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local news

Equity Foundation deadline is Nov. 10

Equity Foundation, a charitable foundation serving Oregon's sexual minorities community, is accepting applications for its fall/winter granting cycle. Applications must be received by no later than 4 pm on Nov. 10. Grant recipients will be announced in January.

The foundation's primary objective is to fund eligible nonprofit organizations that work to help people experience their self-worth and/or to create communities that embrace the inherent worth of all people.

For further information, please write Equity Foundation at PO Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228 or call 220-0628.

VfHR dinner set

Veterans for Human Rights will hold its third annual Sgt. Johnnie Phelps Awards Dinner on Nov. 11.

"Forward, March!" the dinner's theme, celebrates advances toward ending discrimination against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals who serve in the U.S. military.

State Rep. George Eighmey (D-Portland) will be honorary dinner chair, and the keynote speaker is Lt. Richard Watson, a navy nuclear submarine officer who has challenged the federal government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Portland School Board member Marc Abrams, a Portland lawyer, will be honored for his successful effort to remove military recruiters from Portland's public schools due to the discriminatory ban.

For further information about the dinner, please contact Veterans for Human Rights at 223-1373.

MHRC issues honors

Jerry Weller, a founding member of the Right to Privacy PAC, and Our House of Portland, an AIDS hospice, were among those recently honored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission.

Weller and Our House were among those who received the commission's Community Harmony Recognition Award, which recognizes people and organizations who cross ethnic and cultural lines to respond to injustice and promote harmony as a routine part of their daily lives.

In addition to founding RTP, Weller has served on the board of Oregon NARAL and was executive director of the Portland Town Council and Town Council Foundation, now Phoenix Rising. Our House of Portland is a 10-bed facility for people with AIDS. It serves a broad community, reflecting the fact that HIV/AIDS respects no racial, orientation or gender boundaries.

Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein chose Gerardo Madrigal, a leader in the Latino/a community, for the Multnomah County Chair Human Rights Award.

Wanda Silverman, a longtime advocate for quality education, has been selected as the recipient of the Mayor's Human Rights Award by Portland Mayor Vera Katz.

The awards were presented at the MHRC awards dinner held at Beaumont Middle School on Oct. 26.

Club seeks support

The Live and Let Live Club, a nonprofit organization that provides meeting space to recovery groups geared toward the sexual minorities community, is seeking a low-cost commercial space to rent.

According to the group's founder and co-president Val Lawson, the 15-year-old group must move from its current location at 2804 SE Ankeny St. in Portland because the space is zoned for residential use only. It is also too cramped.

She says the club was not aware that the building was in a residential zone when it rented the space two years ago. Lawson says the club, which was founded in order to create a safe space for gay men and lesbians in recovery, must relocate to a commercially zoned area.

"And we need to move anyway, because the space is too small," she says, adding that as many as 60 people—mostly gay and lesbian—attend daily recovery meetings at the site. "We don't have much money. Members of the club contribute \$5 or \$10 a month, and sometimes money is raised during 12-Step meetings, but that's it," she says.

Anyone who may be able to help is asked to call 231-3760.

Portland part of national study on HIV viral load

A study sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is seeking 1,000 people with HIV nationwide to participate in the study of a test that measures HIV viral load. The research may determine if monitoring levels of the virus can keep patients healthier longer.

In Portland, researchers hope to recruit 100 people for the study, says a recent *Oregonian* article, which quotes Dr. James H. Sampson, executive director of the Research & Education Group. The organization is part of a national community-based clinical trials network. The Research & Education Group is committed

to making new and investigational drugs and treatments for HIV disease and related conditions available in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

According to the article, in order to be eligible, patients must have HIV and be in "reasonably good health," be 13 years of age or older, and have a T-cell count of 300 or fewer cells per cubic millimeter of blood.

For updated clinical trial information or further information about this study, please contact The Research & Education Group at 229-8428.



Living in Leather X a success

The Portland Chapter of the National Leather Association hosted the International Living in Leather X in Portland from Oct. 5 to 8. Hundreds of people from all over the world attended the conference at the Portland Conference Center.

Conferencegoers attended specially themed dinners, brunches and lunches. A vendors market featured over 40 vendors peddling magazines, clothing, whips, artwork, piercing, jewelry and music. Workshops on hot wax body painting and modern-day vampires, and a "sash widows" support group were offered. Dungeon parties were attended by hundreds of tops, bottoms and switches. A gala opening reception featured a color guard by the American Uniform Association, which hosted a conference that same weekend.

The Mr. and Ms. NLA International contest was held Saturday at the Panorama. David Hoffenacker of Portland and Stacey of New York City won the titles.

Portland proved to be such a fantastic host city that the local chapter was asked to host Living in Leather XI next year. For registration forms, send an SASE to NLA Portland, attention Thom Zollner, PO Box 5161, Portland, OR 97208.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen
and Renée LaChance