



June 15, 2008

<http://www.libertybears.net>

# Bear Essentials

The Official Newsletter of the Liberty Bears of Philadelphia

New Club Year Begins Sept. 2008

## New Executive Committee Elected

At our June 7, 2008 meeting, The Liberty Bears elected a new slate executives as follows: President, John Blase; Vice President, Gavin Schiffert; Treasurer, Braheem; Secretary, Dave Warden; Social, Dr. Ben North; Road Captain, Dusty Fasanella; Sergeant-at-Arms, Abner Garcia.

We thank our outgoing executives for their hard work and commitment to The Club and the community, and we wish our new executives much success. (See photo of new execs on p. 2.)

## Thank You, Bill Hawk!

After many years of service as President and Vice President of the Liberty Bears, Bill Hawk is stepping down from official duties. During Bill's tenure, our Club has given away thousands of dollars to community groups like The Calcutta House, Bebashi, Galilei, and The Attic. We've had numerous Christmas coat drives for a local men's shelter. We've held six Bears on Liberty Weekends which were chaired by Bill's other half Dan Kemery. We started an LGBT Arts Show that has become an annual event. And who can count the numerous monthly socials, general meetings, and executive meetings?

Need we say thank you? Well, we'll say it anyway: Thanks Bill for your great service to The Liberty Bears of Phila. and to the community.

Here's a message from Bill:  
Hi All-

June 7 was the final meeting and social for the Liberty Bears for the 2007-2008 club year! Whew! Was it HOT. No, I mean really HOT! Like, sweltering... melt the jello shots HOT. And a good time was had by ALL.



Joe Tozzi of Calcutta House receives \$1000 check from Liberty Bears' President Bill Hawk.

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## Liberty Bears Donate \$2500

The Liberty Bears of Philadelphia have lived up to our by-laws' mandate: *Fundraising and volunteer efforts for the Gay and Lesbian community, including AIDS causes, are an ongoing goal with proceeds from fundraising events donated to benefit those in need.*

This time around donations of \$1000 each were made to Mountain Meadow Camp and to Calcutta House. And a donation of \$500 was made to The Mazzone Center to help with clients' transportation needs

Joe Tozzi from Calcutta House, Steve Duffy and Randi Sherman from Mountain Meadow, and Ryan Goldner from Mazzone Center were in attendance to receive the checks for their organizations.

*Editor's Notes:*

*See adjacent article "Thank You, Bill Hawk" for a more complete*

*description of our donations.*

*Also, we're planning descriptions of Calcutta House, Mountain Meadow Camp, and Mazzone Center in future issues of Bear Essentials.*

Interested in being associated with the Liberty Bears? Come to our general meeting, Sat., Sept. 6, 5pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop.

### upcoming events:

**Jul. 31-Aug. 3, 2008:** Liberty Bears' Road Trip to Bear Camp 2008 in Columbus OH. For more info go to: [www.libertybears.net](http://www.libertybears.net);

**SAT., Sept. 6, 2008:** NEW CLUB YEAR BEGINS! General Meeting, 5pm-6pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop;

**SAT., Sept. 6, 2008:** Social, 6pm-10pm at the Bike Stop, main bar; **Beach Blanket Bingo!**



## Gotta Question? Just Ask The Badger

Dear Badger,

I've heard about the Liberty Bears' Statement of Purpose but have never seen it in print. Can you help? Newbie

Dear Newbie,

You can find The Club's By-Laws at our web site: [www.libertybears.net](http://www.libertybears.net). It's in downloadable pdf format.

The By-Laws begin with a Statement of Purpose as follows:

"The Liberty Bears of Philadelphia is a not-for-profit organization that has been formed to promote camaraderie of Bears and their admirers by engaging in and promoting appropriate activities and events. The Liberty Bears, in seeking to encourage an atmosphere of tolerance and diversity, will not discriminate in policy or official activities on the basis of race, sex, ethnic background, religion, or sexual orientation. The Liberty Bears, as a non-profit organization, recognizes its responsibility as part of the Gay and Lesbian community to contribute to that community. Fundraising and volunteer efforts for the Gay and Lesbian community, including AIDS causes are an ongoing goal with proceeds from fundraising events donated to benefit those in need."



## New Executive Committee Elected



pictured clockwise from lower left: Dave Warden, Secretary; Gavin Schiffert, Vice President; John Blase, President; B Braheem, Treasurer; Ben North, Social.  
not pictured: Abner Garcia, Sgt.-At-Arms; Dusty Fasanella Road Captain.

## New Schedule for New Club Year Beginning September 2008

The Liberty Bears will be developing a new schedule of general meetings, socials, and other events. The schedule will be published in our next Bear Essentials and at our website ([libertybears.net](http://libertybears.net)). Remember, the Liberty Bears go into semi-hibernation during the summer months. We do have a summer road trip to Bear Camp planned. Look to our website for other summer events.

## Thank You, Bill Hawk!

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During the meeting the Liberty Bears made our mid-year donations. Proceeds from Bears on Liberty Weekend 6 were given away to three charitable organizations in the City of Brotherly Love. BOLW 6 was, though small in attendance this year, our most productive yet in outcome. We exceeded our budgeted donation line item and gave away three checks totaling \$2,500.

"Planned" donations were to Mountain Meadow Camp and to Calcutta House. Each received \$1,000. We were very pleased to have Joe Tozzi from Calcutta House and Steve Duffy and Randi Sherman from Mountain Meadow come to the meeting and receive their checks. By going beyond our philanthropy goal with the proceeds from BOLW 6, we were able to make an additional donation. With short notice, we selected the Mazzoni Center to receive a check for \$500. Ryan Goldner from Mazzoni was in attendance to get the donation.

Each representative gave a short thank you to the group and explained what the organizations did and how the donation would be used. Specifically, Ryan mentioned the need for Mazzoni to provide transportation assistance to their clients... it's the weakest part of their budgetary breakdown and the Liberty Bears gift was marked for transportation cost and will be used as such. Joe and Steve both appreciated the "mid-year" timing of the donations. Randi added for Mountain Meadow that it costs them just over one thousand dollars to send one kid to camp. On their sliding scale of payment for camp attendees, the donation will help tremendously in defraying those costs.

The Liberty Bears would like to thank all the reps who came out in the heat last night and we pledge our continued support.

The current Exec Board and the new Exec Board will be meeting over the summer to plan the club schedule and events for next year, starting as usual, in September. Watch for updates and an announcement of our 2008- 2009 calendar through the yahoo group and at [libertybears.net](http://libertybears.net). We hope everyone has a great summer! See you in the 'hood!

Bill

## Liberty Bears Summer Road Trip

The Liberty Bears are planning another road trip to a big bear event. This time, we're headed for Bear Camp 2008 in Columbus OH. The camp takes place July 31 thru Aug. 3, 2008.

We'll be representing the Liberty Bears, but individuals are responsible for registering with the Bear Camp, for their own transportation to Columbus, and for their own hotel arrangements.

You can find info and suggestions on our website: [www.libertybears.net](http://www.libertybears.net)