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Dear Supporter

In this issue you'll find: Paris updates, 2022 Gay Games XI, New Gay Games Scholarship Challenge, US Figure Skating Adds Gender Identity to Non-Discrimination Policy, Club MovDeIn Chile, Wrestlers Without Borders, LGBT Powerlifting Championships, Paris AGA, Legacy Award Nominations Open until 30 June

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June 2017

Welcome to Participate!, the newsletter of the Federation of Gay Games.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to promote equality in sport and culture and helping us celebrate **35 years!**

The FGG stands with the world's athletes and artists; the FGG issued two statements regarding the events surrounding the GLISA International 2017 World Outgames: one on [30 May 2017 expressing our concern for participants](#), followed by our [pledge on 2 June 2017](#). Work continues as we focus on Gay Games 10 in Paris and our global, 35-year mission of promoting equality in sport and culture.



Please make plans and register today for Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10, as registration fees escalate as we approach the games. Learn more at Paris2018.com.

With greatest respect,



Joanie Evans, Female co-president



Sean Fitzgerald, Male co-president

UPDATES FROM PARIS 2018 - GAY GAMES 10

Below are two photos from the Tel Aviv visit by Paris 2018-Gay Games 10 co-President Manuel Picaud. The photo on the left features Ambassador H  l  ne Le Gal, in the middle, and the photo on the right features the flag of TLV Sports, an FGG member organisation.



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YOUR LOCAL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES: If you would like to organize your own Paris 2018 promotional event, we can send you the videos and presentations. For marketing materials, if you are based in North America, you can contact Mike Myers at michael.myers@gaygames.net.

We are looking forward to seeing you all next year! Rendezvous with Paris in 2018!

[Travel and Accommodation with travel.paris2018.com](http://travel.paris2018.com)



You can book your accommodation through our Paris 2018 travel partner, KTS FRANCE, and help Paris 2018 Gay Games 10 to succeed! KTS France has the best offers for Paris 2018 and will arrange everything for you: flights, accommodation, transfers, activities and sightseeing, etc.

Are you part of a team or group? You can book the same hotel for your whole team or group using KTS France and take advantage of the best available prices!

[Rendezvous with Paris in 2018! CLICK HERE to register!](#)

Invite friends to Paris with this text:

Join me at Paris 2018 Gay Games 10, 4-12 August 2018. Celebrate diversity at the 10th edition of the world's largest quadrennial sports and cultural festival, open to all since 1982. 36+ sports, 14+ cultural events! Learn more and register at Paris2018.com #AllEqual #Paris2018

[Watch and Share this Incredible Promotional Video!](#)



SIGN UP for the [Newsletter](#), **FOLLOW** on [Facebook](#), **CONTACT** [Paris 2018](#), **LEARN** [about our security priority](#)

[COUNTDOWN TO PARIS: Earlier registration = lower fee!](#)

2022 GAY GAMES XI

Congratulations to our three shortlisted cities for 2022 Gay Games XI: **Guadalajara**, ([Gay Games Guadalajara 2022](#)), **Hong Kong**, ([Gay Games XI Hong Kong 2022](#)) and **Washington, DC** ([Gay Games DC 2022](#)).



Site inspections for our three shortlisted cities begins soon, and we will be following an posting these activities to social media. These three cities will make their final presentations at the [2017 Annual General Assembly](#) in Paris.

Press Releases and associated media here: <http://bit.ly/FGGMedia>



Gay Games Scholarship Fund

[ALL-NEW Scholarship Challenge from Paul Oostenbrug and Jere Kelly](#)



Paul has been one of the driving forces behind the FGG Scholarship program since Gay Games VII, Chicago 2006. He has worked tirelessly on reviewing scholarship applications, arranging travel, completing numerous visa applications, and driving scholarship participants to events. You name it and Paul has done it for the scholarship program.

Paul and Jere will be matching up to \$5,000 on all funds received by August 4th, 2017, the one year to go for the Paris 2018 Gay Games 10. [Learn more here!](#)

US Figure Skating Adds Gender Identity to Non-Discrimination Policy

by Alan Lessik

Last year, a group of figure skaters, led by a former FGG Board Member and Treasurer Alan Lessik, pressed US Figure Skating not to hold its Adult Figure Skating Championships in North Carolina. After the North Carolina governor signed regressive legislation repealing significant aspects of LGBT rights in the state, there was a nationwide boycott called. A number of high level sports events were moved to other states and the state lost hundreds of millions of dollars from the loss of conventions and tourism. Unfortunately, USFS decided not to move this important adult event.



With that initial loss the group decided to change their strategy. They began a campaign to add gender identity to the organization's non-discrimination policy. Lessik said, "Homophobia was strong within USFS for many years. Sexual orientation was only added to the non-discrimination policy a few years ago, putting the sport way behind, American football, baseball and other sports. With a growing number of transgender skaters who were worried about their safety if they went to North Carolina, we decided to focus on changing the policy."

They initiated a [Change.org](#) petition aimed at the USFS executive staff and Board of Directors. Members of the group wrote impassioned posts in Facebook skating pages about the need for the inclusion for all in skating. The petition read:

"The undersigned members of USFS urge the Board of Directors to approve three policy changes at the next Board meeting which would demonstrate that the organization is inclusive and is concerned about protecting all skaters:

- Add gender identity to the non-discrimination policy of the USFS. Our transgender and gender variant skaters have no protection at this time and there are no rules addressing their participation in the sport.
- Apply the USFS non-discrimination policy to staff, skaters, judges and other officials and require that sites of future competitions have local or state protections that reflect USFS policy. Currently, the non-discrimination policy does not cover other participants in the organization outside of staff

and does not extend to decision-making processes such as approval of competitions sites or club by-laws.

- Require all staff, judges and other officials to receive training in the USFS non-discrimination policy and its application throughout all of skating. In the corporate and non-profit worlds, tolerance and diversity training is recognized as important to assure key staff, board members and volunteers understand their responsibilities in insuring the safety, equity and well-being of all stakeholders and participants.

By passing these three policies, the USFS Board will demonstrate to its members that it is dedicated to assuring our great sport is diverse and welcoming to all."

The skaters found a growing support for the inclusion of gender identity and the training for all relevant staff. The Board of Directors recommended the changes and on May 6, 2017, the Governing Council approved the changes. It was reported that a cheer arose at the meeting when the votes was announced.

Lessik, who is also in the FGG Assembly for the International Gay Figure Skating Union, was pleased with the result. "Even in these difficult political times in the US, we need to push back and advocate for the rights of all members of the LGBTQ community. Many people were discouraged and had given up hope about getting any changes in our sport. We showed that the efforts of a small dedicated group of people can have a large impact."

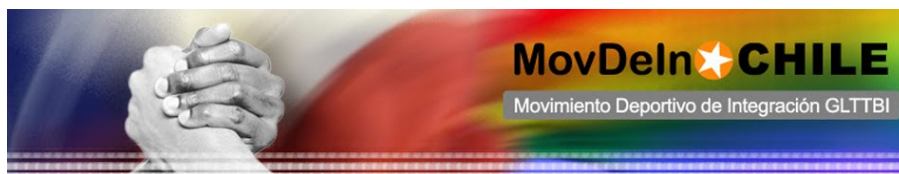
[Please click here for action taken at the 2017 governing Council.](#)

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Do you know of a major sport or cultural event where the FGG should be promoting Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10? If so, please send an email with details to MARKETING@GAYGAMES.NET.

The FGG has a number of marketing materials that can be used at selected events, on social media and elsewhere. We've been promoting Gay Games 10 at dozens of events and your could be next!



Chilean LGBT Sports Leader Asks FGG to Get Serious about Latin America

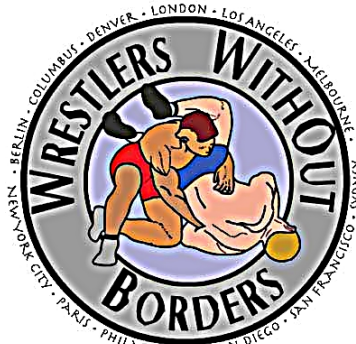
Fernando Carvajal, founder of the sporting group Club MovDeIn Chile in Santiago, Chile, lead a seminar about the future of LGBT sports in Latin America. Honorary Life Member (HLM) and Team SF delegate Gene Dermody hosted the event seminar at his home in San Francisco on June 11th. Fernando Carvajal was a scholarship recipient at the 2006 Chicago Gay Games. He has exemplified what the Federation wants all scholarship recipients to do: return home, create a gay and lesbian sporting organization and spread the message of the Gay Games. Club MovDeIn Chile has organized several international volleyball tournaments and Fernando has received two awards from the Santiago municipal government for his work in breaking down stereotypes. Others in attendance were Team San Francisco Delegate Reggie Snowden, HLM Derek Liecny, former Wrestlers Without Borders delegate Roger Brigham, FGG Board Member Doug Litwin and Fernando's partner Patricio Gonzalez. Special thanks goes to Derek's Chilean-born friend Denise Thiry who served as interpreter.

Negatively affected by the Miami OutGames last minute cancellation, Fernando urged those in attendance to encourage the Federation of Gay Games to become more involved with the consolidation of existing gay and lesbian sporting organizations in Latin America, especially now that GLISA International World OutGames future is unclear.

Fernando noted that there are already viable LGBT sporting groups in Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Communications in Spanish and Portuguese must be used to bring these groups together so that the LGBT sports world will see the strength and future of LGBT sports in Latin America.



Left to Right: Derek Liecny, Patricio Gonzalez, Gene Dermody, Doug Litwin, Roger Brigham, Reggie Snowden, Fernando Carvajal



Hey Wrestlers & Grapplers!

Get Ready for the next 2 years of exciting WWB tournaments:

[San Diego XI](#) 24 June

[San Francisco Don Jung Memorial / Folsom XXXI](#): 23 September

[Las Vegas Sin City XI](#): 11 January 2018

[Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10](#): 4-12 August 2018

Reminder that the San Diego Wrestling Club will be hosting the 11th Annual Bulldogs Wrestling Tournament on PRIDE Saturday June 24th. It's part of three days of wrestling and we hope that you can join them. Go to www.sdwrestling.org and click on the HERE

button to register. PARTICIPATE and join them for Friends, Fun and Festivities.

For more information visit <http://wrestlerswob.com>

The first ever "[LGBT International Powerlifting Championships](#)" are happening 28th, 29th and 30th July 2017 in London.

Up to 60 of the world's strongest Lesbian, Gay, Bi Sexual and Trans athletes are expected to attend from all over the world in what promises to be a very special occasion.



The championships will be hosted by Gay Games Powerlifters Chris Morgan and Dominic Patmore with the assistance of Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club in London. Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club was established in 1926 and is well known for its strong commitment to diversity within the communities it serves. [Check out their Facebook event here](#). We are also proud and grateful that [Chris Morgan](#) is an active Gay Games Ambassador!



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY: PARIS 2017

26 October - 1 November 2017, Paris, France

Make plans today for our next AGA, taking place in Paris!

The "General Assembly" represents the voting members of the FGG, and this assembly meets annually to help advise and direct the Board of Directors, elect officers and vote on important matters.

In 2017, a highlight will be the voting and selection of the host city for Gay Games XI to take place in 2022. Many people believe this quadrennial decision is the most important one that the FGG makes.

[Learn more at our Facebook Event Page.](#)

Gay Games Legacy Awards Nominations for Paris AGA NOW OPEN

These awards honour outstanding individuals and institutions whose work contributes to the mission and values of the Federation of Gay Games. They are awarded at the discretion of the FGG to recognize the extraordinary contributions of those who ensure the success of the Gay Games, who promote shared values, and who contribute to the community.

Legacy Awards were first awarded in 2007 at the FGG 25th Anniversary Legacy Dinner in San Francisco. As of 2009, those honored receive a certificate and an FGG Medal of Honor.

These 2017 awards will be presented during the FGG Annual General Assembly in Paris.

[2017 LEGACY AWARDS FORM: open until 30 June 2017](#)

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Share your stories of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™ with the hashtag [#gaygames](#)

Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games has promoted equality in sport and culture and ensured that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™.

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[Please join our scholarship cause of sending artists and athletes to Paris 2018 Gay Games 10](#)