

Lions and tigers and queers, oh my!

Meet the Pride Northwest board

BY JIM RADOSTA

Portland Pride is a massive effort that wouldn't happen without the blood, sweat and tears of the 10 volunteers on the Pride Northwest board. They're always interested in receiving applications for new members, so read on, and perhaps you'll be inspired to get involved.

Name: Jack Keegan
Title: President

I'm excited about: Seeing the whole thing come together and, at the end, all the people filling up Waterfront Park.

Why I got involved: A desire to add to the diversity of the board structure at the time I joined, mostly in the area of age and being a parent. I felt that those were some perspectives that were not on the board and that the event needed to reflect more of those voices.

Name: Aimee J. Wilson

Title: Vice chairwoman and media relations coordinator

I'm excited about: It's not often that you get so many people from a constituency affected by similar issues gather in one central place. Also, last year I got to carry a bullhorn.

Why I got involved: Pride Northwest seemed to be working to actively recruit people who had not previously been engaged in the planning of the event, and I thought that was really exciting.

Name: James Arrington

Title: Treasurer and security co-chairman

I'm excited about: Since the first time I attended Pride back in 1997 to now, it fascinates me to see the variety of different people that turn out.

Why I got involved: Volunteering to organize a Pride event sounded fun and exciting. I wanted a way to support my local community by sharing my skills. I treat it as an ongoing learning experience.

Name: Patricia Muhlbauer

Title: Security co-chairwoman

I'm excited about: It is getting bigger and better every year, and it's still a safe and fun-filled event to the community.

Why I got involved: Wanted to be part of the planning and putting on this event. I thought I could put my expertise to good use for the community to have a safe event.

Name: Paula Funatake

Title: Technical coordinator

I'm excited about: Expanding the feeling of inclusion to families.

Why I got involved: Solicitation from Jack and chance to add a different perspective to the event planning.

Name: Sunsong K. Firedancer

Title: Volunteer coordinator

I'm excited about: Community building and the possibility for connecting with many different types of folks.

Why I got involved: I think it is important work and because I felt I had some good skills to offer, as well as access to some underrepresented communities.



PHOTO BY MARY DAVIS

From left, Pride Northwest art director Andru Johnson, president Jack Keegan, treasurer and security co-chairman James Arrington, festival coordinator SB Collins, volunteer coordinator Sunsong K. Firedancer, security co-chairwoman Patricia Muhlbauer and entertainment chairman Brian Robinson

Name: Rich Kibbons

Title: Board secretary and parade chairman

I'm excited about: I think it's great to see so many folks attend our Pride event.

Why I got involved: I got involved with Pride Northwest so I could have the opportunity to work with folks who put on large public events.

Name: SB Collins

Title: Festival coordinator

I'm excited about: That Portland Pride was the very first Pride festival/parade I ever went to at 16. I remember what an amazing moment that was for me, to for the first time ever to be surrounded by hundreds of people like me.

Why I got involved: To be a part of an event which can be life-changing for people who are recently out of the closet, and affirming for people who don't have the chance to be around a community of queers.

Name: Andru J. Johnson

Title: Art director

I'm excited about: The chance to collect a widespread, diverse community all in one spot to educate, entertain and receive feedback as to needs and desires.

Why I got involved: At times I feel left out of the larger queer movement. I figure there are more people that feel like me. I want to bring them back so they can still feel some ownership in the event.

Name: Brian Robinson

Title: Entertainment chairman

I'm excited about: What I love about it the most is all the people I get to meet, and of course to celebrate the heritage of my sexuality.

Why I got involved: Three years ago, friends had invited me to join the entertainment committee and help with Pride Northwest. I was very excited about doing it. ☑

PRIDE NORTHWEST will hold a volunteer party and orientation 1 p.m. June 8 at Portland State University's Multicultural Center, Room 228 in Smith Memorial Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Attendees will have the chance to find out what positions are available, sign up for spots and meet the board. Organizers also will give an overview of the event as well as specific trainings for safety, parade, entertainment and festival volunteers. Snacks will be served. For more information e-mail Sunsong Firedancer at volunteer@pridenw.org or visit www.pridenw.org.

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