

Apollo President Update

The past year has been another milestone year for Apollo. Following the AGM in June I have had the opportunity to act in the capacity of President.

This year was another successful year for the sports of our organization, some with higher than average numbers, with other maintaining their annual attendance. Unfortunately, some sports did see a decrease in their registration numbers. Apollo did offer Soccer throughout the summer of 2012, and has supported a team in 2013. Dragon boat, due to limited interest was not able to field a team for the 2012 festival.

Western Cup XXXI was once again a great success, and we welcomed participants from all over North America. This year's dance saw great attendance, and the evening was highlighted by a guest appearance of Hector Fonseca, DJ to Rihanna, Lady Gaga and Katy Perry. Apollo was also excited to support the NAGVA tournament held here in Calgary at the Olympic Oval on May long weekend. Players from all over North America engaged in a great tournament, and amazing social events. Once again, Calgary proved itself as a proud city to support LGBT sporting events.

This past year has also been an interesting year as Apollo started to ask some serious questions regarding its future. In our 31st year, we began an internal process to look at how we could best move forward for another 30 years. Through direct conversations, critical reflection and open evaluation, the Executive of Apollo was able to arrive at a new vision for the organization that reflects the current and future needs of not only Apollo, but of the community as a whole.

The changes will be sweeping. Instead of creating barriers to new sports joining the organization, adding extra layers of administration and mandatory membership, we will be working to create an environment that allows for the promotion of health and wellness, as well as safe and inclusive sport and social environment. In 1981 the world was a different place; the need for fully segregated environments was mandatory to ensure the safety and security of our membership. For the last 30 years the collective voice of the LGBT community has demanded equality and inclusivity, our demands have been heard, and as we move closer and closer to equality the environment Apollo created then is no longer applicable now. As we embrace our new position in the world, Apollo too must adapt to the sweeping social changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Bostock