

Message from the President.

I would like to first thank you for visiting the Tucson Pride website. The board of directors alongside an amazing designer have worked hard and many hours to bring the website to what it has become.

Tucson Pride has been an existence for 40 years starting in 1977. We have seen many changes throughout the many years. Growing from 200 people to over 6,000 in attendance to the well known "Pride in the Desert." We received our 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit status in 1995. In past years Tucson Pride has supported many local organizations, which for some reason has not happened for some time now. As the incoming president, I am planning on looking at everything Tucson Pride has done in the past and either make changes from that or learn from the past. I understand the perception of Tucson Pride has been negative and the community has lost faith in us.

When I took over as president in March of 2017 I was given a deficit of \$9,074.30 (SunBelt from 2015 \$3,633.20, CPA \$1,060 and AZ Cine from 2015 \$4,381.10). I was handed over a check for \$2,144 from the previous president, myself and my vice president open an account with Chase Bank. From that check, we opened a P.O. Box, paid insurance, and made payments to the outstanding debts.

With the festival coming at the end of September we are trying to make ends meet we received vendor payments and turn around and must pay \$700 in debts. I along with the board are coming up with ways to combat this issue and make Tucson Pride successful. We do have fundraisers planned to help with this. Still to pay is about \$5,000 to Tucson Parks and Rec and \$150 for the Special event liquor license. Altogether we are hoping to raise \$80,000 if not more.

If Tucson Pride is successful (I am optimistic it will be) starting 2018, Tucson Pride plans on being more out in the community and working together with our community organizations. I hope to have a full sports league with some of the proceeds going to scholarship funds and other non-profit organizations. I am very happy to have taken on the roll as President as Tucson Pride thought it may be challenging and time consuming I am ready for it and hope we as a community will be working together more.

About me:

I was born and raised here in Tucson and glad to call Tucson my home. I am an alumnus of the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in the field of finance. I work part time in the public safety field. I married my husband Robert in May of 2017 and we have two wonderful teenagers we took in as foster kids after a year were granted legal guardianship. When I am not working on Tucson Pride we like to take long drives, hang out with friends or just relax at home and make dinner together. If you see me out and about say hi let me know what we can do for you or just have a chat

Thank you,

James West – President