



oak park area lesbian & gay association+

**ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2023
In-Person as well as
Via Zoom at 12 Noon**



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- Welcome Rylan Martin, Co-Chair
- 2022 In Review Rylan Martin, Co-Chair
- Long-Term Award *Presented to Greg Raub*
- Long-Term Award *Presented to Alisa Ray*
- Service Commitment Award *Presented to John Becvar*
- 2023 Board Election Results Rylan Martin
- Financial Report Leah Textor, Treasurer
- Committee Reports 2023 Co-Chairs
- Bylaw Changes John Becvar, Secretary



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Welcome from the 2022 Board!

- Co-Chairs **Kelly Soprych** and **Rylan Martin**
- Officers **Tom Gull** (Treasurer) and **Greg Raub** (Secretary)
- Board Members-at-Large
 - **Betty Alzamora** **Steve Angus**
 - **John Becvar** **Wendy Cole**
 - **Anthony Didato** **Ron Roman**
 - **Tim Silver** **Leah Textor**
- Ex-Officio (Past Co-Chairs)
 - **Jim Gibson** and **Alisa Ray**

Special thanks to:
Tom
Greg
Anthony
Jim
Alisa



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What a year - 2022!

- This is the first **in-person** Annual Meeting in three years after two years of virtual meetings!
- Meeting is also being broadcast on Zoom.
- We needed a larger space than we've had in the past because our membership has grown.
- Everyone should have received a "Year in Review" print piece - being mailed out to 850 households in our database.



Note cards on your table

- Write down your thoughts and we'll collect them at the end



Let's All Thank:

- Committee co-chairs and committee members
- Potluck hosts
- Volunteers at *Donut Day*
- Volunteers at *A Day in Our Village*
- Volunteers who marched in the village parades
- Participants in advocacy activities



Bryan Findlay Long-Term Commitment Award

Long-Term Service Award

Greg Raub recently wrapped up three years of service as OPALGA+ Board secretary. But his involvement in the group goes back more than 20 years. His contributions began when he joined his husband Steve Krol in his long-standing role as a gala table captain. Greg was first elected to the board in 2009. He was on the board for five years, serving as co-chair four of those years. During that time, he helped the organization recover from financial struggles, planned the annual membership brunch, handled all member communications, and co-led a redesign of the website. Following his initial term on the board, Greg joined the scholarship committee for which he now serves as co-chair.

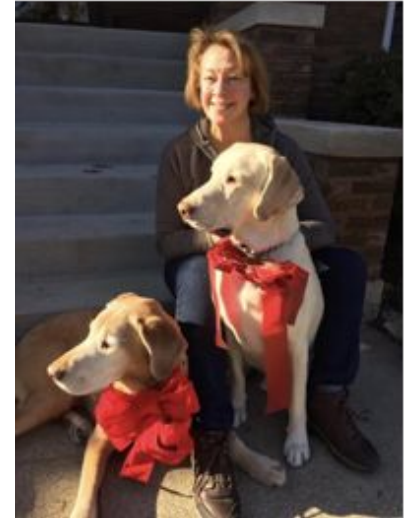




Bryan Findlay Long-Term Commitment Award

Long-Term Service Award

Alisa Ray has been a member of OPALGA+ for 11 years. She joined the Board in 2014 and became Co-Chair in 2019. Alisa helped with the initial formation and establishment of the scholarship program. She chaired the Donut Day fundraiser for 3 years and upgraded the sign-up process from paper-based to digital. Alisa and her wife Kathy have hosted potlucks and many post-4th of July parade picnics at their house. Alisa was OPALGA+ Co-Chair during the pandemic and led the Board in virtual board meetings each month and was instrumental in leading the Gala Committee to create a virtual Gala raising over \$21,000 for the scholarship fund. Alisa and Kathy moved to Rehoboth, Delaware permanently in 2022 but remain loyal members and supporters of OPALGA+.



Carol Zientek Distinguished Service Award



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Distinguished Service Award

John Becvar moved to River Forest in the summer 2021 and immediately joined OPALGA+. During his first year on the Board in 2022, John was co-chair of the Communications, Social and Sponsorships Committees and was recently elected as Secretary for 2023. He created and ran all the monthly restaurant outings in 2022, assisted with the Playdates in the Park and even hosted a Potluck in October. He maintains the OPALGA+ website, social media channels, direct mail pieces and member database. He was one of three people responsible for all the Pride month posters distributed around town and helped raise over \$17,000 from corporate sponsors. He coordinated all the Gala communications including the Program Book and donated several auction items. He was one of three Board members who led the review of the Bylaws and helped draft the member survey. He volunteered all day at Oak Park's Day in the Village and co-led OPALGA+'s participation in the River Forest Memorial Day parade and Oak Park July 4th Parade. We also need to thank him for all the logistics planning for the 2023 Annual Meeting.





Introducing the 2023 Board!

- Co-Chairs **Kelly Soprych** and **Rylan Martin**
- Officers **John Becvar** (Secretary) and **Leah Textor** (Treasurer)
- Board Members-at-Large
 - **Betty Alzamora** **Steve Angus**
 - **Erika Bachner** **Wendy Cole**
 - **Bob Personett** **Ron Roman**
 - **Cas Scaman** **Tim Silver**

*Congrats to:
John
Leah
Welcome to:
Bob
Cas
Erika*



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Financial Report

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	10 Year Totals
Cash Balance	37,042	46,053	50,384	57,949	72,992	101,818	110,864	104,373	119,295	135,041	112,407
Scholarship Fundraising	8,695	9,585	9,915	15,464	16,980	24,858	24,598	20,940	29,164	36,674	196,872
Scholarships Paid		(4,000)	(6,000)	(12,000)	(8,000)	(9,000)	(22,000)	(27,000)	(24,000)	(26,000)	(138,000)
Scholarship Net Income	8,695	5,585	3,915	3,464	8,980	15,858	2,598	(6,060)	5,164	10,674	58,872
Gala Income	27,472	28,618	18,506	18,405	23,585	32,652	34,419	12,431	20,811	35,506	252,405
Gala Expense	(12,562)	(20,234)	(14,948)	(13,577)	(14,690)	(16,048)	(22,397)	(6,627)	(13,241)	(18,899)	(153,224)
Gala Net Income	14,910	8,384	3,557	4,829	8,895	16,604	12,022	5,804	7,570	16,607	99,181
Other Income	12,859	8,120	4,651	11,462	8,444	12,218	9,387	4,857	11,648	16,387	100,032
Other Expenses	(21,531)	(13,077)	(7,793)	(12,188)	(11,276)	(15,854)	(14,961)	(11,091)	(9,460)	(28,446)	(145,678)
Operating Net Income	6,238	3,426	415	4,102	6,062	12,968	6,448	(430)	9,758	4,548	53,534



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Communications Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: John Becvar and Wendy Cole
- Twice monthly e-newsletter and quarterly print pieces
 - In 2022, we sent a mailing to 35,000 residents in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park to increase awareness of our organization.
- Our email signup list nearly doubled in a year from 651 to 1014, with over 20,000 emails sent with a 46% open rate.
- Also, we now have a Twitter account (@opalga1) in addition to Facebook private group, Facebook public page and Meetup group.
- *Encourage your friends to contact info@opalga.org to make sure their information is up-to-date in our database.*



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Advocacy Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Betty Alzamora and Terry Kinsey
- Committee created to reflect Summer 2022 Membership Survey interest and in response to anti-Trans/LGBTQ activity resulting from Dobbs decision
 - Share legislative actions people can engage in
 - Rallies and Safety Marshals
 - Spoke at River Forest D90 School Board and “Light in All The Colors” anti-hate unity event.
- 2023 Actions: provide more opportunities for activation through Coalition work, Community Forums, and Rapid Response training
- Contact advocacy@opalga.org to get involved!



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Gala Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Tim Silver and Michael Smith
- Incredible 2022 Gala at the 19th Century Club October 2022 with over 200 people present, raising over \$30,000 for the scholarship fund that night.
- 2023 Gala date is Saturday, October 21 from 6pm-11pm at the 19th Century Club. Tickets will go on sale in late August.
- *Need volunteers to select DJ, Emcee, Photographer, etc, finalize the menu and more. Join us monthly beginning March for our planning meetings!*



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Scholarship Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Greg Raub and James Wallace
- \$138,000 awarded to date of which \$26,000 awarded in 2022
 - Congratulations to seven (7) 2022 recipients: Marty Cowherd, Montasia Curry, Madeleine Falkenholm, Marielle Janosky, David Martinez, Sophia Pacheco and Ana Schack.
- Scholarship application deadline for 2023 extended through February 2023
- Scholarships awarded directly to the institution on behalf of the recipient
- In 2022, Jan Grillos Memorial Fund set up.
- *Need your help in spreading the word to high school seniors to apply!*
- *Donate at any time at: <https://opalga.org/donate/>*

Let's Meet The Recipients!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLd70hF0hcY>



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Sponsorships Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: John Becvar and Bob Personett
- Distributed hundreds of “Pride Month” posters displayed in business windows
- Raised over \$17,000 for supporting the Scholarship Gala and fund
- Thanks to our presenting sponsor: Rush Oak Park Hospital and our Gold sponsors:
 - Ameriprise Financial Jensen Associates Candycopia
 - Cabaret ZaZao Kendall Alexander, Attorney
 - State Senator Don Harmon State Representative Camille Lilly
 - State Speaker Chris Welch
- Contact sponsorships@opalga.org to support our efforts!



Volunteering Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Bob Personett and Cas Scaman
- New committee for 2023; many members have asked us to bring this back
- *Welcome your ideas and participation!*



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A Day In Our Village Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Ron Roman and Cas Scaman
- Annual first Sunday in June event in Scoville Park, Oak Park
- Pass out literature and bracelets to those who stop by our booth
- Will have a call out in May for volunteers
- *Save the 2023 date of Sunday, June 4th!*



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Donut Day Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Steve Angus and Erika Bachner
- Held at Oak Park Pilgrim's Church each June
- Receive a generous \$2,500 donation for our efforts
- *Looking for volunteers to make and sell the donuts!*



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Social Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: John Becvar and Kelly Soprych
- In addition to Potlucks and Playdates, started monthly restaurant outings in 2022. We had nine (9) in 2022 and are planning ten (10) in 2023.
 - Sponsors of OPALGA+
 - Next outing is Tuesday, February 28 at Victory Italian. RSVP on Facebook as capacity limited to 25 people.
- Oscar Viewing Party - Sunday, March 12
- Also had in 2022 and plan on repeating in 2023:
 - Ice Cream/Sorbet Social, Bowling Outing, Films, Theater and more!
 - *What else should we do?*



Playdates in the Park Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Leah Textor and John Becvar
- Started July 2022; held four (4) events in 2022 at Rehm Park, Oak Park
- Families with younger kids
- Average 50-60 attendees each month
- Upcoming Family Playdate on February 19th at 10am at Let's Play Work in Forest Park



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Potlucks Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Ron Roman and Bob Personett
- Had nine (9) potlucks in 2022 and planning eleven (11) in 2023!
- 2nd Friday of each month from 7pm-10pm (except October 14, 2023)
- Open to everyone; BYOB and bring a dish to share
- February OPALGA+ Potluck will be on Friday, February 10
 - 349 Ashland Ave, River Forest
 - Hosted by Cheryl Knecht and School House Kitchen & Studio.
- *Looking for two volunteers to host September and November 2023!*

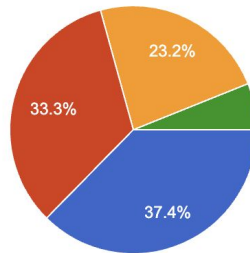


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Survey Report

- 2023 Co-Chairs: Betty Alzamora and John Becvar
- Conducted a comprehensive survey summer 2022 with 99 responses from our mailing lists and social media channels
- We recognize the need to attract younger (Gen Y and Gen Z) people into our group. We also need to expand our advocacy and volunteer efforts.
- Happy to report general satisfaction with our organization.

99 responses





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By-Law Amendments

- John Becvar
- Current bylaws last updated in 2013
- Reviewed for six months; sought feedback from some legacy board members
- Process to amend the current bylaws require:
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Board to approve the proposed changes (*was unanimous*)
 - Submitted at least one (1) month in advance to members
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Membership must approve any change to pass
- We have been gathering “proxies” from Members in Good Standing
- As such, we cannot change the wording on what has been submitted today
- But we can take feedback back to the Board for future review



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By-Law Proposed Changes

- Be more inclusive - especially with gender identity/expression
 - Old bylaws didn't list the "plus" for example and required "male" and "female"
- Option to expand the Board to 13 - especially with contested elections
- Broaden participation - especially via electronic means
 - Expanded definitions to confirm without regard to socio-economic status or immigration status
 - Board meetings will be open to everyone via Zoom
- Align financial controls with the reality of a larger organization
 - Establish budgets
 - Hire external auditor to ensure following best practices
- Update language throughout pulling from the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (805 ILCS 105) as amended



Comments and Questions?

- What would you like to discuss?



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- Let's take some pictures