

Our Current Organization – October 2025

Founding Board Members

Out in Alaska is chaired by a group of committed members of the Alaska LGBT community. Board members Gayle Schuh and Julie Schmidt, retired educators, moved to Anchorage twenty years ago. They are energetic volunteers for nonprofit LGBT community groups, and they founded and operate the *Alaska Rainbow Elders* for LGBT Seniors. Board president Fred Traber and Secretary-Treasurer Larry Snider have lived in Anchorage since the mid-1970s. Each has rich experience in nonprofit organization and corporate administration. The corporation's vice president, Mark Stevenson, came to Alaska twenty years ago with the oil industry. Over the years, Mark has been active in the LGBT Community, and he lends his technical expertise to the corporation.

Advisor – David Reamer

The *Out in Alaska* Board has been extremely fortunate to associate with David Reamer as our advisor to assist with our planning. An Alaskan resident, David is an academic and public historian interested in the intersections of community development and social justice. He was the co-2023 Alaska Historian of the Year and author of the weekly "Histories of Alaska" series for the Anchorage Daily News. He is also the co-author of the 2022 *Black Lives in Alaska: A History of African Americans in the Far Northwest*.

Our status as an independent archive enables us to make our collections highly accessible to the public. David Reamer's assistance to the *Out in Alaska* Board and volunteers helps make that possible. That includes establishing standards and procedures for in-person interviews, legal processes such as Deeds of Gift, Take-down Notice and Policy, and designing the curriculum for teaching volunteers to conduct the in-person interviews.

Community Member Assistance

The Board's work with the *Out in Alaska* project requires a broad reach. To ensure that the project closely reflects our Community, we have enlisted the help of members of Alaska's LGBT Community, as well as Community allies and supporters to 1) conduct fundraising, 2) recruit and train volunteer interviewers, 3) maintain and update the website, 4) solicit and maintain a register of Community members who are willing to sit for interviews and be part of the project, 5) schedule and conduct in-person interviews and follow-up discussions with interviewees, 6) promote community and public awareness of the program and its attributes, 7) photograph or scan important memorabilia, 8) research and document Alaska archives like the University of Alaska

Anchorage, 9) trace the whereabouts of former Alaskan LGBT residents, including researching obituaries.

Professional Court Reporters for oral history transcription

Out in Alaska has established a relationship with a professional court reporting service to ensure the accuracy of transcriptions of the in-person interviews. Recognizing the importance of the project, they have agreed to provide their services at a reduced billing rate.

Professional Website Design and Management

We are also fortunate to have the committed assistance of a professional to design and maintain our website. We have chosen to use <https://www.outinalaska.org/> as the single vehicle to reach people interested in learning the history of LGBT life in Alaska.