

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Meeting Marks Beginning of 2004 Season New Board of Directors Elected for 2004 Pride/Twin Cities to Bid for InterPride Conference

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - At its Annual Meeting on Monday night, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities officially began the 2004 planning season for the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender-Pride Celebration, the third largest in the United States.

The 2003 Annual Report was released at the meeting, which is now available for download at tcpride.org. Printed copies may be ordered by contacting David W. Hill, Pride=92s Vice President of Administration at 952-852-6106. The Annual Report contains a review of all seven of this year=92s Pride Celebration Events, our sponsorship and fundraising programs and our 2003 Financial Statement.

The 2004 Board of Directors was elected at the Annual Meeting. Pride is pleased to welcome former CEO Daniel Dempsey back to the Pride Board as the new Parade Director. Dempsey played an instrumental role as assistant to outgoing Parade Director Richard Carper in 2003. Festival Logistics Coordinator James Eckard was elected as the new Volunteer Director. Eckard was a Coordinator on the Board of Directors for the 2003 season and helped with a multitude of logistical details in producing the 2003 Pride Festival. Pride would like to express its gratitude and deep appreciation to outgoing Volunteer Director Gary VanDerSchaegen for his many years of volunteerism and dedication to GLBT Pride/Twin Cities.

Jim Kelley, President of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, said, "For me the presentation of the Annual Report finishes up the Celebration for 2003 and the annual election kicks off the 2004 season. The people that have come together to work on the upcoming Celebration bring a level of dedication and experience to the Board that will ensure

wonderful events.”

One of the first items of business to be considered by the 2004 Board of Directors was the upcoming InterPride Conference. InterPride is an international association of Pride Celebrations, which hosts an international conference and convention each year featuring educational seminars and workshops. The Board of Directors decided that it would launch a bid to host that conference in Minneapolis in October 2005. Pride South Florida is currently the only other city/region putting forth a proposal to host the conference in 2005.

Jim Kelley, President, said, “I’m really excited that we’ve decided to bid on hosting the InterPride annual conference for 2005. This is an opportunity for us to show off the Twin Cities to Pride organizers from around the world. This will be a huge team effort. In addition to the hundreds of volunteer hours it will take to prepare the bid, ten of our board members will travel to this year’s conference in Montreal to represent the Twin Cities and present our bid package.”

Celebrating its 32nd year in 2004, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3rd largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance in excess of 400,000 people at seven events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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