Get Ready for SPE National in Las Vegas!

The LGBTQ Caucus is getting ready for our national conference in Las Vegas in just a few days time! Over the last few months the Caucus leadership team has been hard at work putting together a great program of things to do while you are hanging with your SPE friends! We’ve captured the highlights of things here for you in a handy, easy to read format. We’ve listed the main meetings, cocktail hours, LGBTQ themed presentations, and exhibition events for you. Make sure to check the official SPE website and program guide for any last minute changes. Sometimes rooms and locations change for these things and we would hate for you to miss out on stuff. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter too!

Lastly, don’t forget to read the section on elections. This is YOUR Caucus and it needs you! We’ll be having elections in a few weeks so make sure to think seriously about standing for one of the leadership positions! It’s a great thing to do and it looks good on your resume as well!

The LGBTQ Caucus Leadership Team

Overview of LGBTQ Events and Interests at SPE National

**Wednesday March 9th**
7pm—8pm LGBTQ Cocktail Hour Mixer (Onyx Bar)

**Thursday March 10th**
4pm—5pm LGBTQ Caucus Meeting (Vistas)
6pm—7pm LGBTQ Cocktail Hour Mixer (Onyx Bar)

**Friday March 11th**
8:30am—3:30pm SPE Film Festival (Red Rock Ballroom Foyer)
10am—10:45am “Don’t hold on to your bones” Leonard Suryajaya (Summerlin F)
11am—12:30pm SPE Members Meeting (Summerlin D)
2:15pm—2:35pm “Undertones: Bits and pieces on bodies, beauty and violence”, Sakura Kelly (Summerlin F)
7pm—8pm LGBTQ Cocktail Hour Mixer (Onyx Bar)

**Saturday March 12th**
8am—9am LGBTQ Caucus Meeting (Siena)
9am—5pm SPE Film Festival (Red Rock Ballroom Foyer)
9:30am—11:30am LGBTQ Mentoring Sessions (Siena)
8pm—10pm Combined Caucus Exhibition Reception (Pavilion Ballroom)
LGBTQ Things to do at SPE National!

**Cocktail Hour**
New to SPE? A little unsure of how to meet people in the crowd? Or just don’t want to drink alone… Come and join us for cocktail hour at Onyx Bar. Each night there will be two or more people from the Caucus Leadership team so you don’t have to feel lonely.

Wednesday, March 9th @ 7:00p (with David and Logan)
Thursday, March 10th @ 6:00p (with Kristina and Garth)
Friday, March 11th @ 7:00p (with Kristina and Eliana)

**LGBTQ Caucus Roundtable/Mentor Sessions**
This year we are pleased to once more offer roundtable/mentor discussion sessions for LGBTQ caucus members. Rather than be presentation based, they are designed as informal small group sessions to talk about important professional and academic topics with other LGBTQ caucus members. Each session will take place in the Siena room on Saturday morning.

**Saturday, March 12th @ 9:30am to 10:30am.**
*Queer Collaborative Teams.* Successful duo Garth Amundson and Pierre Gour will discuss how they work together and will offer advice and guidance on collaborative projects within the LGBTQ art space.

**Saturday, March 12th @ 10:30am to 11:30am.**
*Queering the Artist Statement: Perspectives and guidance from a queer Latina.* Lens based media artist Eliana Cetto specializes in multimedia photo/video installations and alternative processes. Her work explores identity, visibility and reclamation. In this session she will discuss with attendees how they can use artist statements to highlight and showcase queer points of view.

**LGBTQ Caucus Meetings & Portfolio Share**
Each year we hold two official caucus meetings; one on Thursday (4:00p — 5:00p) and one on Saturday (8:00a — 9:00a). Our Thursday meeting will be a portfolio sharing session with a brief introduction to the caucus. Bring work, chat with people, and get to know each other. On Saturday, we will do a yearly summary, talk about elections, and then do a second portfolio share. We heard you wanted more opportunities to chat and share work so here they are!

**Combined Caucus Film Festival & Combined Caucus Exhibition**
Once again, the LGBTQ Caucus has joined with the Women’s and Multicultural Caucuses to produce a Combined Caucus Film Festival. This year the film festival will be screened in the Red Rock Ballroom Foyer and will be available for viewing on Friday and Saturday.

This year also marks the fourth Combined Caucus Exhibition. With a slight twist this year, come and see all the works on site in our alternative presentation. There will be an artist reception on Saturday open to all from 8pm to 10pm!
The LGBTQ Caucus has the following leadership positions. Chair, Secretary, Regional Representatives (8), and “At Large” members (3). The Regional Representative and “At Large” positions are now at the end of their two year terms. In fact, their terms ended at the end of 2015. The caucus leadership team met and discussed the best way to proceed with the new round of elections for this new term. It’s always been part of our charter to have elections NOT take place at the national conference as we recognize that not everyone is able to attend. We also recognize that there are a significant number of new people each year who come to the conference, discover the Caucus, and join the mailing list just after. So we wanted to find a way to reconcile these things.

Accordingly, we have decided that elections for the open positions will be held the week commencing March 22nd, one week after the conference has concluded. We will be sending out a series of reminder emails each week (beginning with this one!) If you wish to nominate yourself for a position via email, the process is simple. Just send an email to logan.rollins.83@gmail.com with the following information:

- Name
- Institution/Company
- Region
- Position Standing For
- Short Paragraph on why you want to be on the LGBTQ Caucus leadership team.

We’ll also have this information available at our two meetings at national as well, so people who are attending the conference can apply that way. After the conference, we’ll add all the entrants into the voting system we are using, “Ballot Bin”, and we’ll start to send out the details on the candidate info and how to vote.

For some more information on the roles, here are the descriptions of the positions:

**Regional Representatives**

Regional Representatives for the SPE LGBTQ caucus serve as the vital link between the regional organizations and the caucus, serving both in an outreach capacity to caucus members and as the liaison to the regional chairs. They will bring concerns and questions to both parties. In doing so they will be required to submit reports from attended regional meetings to the Caucus Committee to further develop the caucus. In addition, the Regional Representatives will work to develop the caucus to promote and maintain LGBTQ education and creative diversity in both the organization and beyond. An example of this can include but is not limited to the organization of annual/biannual gallery shows highlighting LGBTQ focused photography. **Position to be held for 2 years**

**At Large Members**

The At Large Members will serve the caucus as needed. These duties include the organization of gallery shows, assistance during both regional and national SPE conferences, and collaboration with Regional Representatives as needed. In addition, they will work as the first line of communication between members and the board on both the national and regional level, communicating directly with appropriate Regional Representatives, Secretary, or the Chair as required to bring to attention the interests, issues, needs, ideas, and concerns of members to the Caucus Committee. **Position to be held for 2 years**.