

For Immediate Release
Monday, May 19, 2008

IGLTA Announces 2008-2009 Board & Officers at Recording-Breaking 25th Anniversary Conference

Fort Lauderdale, FL (May 19, 2008) -- The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) announced during its recent 25th Annual Convention & Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas the members of its new Board of Directors, including incoming Board Chairman **Bryan Herb** of Zoom Vacations, who succeeds **Matt Skallerud** of Pink Banana Media.

Board nominees made presentations to IGLTA members during the organization's landmark conference, and formal elections were held on Friday, May 2. The individuals selected for IGLTA's new Board of Directors further reflect the organization's deep commitment to the professional and geographic diversity within the travel and tourism industries.

Those newly elected or elected to serve on new seats include:

- **George Carrancho**, General Board Seat, American Airlines Rainbow Sales Team
- **Cordey Lash**, General Board Seat, Wyndham Hotel Group
- **Veronica Torres**, Secretary, Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau

Bruce McDonald, Travel Gay Canada, was re-elected and will serve as Vice-Chairman; **Theresa Belpulsi**, Destination D.C., was re-elected and will continue to serve as Treasurer. Additionally, the following continue on with general board seats:

- **Thomas Bomkes**, Tom on Tour, Munich
- **Yves Pelletier**, Orbitz Canada, Montreal
- **Bob Poland**, Don't Go There Travel, Boston

Seizing on the excitement of celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary, the new group of leaders held its first meeting in Vegas where the focus was firmly on the future. The group hopes to not only continue making IGLTA the go-to resource for information on the international LGBT travel market, but to also expand its influence worldwide in regions like South America and Asia.

"The energy was palpable in our first meeting. Our new group is ethnically and professionally diverse, and everyone brings fantastic ideas, commitment and dedication to gay and lesbian travel," Herb said. "It is exciting to be in a room full of talented individuals who are unique in their individual disciplines but share a common goal and passion. With this kind of synergy, it's going to be an incredible and productive year."

Held April 30-May 4 at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino, IGLTA's 25th Annual Convention & Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas convened nearly 500 travel professionals hailing from 25 countries. The largest in the organization's history, the conference featured eight hot-topic workshops, an interview with legendary American author Armistead Maupin, a gay and lesbian media trade show, and numerous networking and social receptions.

IGLTA is the world's leading authority, resource and representative of gay and lesbian travel. Its membership is located in 55 countries around the world and consists of accommodations, airlines, tour operators, travel agents, tourism offices and other key players in the tourism industry. IGLTA works to help the tourism industry attract gay and lesbian consumers and learn more about the gay and lesbian market. Since its founding in 1983, IGLTA has expanded its international influence from just 25 members to well over 1,200 in 55 countries.

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