



EQUALITY

TYLER EQUALITY NEWS

January 2021 | Volume 2 Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



As most of you can agree, we WELCOME 2021 with the hopes that it will be a much better year than 2020. We are planning an awesome PRIDE weekend in October that will combine the Ball and Pride in the Park on the same weekend with other activities in

between. COVID permitting we hope to see you in person!

The new year brings new executive officers for Tyler Area Gays. Here are the TAG Governing Board members for 2021. You can also view their pictures by clicking below.

Chair: Jay Hilburn

Vice Chair: Vacant (Will be voted in January)

Secretary: Shannon Rose

Treasurer: Jennifer Gower

Member: Summer Adams

Member: Leilani Groves

The bylaws allow for up to nine board members so if you are interested in serving the local LGBTQIA+ community please contact TAG at (903) 617-8556 and request an application. You must be available to attend monthly board meetings and TAG activities.

Tyler Area Gays Governing Board wishes you a happy and prosperous New Year and it is our hope for everyone that 2021 proves to be a better year.

Tyler Area Gays Governing Board 2021

January in LGBTQIA+ History



January 1, 1962 Illinois became the first state to legalize same-sex consensual sexual activity.

January 1, 1967 The Black Cat Tavern was the first site of riots in the US protesting police harassment of LGBTQIA+ people.

January 1, 2018 Openly transgender individuals were allowed to join the United States military.

January 2, 2018 Phillippe Cunningham was sworn in to represent the 4th ward in the Minneapolis City Council. He was the first openly trans African American man elected to public office in the United States.

January 2, 2018 Andrea Jenkins was sworn in to represent the vice-presidency and the 8th ward in the Minneapolis City Council. She was the first openly trans African American woman elected to public office in the United States.

January 2, 2018 Danica Roem became the first openly transgender person to be elected to, and the first to serve in, any U.S. state legislature.

January 2, 2018 Sharice Davids is elected as one of the first two Native American women in Congress and the first lesbian congresswoman from Kansas.

January 2, 2018 America's first citywide Bi Pride event was held, in West Hollywood.

January 2, 2018 Patricio Manuel became the first openly transgender male to box professionally in the United States, and, as he won the fight, the first openly transgender male to win a pro boxing fight in the U.S.

January 8, 2019 Jared Polis began to serve as governor of Colorado, the first openly gay person elected as an American governor.

January 8, 2019 Pete Buttigieg became the first openly gay presidential candidate from a major party.

Information obtained from "Timeline of LGBT History in the United States" Wikipedia

The Gaily Grind by Colin Lee



It's a new dawn, It's a new day, and I'm fellin' GAY!

Happy New Year, all!! We did it. We made it through the dumpster fire of a year that was 2020. Or at least I hope we did.

I'm writing this 2 weeks before Jan 1st, in the middle of a snowstorm, with 2 cross-country flights and a plethora of opportunities to trip over my own feet going up the stairs still in front of me. So we'll say FINGERS CROSSED!

I hope the holidays treated each of you with the TLC you needed and that you've arrived here with a deep exhale into what I can only hope will be a better year for us all. Covid, I'm looking at you. I'm not typically big on resolutions, but as this year winds towards that fresh start, I've been thinking a lot about the changes that have transpired since this time one year ago.

There's been no shortage of them for me, and so many I know or have heard about or seen. And unless you're a masochist, change on any level, let alone life altering ones, isn't usually all that fun. Color me boring, but that's just not the type of masochism I'm into. As I've gone through my hippy dippy reflections, though, it's also brought into focus just how much good has often times come from the big changes in my life. Albeit on the other side of pain, heartache, labor and much, much grumbling, it's shaken me out of my habits and routines and forced me to get scrappy, get creative, and say YES to so many more things that get thrown my way. They aren't all home runs, but they aren't all strikeouts either. My brother would be proud I just used a baseball reference, by the way.

I've met some of my best friends, created some of my favorite memories, and embarked upon some of my greatest adventures when I had no choice but to say yes or sit stagnant in the giant pile of cow crap I was drowning in. This year wasn't just one giant pile of cow crap either, but a seemingly endless trail of them. But it was therefore also a trail of "yeses". Out of necessity, I said "yes" to a new home, "yes" to a new job, and "yes" to more communication and love with my family as we faced trauma head-on within our ranks. So though I won't say that I have a resolution, cause to me that sounds like something I'm going to

start, fail at 10 days in, and call it quits because I didn't perfect it, what I will say is that I have an overarching goal of trying to say "yes" more WITHOUT life forcing my hand. I'm going to try to look up and shake it up more often, because who knows, maybe what's right around the corner is a new best friend, a favorite new memory, or my greatest adventure to date.

What are some of your goals, resolutions, efforts as we head into the great 2021? **Email me at dcolinlee@gmail.com** or find me on **IG @dcolinlee** Would love to hear! Happy New Year!!

January LGBTQIA+ Events in the East Texas Region

January 4 Just As I Am - 7 p.m. - The Well @ 3320 Troup Hwy, Ste. 230

January 11 Just As I Am - 7 p.m. - The Well @ 3320 Troup Hwy, Ste. 230

January 12 East Texas PFLAG - Check **ETX PFLAG Facebook** for meeting info

January 12 Tyler Transgender Support Group (TTSG) - Visit **TTSG Facebook** page for meeting information

January 18 Just As I Am - 7 p.m. - The Well @ 3320 Troup Hwy, Ste. 230

January 20 TAG Monthly Dinner Group. Time and location will be announced on TAG's Facebook Group.

January 25 Just As I Am - 7 p.m. - The Well @ 3320 Troup Hwy, Ste. 230

LGBTQ Ladies Social Group Monthly Social date, time and location will be posted in the group Facebook Page.

SAVE THE DATE

PRIDE 2021

Saturday, October 9, 2021 Luau Ball

Sunday, October 10, 2021 PRIDE in the Park Festival

Saturday, December 11, 2021 Annual Holiday Party

Event details will be published in future newsletters. Sponsorship, both fees, and fundraising information will be provided in the Spring.

Tyler, Texas HIV/AIDS/STDs Resources

East Texas Cares Resource Center

(903) 592-0757

www.easttexascares.org

Special Health Resources

(903) 212-7895

Texas Department of State Health Services

(903) 597-7558

www.dshs.texas.gov/region4-5/

Tyler Care Clinic

(903) 597-7558

www.specialhealth.org/tyler-care/home

TAG's December Snapshot



December 2020 TAG Dinner at Texas Music City Grill & Smokehouse

2021 Sponsorships



*Scan the QR Code to Make a
Tax Deductible Donation*

Newsletter sponsorships are available for \$50 donation. Your logo and/or picture will be published in that month's Tyler Equality News, on TAG Social Media, and the website at www.TylerAreaGays.com.

You may also donate for a specific TAG cause and you will receive recognition as a 2021 Sponsor. If you wish to remain anonymous you may do so.

Your donations help benefit the following:

Thomas R. Preston Scholarship Foundation - a scholarship for those

seeking higher education in the East Texas community.

Quarterly Charity Drives - a charity drive for local non-profits based on their specific needs.

Adopt-A-Street - provide supplies to assist volunteers in keeping Tyler streets clean.

Hummingbird Project - by helping to put an end to LGBTQIA+ homeless youth in East Texas through advocacy, educational outreach, securing and creating LGBTQIA+ safe shelters and sober community centers.

Toys For Tots - collecting toys for children during the holiday season.

A Listening Ear - an LGBTQIA+ support group aimed at our youth who need a listening ear in a judgement free and safe environment. Open to all ages.

PRIDE in the Park - planning for Tyler's annual PRIDE festival.

Click **Make A Donation** below to access the donation screen. If you would like to donate using other methods or you need a tax letter for a donation you have made please submit your request to TAG at info@TylerAreaGays.com.

[Make A Donation](#)

2020 SPONSORS

Tyler Area Gays would like to recognize and express our appreciation to the following individuals for their sponsorships during the calendar year of 2020.

John Miller \$250

The Gramman Insurance Agency \$50 (July Newsletter Sponsor)

Performance from the Inside Out \$50 (March Newsletter Sponsor)

Merritt Insurance Services \$50 (February Newsletter Sponsor)

Rayford Florist & Gifts \$50 (January Newsletter Sponsor)

TAG Activities

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- A Listening Ear (Suspended due to COVID-19)
- Adopt-A-Street

- Hummingbird Project
- Quarterly Charity Drive (Suspended due to COVID-19)
- Thomas R. Preston Scholarship
- Toys for Tots

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- TAG Dinner Group
- LGBTQ Ladies Social Group
- Game Night (Suspended due to COVID-19)
- Ball
- PRIDE in the Park
- Holiday Party
- Pickleball

ORGANIZATIONAL

- Board Meeting
- Social Committee
- Finance Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Volunteer Committee

Visit www.TylerAreaGays.com for details on each event.

Newsletter of Tyler Area Gays

January 2021

Volume 2, Issue 1

Tyler Area Gays Founded 2008

Tyler Area Gays promotes wellness and celebrates our diversity through support, education, outreach, and advocacy in Tyler and the East Texas Region.

2021 Governing Board

Jay Hilburn, Chair

Vacant, Vice-Chair

Shannon Rose, Secretary

Jennifer Gower, Treasurer

Summer Adams

Leilani Groves

2021 Committees

Vacant, Community Service (Provisional Committee)

Jennifer Gower, Finance Committee Chair

Vacant, Fundraising (Provisional Committee)

Jimmy Ramsey, Organizational Chair (Provisional Committee)

Vacant, Scholarship Committee

Jay Hilburn, Social Committee Chair

Tara Gower, Volunteer Committee (Provisional Committee)

**Provisional Committees are committees that are not listed in the Bylaws. They are in the process of being considered which will be discussed at the Board Retreat in January, 2021 and voted at the following board meeting*

Social Media

Facebook Group

Facebook Page

Instagram

SnapChat - TylerAreaGays

Twitter

E-mail: info@tylerareagays.com

Phone: (903) 617-8556



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