the Best of the LGBT Carolinas

Throughout April and the first week of May, *qnotes* readers had the chance to submit their ballots in a contest juding their favorite bars and clubs, restaurants and eateries, coffee shops and cafés, community organizations and leaders and more.

After more than 300 submitted ballots, our readers have spoken!

Carolinas-Wide

Best gay club/bar in the Carolinas

Readers' pick: Sabrina Love's Night Owls
Honorable mention: The Scorpio
Only four votes separated Sabrina Love's
Night Owls and The Scorpio. It was a tight
race, indeed!

Best lesbian club/bar in the Carolinas Readers' pick: Hartigan's Irish Pub

Best straight, but LGBT-friendly club/bar in the Carolinas

Readers' pick: Art Bar

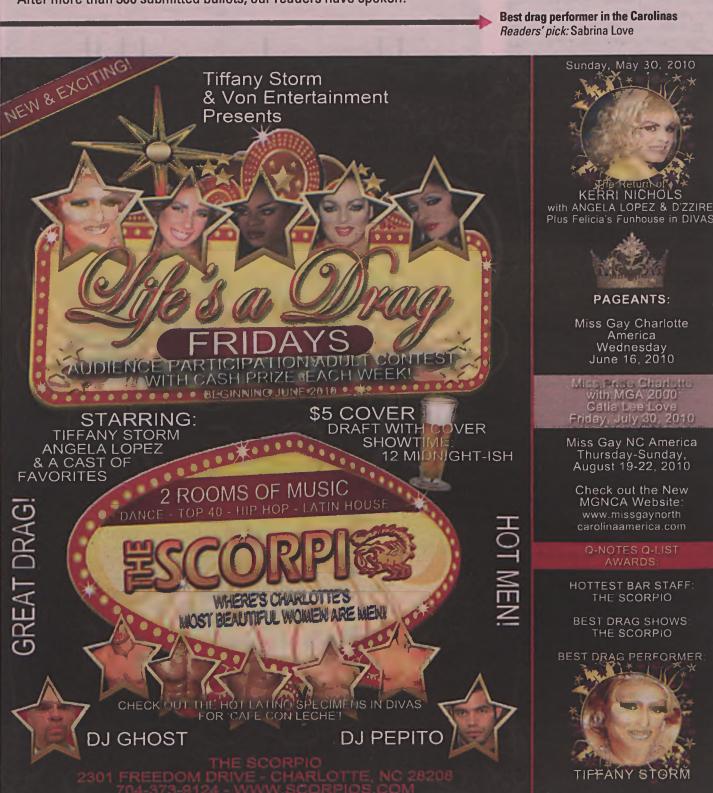
Club/bar with the best drink value
Readers' pick: Sabrina Love's Night Owls

Club/bar with the hottest staff in the Carolinas

Readers' pick: The Scorpio

Club/bar with the best drag show in the Carolinas

Readers' pick: The Scorpio



Best LGBT non-profit organization in North Carolina

Readers' pick: Equality North Carolina
Honorable mention: Regional AIDS Interfaith
Network (RAIN)

This contest was among the tightest this year. Equality North Carolina won out over RAIN by one vote. Whew. It was down to the wire on this one.

Best LGBT non-profit organization in South Carolina
Readers' pick: SC Pride Movement

Best AIDS service organization in North Carolina

Readers' pick: Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN)

Best AIDS service organization in South Carolina

Readers' pick: Palmetto AIDS Life Support System (PALSS)

Carolinas organization with most effective grassroots advocacy

Readers' pick: Equality North Carolina

Best LGBT leader (female) in the Carolinas Readers' pick: Tamera Tedder Honorable mention: Lin Orndorf Yet another tight race. Again, only one vote separated Tedder, readers' pick, from Stereotypd editor Lin Orndorf.

Best LGBT leader (male) in the Carolinas Readers' pick: Ricky Burns II Honorable mention: Ian Palmquist

An icon in the Charlotte nightlife scene, Burns can be found working at The Scorpio or at Sabrina Love's Night Owls. Burns — who, with Love, recently bought Night Owls — deserves props for his ability to turn out the vote. Our editor tips his hat to Burns' runner-up, Equality North Carolina Executive Director Ian Palmquist.

Best LGBT youth leader (under 30) in the Carolinas

Readers' pick: Ricky Burns II
Honorable mention: Ryan Wilson
Again, Burns proves himself a vote-getter.
His runner-up in this race is former SC Pride
Movement president Ryan Wilson.

Best Carolinas LGBT elected official/politician

Readers' pick: Mark Kleinschmidt Honorable mention: Julia Boseman, Chris Cole.

Kleinschmidt, mayor of Chapel Hill, was quite a popular guy in our QList this year — so was soon-to-be former state Sen. Boseman, Kleinschmidt's runner-up. Cole, the Libertarian Party candidate in North Carolina's 2008 Senate race, also performed well.

Best Pride celebration in the Carolinas

Readers' pick: Pride Charlotte
Honorable mention: NC Pride
In another tight, down-to-the wire contest,
readers chose Pride Charlotte over NC Pride
by a single vote.

Best locally-owned, LGBT-specific store Readers' pick: White Rabbit

Best locally-owned, LGBT-friendly specialty store

Readers' pick: Hamilton Hill Honorable mention: Paper Skyscraper

Best LGBT-friendly, adult-oriented store Readers' pick: White Rabbit