

To Chair or Not To Chair. That is The Question.

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I kept saying no way, no how, am I ever going to be the Chair for Hamilton Pride. Never! Why do I need that kind of responsibility, hassle, and hair pulling grief? Yet somehow through an evil twist of fate I ended up being the Chair this year. After my initial irritation over this conspiratorial plot twist in my life I accepted the fact that I was the “head sucker” for the 2002 Committee. I have now wholeheartedly embraced being Chair.

Being Chair has forced me to see the “whole picture” rather than my one little piece of the puzzle I had to worry about in the past (media relations). I now have an even deeper appreciation for everything every member of our committee does to help make our event come together every year. Folks it’s a miracle any Pride event happens, because big pride event or small pride event these things are a lot of detailed and painstaking work.

Having attended a few Interpride conferences over the years I have discovered that no matter where in the world you decide to hold a Pride event there are a few issues that are universal.

Here are my personal top three:

1. Volunteers – You will never have enough volunteers. You will always need more volunteers.
2. Sponsorships – A tough, time consuming, almost comedic exercise that makes you feel like the corporate whore of the universe. And despite all your whoring, in the end you will always want/need more sponsors. Heck, lets be blunt. You will always want/need more money.

3. Committee Burnout – As is the case in * ANY * volunteer organization, a small handful of people do all the work while a gaggle of groupies bask in the glow of its success. It's not something really to get bitter about, it's life, it just is, but all the same people tend to get really bitter about it.

Hamilton Pride is still looking for, yes you guessed it, sponsors and volunteers. Please check out our website at www.gayhamilton.com/pride to find out the latest news on our event and to see how you can be a part of it. We look forward to seeing you there!