

mobile STREET TALK

by Elvin Nelson

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The AQUA committee has announced the first annual Community Unity Awards. This new event will be held in conjunction with the annual AQUA J. Allen Pope Reaching Out Award. AQUA has presented The Allen Pope Award over the past few years to a member of the community who has reached out to make a real difference in our community.

AQUA realized that a number of members of our community deserved to be recognized each year and invited other organizations to join them in this effort. Bay Area Inclusion, Cornerstone MCC Church, Mobile Alabama Pride, P-Flag and South Alabama CARES have joined AQUA in this

first annual award presentation.

The event will be held March 8th at the L'Estrade Dinner Theater and will feature well known Mobile TV personality Darwin Singleton as emcee.

Jeff Key, a former Mobile resident, has been announced as the featured speaker for this first annual event. Now living in Los Angeles, Jeff is an actor, writer, activist, philanthropist and former marine. He currently tours with his one man show "The Eyes Of Babylon." Jeff says he is looking forward to returning to his old home town and help making this event a success.

Tickets are \$30 which includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Tickets may be purchased at Mobile bars and through participating organizations.

hot tails of red stick ...from EX-8

proached in the parking lot and accused of stealing an earring of a high-flouting wanna-be drag queen from elsewhere in the state. I was a witness to this, and I can assure you, I will never forget it. Miss Marino handled herself well. She told said wanna-be that she didn't need pieces of glass when she only went in for diamonds. It was at this moment that I was the recipient of a tossed drink aimed at said wanna-be drag queen, which missed the main target. I will always admire our dear Apollo royalty member for this even though it wasn't the most dignified way to handle things. The truth was learned later that said bauble was misplaced, but this wanna-be drag queen never offered an apology. She knows I witnessed the entire drama, and she shies away from me. That's good. I never did care for her antics anyway, and as a beauty - well, she needs to take a few lessons from a pro like Miss Marino. It's called class, and that's something Kenny has until called upon to defend the honor system. We laugh now, but it was no laughing matter then. I adore Miss Marino.

Another one missing in action somewhere was Mark, the best of all emcees in Apollo history. Not only could he produce the best audience responses, he followed protocol and carried the ball through to its final moments as no other has done since then. He was also one of the best of all the kings, and I can see him to this day marching up and down that runway in Plaquemine as poor Steve tried to keep up in those high heels. That was a wonderful moment to capture. You could tell Steve was ready to end all the agony, but it was a time of great energy for Mark, and he carried this off in a regal manner as only he can accomplish. I missed you at the dinner, sweetheart.

As you probably see, I am talking about the older royalty members. As I age, they age, but they too knew how to conduct themselves in a royal manner. I've noticed a change in recent years, a switch from the elaborate and fantastic royal costumes of the past to the more regal crown and cape. To me, this only means that the younger you are, the less you have to spend, and you tend to be more realistic with the way your dollars are spent. The older generation tended to try to outdo each other, which

was sometimes good, sometimes not so good. I could tell you about some of these experiences, but I'm trying to recall all the good times, not the underhanded ones.

Another thing I like to do is encourage people to support these activities. I have heard so many times the excuse that "I was not invited." Don't wait for an invitation. Buy a ticket and go. I can follow this up with the question of "what have you done to deserve a free ticket?" Going to a ball doesn't have to be an invitation only affair. Let the captains or members know that you are willing to buy a ticket, and you might just end up at one of their tables. It's the expression of interest that makes the big difference. Just to sit back all year and do nothing and then expect a freebie is not my idea of the proper thing to do. These guys have worked long and hard all year to raise money for this event, and they are spending a lot of their own money for a few minutes of fame and adoration. Get off your royal behinds and help in the process. Otherwise, don't whine when you don't get invited.

Another thing that krewes have to do is to get the word out about their activities. This is done by advertising or sending out information packets to writers. The more you promote a subject, the more response you get. When you plan your activities, you need to pick someone out to carry on the duties of promoting these events. If you don't do this, you can only blame yourselves if you fail to make the most of the occasion. It's called communication and the power of the printed word.

The Big Night

Remember one thing as you go out to the balls for an enjoyable evening. Make sure you have a non-drinking driver who can take care of any driving situation properly. Don't mix the drinks with the fun unless you have everything covered. A night can be ruined by getting a ticket or having an accident. It's happened in the past when balls were held out of town, and it has even happened in town, but it is less likely because of the shorter distance involved.

The main thing to remember is to make some good memories by participating, by promoting, and by honoring each and every krewe and their new members to the royal families. It's the right thing to do.

Seats are very limited so we suggest you get yours early.

It was great to see the large turnout for the annual GMAC Bowl Parade. Bowl officials say the turnout was the largest in the history of the parade and from what we saw, we believe it.

Congratulations to the Order Of Osiris for once again bringing us a spectacular ball. This year's theme "Festivals" brought the sell-out crowd everything from festivals in Key West, San Francisco and Rio to the Festival of Death. It is easy to see why the Osiris ball has become the ball of balls during Mobile Mardi Gras. Guests danced

into the night and continued to party in Mobile bars until the wee hours.

With the turnout for the GMAC Bowl Parade and the Osiris Ball it looks like Mobile is ready for a great Mardi Gras season and will top last year's record attendance.

We see that the American Family Association is at it again. This time going up against Sears for advertising on **Gay.com** and the **Logo** cable channel. We hope Sears will stand up to this misguided group as Microsoft and Ford have done in the past.

That's it folks. Have a happy and safe Mardi Gras and we will see you next time.

clubs & kREWES

by Douglas Minich, New Orleans

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Congratulations to the Louisiana State Gay Rodeo Association, LSGRA, as they were officially recognized by the International Gay Rodeo Association as a chapter at the board meeting in Phoenix, AZ in January. LSGRA President Lance Pippen lead a contingent to Phoenix for this event, the biggest step so far in bringing a Gay Rodeo to New Orleans.

Lance and others also volunteered while in Phoenix gaining valuable experience. Not just volunteering at the rodeo however, five members also competed. Two members coming in Fifth place in the Goat Dressing. Not sure what all is involved but many possibilities come to mind!

Lance tell me that next in line is to continue to raise money and look for a venue so they can be prepared to apply for a spot on the 2008 calendar for our first Rodeo. The IGRA will hold it annual convention later this year to plan that schedule.

"There is a lot of work to be done before the convention" Lance says. "But we are determined to make this happen and make it the best possible". With some of the guys working on this I know it can happen. Watch for events around the city.

The Lords of Leather, The Cavaliers and The New Orleans Bear and Bear Trappers Social Club will all be participating in the Annual Night of the Black Mask block party at the Phoenix Bar on Friday, February 16th from 9pm till 2am.

Yes, there will be the Beer Bust but this year there will be more. Look for the clubs to be selling canned beer and bottled water outside as well. Phoenix manager Clint and Lords Ball Captain George are going all out to create the best party ever this year. Come on out and join us.

The Bears have a busy schedule this season. They have a party scheduled to watch the King Arthur Parade on Sunday February 11 right on St. Charles Avenue. They also have a Crawfish Boil on their schedule as well as their monthly Beer Busts and Bear Night Out dinners. Check out their great new web site, www.bearsofneworleans.com for their schedule and "breaking news".

The Lords members are feverishly working to finish last minute details on their Ball Masque XXIV. With the ball being held in Westwego at the Alario Center for the first time, Captain George H. has had his hands full. "They Great White Way" will be held on Sunday, February 18th. For ticket and other krewe information, check out the web site: www.lordsofleather.com.

Costumes are coming along with all of us making a concerted effort to finish all the details. It is more work than I imagined. Who knew there were so many types of trim and all.

The Krewe of Armeinious is also busy finishing the details for their ball. They will celebrate on Saturday, February 17 also at the Alario Center in Westwego. Armeinious has a new web site with all the information, www.kreweofarmenius.com.

"Thank you Boys" has been a major theme around our city this past week. The New Orleans Saints' season unfortunately came to an end last Sunday in Chicago. This was a season for all to remember. Even if you are not a sports fan you could not help but feel the excitement in this city. It was definitely a welcome distraction for us. We have a brand new feeling to the phrase "wait till next year".

Congratulations to Good Friends Manager Joey for great tailgate parties. Grilled burgers, chicken and all the fixin's! What more could a game need?

With the Saints playing so well and so late into January, many people even claim to have put Mardi Gras out of their minds until last Monday. I didn't think anything could cause that. If nothing else, the Saints have reminded us all that working together anything is possible.

Ready for the Super Bowl? I know our saints are not there but we do have a New Orleans native participating, Payton Manning will be leading the Indianapolis Colts. Gives the game a local flavor after all.

Many bars will be hosting Super Bowl Parties. Included in these are the Phoenix with its new 50 inch T.V. Good Friends will be hold in a great celebration as well as Cutters. Take your pic or make the rounds, it'll be a great night. If nothing else, the commercials will be all the talk on Monday.

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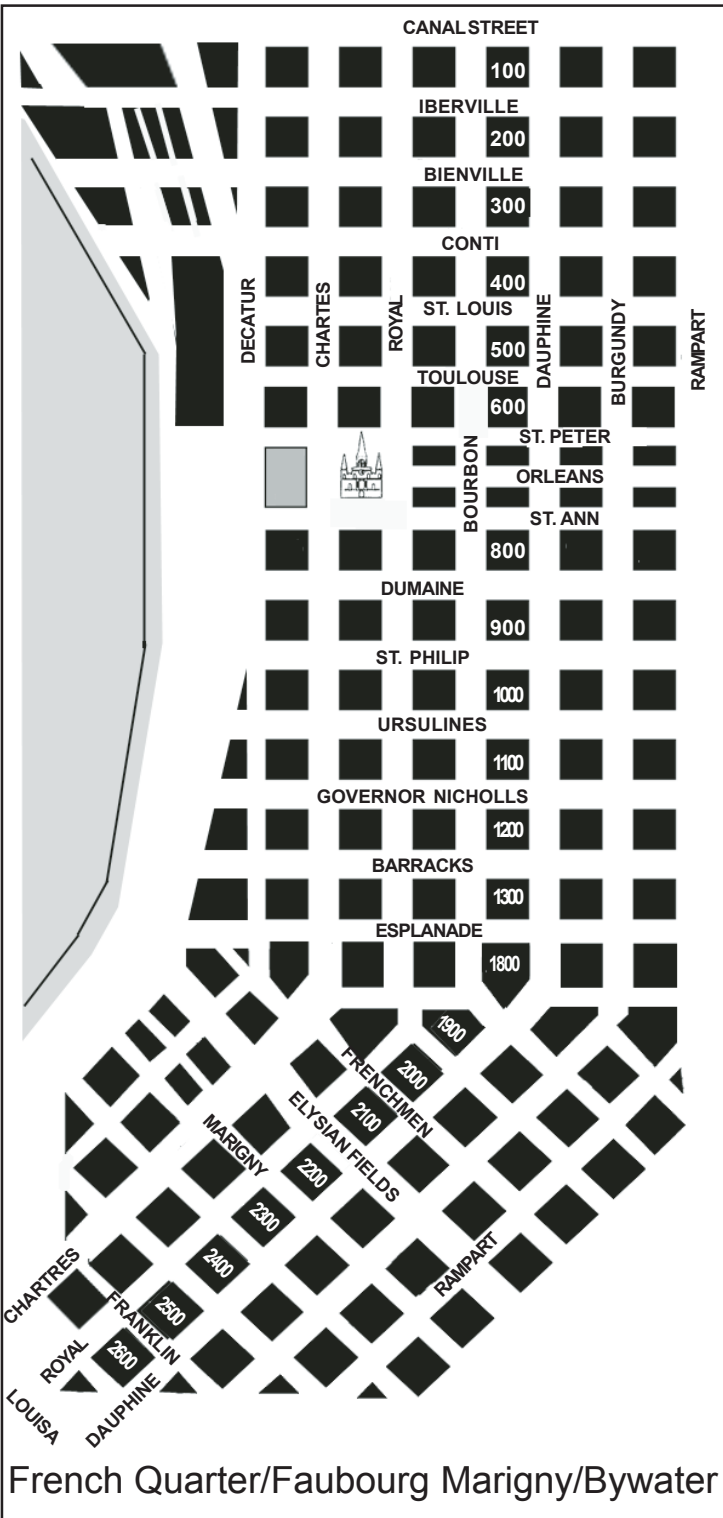
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AMBUSH Mag, Official Gay Easter Guide, Official Gay Mardi Gras Guide, Official Gay New Orleans Guide, Official Gulf South Guide, Official Southern Decadence Guide, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 522.8049, ambushmag.com; email: info@ambushmag.com

AMBUSHonLINE, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137; 522.8047, ambushonline.com, email: info@ambushonline.com

MUSEUM/ARTS

Baton Rouge, LA [225]

LOUISIANA ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER



/ RIVERSIDE MUSEUM, 100
S. River Road, 344.5272
LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S MANSION,
1001 Capitol Access Rd., 342.5855
LOUISIANASTATEARCHIVES, 3851 Essen
Ln.

LOUISIANASTATE CAPITOL, State Capitol
Dr.

LOUISIANASTATE UNIVERSITY HILLTOP
ARBORETUM, 11855 Highland Rd., 767.6916

LOUISIANASTATE UNIVERSITY RURAL
LIFE MUSEUM, I-10 at Essen Lane, 765.2437

LSU MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE and
MUSEUM OF GEOSCIENCE, LSU Campus,
388.2855

MAGNOLIA MOUND PLANTATION, 2161
Nicholson Dr., 343.4955

OLD ARSENAL MUSEUM, State Capitol
Complex, 342.0401

OLD BOGAN FIRE STATION, 427 Laurel St.,
344.8558

OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION, 502 North
Blvd., 344.5272

OLD PENTAGON BARRACKS, State Capi-
tol Dr. at River Road, 342.1866

OLD STATE CAPITOL, 100 North Blvd. at
River Road, 342.0500 or 342.4479

USS KIDD/NAUTICAL HISTORICAL CEN-
TER, Government St. at River Rd., 342.1942

New Orleans, LA [504]

BEAUREGARD-KEYES HOUSE, 1113
Chartres, 523.7257, Mon-Sat 10am-3pm

CABILDO, 701 Chartres, Jackson Square,
Tues-Sun 10am-5pm

CAC [Contemporary Arts Center], 900
Camp St., 523.3805, cacno.org

1850 HOUSE, 523 St. Ann, Tues-Sun
10am-5pm

GALLIER HOUSE, 1132 Royal, 523.6722,
Mon-Fri 10am-3:30pm

GERMAINE WELLS MARDIGRASMUSEUM,
2nd Floor Arnaud's, 819 Bienville

HERMANN-GRIMA HISTORIC HOUSE, 820
St. Louis, 525.5661, Mon-Fri 10am-3:30pm

HISTORICAL PHARMACY MUSEUM, 514
Chartres, 524.9077, Daily 10am-5:30pm

HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION,
533 Royal, 523.4662, Tues-Sat 10am-4:45pm

LONGUE VUE HOUSE AND GARDENS, 7
Bamboo Rd, Metairie, 488.5488, Mon-Sat 10am-
4:30pm, Sun 1-5pm

MUSEE CONTINENTAL WAX MUSEUM,
917 Conti, 525.2605, Daily 10am-5:30pm

NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM, 945 Maga-
zine, 527.6012

NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART, City
Park, 1 Collins Diboll Circle, 488.2631, Tues-Sun
10am-5pm

OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART, 925
Camp St., 539.9600

OLD U.S. MINT, 400 Esplanade, Tues-Sun
10am-5pm

PRESBYTERE, 751 Chartres, Jackson
Square, Tues-Sun 10am-5pm

ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL, Jackson Square,
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 1:30-5pm

ORGANIZATIONS

Mobile, AL

ALABAMA PRIDE FEST,
MobileAlabamaPride.COM

AQUA, THE PARTY, PO Box 145, Mobile,
AL 36601, **TheAquaParty.COM**

BAY AREA INCLUSION,
BayAreaInclusion.ORG

FUSION, MobileFusion.ORG

**GULF COAST BEARS & LEATHER AS-
SOCIATION**, b-bobs.com/gcbla.htm

**MOBILE ALABAMA PRIDE BOWLING
LEAGUE**

Pensacola, FL [850]

APPETITE FOR LIFE, INC., provides 2 nutri-
tionally balanced meals a day-lunch & dinner,

for some 60 men, women and children living
with HIV/AIDS, 1842 West Cervantes St.; Mail:
P.O. Box 308, 32592-0308; 470.9111, Fax:

470.0201, gaypensacola.com/appforlife

GULF COAST TIDE, INC.
www.GulfCoastTIDE.org;
info@GulfCoastTIDE.org

Alexandria, LA [318]

CLASS [Central Louisiana AIDS Support
Services], 103 Bolton Ave., 71301;
1.800.444.7993, 442.1010, FAX: 443.5216

Baton Rouge, LA [225]

HAART (HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two),
4550 North Blvd., #250, 927.1269, Fax: 927.7367,
haartinc.org, haartinc@aol.com

GBLSU [Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians &
Supporters United], glsapres@unixl.sncc.
lsu.edu, Kristy Price, President, 388.5160

KREWE OF APOLLO/BATON ROUGE, PO
Box 3591, 70821; kreweapollobr.org

KREWE OF DIVAS, kreweofdivas.com,
343.0380

LAMBDA GROUP, 2937 Greenwood Dr.,
PO Box 82775, 70884-2775, 907.3665,
www.lambdabr.org, info@lambdabr.org

LEWIS HUMPHREY'S FOOD FOR FRIENDS,
387.9798

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF
BATON ROUGE, P.O. Box 64966, 70896, Wor-
ship Sunday, 11am, 7747 Tom Dr., 248.0404,
www.MCCBR.org

MYSTIC KREWE OF ROYALTY, PO Box
66571, 70896; 926.1698

PFLAG BATON ROUGE, 11445 Bard Ave.
#131, 70815-2207, Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm,
275.2538, 24 Hour Hotline 252.4618,
BRBoi0891@aol.com

Lafayette, LA [337]

ACADIANA CARES [Concern for AIDS
Relief, Education, and Support], PO Box 386,
Lafayette, LA 70502; 203 W. 3rd St., 70501;
233.2437, FAX: 235.4178; 800.354.2437

KREWE OF APOLLO/LAFAYETTE, PO Box
53251, 70505

LEAGUE FOR EQUALITY, PO Box 53425,
70505

PFLAG/LAFAYETTE, PO Box 31078, 70503

ROYAL ORDER OF UNICORN, PO Box
3985, 70502

Monroe, LA [318]

GO CARE 2121 Justice, 71201, 325.1092

New Orleans, LA [504]

ACADIANA RAINBOW SOCIETY OF THE
DEAF, PO Box 57166, 70157; 889.0138 (TDD)

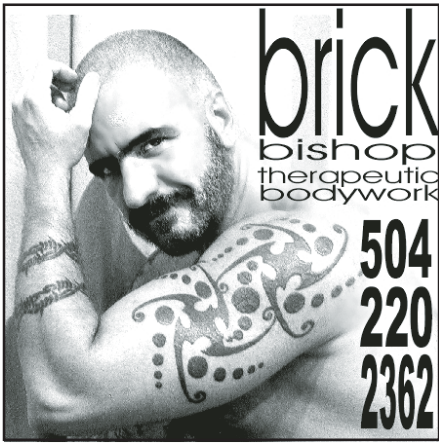
AIDS HOTLINE, 821.6050 in New Or-
leans, 1.800.99.AIDS[2437]-9 toll free state-
wide

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 779.1178

BELLE REVE NEW ORLEANS, AIDS Resi-
dence for Families, PO Box 3305, 70177;
945.9455

BROTHERHOOD, INC., To decrease the
spread of AIDS and HIV among African Ameri-
cans, 1661 Canal St., Suite 3230, 70112;
566.7955

CAVALIERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB: Gay
motorcycle group sponsors monthly day rides
and other riding events in New Orleans area.



Visit www.cavaliersmc.com or call 782.5625
or e-mail info@cavaliersmc.com.

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE LIBERATOR,
Sun. 10:30am Service, 2013 Royal St.,
christliberator@yahoo.com

COMING OUT SUPPORT GROUP, meets
1st Wed. of each month, 7:30-9pm, Info: Liz -
482.4012; Lesbian & Gay Community Center,
2114 Decatur St., 70116; 945.1103

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK, a
project of the NO/AIDS Task Force which works
with the gay community to implement HIV pre-
vention activities, 507 Frenchmen St., 945.4000,
noaidstaskforce.com

COPS 8 (Citizens' Organization for Police
Support in the 8th District), 840 N. Rampart St.,
#51, 70116; 588.COPS (2677), cops8.org

DRAMA! [A Gay & Lesbian Arts Organiza-
tion], PO Box 52565, 70152; 948.9924,
DramaNO.org, DRAMA@DramaNO.org

FOOD FOR FRIENDS, 944.6028

FORUM FOR EQUALITY, 336 Lafayette,
Suite 200, 70130; 947.2981,
ForumForEquality@aol.com

FOUNDATION FOR MACROBIOTIC WAY,
enjoy-life.com

GAY APPRECIATION AWARDS, 828-A
Bourbon St., 70116-3137; 522.8049;

AmbushMag.COM/GAA

GAY COUNSELING LINE, 833.1500

GLSEN [Gay Lesbian & Straight Education
Network], 482.4081, Fax 595.8587, E-mail:
glsenno@hotmail.com, glsenno.org

GULF GENDER ALLIANCE [GGA], Non-
Profit Support Group for Transgender persons.
Monthly meetings, socials and political activism.
Privacy respected and expected. Interview
required. Nondiscriminatory. Call 504.324.4035
or write PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA
70156-6836; gga.org, E-mail: info@gga.org

HALLOWEEN IN NEW ORLEANS, INC.,
PO Box 52171, 70152-2171; **halloween
neworleans.com**

HATE CRIMES HOTLINE, c/o Family Ser-
vice of Greater New Orleans, 504.202.2131.
The Hate Crimes Project offers to assist those
who feel that they may have been a victim of
a hate crime. The project provides advocacy for
persons victimized due to race, religion, gender
and gender identity, age, disability, and/or sexual
orientation.

**IN THIS TOGETHER, HIV/AIDS Case Man-
agement**, 1661 Canal Street, Suite 3107, 70112;
962.3245, is www.inthistogetherinc.org,
itt@accesscom.net

KOCKTAIL BUNCH BOWLING LEAGUE,
Contact Glenn Culp, 504.861.0233

KREWE OF ARMEINIUS, PO Box 56638,
New Orleans, LA 70156-6638,
cetubby@cox.net,
KreweOfArmeinius.COM

KREWE OF AMON RA, PO Box 7033,
Metairie, LA 70010, 450.6916,
KreweofAMonRa.org

KREWE OF MWINDO, PO Box 51031,
70156; 913.5791, **KreweOfMwindo.ORG**,
krewe@kreweofmwindo.org

KREWE OF PETRONIUS, PO Box 71665,
70172, Pres. Wally McLaughlin 524.2915, Sec.
Mae Falgout 484.6045

KREWE OF KINGS/QUEEN ROYALTY CLUB, 828-A Bourbon St.,
70116-3137, 522.8049, **GayMardiGras.COM/**
KCQ

LaCARP [Louisiana Community AIDS Re-
search Program], 584.1971



LA-LIFT, Social Club for Lesbians, age
50+, who have fun together on weekends. E-
mail: armyvet20@webtv.net

LAMBDA CENTER, 831 Elysian Fields
Ave., 70117, LambdaCenter.NET,
info@lambdacenter.net,

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW
ORLEANS, 234 Loyola, Suite 421, 70112;
581.9106

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
OF NEW ORLEANS, 2114 Decatur St., 70116-
2013; 945.1103, Fax 945.1102, Email:
info@lgccno.net

LORDS OF LEATHER, PO Box 770435;
70117, **LordsOfLeather.COM**

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS**, Sunday Friend-
ship Hour 4:15pm, Worship/Celebration, 5pm at
St Matthew's UCC, 1333 Carrollton Ave. at
Willow; Mailing Address: PO Box 71024, 70172;
945.5390, www.mccgno.com

MYSTIC KREWE OF SATYRICON, 1021
Gov. Nicholls St., 70116, 525.4498,
MysticKreweOfSatyricon.COM

NEW ORLEANS BEAR & BEAR TRAPPER
SOCIAL CLUB, PO Box 740894, 70174-0894;
529.6975, www.pridespecialty.com/BearClub.html,
phoenixxs@hotmail.com

NEW ORLEANS GAY MEN'S CHORUS,
948.6884, nogmc.com; nogmc@aol.com

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTI-
VAL, nojazzfest.com

NEW ORLEANS WOMEN'S MUSIC COL-
LECTIVE, 2903 Jefferson Ave., 70115; Ann
838.7918, Sydney 833.2834

NO/AIDS TASK FORCE, 2601 Tulane Ave.,
Suite 500, 70119; 821.2601;
NOAIDSTaskForce.COM

MOC/NO [Men of Color/New Orleans],
482.5341

OFFICIAL GAY EASTER PARADE, 828-A
Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049,
info@gayeasterparade.com,
GayEasterParade.COM

OFFICIAL GAY MARDI GRAS, 828-A
Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049,
GayMardiGras.COM

OFFICIAL GAY NEW ORLEANS, 828-A
Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049,
GayNewOrleans.COM

OFFICIAL SOUTHERN DECADENCE, 828-
A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049,
SouthernDecadence.COM

PEOPLE OF SUBSTANCE, INC. (POS), 7210
Arbor Dr., 70126, 244.1920, posnola.com

PFLAG/NO [Parents & Friends of Lesbians
& Gays/New Orleans], PO Box 15515, 70175;
895.3936, 392.0001, pflagno.org,