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### **Introducing the new IGLTA board of directors**

International travel association appoints lesbian chair, ushers in new era of growth during its successful 27th annual global convention in Antwerp

Fort Lauderdale, FL (July 14, 2010)—The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association, which now has more than 2,100 members in 81 countries, introduced its newly elected board of directors in Antwerp, Belgium, during its largest global convention in Europe to date. More than 250 participants from 25 countries were on hand to greet the new board, which then met to select officers for the next year.

IGLTA's board determines the direction and long-term strategic goals for the travel association, which is the leading global organization in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) tourism industry. The association has more than doubled its membership in the past five years, a testament to the widespread interest in this burgeoning market segment.

For the first time since 1995, IGLTA has a lesbian at the helm: Tanya Churchmuch, the manager of international media relations for Tourisme Montréal and founder of the lesbian travel website Girlports, will serve as Board Chair.

"It's an honor to lead the IGLTA board at a time when the organization is experiencing unprecedented growth around the world," says Churchmuch, who is only the third woman to lead IGLTA's board since the association was founded in 1983. "I think you'll see the association's profile take a big leap forward in the next few years from both a networking and educational standpoint, and I look forward to engaging more lesbians in that process."

Joining Churchmuch on the board are: Vice-Chair Theresa Belpulsi (Destination DC); Treasurer George Carrancho (American Airlines); Secretary Cordey Lash (Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas); Past Chair Bryan Herb (Zoom Vacations, Chicago); Mya Lake Reyes (Las Vegas CVA); Steve Smith (Key West Business Guild); and first-time board members Jeff Guaracino (Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation) and Darren Cooper (Out Now Consulting/Beige Magazine-UK).

In addition, Marta Dalla Chiesa (Brazil Ecojourneys) was appointed to a special one-year board position to help the board better reflect the makeup of the association's overall membership. She is based in Florianopolis, Brazil, site of the 2012 IGLTA global convention.

*Photos of individual board members and the IGLTA global convention in Antwerp available upon request. Please contact IGLTA Media Relations Manager LoAnn Halden at [loann@iglta.org](mailto:loann@iglta.org).*