

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

Vol. 13 No. 10 - October 2001

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The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complementary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member.

News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to the Club before the end of each month. The e-mail address is:

ccnl@tgender.net

Please specify in the subject field that this is an article for the newsletter.

President's Corner

-Tina

Hello ladies, I am so glad to see you all again and communicate with you and tell you we are having our Halloween party this month and if you come, you can come in costume or as a woman...we will have a blast. Hope you can make it. Next month there is no social meeting, but please plan on coming to our Christmas party on December 1st. I would like everyone that plans on coming to be sure to notify me either by phone, or e-mail and let me know before the end of November, so we know how much food to buy. Cost is very reasonable...only \$10.00 for you and \$5.00 for your guest. But please let us know real soon. The food is going to be prepared by a couple of great chefs - Dianna Mills and her spouse. Last year it was mouth-watering good, and this year we expect it to be equally as great. We will have a couple of guests there as well. ! And I have a few surprises too. We are a strong club and I want to see us stay that way...we need you to get involved in the club, by coming to the meetings when you can. We need each other and should stick together. Hope to see you real soon.

Love, Tina

Meeting notes

Barb Canter-Frech and Dawn Boyd of Mary Kay were kind enough to demonstrate makeup techniques, discuss methods to transform the face utilizing makeup, and the use of color to bring out a girl's best look. Much thanks to them for a wonderful meeting and a great deal of information.

Newsletter Editor Needed!!!

We need a new editor for the newsletter!!!

We need a permanent person to take over this important responsibility. Any volunteers should contact Tina.

Valley Gems Meeting

This is a reminder to let you know that the Valley Gems meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly... News from the TG front

Local Columbus Activist Honored

Motorola, IBM, Kodak, Avaya, Disney World Honored for LGBT Workplace Achievements

'Outie' Awards to be presented at the Out & Equal Workplace Summit in Cincinnati. Motorola and IBM, along with individuals and groups from Kodak, Avaya and Walt Disney World have selected from among nearly 50 nominees to receive Out & Equal Workplace Advocates' 'Outie' awards for efforts to make workplaces safe and equitable for LGBT employees. The 'Outies' will be awarded during the Out & Equal Workplace Summit, which is expected to attract more than 500 people who advocate for LGBT equity in the workplace to the greater Cincinnati area Oct. 5-7.

The Significant Achievement Award for a company that has made the most significant progress toward LGBT equality in the past year goes to

Motorola, Inc. IBM has been given the Workplace Excellence Award for companies that have historically supported LGBT employees. Cathy Brill and Lisa Vitale of Kodak will be given the Champion Award honoring straight allies who have played a pivotal role in championing equal treatment of LGBT employees. **Mary Ann Horton of Avaya will receive the Trailblazer Award for an LGBT person who has made a significant contribution to advancing workplace equity.**

The 'Outie' for Employee Resource Group of the Year goes to PRIDE at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Motorola was nominated by its Gay and Lesbian Business Council, one of five officially sanctioned employee associations formed by the company in 2000 to support various ethnic and cultural groups. Motorola's award recognizes such achievements as the inclusion of same sex domestic partnership benefits in the standard benefit package, allowing same sex partner beneficiaries for retirement plans, extending travel discount benefits to same sex partners, and recognizing the needs of same sex partners when hiring and relocating new employees.

IBM has included sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy since 1984 and offered domestic benefits in 1997. IBM has actively tracked and encouraged its gay and lesbian executives, sponsoring both internal and external leadership development activities. The company also supports a mentoring program for gay and lesbian employees. IBM has also provided much support to LGBT community organizations and recently created a full time LGBT sales and talent team to focus on selling to and recruiting from the LGBT community. Brill and Vitale have both been exceptionally supportive of the LGBT community.

Kodak's Lambda Network employee resource group for LGBTs. Brill, a human resources director, was responsible for giving Lambda a key role in the Culture Change Initiative she led at Kodak Park. Vitale, the first non-gay activist in the Lambda Network, has been an integral part of the group since 1994.

A transgender activist who has been involved in a variety of causes and organizations in support of the LGBT community, Horton is being honored for successfully getting transgendered employees protected in the Lucent Technologies, Avaya and Agere nondiscrimination policy, leading the effort to ensure that medical benefits for transsexuals were covered by the Lucent and Avaya health plans, and leading a forum called Transgender at Work to provide information and advocacy to help employers and employees improve the workplace environment for transgendered employees.

PRIDE is being honored for its outreach to co-workers at Walt Disney World through such diverse activities as participation in a talent show, development of HIV/AIDS awareness sessions, display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and development of awareness sessions during June Pride Month that reached 1500 employees. The group also successfully lobbied for a change in the way family passes were provided to employees, making it both inclusive and confidential.

Wednesday, September 05, 2001

Oregon transgendered woman killed

Investigators in Oregon say a 28-year-old Aloha, Ore., transsexual has been killed because she identified as a woman. The body of Lorenzo "Loni Kai" Igisaiar Okaruru was found shortly before 8 a.m. Sunday in a field near the Portland suburb. Okaruru had been bludgeoned with a blunt instrument at a different location and dumped in the field, police said. "Based on the investigation and evidence we have at this point, we believe that [she] was killed because of [her] sexual orientation or gender identification," said Mike O'Connell, a Washington County, Ore., detective.

Okaruru carried an Oregon identification card that listed her gender as female, although she was biologically a male. The detectives said relatives referred to Okaruru as a woman, and young cousins called her their aunt. Okaruru used the women's rest rooms when she worked at Epson about a year ago as an assembly and quality control specialist, the detectives said. Investigators said Okaruru had been assaulted previously because she acted and dressed

like a woman. The incidents weren't reported to police, but family and friends of the victim told the detectives that Okaruru had been beaten up in Portland and in Washington County. "We have no idea what happened. As far as we knew, Loni was a really good guy," said Martin Nepaial, husband of Okaruru's cousin. "She always made us laugh when we are down."

Washington County detectives said it is likely the killer picked up Okaruru walking along Southwest Tualatin Valley Highway, thought she was a biological woman, and became enraged when he found out otherwise. Okaruru, who was 5 foot 9 and weighed 130 pounds, was wearing acid-washed designer women's jeans, a gray sweatshirt, and white sneakers. Okaruru's fingernails were painted dark green, and her long, thick dark hair was tinted red. About 3:30 a.m. Okaruru flagged down a Beaverton police car on Tualatin Valley Highway near Murray Road and asked for a ride home. Officer Brandon Herring thought Okaruru, who spoke with a thick accent, wanted to go to Cornelius, Ore., rather than Cornelius Pass Road, so he offered to call a cab or friends to pick her up. Okaruru declined, saying a cab cost too much and it was too late to bother anyone, and she continued walking west. Detectives said they have talked to one man who met Okaruru at a convenience store a few months ago. They struck up a conversation, exchanged phone numbers, and later went on a date. "He touched her through her clothes, found out she was a man, and kicked her out of his car right there," O'Connell said. "I think that is what happened here, but it didn't end quite so nicely."

END

SEX CHANGE A SCHOOL ISSUE

Some seek ouster of transgendered Wilmette educator

By Lisa Black, Tribune staff reporter

September 13, 2001

Chicago Tribune,
435 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60611
(Fax: 312-222-2598) (E-Mail: ctc-tribletter@tribune.com)

<http://chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0109130021sep13.story>

Parents disturbed about the sex change of a Wilmette school principal met Wednesday night to organize a petition drive to ask the Avoca School District 37 board to reconsider its decision to retain the administrator.

About 35 people, most parents of pupils at Marie Murphy Middle School, gathered at the Northfield Community Center. The petitions are to be presented to the school board Sept. 20.

The parents said they are concerned about the effect Principal Deanna Reed is having on their children during the pupils' stage of puberty.

Reed, who ended the last school year as a man, Donald Reed, is a tenured employee who has been principal of the middle school for 12 years.

Parent John Regan organized the meeting and said he has been researching the topic since the district learned of Reed's gender change two weeks before the start of school.

Regan said he believes the Wilmette school is the first nationally to have a transgendered principal. Board members could not be reached for comment. The protesting parents said they have written a letter to be sent to all district residents. The letter states, in part: "While acknowledging Dr. Reed's right to control her own body, we believe that the welfare of the district's children has not been adequately balanced against this employee's preference to remain as school principal, a public position within our community and an authority figure of importance in our children's lives. "...Our children have become unwitting subjects in a school-sponsored experiment. Since we are the first school in U.S. history to have a transgendered principal, there is no empirical data available to prove that this action is not harmful to our children. The effects of this decision may not be felt for years. Even if one child is psychologically harmed, that is one child too many."

Parent Doug Schaffer said Reed is "doing something that is very much against many people's beliefs and feelings. Is that the sort of person you want as a leader for our children?"

The letter also questions the school board's decision to hire an administrator, paid \$80,000 annually, to serve as a buffer between pupils

and Reed. Mimi Kravitz Omilinsky, a private clinical social worker in Northfield who works with adolescents, said children may be harmed more by the negative attitudes, however. "This is really a sexual identity situation where someone really felt they were in the wrong body," said Omilinsky, who said the principal has come up in discussions she has had with pupils at the school. "Kids can be helped to understand that this is a huge decision. For someone to undergo a gender reassignment, it's something they have to live. They have to go through counseling. It's not just a decision they can make and have it done. "The danger is that there's a lot of hidden and not-so-hidden prejudice and phobia of what this is. That is something to be very aware of," Omilinsky said.

Parents at the meeting said their children were uncomfortable with Reed. One pupil wanted to know if the principal would use the girl's restroom, a parent said. "Our children are afraid," said Ellen Greenwald. "They're told if they laugh or make any comments, they will be disciplined. I said [to administrators] that if my child is disciplined, I will sue the school district."

Upcoming Meetings

October 2001

12 - Crystal Club business meeting

27 - Crystal Club Halloween Party

Come in a costume or not – always a good time.

December 2001

1 - Crystal Club Christmas Party

Beauty Secrets By Vicki P.

Have a beauty secret? A tip for the rest of the group? Something that speeds up the transformation? A good place to go for clothes or services? E-Mail the news editor at ccnl@tgender.net to have your tip included in next month's newsletter.

Reading Material

Editors Note – This speech has become very important to me in the past weeks. I keep a copy in my wallet and read it frequently. Since the beginning of this nation, the price of freedom has been paid in blood – because average citizens were willing to stand up, take a position when something was wrong, and be willing to back it up, no matter what the cost.

President's Remarks at National Day of Prayer and Remembrance

The National Cathedral

Washington, D.C.

1:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: We are here in the middle hour of our grief. So many have suffered so great a loss, and today we express our nation's sorrow. We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead, and for those who love them.

On Tuesday, our country was attacked with deliberate and massive cruelty. We have seen the images of fire and ashes, and bent steel.

Now come the names, the list of casualties we are only beginning to read. They are the names of men and women who began their day at a desk or in an airport, busy with life. They are the names of people who faced death, and in their last moments called home to say, be brave, and I love you.

They are the names of passengers who defied their murderers, and prevented the murder of others on the ground. They are the names of men and women who wore the uniform of the United States, and died at their posts.

They are the names of rescuers, the ones whom death found running up the stairs and into the fires to help others. We will read all these names. We will linger over them, and learn their stories, and many Americans will weep.

To the children and parents and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the nation. And I assure you, you are not alone.

Just three days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil.

War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing.

Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed, and lead us to pray. In many of our prayers this week, there is a searching, and an honesty. At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Tuesday, a woman said, "I prayed to God to give us a sign that He is still here." Others have prayed for the same, searching hospital to hospital, carrying pictures of those still missing.

God's signs are not always the ones we look for. We learn in tragedy that his purposes are not always our own. Yet the prayers of private suffering, whether in our homes or in this great cathedral, are known and heard, and understood.

There are prayers that help us last through the day, or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers, that give us strength for the journey. And there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own.

This world He created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end. And the Lord of life holds all who die, and all who mourn.

It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves. This is true of a nation as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous and kind, resourceful and brave. We see our national character in rescuers working past exhaustion; in long lines of blood donors; in thousands of citizens who have asked to work and serve in any way possible.

And we have seen our national character in eloquent acts of sacrifice. Inside the World Trade Center, one man who could have saved himself stayed until the end at the side of his quadriplegic friend. A beloved priest died giving the last rites to a firefighter. Two office workers, finding a disabled stranger, carried her down sixty-eight floors to safety. A group of men drove through the night from Dallas to Washington to bring skin grafts for burn victims.

In these acts, and in many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another, and an abiding love for our country. Today, we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity. This is a unity of every faith, and every background.

It has joined together political parties in both houses of Congress. It is evident in services of prayer and candlelight vigils, and American flags, which are displayed in pride, and wave in defiance.

Our unity is a kinship of grief, and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extending across the world.

America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America, because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.

On this national day of prayer and remembrance, we ask almighty God to watch over our nation, and grant us patience and resolve in all that is to come. We pray that He will comfort and console those who now walk in sorrow. We thank Him for each life we now must mourn, and the promise of a life to come.

As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, can separate us from God's love. May He bless the souls of the departed. May He comfort our own. And may He always guide our country.

God bless America.

The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

Our Purpose

The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

What to Expect at a Meeting

Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too. Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings.

You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn't a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you.

We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply "women and men"). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don't need to exasperate the feelings of people who are already nervous!

You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues

One year membership, includes newsletter	\$42
Newsletter subscription only	\$18
Meeting Fees:	
First Timer	Free
Member (of any T group)	\$10
Member and Partner	\$15
Non-Member	\$20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information

Postal Mail:

The Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers:

(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:

cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

Contact Policy

All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.

Meeting Dates and Times

Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30 p.m. (for those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually center around a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

A business meeting is held on the second Friday of the month. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club's business is addressed, this meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for "real world" issues!

During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.