



Q MINNESOTA — MANAGING FOUNDER BIOS

August 2026

BARRY LEAVITT, Vice President of Sales and Events, Q Minnesota

Barry Leavitt is the vice president of sales and events for Q Minnesota and a co-founder of Gateway Media LLC.

From 1999 to 2026, Leavitt oversaw advertising sales, sponsorships and events for Lavender, an LGBTQ+ publication and website. Under his direction, Lavender's sales helped make it one of the largest LGBTQ+ magazines in the country, and its Pride issue was annually the largest Pride publication in the country. Leavitt also helped create numerous events for Lavender, each providing another opportunity to bring the community together.

"I'm excited to help build Q Minnesota into something the entire community reads with pride. We're building Q Minnesota for our community because the community deserves to see itself clearly — not flattened into one story, but shown in all the ways it actually shows up."

— Barry Leavitt, vice president of sales and events

Leavitt has been involved in Minnesota's LGBTQ+ community for more than 35 years, including two terms on the board of Quorum, the local LGBTQ+ chamber of commerce; one term on the board of Hope House, an adult foster care home for people living with HIV/AIDS; and executive director of the 1996 Gay Softball World Series, the largest annually held LGBTQ+ sporting event in the country.

A transplant from Sharon, Massachusetts, Leavitt now resides in Robbinsdale. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with friends, checking out the vibrant food scene, traveling and attending theater and sporting events.

NELL GELHAUS, Vice President of Digital Content and Marketing, Q Minnesota

Nell Gelhaus is the vice president of digital content and marketing for Q Minnesota and a co-founder of Gateway Media LLC.

From 2014 to 2016, she wrote for Lavender Magazine, where her column "Playing for the Other Team" earned three Silver Awards from the Minnesota Magazine & Publishing Association. She is the founder of In-Haus Digital Marketing, an SEO and content strategy practice, and previously managed local SEO at Best Buy, leading organic search strategy for more than 2,000 store locations.

Earlier, in Las Vegas, Gelhaus co-chaired communication and marketing for EQUAL, Caesars Entertainment's LGBTQ+ employee resource group, and served as co-chair for diversity on the Human Rights Campaign's Las Vegas steering committee.

Gelhaus holds a bachelor's degree in musical theatre performance and a master's degree in music from Illinois State University, and lives in North Branch with her three sons.

"The stories our community wants told aren't often the ones that get told. I want Q Minnesota to be where those stories live — and where anyone who goes looking finds themselves in it."

— Nell Gelhaus, vice president of digital content and marketing



ANDY LIEN, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher, Q Minnesota

Andy Lien is the editor-in-chief and publisher of Q Minnesota and a co-founder of Gateway Media LLC.

From 2011 to 2018, Lien ran the full editorial operation of Lavender Magazine, Minnesota's biweekly LGBTQ+ publication and website. She shaped 180 issues, wrote more than 300 articles and led the team to win 18 Minnesota Magazine & Publishing Association awards, capped by Lavender's recognition as the association's 2016 Magazine of the Year.

After Lavender, she spent six years as editorial director of consumer publishing at the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, shaping content on mental and behavioral health, wellness and recovery, with a particular focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. There, Lien was fortunate to work alongside a talented group of writers and editors, developing books, app content, educational material and a podcast — "Recovery Road."

Across her career, Lien has built a reputation for connecting with compassion — pulling together ideas, people and communities, and linking them to the systems meant to serve them. That instinct, honed through various industries and methods, has prepared her to guide both the content and the people of Q Minnesota, for a community that deserves nothing less.

Lien holds a degree in communications and women's, gender and sexuality studies from Macalester College. She lives in rural Stillwater in a multigenerational household, including a fluffy dog named Griffin, and is also fledgling ceramicist. She is the founder of Marsh Press and her writing can be found at remappingmyself.substack.com.