

notes from SASG

spring 2001

this premier issue is dedicated to the memory of our beloved John Stewart.

volume 01, issue 01

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- **saturday, may 5th - 11 am**
annual volunteer appreciation brunch
at the miller community center
- **friday, may 11th - 8 pm**
sasg community meeting at the house
come discuss sasg's current strategic
planning process and its potential
implications on our organization's
vision, mission and name.
- **saturday, june 2nd**
the test run of a newly developed sasg
training focused on themes such as
empathy, diversity and community...
this particular session will be held
specifically for sasg board members,
facilitators and phone volunteers.

strategic planning update...

Remember in January when many of you filled out a survey for SASG? Well, that survey represents one of the many steps taken in the creation and implementation of our strategic plan. What's a strategic plan? Simply put, it is a guide or structure that helps an organization plot out the "what, how and when" issues of its growth.

During this process, information, feedback and perspectives are gathered from a number of sources, such as the following:

- *internal* stakeholders (sasg's group members, facilitators, volunteers, friday feast attendees... basically all folks who use SASG's services);
- surveys completed by *external* stakeholders (other G/L/B/T and HIV/AIDS organizations);
- brainstorming and discussions from meetings of the SASG board of directors, the strategic planning committee, the

With this feedback in hand, the strategic planning committee identified the following four major strategic (or critical) issues for SASG:

- 1) What is our vision and direction?
- 2) How can our marketed name and vision be in alignment?
- 3) How can we insure adequate funding to fulfill our mission?
- 4) What can we do through marketing to expand our programs and outreach abilities?

During the May board meeting, the board will be asked to approve the new vision and mission statements for SASG. A great deal of creative energy went into the development of these statements, and we now have a vision and mission statement that are reflective of all of SASG's programs, groups, trainings and events.

In June we will be circulating a poll for all internal stakeholders; this poll will float five to seven potential name changes as well as the option to retain our current name of SASG. The results of this poll will then be taken to the board for use as a guide (weighted data) in choosing a new name or retaining the name SASG. In June, July or August, the last two critical issues, funding and marketing, will be addressed.

But, first things last...Why are we doing a strategic planning process anyway? The obvious reason is that with our two newer programs for G/L/B/T men and women we are no longer solely an HIV/AIDS organization. Our mission, or what we do, has changed and broadened. Also, instead of providing only emotional support groups, we now also provide skills-building workshops, book groups, retreats, discussion groups and social events for the G/L/B/T communities. Another reason we do strategic planning is to create viable plans and means to insure financial stability for SASG.

So, that's the scoop on strategic planning. I'll keep you all updated as the process continues. I hope that each one of you reading this can get behind this effort and support the process. It's very exciting!

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55,578 what??

Is it the number of trees sold?
(No, we only sold around 2,500 trees.)

Is it the number of hours airen spent on the lot?
(Not quite; it just looked that way.)

we all put in on the lot?
(No, it just seemed like that many!)

It's our total net profit in last year's tree sale!!!!

Gross sales were \$121,0777 — \$20,000 more than the year before. Net sales, at \$55,578, were \$15,356 more than the year before — and that's the real money that supports sasg's programs. The impressive increase in net profit was due to our holding expenses down more than ever before. The trees cost a lot, but we only spent \$4,697 on everything else: advertising, getting flyers and posters plastered all over the Hill, all the miscellaneous tree lot expenses (like the gloves we wore, the lighting, the scissors we lost), permit fees, and credit card fees for the one-third of our shoppers who prefer to pay with plastic.

In every respect it was our best year ever, and every single person who put in time on the lot, or inside at the cash register, was partially responsible for our huge success. Special kudos go to Mark Weiland and Barry Ford for huge commitments of time and energy on the lot, to Al Mayer for chalking up by far the most hours at the cash register, and to airen, who we're pretty sure kept a sleeping bag out there somewhere under the trees.

SASG's annual Christmas tree sale, started in 1990 by John Kolling, has grown over the years to become our single largest revenue source. Thanks to each and every one of you who put in time "on the lot" this past year. And if anyone reading this missed that opportunity, there's always next

Here is a great new program shaping up for Poz Men. It is not yet officially named yet, so I'll refer to it by a working title that may change.

The program, currently under development, is "Project POZ: A buddy program for newly HIV+ guys". This program is being spearheaded by Steve Plunk and a group of seven volunteers. The idea is to match seasoned HIV+ men as buddies with men who have newly sero-converted for information, social and emotional support one-on-one.

Many of the HIV+ men at SASG helped get this project going by filling out a questionnaire about this idea a few months ago. As currently envisioned, SASG's role in this project will be to give it some financial support, help in training the buddy volunteers, facilitate support groups for the buddy volunteers, and offer a trained phone volunteer staff to help match interested callers (newly HIV+ guys) with buddy volunteers.

Keep your eyes open for upcoming information on this new program!

David's Descriptions

introducing... **THE
SASG**

Sunday, May 13th

11:30 am

vs. Parrish Pythons - 2:45 pm

vs. Seawolf Diamonds - 5:15 pm

20th

vs. Stella's Groovers - 5:00 pm

Team Roster

John Koch (coach)
Mark Weiland
Judy Boersema
Toni Turner
Debbie Clark
Lisa Alkin
Chris Tolfree
Mike Hohm
Terri Cottrell
Diane DerBoghossian
Jon Kahrs
Kathi Wheeler
Shanna Mattson

Directions to Fort Dent Park

From Seattle, take I-5 south to the Interurban Avenue exit. Turn left on Interurban Avenue South. Go about one mile to Fort Dent Way. Turn left on Fort Dent Way into the park. The ball fields are at the far end of the park.

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updates on programming at SASG...

here's a bit of information on some new, and upcoming, groups at the house. for more information, please feel free to drop by and see me!

airen lydick

1. "communities, connectedness, boundaries and responsibilities"

following: week #1 conceptions of self identity and community
week #2 interconnectedness, separateness & isolation
week #3 boundary setting & shutting down
week #4 examination of responsibilities

spring session: by-registration-only, wednesdays, 4/18 - 5/9, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

2. "queer writing circle"

this is sasg's newly developed group for queer women writers! with an intimate and interactive format, this group is open to writers of all levels and genres who are interested in actively cultivating a supportive, motivational, safe and fun environment for themselves and for the group.

spring session: by-registration-only, tuesdays, 4/24 - 6/12, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

3. "three dollar bills"

by-registration-only

two of these new groups ("communities, connectedness, boundaries and responsibilities" "three dollar bills" *of any gender and/or hiv status*)

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sasg's new volunteers!

on the phones...

- Erin Rand, tuesdays 6-9 pm
- Naomi Hendricks, in training

newly trained facilitators...

- Catie Unger, "queer writing circle"
- Erin McClatchey, "coming out after 30"
- Gol Hoghooghi, not currently facilitating
- John Koch, not currently facilitating
- Kathy Eyrh, not currently facilitating
- Mark Weiland, not currently facilitating
- Meghan Herner, "queer writing circle"
- Phil Pelino, not currently facilitating
- Rahmie jo Stark, not currently facilitating
- Sunshine DeWitt, not currently facilitating

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volunteer birthdays

<u>april</u>	4 th	Al Mayer
	8 th	Anna Swartz
	9 th	Gretchen DeRoche
	16 th	Thomas Merritt
	18 th	Scott Goodrich
	19 th	John Koch
	21 st	Anna Treadway
<u>may</u>	25 th	Rosanna Lagace
	27 th	Keith Arnett
		Ken Buchanan
<u>june</u>	8 th	Nikki Plaid
	9 th	John Hannaman
	10 th	Erin McClatchey
	11 th	James Mullen
	23 rd	Erin Rand

notes from SASG is our quarterly newsletter. issues will be distributed seasonally as follows:

winter (january-march), spring (april-june), summer (july-september) and fall (october-december).
please direct your ideas for, feedback on, and questions/concerns about the newsletter
airen lydick, sasg volunteer/program coordinator (206.322.2437, airen13@hotmail.com).