

Official Statements of NLA: International and NLA: Indianapolis

Statement of Purpose

To establish and maintain a communication, information, education, and support network for members of the Leather/SM/Fetish community in Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and the surrounding territory.

To promote, with power and pride, the right of all adults to engage in Safe, Sane, and Consensual sexual expression, including support for the decriminalization of such acts between consenting adults.

To facilitate political activism, visibility, and education aimed at the eradication of stereotypical beliefs, misconceptions, and media misrepresentations about the Leather/SM/Fetish family in the community at large.

To provide, through our publications, educational material, and conferences, a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints, and practices of a diverse network of people.

To build, strengthen, and defend individuals, organizations, publications, and businesses within our community against threats to our freedom of expression, freedom of the press, right of free association, and right to equal protection under the law.

To develop an outreach to all men, women, people of color, transgendered persons, the physically challenged, and all others who traditionally have been discriminated against or who are poorly represented within the Leather/SM/Fetish community.

To facilitate fund raising for deserving projects, organizations, defense funds, and/or charities which have given direct service to the Leather/SM/Fetish community.

To preserve a record of our history, traditions, and culture.

Statement on Domestic Violence

The National Leather Association-International calls on the Leather/SM/Fetish community to take the lead in reducing domestic violence through education. No group is free of domestic violence, assault, or abuse; However, fear, denial and lack of knowledge have slowed public response to this serious social problem. The NLA-I is committed to reducing this violence by attempting:

- a. To show that community action can reduce violence.
- b. To hold offenders/abusers accountable for choosing to be violent.
- c. To encourage victims to take legal action against the offender/abuser.
- d. To use drugs or alcohol as an excuse for domestic violence, assault, or abuse, is unacceptable. To encourage the offender/abuser to seek treatment and the victim to seek support.
- e. To listen and support those who have the courage to tell us ... to help them end their shame and isolation.
- f. To educate the legal and social service system about the difference between consensual SM and domestic violence, assault, and abuse, and to encourage their appropriate intervention.
- g. To take the responsibility of educating our community about the forms of domestic violence, assault, and abuse, its extent and severity.
- h. To promote information about where to go for help.

Domestic violence takes many forms: physical violence, assault, isolation, out right or subtle psychological and emotional abuse, economic control, sexual assault and abuse as well as the destruction of personal property.

Non-consensual manipulation and assault are not part of SM. The NLA-I advocates relationships based on personal responsibility, honesty and integrity...in which power and pleasure is derived from mutual respect.

National Leather Association – Indianapolis, Individual Membership/Supporter Application

Name you would like to appear on membership card: _____

Full Legal Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Alt. Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____ Gender (Optional): Male Female Transgender Other

Orientation (Optional): Gay/Lesbian Heterosexual Bisexual Pansexual Other

Membership Type:

New Member: To become a member of the Indianapolis Chapter, you must also apply to NLA:International. Annual dues are \$20 each, totaling \$40 annually. If you are already a member of International, then please remit only \$20 and note your International membership number here:

Please circle one: Supporter \$10 Chapter renewal \$20 International renewal \$20 Chapter & International renewal \$40

NLA:Indianapolis Supporter: As a supporter (vs. member) of NLA:Indianapolis, you will have the right to attend all NLA:Indianapolis events, including those reserved for members only. You must, however, pay the non-member admittance fee. You will not receive an NLA patch or pin, nor will you be eligible to vote or hold an office. You will be subscribed to our on-line e-mail group and will receive all club publications. You do not need to join NLA:International in order to become a supporter of NLA:Indianapolis. We ask a nominal \$10 annual donation to become a NLA:Indianapolis Supporter.

Areas of Interest: As NLA:Indianapolis re-forms please give us some ideas for activities and events you would like to see.

If you would like to donate to the general operating fund of NLA:Indianapolis, then please enter an amount here, and include it with your application. \$ _____

I have read the NLA-Indianapolis Mission Statement and By-Laws. I agree with the goals of NLA:International and NLA:Indianapolis and wish to become a member, supporting the National Leather Association in its efforts of activism, concern, education, and public service. I understand that information on this form will be handled according to confidentiality rules set forth in the By Laws. I attest, with my signature, that I am at least 21 years of age.

Legal Signature: _____ Date _____

Printed Name: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check or money order, in U.S. Funds, payable to: NLA: Indianapolis. Mail the completed membership application and payment to:

NLA: Indianapolis, PO Box 971, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0971

