

*A Celebration of Courage: The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) Human Rights Awards*

Remarks delivered by Dorothy Sander, Special Recognition Honoree

Wow. Thank you so much for your support and your acknowledgement for what I've been doing for a very long time. And thanks to my good buddy, Todd Larson, for all those accolades.

As my friends know, I've been on many boards over the last three decades; and most of the non-profit boards I sat on were gay and lesbian organizations. I believe that Board work is another form of activism. It's a way to help lead the charge, and help lead the change to assist those activists who are on the ground, fighting everyday for our rights.

I got to do what I enjoy - thinking, strategizing and then getting things done. IGLHRC was the first international non-profit board I sat on.

Equality is an issue everywhere; it's an issue in almost every country in the world, not just here in the USA, although we are way ahead of most countries. But I soon learned that gaining our rights in other countries was connected to gaining our rights here in the USA, and vice versa. It is not a coincidence that shortly after IGLHRC was supported by US Ambassador Rice and Hillary Clinton's State Department for our new UN consultative status that the Obama Administration started it's *evolving* - seeing that all of us deserve real equality.

I'd like to thank the International Gay and Lesbian Human rights Commission and all our supporters for this most prestigious award and also my friends and families who are here tonight to share in my celebration, including my partner, Rain and my sister, Deb, and my dad - thanks Dad for doing a great job.