

"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn **HORN**



A Publication of The Unicorn Motorcycle Club / Cleveland, Ohio / Est. 1971

November 2019

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046

RAINBOW WAVE

WASHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

As the Blue Wave continues to be a Reckoning Force in the 2019 Elections



LGBTQ candidates claim victory in the 2019 General Elections

In 2019, what many have called an "off-election year," The "rainbow wave" of the 2018 elections continued Tuesday, with 112 openly LGBTQ candidates winning their races, 106 Democrats, one Republican, one Independent, and four undeclared party affiliations, including a

number of successes in historically conservative states such as Virginia and Kentucky, and that's not counting those that are still too close to call.

In 2016, Republican presidential nominee won Kentucky with a 30-point margin over Democrat Hillary Clinton. In Virginia, where gerrymandered districts installed Republican majorities in both the state House and Senate in 2017, courts quashed the map and voters gave Democrats a sizeable majority in both chambers.

Victory Fund endorsed more LGBTQ candidates than in any other odd-numbered year in our organization's history. Reports Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO, LGBTQ Victory Fund.

The Victory Fund, a group that trains, supports and advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer candidates who are pro-choice, said 80 of its 111 endorsed candidates emerged victorious in the General Election. So far in 2019, the organization found 144 LGBTQ contenders won in 382 races, for an overall victory rate of 38 percent.

All nine openly LGBTQ candidates in Virginia won their races, including five

incumbents in the general assembly. We won races in state legislatures and city councils and defended a huge slate of LGBTQ incumbents, including Virginia Delegate Danica Roem, who faced transphobic attacks from her opponent in the final weeks of the campaign. Delegate Danica Roem, the first openly trans person elected to statewide office, won a second term, with a margin of victory six percentage points larger than in 2017. Roem raised nearly twice as much money as her opponent, Kelly McGinn. McGinn had signed onto a letter calling marriage for same-sex couples "morally repugnant." In 2107, Roem ran on expanding Medicaid to her constituents and fixing the traffic-clogged Route 28 in Manassas.

"I'm grateful to represent you because of who you are, never despite," Roem wrote on Twitter. "I'll see you Nov. 20 at our next #fixRoute28 public hearing."

Human Rights Campaign President Alphonso David said the results in Virginia sent "a powerful message that Virginians support a bold, progressive vision for the future of the Commonwealth." David said HRC helped turn out 1.2 million "Equality Voters" in Virginia and spent over \$250,000 to elect "pro-equality candidates across Virginia."

Eliz Markowitz earned a first place spot and is headed to a runoff, nearly flipping a legislature that continues to push forward extremist anti-LGBTQ bills. We made LGBTQ history in Boston and Indianapolis, Mike Pence's backyard.

In Indiana, which gave Trump an almost 20-percentage-point margin over Clinton in 2016, the 25-member Indianapolis City Council picked up three new openly LGBTQ City Council members to join another who won reelection, the Indianapolis City Council tripled its number of LGBTQ representatives by re-electing Zach Adamson and newly electing Alison "Ali" Brown, Keith Potts and Ethan Evans onto the capital city's governing board. Brown and Evans are openly bisexual and married to spouses of the opposite sex. Evans and Potts both beat Republican incumbents.

Electing LGBTQ women to each city council for the first time. And we elected the first openly trans woman in Massachusetts history – a huge step forward for the state.

LGBTQ men ran in much higher numbers than their women counterparts, though queer women has a higher success rate, 46 percent to 37 percent, according to the Victory's election tracker. Transwomen specifically, who won in state races in Virginia, Utah, Massachusetts, and Iowa. The vast majority of LGBTQ candidates (83 percent) ran as Democrats, with just 2.4 percent running as Republicans.

Pennsylvania, a state that President Trump won by less than one percentage point in 2016, experienced a "blue wave" of voter support for Democratic candidates. According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Republican candi-

Unicorn MC

Meeting Dates 2019-2020

After many hours of contemplation, conciliation, and deliberation, imbibing in salacious amounts of libations, and in a delirious moment of weakness the following Dates have been set in Stone:

November 17, 2019 - UMC Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, LSS, 6 PM

December 14, 2019 - Annual Christmas Party, hosted by Jack & Dennis, Willowick OH, 3PM

January 19, 2020 - UMC Membership Meeting, LSS, 6 PM

***Additionally, Volunteers will be Registering Voters at LSS every weekend**

February 16, 2020 - UMC Membership Meeting, LSS, 6 PM

March 15, 2020 - UMC Membership Meeting, LSS, 6 PM

dates were *“fading even on friendly turf.”* The Keystone State fielded the largest number of LGBTQ candidates than any other state: 14. And 13 of those 14, all Democrats, won, including Jessica Rothchild to the Scranton City Council.

We’ve made LGBTQ history in Ohio!

Ohio also voted for Trump in 2016, but Democrats did well this year, and all 12 of Ohio’s openly LGBTQ candidates won, including new Toledo City Council member Theresa Gadus.

N.J. Akbar won his race for Akron Board of Education this evening, becoming the first openly LGBTQ Muslim elected in Ohio’s history! This is a huge step forward for Ohio and ensures Akron’s LGBTQ students and community will have an LGBTQ voice advocating on their behalf.

“As one of the first openly LGBTQ Muslims elected in United States history, N.J. will become a role model for so many LGBTQ students, students of color and Muslim students who too rarely see people like them in positions of power,” Annise Parkers said in a statement.

N.J. is now one of the few out LGBTQ Muslim elected officials in the nation – and his election tonight will be an inspiration to other diverse LGBTQ people considering a run for office in Ohio and across the nation.

These candidates crossed the finish line thanks to generous supporters like you. We raised more than \$370,000 for our candidates, including over \$120,000 to support Danica Roem’s reelection campaign and help her fend off those anti-trans attacks. We provided campaign advice, fundraising support and media visibility for our candidates to help ensure they made history.

Not all noteworthy races in question have been called as of this writing. The nationally watched race for Texas’ 28th state legislative district is heading for a runoff with no candidate having secured an outright majority. Democrat and out lesbian Elizabeth Markowitz ran against six Republicans and won roughly 40 percent of the vote. Markowitz will now face Republican Gary Gates in a runoff election that has not yet been scheduled by the governor.

But this year’s story is about more than just the November Elections. Earlier we made 2019 the Year of the Lesbian Mayor – electing mayors for the first time in Chicago, Tampa and Madison, Wisconsin. I was on the ground with Lori Lightfoot when she won in Chicago and took my title as the highest-ranking LGBTQ mayor in U.S. history – and I was happy to pass the torch.

Anti-trans Ads: A Losing Strategy?

In several states that saw transphobic political attack ads flop against LGBTQ-supportive candidates, political watchers are asking whether such ads will be effective heading into 2020’s general election.

The apparent victory of pro-LGBTQ Democrat Andy Beshear in Kentucky’s governor’s race, signaled that outside efforts to use transphobic election scare tactics, like one implied transgender inclusion in sports, would mean that ***“anyone at any time could change teams for any reason”***, are not a clear path to electoral victory.

Chris Hartman, executive director of Kentucky’s Fairness Campaign, a LGBTQ advocacy group, said the anti-transgender ads run in Kentucky “looked initially like a desperate ploy” and noted that he and his LGBTQ friends were heavily targeted with these ads on YouTube and Hulu.

“As more information came out, we learned that we were a testing group for what the conservatives thought was going to be their new election tactic, in the way that trans bathrooms used to work for them, in the way gay rights used to work for them,” Harman said. ***“They’re testing the field to see if anti-trans bias is strong enough to propel them to victory in places that have unpopular candidates.”***

“The answer is clearly NO,” Hartman added.

Don Haiden-Markel, a professor of political science at the University of Kansas, said that a 2015 ballot measure in Houston, used ***“fear-based ad-***

vertising” around transgender people’s access to public accommodations and bathrooms.

“It’s clear that that was effective,” Haider-Markel said. However, ***“the ads in Kentucky about high school sports and thing like that don’t seem to have the same traction.”*** *(People have seen these lies for what they are!)*

“Tagging that to a candidate instead of an issue on the ballot is something different,” Haider-Markel continued. ***“For LGBTQ candidates, success doesn’t come from what your sexual orientation or gender identity is, success comes from focusing on the issues that people care about in their local community.”***

Danica Roem is ***“a prime example of that,”*** Haider-Markel said.

Danica, a transgendered woman who was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2017, was the highest ranking LGBTQ winner in this November’s General Election. Her re-election makes her the longest serving transgender state legislator in U.S. history, and the first to ever win re-election.

“The success of trans candidates this Election Night, in states red and blue, is a warning to those using cynical campaign tactics to divide communities for their own political gain,” Victory’s Parker said in a statement.

Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, echoed Parker, saying ***“the biggest topline takeaway”*** from the General Election is that ***“voters care about equality.”***

“What we saw in Virginia specifically is that anti-equality candidates have been using an outdated and offensive playbook that is not working anymore,” David said.

Other highlights among the General Election results:

In a Seattle City Council race, openly gay candidate Egan Orion appears to have beaten an incumbent in District 3. Orion, a gay activist and former organizer of Seattle’s Pride parades, told local news outlets that he was ***“really frustrated”*** that the corporate giant Amazon supported his campaign through a political action committee that gave half a million dollars to his bid.

In the Texas House district outside Houston, lesbian Eliz Markowitz was the top vote-getter among six candidates and the only Democrat. But now she’ll have to run against just one of those Republicans for the heavily Republican 28th District seat. The runoff will take place in December.

Former Florida State Rep. David Richardson will meet and opponent in a runoff for a seat on the Miami Beach Commission. Richardson came up just one point short of reaching enough votes to win the seat on Tuesday. Richardson won 49 percent of the vote; his runoff opponent won 38 percent.

In tiny Carrboro, North Carolina, openly lesbian Mayor Lydia Lavelle won reelection unopposed and openly gay newcomer Damon Seils won one of three seats on the town’s Board of Aldermen – coming in second out of five candidates. In nearby Hillsborough, openly gay incumbent Matt Hughes came in first out of four candidates running for three seats on the Board of Commissioners.

In Newton, Massachusetts, transgender candidate Holly Ryan was unopposed for a seat on the City Council, making her the first transgender woman to win election to public office in the 11th most populated city in the state. Prior to running for office, Ryan served as the LGBTQ liaison for two mayors.

The Election however, wasn’t all good news for the LGBTQ Community and our Allies, among the more stinging of the 21 LGBTQ losses Tuesday was Telluride, Colorado, Mayor Sean Murphy, who lost his bid for reelection to a second term. Telluride was among only five incumbent LGBTQ candidates who lost their reelection bids. In Houston, where five openly LGBTQ candidates were running as Democrats for City Council, only two won. And outside Atlanta, in Doraville, Georgia, an openly gay City Councilman, Joseph Geierman, lost his bid for mayor.

Of the 112 openly LGBTQ candidates, 105 were running for local office. The field included 67 men, 44 women and one non-binary candidate.

As you can see, it has been an exciting “offyear” for Victory Fund and for our entire community. When I first ran, I dreamed of media headlines like the ones we’ve seen in the past 24 hours. And because of dedicated supporters like you – this has become our new reality.

The Victory Fund estimates there are 765 openly LGBTQ elected officials nationwide. Parker said, “Americans are understandably focused on the 2020 presidential and congressional elections, but the LGBTQ candidates who won tonight will arguably have a greater impact on the everyday lives of their constituents.”

“We are building a pipeline of out LGBTQ leaders at every level of government,” said Annise Parker, president of the LGBTQ Victory Fund and former mayor of Houston, “there is no time to rest. My team and I are going right back to work. In 2020, we expect to endorse more than 500 LGBTQ people for positions from local school boards to the U.S. Congress.”

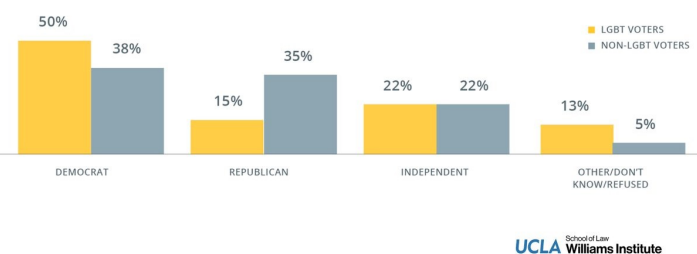
One-Fifth of LGBTQ Adults Aren't Registered to Vote

A report from the Williams Institute looked at LGBTQ Americans and voter registration stats ahead of the 2020 election. Voting Rights Is an LGBTQ Issue.

Nearly nine million LGBTQ Americans are set to cast their ballots in November 2020, but a significant chunk of eligible queer adults have yet to register.

A new study from the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law’s think tank for LGBTQ issues in public policy, has examined the results of a 2019 national Ipsos poll for further insight in the voting habits of queer Americans. The data—collected from a random survey of 2,230 LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ respondents ages 18 and up, yielded some interesting finds:

Political affiliation of LGBT registered voters



Half of registered LGBT voters (50%) are Democrats, 15% are Republicans, 22% are Independents, and 13% said they identify with another party or did not know with which party they most identify. LGBT voters are racially diverse, nearly half (47%) are under age 35, and one-third have at least a college education.

A 2019 national Williams Institute and Reuters/Ipsos poll asked LGBT and non-LGBT likely voters what they are looking for in a presidential candidate. In terms of political experience, LGBT voters were significantly more likely than non-LGBT voters to say that they would support a seasoned political candidate. The poll also found that LGBT voters were significantly more likely than non-LGBT voters to say they would support candidates who are black, Latino/a, or LGBT themselves. However, majorities of both LGBT and non-LGBT voters said that the race and sexual orientation of a candidate would not influence their vote.

“LGBT voters differ from non-LGBT voters in several ways. For example, they are more likely to be young, male, and live in urban areas,” said study author Christy Mallory, State and Local Policy Director at the Williams Institute. **“LGBT voters are also more likely to identify with the Democratic Party. Over four million LGBT Democrats are eligible to vote in the primaries next year.”**

KEY FINDINGS

Half of LGBT voters (51%) said that they were more likely to support “a career politician who knows his or her way around the political process,” compared to 40% of non-LGBT voters.

About a third of LGBT voters said they were more likely to support a candidate because the candidate was black or Latino/a (34% and 35%, respectively). By comparison, 21% of non-LGBT voters said they were more likely to support a black candidate and 16% said they were more likely to support a Latino/a candidate.

41% percent of LGBT voters said they would be more likely to vote for a gay candidate and 34% said they would be more likely to vote for a lesbian candidate, compared to 10% and 11%, respectively, of non-LGBT voters.

Among LGBT voters, over one-quarter (28%) said they were more likely to support a candidate because the candidate was transgender or gender non-binary. By comparison, 9% of non-LGBT voters said they were more likely to support a transgender or gender non-binary candidate.

22% of LGBT voters are Latino/a, 13% are black, 61% are white, and 4% are other races or multiracial.

57% of LGBT voters are men and 43% are women.

One-fifth of LGBT adults (21%) and 17% of non-LGBT adults are not registered to vote.

Despite living under an anti-LGBTQ Republican administration, about one-fifth of LGBTQ adults in the U.S. (21%) are not registered to vote.

This is after an unprecedented wave of openly LGBTQ politicians were elected into office in 2018, a trend that continued this most recent Election. and more than 50 Pride 2019 events nationwide featured voter registration booths to assist LGBTQ adults in the process.

For non-LGBTQ adults in the U.S., that figure is lower: Researchers estimate that just 17% of cisgender, heterosexual adults nationwide currently remain unregistered.

Of the whopping nine million queer adults who *are* registered to vote, about half are registered as Democrats. Fifteen percent are registered as Republicans, while 22% of registered LGBTQ voters are independent. Across the board, queer voters are also significantly more likely to support black, Latinx, and LGBTQ political candidates than their non-LGBTQ voter counterparts.

In terms of gender, most registered queer voters are men (57%). Factoring race into the equation, most LGBTQ voters are white (61%) or Latinx (22%), with black or multiracial Americans comprising the remaining percentages.

Christy Mallory, the study’s author and the state and local policy director at the Williams Institute, added that LGBTQ voters differ from non-LGBTQ voters in “several ways”:

For example, they are more likely to be young, male, and live in urban areas. LGBT voters are also more likely to identify with the Democratic Party. Over four million LGBT Democrats are eligible to vote in the primaries next year.

Why is this important?

This past June with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, a dispute between a gay couple and a Christian baker who refused to serve them. The Court ruled in favor of the baker and declined to answer major constitutional questions that could have resolved long-simmering tensions between LGBTQ rights and assertions of religious freedom. This silence is likely to encourage laws that authorize faith-based

discrimination against LGBTQ people. The close of the Supreme Court's term, has unfortunately only brought more bad news when it comes to discrimination, with the Court overturning a preliminary injunction against Trump's Islamophobic and xenophobic "travel ban" in *Trump vs. Hawaii*.

The Court's decision in *Husted v. APRI*, decided a week after *Masterpiece*, is arguably just as dangerous to LGBTQ and other marginalized communities. *Husted* was a challenge to Ohio's voter roll purges, brought by Demos under the *National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)*. Even though the *NVRA*, which was enacted to increase the number of eligible voters by registering more women, people of color, people living with disabilities, low-income people, and veterans, prohibits states from removing people from the rolls when they don't vote, the Court upheld an Ohio process that did just that. *This validation of Ohio's harmful "use it or lose it" treatment of a fundamental right creates the danger that other states will attempt similar schemes.*

Purging practices and other voter suppression tactics, like limiting voter registration opportunities and establishing strict photo ID requirements, are part of a broader problem: Our democracy is under attack. Barriers to political participation are rooted in, and perpetuate, the social and economic exclusion of people of color and low-income people. (Other examples include gerrymandering, the campaign finance system, and felony disenfranchisement laws.) As a result, historically marginalized communities remain unable to build power and inform conversations around policies that directly affect them, on health care, affordable housing, education, labor, and more.

A demonstration of this is the disproportionate impact of voting restrictions on queer people of color and trans people. Strict voter ID laws, for example, are particularly burdensome for those who don't identify or present as the gender marked on their identification documents; voter registration requirements can present similar impediments. Purging processes like the one at issue in *Husted* can thus double-penalize trans and gender non-conforming people:

By purging them from the rolls because they have not voted.

Often when they don't vote, they can't get to the polls or take time off work.

The logistics of voting for low-income people, queer people of color, and trans people are two of the most economically insecure populations in the country—or because their needs aren't reflected in the agendas of the candidates on the ballot.

By forcing them to go through the burdensome voter registration process all over again before they can cast their ballots.

Meanwhile, agencies that are especially likely to interact with LGBTQ people are failing to provide voter registration opportunities. Although the *NVRA* requires states to offer these opportunities to people who receive government benefits, several states have failed to comply with this mandate, keeping opportunities from the more than 25 percent of LGBTQ people who receive food stamps. And, while the *NVRA* allows states to offer voter registration to detained individuals by designating the relevant state agencies as voter registration agencies, most states have not done so, which hurts queer and trans people, and especially queer and trans people of color, who are disparately policed and thus more likely to spend time in jail.

To create a democracy that works for all LGBTQ people, and all Americans, we need to improve our voter registration systems. We can do this by promoting the widespread adoption of automatic voter registration (*AVR*) and continuing to fight voter roll purges. *AVR* would give the large percentage of LGBTQ people who receive public assistance the chance to register immediately when they apply for or renew their benefits. Challenging aggressive purging practices would mitigate the burdens of re-registering and preserve individuals' constitutional right to vote, regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances. Such reforms would amplify LGBTQ voices in important policy debates and elect candidates who prioritize intersectional interests that align with those of queer communities.

Of course, far more is required to break free from systemic exclusion. Contextualizing democracy issues as part and parcel of LGBTQ rights will require conversations among queer communities that focus on the urgent, localized concerns of those communities, as well as conversations between democracy advocates and historically marginalized groups.

LGBTQ People of color and trans people have long been ignored by mainstream queer culture. Despite the fact that Pride was founded because trans women of color rebelled against a police raid of a New York City gay bar almost 50 years ago, this history, and its subsequent erasure by white, cis activists, has only recently become part of the narrative of the protests and commemorations that occur throughout Pride month. In many ways, the re-positioning of Pride to focus on historically excluded communities parallels the aforementioned framings of voting rights. Now is the perfect time for LGBTQ groups to incorporate democracy issues into the introspective discussions that are already taking place about how to amplify the voices of trans people and queer people of color.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor's dissenting opinion in *Husted* is a call to action: ***"Communities that are disproportionately affected by unnecessarily harsh registration laws should not tolerate efforts to marginalize their influence in the political process, nor should allies who recognize blatant unfairness stand idly by."*** We must never stop interrogating how voting laws affect different demographic groups in different ways. LGBTQ perspectives are critical in understanding the present-day manifestations of democratic exclusion.

Craft beer; Drag Queens used to boost Ohio LGBTQ turnout in 2020 Election

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A nonpartisan coalition seeking to boost turnout among Ohio's LGBTQ voters in 2020 is launching a campaign that pairs voter registration with drag queens and craft beer.

Craft the Vote kicks off Thursday at Land-Grant Brewing Company. Similar events will follow at craft breweries around the state.

Organizer Brad Henry said, ***"the effort seeks to educate the many young gay voters disengaged from the democratic process and to generate enthusiasm through fun activities."*** The coalition estimates Ohio has 400,000 LGBTQ citizens and over 1.8 million who support equal rights.

A *Vote Responsibly* website the campaign's developing will help people vet news and information sources. The coalition won't advocate issue positions or endorse candidates.

Participants include the *Human Rights Campaign*, the *League of Women Voters*, *Stonewall Columbus* and *Ohio State University*.

Locally, the *Unicorn MC* are teaming up with the *Cleveland Stonewall*, *Equality Ohio*, and the *Leather Stallion Saloon* to Register Voters at the *Stallion* during the month of January. Watch for the Registration Table (which will be manned by volunteers on the weekends.).



Cyclops



THE BIG SHOW.....Aside from under-whelming public interest in the Ohio State “Bucks” and the “Country Music Awards” (*Dolly Parton outed her eligibility for Social Security!*), the rest of us, the President’s religious cult notwithstanding, are positively fixated on the Congressional impeachment inquiry of Donald Trump. Looking in on opening day we were dismayed that apparently the Republicans could muster none better than the likes of Devin Nunes and that pride of Ohio’s Firelands, Jim Jordan, filling in for Laurel and Hardy, to head a corps of the GOP’s offense squad; and offensive they certainly were.

The opening day prey of the GOP were two of our diplomatic corps attached to Ukraine: William Taylor, Jr. and George Kent, both of whom were treated by their inquisitors, especially Jordan and Nunes, like a pair of non-elected servants. The courteous, well informed pair first-off noted to all, that their appearance there was not a trial, but simply an inquiry, Answering clearly and informatively, they allowed the two GOP hit men, in a somewhat crowded field, to make rank buffoons of themselves.

The following morning, the inquiry members including Jim Jordan and Devin Nunes, for whatever that’s worth, and a packed audience were treated to the appearance of Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, recently relieved of her post by the President in the low-class manner of a Tweet, to which we all have become accustomed. Ms. Yovanovitch proceeded to give a master class in dignity, apparent truth, and poise, not to mention courage which after several hours, brought the whole room, including some Republicans, to its feet applauding this splendid American diplomat.

Ms. Yovanovitch remains a member of the United States Diplomatic Corps and, on leave from any postings of which she has had several in her thirty-plus years of service has also joined the faculty of Georgetown University which is lucky to have her font of knowledge available to students as were those mere mortals of us, concerned about the future of America, who stayed glued to our television sets during a long exhausting day for this great lady.

As for the not very dynamic duo of GOP hit men; Devin Nunes is California’s problem. He has time and again repaid the Golden State’s voter confidence with shame. Jim Jordan is Ohio’s own mortification, well at least that district of Ohio called the Firelands.

The Firelands is that part of the old Connecticut Western Reserve, extending along Lake Erie, westward from Lorain and Elyria to Sandusky Bay, and southward fifty miles or so toward the Miami Valley. It is so-called because the area consists of many tracts given to Connecticut citizens in the 18th century whose homes were burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. Many Firelands’ citizens are proud, highly opinionated, and like their Appalachian cousins, extremely difficult to change their beliefs or manner of doing things.

A few years ago, a new comer to the area bought a problematic but noted old restaurant in the heart of the resort area of the Firelands and the Lake Erie Islands. The major problem is that the kitchen and dining room workers were dead set against any change in the way they had been doing things. For example, beef rib roasts were smeared with handfuls of bottled chopped garlic cloves, which alone oxidize and rot quickly. The smell is ghastly; canned Thai fish paste comes, nauseatingly to mind. Trays of this fine beef were then set aside awaiting placement in high-temperature, ovens to sear the meat’s surface. Uncooked garlic, exposed to high heat, quickly carbonizes at high heat and in this case, instantly increases its putrescent aroma with carbon burn. Need one say more except that using slivers of fresh garlic, inserted down into the fatty surface of rib roasts was

the accepted method of such seasoning, but a bit more labor intensive. This gross mistake was just one of the many changes the new owner wished affected. He gave his staff a month or so; they remained taciturn, by god, NO! He then fired the old staff, shut down for a month of so-called renovation, hired and trained a new staff and re-opened to what we hear is doing gang-buster business. Sounds like a plan! Are YOU registered to vote?

COOKIE OF THE YEAR.....When heading into the city, I seem to be hooked on the diverse route 55 “flyer” buses, called by RTA, “*The Cleveland State University Lines*” (There are four destination versions and cheers to 80% of their drivers who refuse to obey the ridiculous 35 mph. speed limit imposed on the West Shoreway by the city at the behest of real estate interests developing egg crate housing in the Power House district of Hingetown.) These lines are the reason RTA built a number of brick and glass “cottages” for waiting passengers along Clifton Boulevard in Lakewood. At the very end of the line, there are no covered shelters for city-bound passengers. (The same is true for inbound Route 26, the Detroit Avenue bus.) These are arguably the coldest wind, snow, and rain swept stops in Lakewood. In fact on Sloane Avenue, near the end of the Lakewood portion of the route, there is only one shelter for eight stops, and it does not serve the inbound passengers. It is the conventional class and metal shelter, not the fine brick and mortar shelters which have been built on Clifton, most likely using governmental grants or other public funds. Somehow, Lakewood seems to have run out of money, or maybe someone in City Hall might have run off with it. During the non-operation of my printer (*now fixed thanks to Chaz of the Empire City M.C.*) I telephoned my councilman to report the discomfort and present need for shelters in the Sloane/Detroit area. That was a month ago; I have received no reply. So, what a comfort to take shelter, when available at the **Blackbird Baking Company**, located at the corner of Sloane and Detroit, facing the bridge over Rocky River. **Blackbird** has become a major institution and destination for its splendid French style breads such as baguettes, epi, crusty pistolets, and levain (*sourdough*) loaves. The croissants, curiously unbent, are the best and in the area. The little seating area there does a very big breakfast and morning business there. **Blackbird** also has THE cookie of the year which is an oatmeal-cranberry number. The whole grain flavors are marvelous, the cranberries, lush and chewy, the sweetness seems derived perhaps from molasses or honey, and the butter is abundant (*request plastic bags instead of the more absorbent paper!*) Grabbing one or two of these in the morning, sheltering inside the bakery (*room’s allowing*) awaiting the bus which stops at the back door, makes this happy gobbler feeling as if he’s just consumed something really good and healthy for the old bod. I call these treats the Breakfast of Champions: not original but apt. These cookies, along with other favorites such as brownies, almond croissants, the marvelous burger buns, and the very flaky sticky buns tend to sell out early and are not always available at **Blackbird’s “Happy Hour”**, from five until six, when the shop closes. At that hour, the day’s baking is sold at half price to make way for the next day’s fare. This all started at a snail’s pace, but soon word about the deal spread like wildfire and now there’s quite a queue by five. Worry not, there is a periodical rack of freebies to read while your waiting including on occasion, **The Unicorn Horn**. For more information, ring 216-712-6599. or view at www.blackbirdbaking.com. You can reserve product in advance for late pick-up, but full price will be charged. Another helpful suggestion - you might take along an extra cookie as a thank you for a favorite bus driver. In this gross era of American life, Cleveland is the one U.S. city I know where bus and rapid drivers are regularly thanked by a large number of their passengers. Hooray for us!

OH WHAT A RELIEF IT IS.....Ever need a vacuum cleaner repair done fairly, reasonably, locally, virtually while you wait, and done in front of you by a superb young man named Jose? It’s recently happened to me when an over-the-hill Hoover swallowed half of a venerable L.L. Bean colored flannel shirt. It looked like curtains for both the sweeper and the shirt, until I discovered **My Vacuum Store**, at 15601 Detroit Avenue, in Lakewood. The general repair fee is \$ 19.50 (*billed as labor*) plus the cost of any parts. **My Vacuum Store’s** phone number is 216-767-5755. Bye the bye, both the

Hoover and the shirt are doing well.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER..... are the major months for entertaining and a host's best friends are his fine kitchen knives. It is critical to maintain your investment by their sharpest edges clean and in perfect shape. If your serious about fine knives and great cooking, **Kevin Noon** is the man to know. He sharpens knives by schedule in the Cleveland area at better cookware stores and cooking schools, as well as **Heinens** and other high type emporia. For a schedule of when and where **Kevin Noon** will be setting up shop, email Kevin@noonsharpening.com or download at www.noonsharpening.com. To speak with Kevin, ring 216-704-9175. Gobble Gobble!

After a thirty-year wait, **New York's Metropolitan Opera** is now presenting **Philip Glass'** very modern opera **Akhmaten**, the saga of Egypt's 18th-Dynasty Pharaoh who in his monotheistic worship of Aten, the sun god, from his new capitol city Tel-El-Amarna, perpetuated what was called by the established priesthood of the old order revolving around the polytheistic worship of the god Amon Ra (*as in rah rah!*) the Amarnan Heresy. (*I hope I got that correctly.*) The reviews from Gotham are raves, no doubt because the counter-tenor star who plays the Pharaoh makes his grand entrance on the Met stage stark naked. Now this might sell tickets in New York, but a similar performance by **Cyclops**, a few years ago, stepping out the front door of the **Leather Stallion Saloon**, onto Saint-Clair avenue in similar dishabille might not have classical status, but rather, generated a cacophony of loud booning and insulting cries of **"put it back on, fatso"**, plus distasteful reproach from the **LSS** management, and the near collision of several passing vehicles. The late Unicorn Cliff Schultz said he'd never seen anything like it and never wished to again. Naturally, the bartender David was unlimited in his righteous scorn. Thus over the years I have come to believe that being culturally ahead of one's time doesn't always pay. **If you don't believe me, just ask Amanda Woolworth or whatever her name is these days!**

Happy Thanksgiving and Remember the Neediest, CY



HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN®

Did you see the news? The Ohio Fairness Act (HB 369) was introduced in the Ohio House with bipartisan co-sponsors.

This is the companion bill to the current **Ohio Fairness Act** introduced in the **Ohio Senate** by **Sen. Nickie Antonio (SB11)**. The **Ohio Fairness Act** would bring **statewide non-discrimination protections for all LGBTQ Ohioans in housing, public accommodations, and employment.**

We expect and are asking for a speedy process through the **Ohio Civil Justice Committee**, but we need your help!

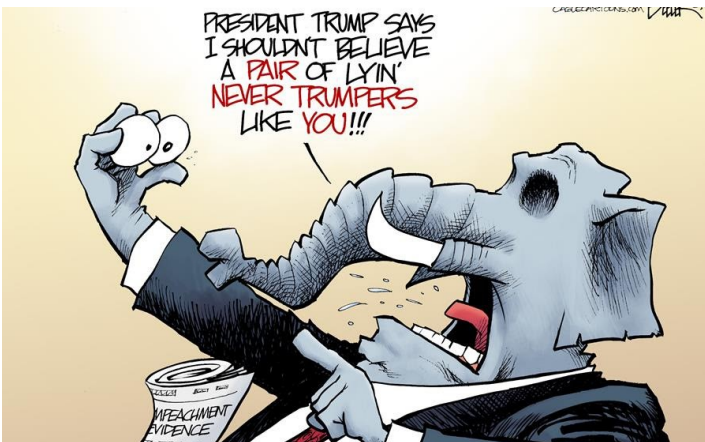
There are three immediate ways you can make sure we pass statewide nondiscrimination protections for all LGBTQ Ohioans.

Email the Civil Justice Committee <act.hrc.org/page/51580/action/1> to let members know you support the Ohio Fairness Act and want to see it pass through committee. We make it easy to email all of them by going to our action page.

During the committee hearings, representatives will want to hear from LGBTQ individuals and their loved ones about the need for passing statewide nondiscrimination protections, like the Ohio Fairness Act. **Submit your testimony and we will submit it on your behalf** <act.hrc.org/page/50834/petition/1>

Join our HRC OH Facebook group. This group will serve as a place for rapid response and timely updates around the OH Fairness Act. **You can join here.** <www.facebook.com/groups/HRCinOhio/>

Together, we can build an Ohio that shares our value of fairness for all.



Happy Thanksgiving!!!

2019 UNICORN CHARITY FUNDS AWARDED

Cleveland, November 17, 2020 - The membership vote during the Annual Business Meeting held in the upper chambers of the Leather Stallion Saloon, which Organizations would be the 2019 Beneficiaries of the Unicorn Charity Fund. We are pleased to announce the following beneficiaries who will spilt this years pool of funds raise throughout the past year at the Unicorn Bar Events! *This is where those pesky \$3 Donations we beg for go.*

THE JOHN BRITTIAN FOOD DRIVE

PILGRIM UCC FOOD PANTRY

THE JACK MUNHALL SOBRIETY HOUSE

&

B. RILEY SOBER HOUSE

Recipients should be watching their mail, as checks will be sent in time to help with Holiday Expenses.

2020 OFFICERS ELECTED

Cleveland, November 17, 2019 - At the annual Business Meeting of the Unicorn MC the membership voted on new Officers for the 2020 Business Year. There had been a motion on the Floor that only members Not Present could be Nominated, so move things swiftly along as they could not decline the nomination, but jealousy and baser instincts prevailed and the motion denied.

Until the Parliamentarian ruled that yes there was a Quorum Present, it was questionable that we could proceed on the Elections. Luckily, there were just enough present when the proxies were included to permit the vote to continue. Here are the Results:

2020 President ~ Jack Giles

2020 Road Captain ~ Noel Walters

2020 Secretary ~ Dennis Sherrill

2020 Treasurer ~ Robert Moeller

2020 Sargent at Arms ~ Jim Hitchcock

2020 Board of Trustees ~ Bob Kirsop,

Tom Johnson, & Jim Broginski

Committee assignments, and appointed Officers will be announced at the Annual Holiday Party on December 14th at Jack and Dennis' home in Willowick

Additional, business during the meeting covered plans for the coming 2020 Fundraising Bar Events, and the coming Voter Registration Drive during the month of January. Jack is looking for Volunteers to cover the Registration Table on Fridays and Saturdays during the Month. You can let him know ASAP or during the Holiday Party. Thank you.



*UNICORN CHRISTMAS
PARTY SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14, 2019*

3 PM 'TIL ???















Willowick, Ohio - Jack Giles, President elect, and Dennis Sherrill, Secretary, cordially invite all **Members, Associates, & Alumni of the Cleveland Unicorn MC** to attend the **Club's Annual Christmas & Holiday Party** in our home, located at 31701 Daniel Drive Willowick, OH 44095. **R.S.V.P. by December 11, please.** This event is for **MEMBERS ONLY ~ NO GUEST.**

The Menu as of this writing will consist of **Spiced Cranberry Glazed Ham, Orange/Apricot Glazed Turkey Breast, Escalloped Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Escalloped Pineapple, Cookies, & Mulled Cider, additional items will be added as various members coordinate their covered Dishes with Jack.** Please remember this event like all events are **B.Y.O.B.**, mixers will be provided.

A \$20 limit has been placed on the Gift Exchange presents, one must provide a Gift to receive a Gift. (*an effort will be made so that no one receives what they brought*), personal gifts should you choose to exchange them need to be exchanged privately and not in the presence of everyone else. As not everyone can afford to exchange gifts.

As a reminder Parking in Willowick is on the opposite side of the street from the Fire Hydrants, Do Not Block Driveways, and No On Street Parking from 2 AM until 6 AM, these Laws are strictly enforced. The Club nor your Host will pay your Tickets! Obey the Laws!

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 	31 				

December 1, 2019 - World AIDS Day Observance

December 4, 2019 - *Santa's List Day, "Santa please forward your Naught Boy List to the Editor!"*

December 7, 2019 - *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*

December 11, 2019 - *Bob Kirsop's Birthday*

December 11, 2019 - *Cigars, Boots, & Chocolates, Leather Stallion Saloon, 7 PM until 10 PM*

December 14, 2019 - Unicorn MC's Annual Christmas Party, Jack & Dennis' House, 3 PM

December 16, 2019 - *Boston Tea Party Anniversary & Observance*

December 17, 2019 - *Wright Brothers First Flight Anniversary*

December 19, 2019 - *National Build a Snowman Day*

December 20, 2019 - *National Christmas Caroling Day*

December 22, 2019 - Hanukkah Begins

December 23, 2019 - *Bah Humbug Day, "Festivus for the Rest of Us!"*

December 24, 2019 - *Christmas Eve*

December 25, 2019 - *Noel Walters' Birthday*

December 25, 2019 - *Christmas Day*

December 26, 2019 - *Boxing Day*

December 28, 2019 - *Gear Bar Night, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM until 2:30 AM*

December 30, 2019 - Hanukkah Ends

December 31, 2019 - *New Year's Eve, "Be Someone's Designated Driver!"*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Published by Unicorn MC, Inc.

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Hard copies can be mailed, if needed by Request, these are also Free, however a donation to cover Postage is Requested. Also available at the Leather Stallion Saloon, Dean Ruffus House of Fun, and A Place for Us.

Submissions for Publication may made be emailed to the Editor, up until the 15th of each month, and will be published by discretion of the Editorial Committee and space available. There will be NO RENUMERATIONS for Unsolicited Articles.

Deadline for inclusion on the Calendar is the 15th of the month, in advance of the event.

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