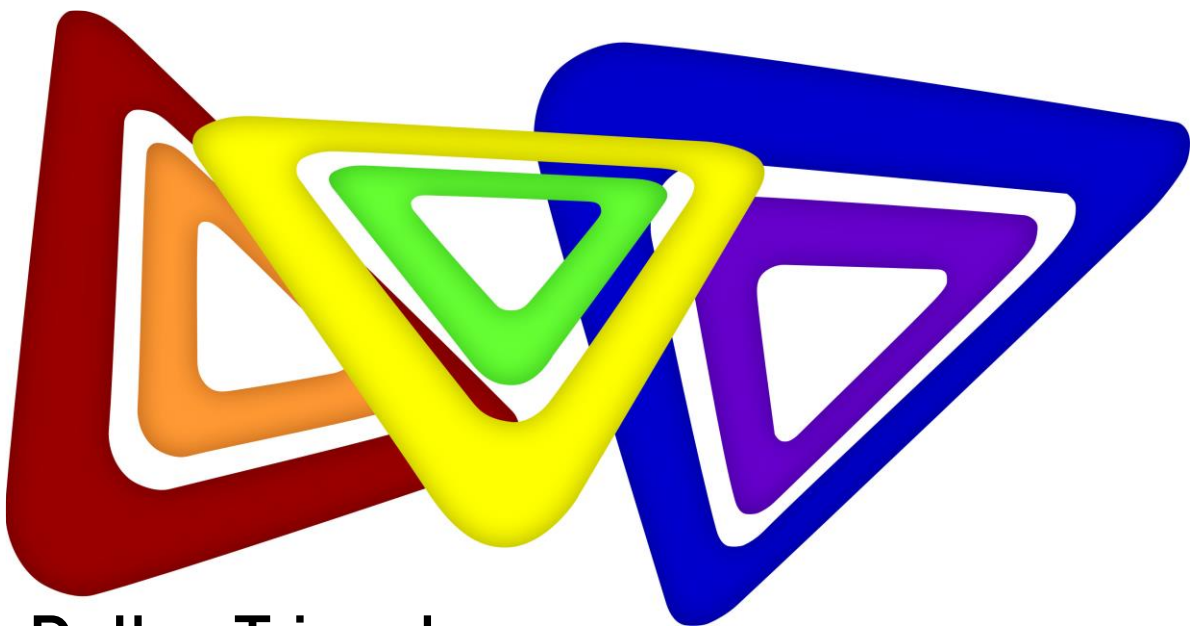




# *Dulles Triangles*



**Dulles Triangles** *The Social Club Outside the Beltway*

# *Election Guide* **2023**



# *Greetings from the 2023 Board*

Dear Dulles Triangles Members,

What a year we've had! We've had a pretty full slate of Club-sponsored and Member-sponsored events. We had more than 200 events on the calendar this year, including picnics, Pride events, Halloween parties, game days, theater outings, Escape Rooms, Paint & Sips, movie nights, brunches, Happy Hours, and dinners. We've added many new members, and the Club is in a healthy state.

Providing all of those fun opportunities takes some work, and that is where the volunteers who make up our Board come in. Their primary job is to make the Club a fun and welcoming place for everyone. Board Members serve a one-year term starting in January, and we elect a new Board every December. It's now time to elect the Board for 2024.

Following is a list of candidates who have been nominated, along with a photo and a brief bio of each of the nominees. There are ten Board Members, so you can vote for up to ten people.

I'd like to thank the 2023 Board for their leadership in getting all of these events planned and organized. I'd also like to thank the members who organized events, and everyone who attended, helped with setup and cleanup, and made them all successful.

Chuck Hall, 2023 Board President



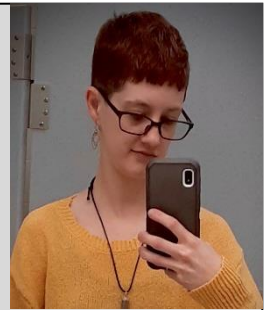
*And Our  
Nominees  
are ...*



**Amy Burns** has been a member of Dulles Triangles since 2000. She served on the Board for 4 years, took a life break and has been back on the Board these last 4 years. She is currently serving as the Treasurer.

*"Dulles Triangles has been an important part of my life, and the people of the Club have been my family. Being a Board Member lets me give back something to the Club. The challenge these past 2 years was to keep Dulles Triangles alive so that, as things opened back up, the Club was still there for all of us to enjoy."*

**M Draffen** Hi! I'm M (more formally I use "Em") Draffen, I'm 25 years old, nonbinary and use any and all pronouns you could think of. I've only been going to DT's weekly Thursday happy hours (and some of the dinners afterwards) for about a month and a half. If you've seen me at the happy hours, it's pretty clear that I'm a little socially awkward at first, at least until you get to know me. The connections I've had with others have been incredible and it's just so comforting to be around others like me, and to learn what it was like for the older folk when DTs first started.



*"I'm glad I found DTs because it's made me feel so much at home, and everyone thus far has welcomed me so warmly. I was once told by one of the long-standing members that it was great that I joined, because having my generation come to these events will help keep DTs going for even longer. As a queer, nonbinary individual of the "Gen Z" generation, my identity and my journey to find it has given me such a unique perspective on the LGBTQ+ community, and I think the experiences I've had can benefit the board greatly. Diversity, I think, is such a huge thing for me, and I think that Board Member position would be a good place for me to continue "getting my feet wet," so to speak. I look forward to all of the future events and more friendships with everyone else!"*



**Suellen Evans** has been a member of Dulles Triangles since 2013 and enjoys the friendships that she has found during the dances, picnics and happy hours. She was on the Board for 6 years from 2013 to 2019, and took a break. Now she's ready to get back to helping the club with fun social activities as well as greeting new people to the group.

*"Dulles Triangles had been a haven for me. The people I've met and the way they band together has so much value. Now, more than ever, it is important to have a safe haven for the LBGT community. I'd be delighted to help in the effort by once again joining the Board to help navigate the new world we live in."*



**Chuck Hall** lives in Reston, VA, with his husband, Tom Miller. They attend Happy Hours and social events and have been members since 2012. He is the COO of his company, and was the Celebration Specialist for the Drag Clubhouse, responsible for parties on their Drag Cruises. He has been a Board member for 4 years, currently serving as President.



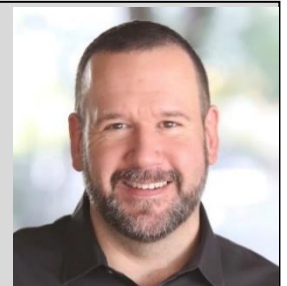
*“Dulles Triangles is my extended family. I am so glad to be part of it, and to give back by doing what I can to plan and sponsor fun social events. My husband and I have hosted over 60 DTs member events, including virtual events during the Pandemic, and I was the Chair of the Gay-la committee, helping to plan the DTs 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. I hope to continue to serve.”*



**Kim Hamlin** lives in Herndon with her wife Mary, and has been a member of Dulles Triangles since early 2001 and immediately found real family and community in the group. Kim has served on the Board as Secretary and Vice President and has hosted many events, including monthly brunches and karaoke nights. Kim was on the first DTs Pride Parade Committee and helped to coordinate the group’s first float in the 2010 Pride Parade. She is currently the Vice President of DTs.

*“I am in awe of the community that has developed since a few guys in Reston decided to start organizing group happy hours in 1991. How many adults in your life have hundreds of friends that they keep up with regularly, with activities going on several times a week? I’ve rarely stayed in the same place more than a few years at a time, so finding such a wonderful group and making connections lasting over 20 years is particularly special to me. I want make sure that the group continues to provide that same foundation for everyone who discovers us.”*

**David Highnote** has lived in the DC area for more than 20 years. David was Introduced to the Club by friends, finally joined in 2016, and has enjoyed events and getting to know other members at ad hoc get-togethers. David has served on the DT’s Board as Vice President and currently is Membership Director, and played an integral role in the planning of the 30th Anniversary Gay-la.



*“As a business owner, I am necessarily a ‘professional extrovert,’ but I’m an introvert at heart. While I’ve planned and run events for 30 to 3,000 attendees, when I’m not making sure everything goes as intended, you’ll most likely find me in a corner, getting to know people in smaller groups. I’m a shameless fundraiser and organizer, unafraid to ask anyone for anything, whether their space, time, money, or influence/reach. I’d love to put my skills to work to help DTs remain such a vital safe space for our community.”*





**David Hixon** lives in Reston with his partner of 22 years and joined the DTs in 2017. He attends the Thursday night Happy Hours, as well as DT parties and movie nights. Finding the DTs was a great boon, as it allowed him and his partner to meet more people in the LGBT+ community, and they have made many new friends. Dave joined the DTs Board in 2021 and has worked to support the 30th Anniversary Gala, picnics, parties, and other DT events. In the past year he has acted as Happy Hour concierge, setting up the post-happy hour dinners and interacting with Breakers.



*“Joining the DTs has been a wonderful experience. I have met so many amazing people. By joining the board, I want to be able to help the DTs move forward into the future. The DTs are an important force in the community, providing vital support for so many people. I want to be able help the DTs help the community.”*



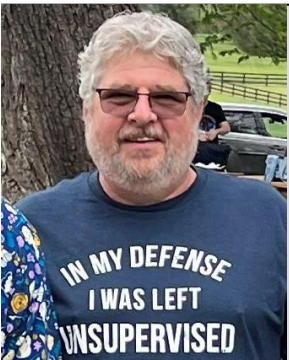
**Jennifer McKervey** has been in Loudoun County since 2006 where she lives with her pup, Aspen, but didn't find Dulles Triangles until 2021. After her first Happy Hour, she sent in her membership and never looked back. In 2022, she was nominated for the board and took on the role of Communications Director. You might know her as "the one who sends out the newsletter", or "that really loud person who gives announcements sometimes at Happy Hour".

*“As I reflect on my time on the Board, the thing that stands out is the impact that we have to our community. Dulles Triangles is more than a social group; we're the family that people choose.”*

**Tom Miller** lives in Reston and is married to current Board Member and President Chuck Hall. While they attended DTs events sporadically for several years before, both have been very active in DTs for the last 10-12 years. A fixture at the weekly Happy Hours, they also attend other DTs events such as dances, parties, and member-sponsored events. Tom served his three terms on the Board as the Secretary.



*“Having experienced the amazing things the current Board has done for our members, I'd like to continue my work on the DTs Board. I'd like to be part of the ongoing planning for our social group.”*



**Dan Johnson** is a retired IT professional and NoVA native, has been a continuous and active DT member for 24 years. Although he and his husband, Dave Palanzi (whom he met at DTs 23 years ago), have been involved in scores of activities, often helping out behind the scenes or sponsoring them, neither has served on the Board. Retirement has allowed Dan the time and attention to devote to an organization to which he has deep ties and about which he cares.

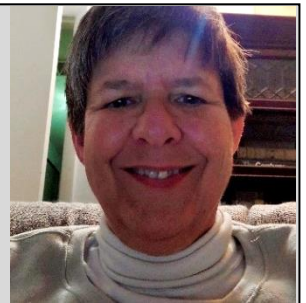
*"If you don't yet know its history, DTs has been around since 1991. It has served our local LGBTQ+ community in many ways, adapting through the years as society's laws, practices, and attitudes advanced and its membership's needs changed. The world may be different now, but DTs still has much to offer and is worth keeping up and running.*

*"I am thankful for those who helped DTs pivot and emerge from the pandemic. That was quite an accomplishment for an organization based fundamentally on social contact. Participation was understandably low, and the burdens for our preservation fell heavily on a few people intent on finding our footing again.*

*"As long-term members, we have forged life-long friendships and want to ensure new members have these same opportunities. Our organization needs to re-learn how to make it comfortable and convenient for its members to participate, because that is at its heart. There are some technical and organizational strategies we could apply to make that happen. I have knowledge and experience that I want to contribute to all of this, and that's why I'm (finally!) running."*

**Celeste Kinney** has lived in Herndon for the last 4 years with her 2 cats. Prior to that she had a llama farm in Lucketts. She has been a member of DTs for the last 10 years. She has hosted a number of events, including 2 events at Fabboli Wine Cellars.

*"I love the people in DTs, and many have become dear friends. The community it supports is invaluable. If it wasn't for DTs, I might never leave my house...LOL!"*





**Tom Seeley** has been a member of Dulles Triangles since 2000. He is a former Board member for 2 years, and was highly involved in many aspects of DTs life for a long time. He lives in Oak Hill with his husband, Don Brill whom he met at his very first DTs meeting, and their fur-baby, Panda.

*“Dulles Triangles has done so much for me, and I’m looking forward to re-engaging with the group and giving back. Most importantly of course is Don, who, after 23 years together and 8 years married is ready to stand by me as I throw my name in the hat again to be part of an organization that was founded on Friends and Fun, but also, giving back to people who still mean so much to me. I am a Sr. Software Development Project Manager and plan to offer my organizational skills and leadership to help plan and support all the DTs events with hopeful fellow Board Members in 2024.”*