



# PERCEPTIONS

## SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area's LGBT Community

**March 2013**

**www.PerceptionsSV.org**

**Free**

### **An Affair to Remember**

Daphne Barkley

The sound of music drifted through the air as revelers chatted with one another, dined on delicious food, made fun crafts, and gave Valentine's Day cards to one another. It was great to see many familiar faces as well as many new faces in the crowd. Our minds were challenged by great trivia questions posed to the crowd throughout the night by our DJ, Patrick Brennan, who also kept the beat going all night with a great mix of music. The Cupid Shuffle got everyone's heart pumping while the slow romantic songs



requested by the crowd gave those who arrived with a sweetie the chance to slow-dance in a safe LGBT space.

This year's Valentine's Day dance was held at the

UCC in Midland. The fellowship hall offered a large space to accommodate dancing and activities with a built in sound system and kitchen facilities.

This event would not have been possible without the planning committee of Kathy, Chris, Jan, Patrick, and Amy; as well as our student group that volunteered to help setup and cleanup afterwards; and the many people who jumped in to help the night of the event. Thank you, everyone, for making this event a great success!

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### **Chocolate Party**

Saturday March 16, 2013  
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Castle Museum  
[500 Federal Ave](#)  
Downtown Saginaw

Sponsored by Perceptions and PFLAG



Perceptions  
Saginaw Valley  
PO Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641  
989-891-1429

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#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Get your copy of the Newsletter sent to you free with your paid membership. The Newsletter is always free to view online.

For more information visit  
[www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

**Perceptions is Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering LGBT individuals and their community.**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.

## How Can LGBT Communities Make Healthcare Reform Work for Us?

Ryan Sullivan

Did you know some of the biggest LGBT battles were won in 2010 when the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. "Obamacare") was passed?

It's true: access to affordable health insurance, increased prevention funding and services, non-discrimination protections, and data collection to create LGBT-friendly health policy are all in store.

But we can't declare victory yet.

Getting healthcare reform right depends on advocacy and activism in Washington as well as here in Michigan. To make sure LGBT consumers get the full benefit of the rights we've fought so hard for, it's time to learn how implementation is moving ahead so we don't get left behind.

You can get involved in key efforts going on now at the state level.

You've got the voices; we've got the resources to help you be heard in Lansing.

Michigan Consumers for Healthcare (MCH)

([consumersforhealthcare.org](http://consumersforhealthcare.org)), in partnership with [Equality Michigan](http://EqualityMichigan.org) and community-based organizations like Perceptions, is working on LGBT consumer protections. But we need your help! Please join us on March 21st at 7:00pm at [301 Cass Street](http://301CassStreet.com) in Saginaw to learn what's coming and what you can do about it. We promise: it won't hurt!



#### 2013 Membership Incentive

Compliments of The Mixx Nightclub & Metro Grille

Throughout 2013, show your Perceptions Membership Card at the door and receive \$2 off adult cover or \$3 off minor cover (18 to 20).



## Michigan Department of Civil Rights Report on LGBT Discrimination

Equality Michigan and Leo R. Romo

The [Michigan Department of Civil Rights](#) recently released *Michigan Department of Civil Rights LGBT Inclusion Under Michigan Law with Recommendations for Action (Jan. 28, 2013)*, a year-long comprehensive report with recommendations regarding the economic impact of LGBT discrimination.

The report included testimonials by Michigan LGBT individuals who had faced discrimination at the workplace, schools, and housing. It concludes that there is indisputable evidence of alarming rates of LGBT discrimination in the state. The report outlines the negative economic impact discrimination is having not only on LGBT residents, but also on employers and students in Michigan.

The Department made eleven recommendations to address the startling prevalence of LGBT discrimination and to enable them to track discrimination more accurately. Among them was a recommendation which encourages the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to publicly support expansion of federal, state, and local laws that protect people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

The report explains that Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act prohibits employment, public accommodations, public service, education, and housing discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, height, weight, and arrest record. However, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act does NOT prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Quoting the report:

“Michigan law leaves individuals susceptible to discrimination based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Michiganders can be fired from their jobs, refused employment, denied housing, and/or refused service based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity/expression and they would have no means of legal redress.” (p. 4)

Other recommendations provided the Commission with opportunities to promote economic recovery, increase LGBT outreach, and encourages them to oppose laws that restrict LGBT rights. The report concluded that these measures were not only supported by Michigan citizens, but that an even larger number mistakenly thought that they were already in place.

Emily Dievendorf, Equality Michigan's director of policy, stated, "[Equality Michigan](#) thanks and applauds the Michigan Department of Civil Rights... The report finds that Michigan voters not only support an end to this inequality and hindrance on our economic recovery... Equality Michigan calls on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to adopt this report expediently."

### **Do we have local non-discrimination ordinances?**

The City of Saginaw prohibits housing discrimination based on sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual), but transgender individuals are not protected in housing. The City **Continued on page 4**

**Meet the Editor**

Kristopher Waugh

I've been attending Perceptions events, usually the Friday dinners, for approximately 2 years and have been amazed by all the great people I've met through the organization. This year I decided that I needed to be more involved. I've volunteered to act as editor for the newsletter as well as advise on technical and IT issues.

I was born and raised in Flint, aside from a little time spent traveling in my childhood, have lived in this area my whole life. I studied Computer Science at the University of Michigan though I stopped a couple classes short of my degree. I've been involved in the Healthcare IT field since 2007 and have been working in web design and related things since 1998. For a short while I was also a programmer and mentor for a local FIRST robotics team.

I enjoy many hobbies including sewing and knitting. I also enjoy reading science fiction books and watching horror movies.

This will be the first time I've been involved in an organization beyond membership, and I want to thank everyone for the opportunity. I hope to do a great job for Perceptions.

**Rights Report on LGBT Discrimination Continued**

of Saginaw is mentioned seven times in the report (pp. 17-22, 24), mainly regarding housing protection.

Other than housing protection based on sexual orientation in the City of Saginaw; LGBT discrimination is legal in Midland County, Saginaw County, and Bay County. Quoting the report:

"This means that employers can fire or refuse to hire people, landlords can deny housing, and business owners can refuse restaurant service based on an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity/expression and those individuals would have no means of legal redress." (p ii)

Flint and Mt. Pleasant have extended inclusive non-discrimination ordinances. Flint prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and HIV status in housing and public accommodations. Mt. Pleasant prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression in employment, and housing and public accommodations. (p. 17) Be aware that twenty Michigan communities have different or limited non-discrimination ordinances that include LGBT protection.

**What can you do?**

YOUR voice is important. Contact your state representative and state senator and ask him/her to add the words "sexual orientation, gender identity and expression" in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act so LGBT people are protected by law. Find your state leaders here:

<http://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35018/getLocal.jsp>.

For the full report please visit one of the following websites:

- Michigan Department Civil Rights  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/MDCR\\_Report\\_on\\_LGBT\\_Inclusion\\_409727\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/MDCR_Report_on_LGBT_Inclusion_409727_7.pdf)
- Equality Michigan  
<http://www.equalitymi.org/files/uploads/mdcr-jan2013report-draft.pdf>.

## Current Events

events.PerceptionsSV.org

▼ **March 1st - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Riverside Family Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Rd.](#) (M-47), Freeland. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **March 8th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **El Mexicano**, [3593 Center Ave.](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Sat., March 9th - Michigan SOGI Education Conference** Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Issues in Education. Oakland Center - Oakland University, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Keynote speaker is Debra Chasnoff of GroundSpark - Igniting Change Through Film; Dave Garcia of Affirmations LGBT Community Center will emcee. For more information or to register, go to [www.oakland.edu/SOGI](http://www.oakland.edu/SOGI)

**Sat., March 9th - Michigan LGBT ComedyFest** 8:00 pm. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Dearborn. 17th annual event, presented by Equality Michigan. Four comedians in one huge show: Jackie Monahan (Los Angeles), Gloria Bigelow (Los Angeles), Ted Morris (Toronto), and Bridget McManus (Los Angeles). Tickets \$35. [www.ComedyFest.org](http://www.ComedyFest.org)

**Sun., March 10th - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more information, contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com).

**Wed., March 13th - Open Hearts** 6:00 pm. Positive thinking group for disabled members of the LGBT community. Discussion, speakers and support. Meets at Butman Fish Library in Saginaw. For info call Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-392-6874.

▼ **March 15th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Sullivan's Food & Spirits**, [5235 Gratiot Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **Sat., March 16th - Chocolate Party** 5:00 - 8:00 pm. **Castle Museum**, [500 Federal Ave.](#), Saginaw. Annual Perceptions & PFLAG fundraiser. Delicious chocolate treats and desserts will be served. Tours of the museum will be available. The Castle Museum was constructed as a post office and was dedicated in 1898. The architect, inspired by the early French settlement of the Saginaw Valley, designed the building in the French Renaissance Revival style. Free will donations support the programs of Perceptions and PFLAG.

**Sun., March 17th - PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, [2525 Hemmeter Rd.](#), Saginaw. For more information contact [pflag@pflag-mbs.org](mailto:pflag@pflag-mbs.org) or 989-941-1458.

▼ **Tuesday, March 19th - Men's Discussion Group** 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The Alderton, [301 Cass St.](#), Old Town Saginaw. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. You may contact him at [Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org) for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided.

**Wed., March 20th - Womyn's Room II** 6:00 pm. This women's group is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-392-6874.

▼ **Thurs., March 21st - Perceptions General Meeting** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions for our monthly meeting, featuring a presentation by Ryan Sullivan of [Michigan Consumers for Healthcare](#). Ryan will tell us how LGBT communities can make Healthcare Reform work for us. MCH is partnering with Equality Michigan and organizations like Perceptions to advocate for LGBT consumer protections. The **Alderton Bldg**, [301 Cass St.](#), Saginaw. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For more info, contact [info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:info@PerceptionsSV.org)

▼ **March 22nd - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Diamond Jim's**, [101 E. Main Street](#), Midland. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Friday, March 22nd - Charity Drag Show** 8:00 pm. Living Proud at SVSU present their 6th annual Drag Show. VIP tickets are \$8 each; general admission tickets are \$5.

▼ **March 29th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Brooklyn Boyz**, [507 E. Midland St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **Event sponsored or endorsed by Perceptions.**

To be informed about upcoming events, simply send a blank email to: [PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

# MARCH 2013

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<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Passover	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Meet & Greet (Game Night) The Mixx & Metro Grille 115 N. Hamilton St. Saginaw, 7:00 PM	<b>29</b> Good Friday  Friday Night Dinner Brooklyn Boyz 507 E. Midland St. Bay City 7:00 PM	<b>30</b>																																																																																				
<b>31</b> Easter		<b>February 2013</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			<b>April 2013</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<b>Notes:</b> The Perceptions Card Players Club has been discontinued.
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17th ANNUAL

M I C H I G A N  
Lesbian - Gay - Bisexual - Transgender

# ComedyFest

Saturday March 9, 2013  
8:00 PM — ONE HUGE SHOW

a project of:  
EQUALITY MICHIGAN



Jackie Monahan  
LOS ANGELES



Gloria Bigelow  
LOS ANGELES



Ted Morris  
TORONTO



Bridget McManus  
LOS ANGELES

A rip-roaring event for LGBT and allied folks!



Where?

**Dearborn's Ford Community  
& Performing Arts Center**

15801 Michigan Avenue at Greenfield (just east of Southfield Fwy.) in Dearborn, Michigan

**Host  
Hotel**



Rooms are available just blocks from the theater at:

**Courtyard  
Detroit-Dearborn  
5200 Mercury Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-271-1400**

Mention "ComedyFest" to receive a special room rate of \$89.00 per night on March 8 and 9



**Tickets:**  
\$35 (in advance);  
\$40 at the door  
(if available)

Tickets available online at [www.comedyfest.org](http://www.comedyfest.org)

by phone at 313-537-7000 or at the following ticket locations:

**Just4Us Bookstore**

211 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale; 248-547-5878

**Five15**

515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak; 248-515-2551

**Common Language Book Bar**

317 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor; 734-663-0036

This show has sold out in the past. Get your tickets today!

THANKS TO OUR MEDIA SPONSORS



This is a fully-accessible event. An ASL interpreter will be present. We offer early seating for people with disabilities

## February General Meeting

Dann Federico

If you missed the February General Meeting, you missed a good one!

Up until the meeting started we did a lot of mingling, meeting old friends and making new friends. There were almost 30 people attending. Daphne opened the meeting up with an update of what we have scheduled for the next 30 days.

The guest speaker was our very own Leo Romo. Leo presented the second half of his presentation on GLBT history in the Tri-City area. It was very well received by everyone, and created a lot of discussion from many of us in attendance. It included a slide show of many people, including many of our own members, and many places that we all recognized. With printed stories revealing the good, bad, and ugly aspects of GLBT throughout the years. If you have anything that could be of interest in this manner, please share it with Leo. And if you would like to find out some of this information, please ask Leo.

Before and after the meeting, we enjoyed a very nice snack buffet which included BBQ sliders, cole slaw, veggies, brownies, pop, and much more provided by Bob G.

Check our calendar for upcoming events, and make sure you attend our March General Meeting on March 21st at 301 Cass Street in Saginaw starting at 7:00pm.

## Meet the Board - Chris Lauckner

Chris Lauckner

Chris Lauckner has been actively involved in Perceptions activities for approximately the past six years. He has been aware of Perceptions Saginaw Valley, as an organization and the organization's purpose for many years, having been the Executive Director of B.A.S.I.S. (Bay Area Social Intervention Service) which is now Sacred Heart Rehabilitation in Bay City. Chris has been an advocate for the LGBTQI community and as part of B.A.S.I.S. championed the first Michigan AIDS Walk in the Saginaw Valley. He was part of the RCPG-Region VI Consortium Planning effort in the early-mid 1990s, assisting the Michigan Department of Community Health and area consumers in deciding how prevention dollars were to be spent for persons served in the Tri-Cities.

Following his tenure at B.A.S.I.S., and accepting a position at Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD), first as a health educator (certified as a HIV Testing/Counselor/Prevention and PCRS worker) and later as the Health Education Division Director, he continued a close connection to the LGBTQI community. Chris was responsible for the creation of a HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care Program which began operations in April 2008 in Clare, MI at one of the CMDHD branch offices. The program provides case management and clinical HIV/AIDS services for individuals residing in the middle northern counties of Michigan allowing for easier access to care.

Chris, also being an ordained minister, and non-denominational chaplain, served as Executive Director of Hospice of Helping Hands, Inc., West Branch, MI and has also served as a hospice chaplain. Currently, Chris is the Corporate Manager of Family Support Services for Home & Hospice Advantage in Bay City, MI.

With an understanding of organizational structure and functionality coupled with understanding the importance of relationship building and intergenerational connectivity, Chris believes and is passionate about the fact that the LGBTQI community is at a tipping point toward making additional historical strides. He believes that Perceptions, with its board of trustees, members, and allies, has a great opportunity to make a greater difference in the lives of LGBTQI individuals, their family, friends, allies, and the wider communities it serves.



## President Obama Posthumously Honors PFLAG Founder

National PFLAG and Leo Romo

On February 15, 2013, President Obama posthumously awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal to [PFLAG](#) founder Jeanne Manford. PFLAG is Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a national organization that supports LGBT individuals and families. Mrs. Manford's daughter, Suzanne Swan, accepted the award on behalf of her mother, who passed away January 8th at the age of 92.

“When Jeanne Manford learned that her son Morty had been badly beaten up at a gay rights demonstration, nobody would have faulted her for bringing him home, holding him close, and just focusing on her child,” said President Obama. “But instead... she took to the streets with a simple message: No matter who her son was, no matter who he loved, she loved him.”



The President personally selected Mrs. Manford as one of the 18 recipients of the medal, the second-highest civilian award in the United States, and recognizes individuals “whose service has had a sustained impact on others’ lives and provided inspiration for others to serve.”

Upon the presentation of the medal, the President’s military aid announced, “For insisting that equality knows no bounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, the United States honors Jeanne Manford.”

This is an extraordinary and unprecedented honor for Jeanne Manford, her family, and PFLAG members and supporters everywhere. The message is powerful: the voices of parents, family members, friends, and straight allies, united with the voice of LGBT

people, is critical to the advancement of acceptance and equality.

The ceremony marks only the second time an individual has been honored for advancing LGBT rights. In 2011, the president awarded one of the medals to Janice Langbehn, who filed a lawsuit drawing attention to the difficulties gay couples face when confronted with a hospital emergency. Her story prompted President Obama to issue a directive that all hospitals receiving federal funding allow gay patients the right to choose who can visit them.



## 2013 Officers Elected

Tim Atkinson

My final act as Chair of Perceptions was to preside over the February meeting of the Board of Trustees. The prominent issue on our agenda was the election of officers for the coming year. According to our bylaws, the Board will elect officers at their first meeting following the election of Trustees at the Annual Meeting. Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary) serve one-year terms but may be re-elected to multiple successive terms.

I am pleased to announce this year's board officers. Dann Federico was elected to the role of Secretary, Greg Gwaltney will be taking over the Treasurer's duties, Chris Lauckner will serve as Vice Chair, and Daphne Barkley will take the helm as Chair.

The Board also appointed three Advisors at the February meeting. Advisors are not allowed to vote on board decisions, but are selected for their experience and expertise to help the board to make informed decisions by sharing their knowledge and assist the board to complete projects by sharing their skills and talents. Advisors

serve terms that always expire at the Annual Meeting but they may be re-appointed to multiple successive terms. Leo Romo will serve another term as Advisor. Leo works with the Program Committee to line up guest speakers for our monthly meeting and takes on numerous projects in advocacy, outreach and education each year. Tom Brubaker will transition to the role of Advisor after ending his term as a Trustee in 2012. Tom will continue to facilitate the Men's Discussion Group for Perceptions and will continue his involvement with the Facilities Committee. Kris Waugh was also appointed as Advisor and is our new Newsletter Editor. Kris will also be helping us with many technology needs such improvements to our Members and Friends database and upgrades to our web site. Additional advisors may be appointed in the coming months.

I am very confident that this board and its 2013 officers will be able to accomplish great things. I'm very excited to see the new talent that has emerged this year. Kay, Jim, and Rick, who completed their terms in 2012, served the organization faithfully for many years and their contributions were substantial. I am very excited that Greg, Chris and Ben have joined the board and are bringing new energy and new ideas.



### From left to right:

- Leo Romo, Advisor
- Greg Gwaltney, Treasurer
- Tim Atkinson, Trustee
- Daphne Barkley, Chair
- Dann Federico, Secretary
- Chris Lauckner, Vice Chair
- Ben Dowd, Trustee