

Folks, there are as many ways to contribute to PRIDE 2010 as you can imagine, and we *invite you to imagine!* Ultimately, beyond our differences, we all benefit by honoring our significance as a community of people who consistently model peaceful coexistence and compassion. PRIDE celebrations have come to represent the courage to love, and in these challenging times, we think it’s certainly “what the world needs now.”

We hope to see you. Contact us on the web site: www.sonomacountypride.org or email: info@sonomacountypride.org

Sincerely,

Your 2010 PRIDE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Agneberg | Charles Metz |
| Vanessa Argabright | Robert Muller |
| Jeff Basham | Nancy Vogl (Acting Chair) |
| Melissa Black | Mycha’el Wilson |
| Lori Chandler | |

FORWARD THIS LETTER TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE!

2010

“Sonoma County PRIDE is SO GAY!”

OPEN the POSTER on the website for our **APRIL 3rd 1970’S PARTY at friendly Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. **LOT’S OF FUN!** **COME AND SUPPORT PRIDE 2010.****

