

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 13 No. 9 - September 2001

Current Officers

President - Tina
Vice President - Valerie
Treasurer - Dianna Mills
Secretary - Jenifer
Newsletter Editor(s) - Open
Meeting Coordinator - Group
Screening Officer(s)
 Internet - Rachel
 Phone - Tina
Web Mistress - Mary Ann
 Assistant - Nikki
Librarian - Valerie

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.

One of our greatest successes comes after the greatest disappointments. I mentioned at the last meeting about buying an Indiana Lottery ticket, and said if I win I was going to give One Million dollars to the club-guess what I lost but I guess that means something is going to change from us soon. Nothing is carved in stone and you can change anything you like, if you want it bad enough. I want to achieve success for this club so we can be even bigger and better than any transgender club in the country. I think we are one of the best and I hope you think so too.

We have a picnic coming up in September and a Halloween party in October and a huge Christmas party planned for December 1st. I hope you all make your reservations and come to it. We had a fine meal last year and you can expect a great one this year too.

Please try to come to as many of the upcoming meetings so you will feel a part of us, as we want to be a part of your life the transgender community.

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

Love, Tina

President's Corner

-Tina

Meeting notes

Colleen Marshall was the guest speaker at the August meeting. Colleen has been an active communicator of issues related to the GLBT element of the Columbus area. She gave a frank talk about the media and the transgender community. Much thanks for an informative and educational discussion!

Newsletter Editor Needed!!!

As many of you are aware, our former newsletter editor (Angie Bolin) had to step down from her position. Angie had lost her employment in the recent economic downturn and was unable to find work in the Columbus area. She has relocated to Kansas and is doing well. HOWEVER-----

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

Sacramento, Ca

On January 29th, 2001 in Superior Court of Sacramento, an order was issued requiring Medi-Cal to pay for sex reassignment surgery

for a person diagnosed with the condition known as Gender Identity Disorder, type transsexual. The court also ordered that the California Department of Health Services, which administers the Medi-Cal program, to consider each request for sex reassignment surgery on an individual basis and to cease its practice of routinely denying all such requests. The ruling requires that; if a person on Medi-Cal has been diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder, and sex reassignment surgery is determined to be medically necessary by the patient's physician, in keeping with the established Standards of Care, Medi-Cal must by law authorize payment for the surgery. This decision resulted from a Writ of Mandate, brought by a public interest law firm on behalf of a transsexual.

The Judge noted that the prevailing medical opinion is that Gender Identity Disorder, or Gender Dysphoria, is a medical condition listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV).

(Note: We find that the condition is also listed in the International Classification of Diseases as item F60, Transsexualism. This document is issued by the World Health Organization, an agency of the United Nations.) The judge also noted that the prevailing opinion among doctors is that the surgery is an appropriate treatment for transsexuals.

Gender Identity Disorder is a condition in which a person's sex is different than his or her gender. Sex is external and physical. Gender is internal and psychological. Sex has to do with physical sexual attributes. Gender has to do with whether a person perceives his or her core identity as either male or female. When a person's primary sexual characteristics don't match his or her gender, and the person pursues sex reassignment as outlined by the Standards of Care, the diagnosis is the condition called Gender Identity Disorder, transsexual. Sex reassignment surgery, or gender confirmation surgery, is reconstruction surgery to make the primary sex characteristics of the patient's body match his or her gender.

Medi-Cal is a program that pays for health care for people with limited income and the disabled. It is a federally funded program that is called Medicaid in other states. Some transsexuals have significant disabilities unrelated to this condition. Transsexuals frequently have great difficulty in finding good well paying employment as a result of discrimination that they face in the job market. This is compounded by the psychological trauma created by the conflict between their core gender identity and their physical sex characteristics. As a result, many of them have limited income and must depend on Medi-Cal for their medical care.

Evidently, Medi-Cal has been routinely refusing treatment authorization requests for sex reassignment surgery. The judge ruled that all treatments determined medically necessary by a patient's physician (psychological evaluation, hormone therapy and sex

reassignment surgery) are, by established law, included in Medi-Cal coverage. Hopefully this unlawful policy will now end and qualified transsexuals receiving Medi-Cal will be able to get this vital surgery.

We at Lambda Letters applaud the court decision and we hope this will be helpful to those transsexuals who are recipients of Medi-Cal.

The Lambda Letters Project is California's oldest statewide organization lobbying on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender/transsexual community. It helps people write letters to elected officials on these issues and also on HIV/AIDS, issues of concern to people of color and women's issues. It delivers well over 100,000 such letters each year.

People wishing further information on the project may visit the Project's web page at www.lambdaleters.org, send a request to LambdaLP@aol.com or call (916) 728-1261.

(Okemos, MI)

While shopping at the Okemos Meijer store, Michigan's most prominent transsexual activist and her friend were met with a lewd and offensive slur instead of friendly service.

Recently Rachel Crandall and her roommate Raquel Gonzales, who are both transsexual, were degraded by a Meijer cashier, while in the check-out line. The cashier correctly assumed the two women were transgendered and then without provocation made the following statement, "It doesn't matter how you're dressed, I know you still have d*cks and you can f*ck your mamas."

Crandall and Gonzalez were shocked, offended and confused by the statement, but they immediately

complained about this conduct to a manager on duty. To date, Meijer officials at that store claim that they reprimanded the employee but they have refused to formally apologize to the women for the hostile and offensive behavior of the employee. "I couldn't believe my ears," said Crandall. "I was offended and angry that I would be treated this way by a Meijer employee. This kind of thing stays with you for awhile and cause a lot of emotional damage to people. Transgender people face this kind of discrimination, harassment, vandalism and violence every day. I am very fortunate she didn't turn violent."

Rachel Crandall, who is a therapist and the President of Transgender Michigan (Michigan's most visible and active Transgender support and advocacy organization) tried to remedy the situation on her own, and feels that she has been ignored by Meijer. So she contacted Triangle Foundation for assistance.

"This is contemptible and offensive, but certainly not the first time we have had this happen at a Meijer store," said Sean Kosofsky, Director of Policy and Victim Services for Triangle Foundation. Triangle Foundation is Michigan's statewide civil rights, advocacy and anti-violence organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender GLBT people. "We demand a formal apology from Meijer to Rachel and Raquel and to the entire GLBT community for what happened. We also hope Meijer employees that cannot control their personal bigotry and offensive language should not be dealing with the public. We call on all Meijer stores and all employers to prevent these incidents by making it clear to their employees that such discrimination will not be tolerated."

Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender expression is perfectly legal in Okemos and in Michigan, so Crandall and Gonzalez have no legal remedy for the discrimination. They and Triangle Foundation hope to raise awareness about legal discrimination and why it is a problem. There is a bill currently awaiting action in the Michigan legislature that would fix this gap in the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. House Bill 4661 enjoys bi-partisan support and if passed it would ban, anti-gay and anti-transgender discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, like Meijer stores, that are open to the public.

Columbus, Ohio

Agere Systems, a spin-off of Lucent Technologies, has adopted transgender-inclusive language in their nondiscrimination policy.

Agere's recently distributed EO policy reads, in part:

Equal opportunity and diversity are strategically important to Agere Systems. In addition, these principles enhance our competitive position in the global marketplace. We believe that all employees must be valued, respected, and challenged to use their talents and skills to ensure their professional growth and to provide the highest level of products and services to our customers.

Agere Systems Equal Opportunity Policy:

Prohibits discrimination or harassment based on race, color creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, sex, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, special disabled veteran status, Vietnam-era veteran status, other covered veterans, **sexual orientation, gender identity**, characteristics or expression, in any employment decision or in the administration of any personnel policy. Ensures that all policies and procedures provide every individual the opportunity to complete fairly and equitably, and participate in company sponsored programs and events.

All employees have a right to work in an environment free of discrimination, including freedom from sexual harassment or any other form of harassment.

I personally pledge my support to the objectives of affirmative action for underrepresented groups, and to maintain a workplace that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, and that is free from any form of discrimination, including sexual harassment. We must continually attract, employ, develop,

empower, and retain a competent and highly skilled workforce to ensure our continued leadership and growth.

John Dickson
President & Chief Executive Officer
July 9, 2001

Transgender at Work congratulates Agere for becoming the fifth Fortune 500 organization to include "gender identity, characteristics or expression" in their EO policy, protecting there transgender and gender variant associates!

Agere Systems is the world's No.1 provider of components for communications applications with leadership in optical components and integrated circuits. This dual capability uniquely positions Agere to deliver integrated solutions that form the building blocks for advanced wired, wireless, and optical communications networks. Agere also designs and manufactures a wide range of semiconductor solutions for communications-related devices used by consumers such as cellular phones, modems, and hard disk drives for personal computers and workstations. In addition, the company supplies complete wireless computer networking solutions through the ORiNOCO[tm] product line. More information about Agere Systems is available from its Web site at www.agere.com.

The Transgender at Work (TAW) project is a focal point for addressing workplace issues for the transgendered. TAW provides resources for innovative employers who want to set their company employment policies to help their transgendered employees to be at their most productive, without spending energy hiding an important part of them selves and pretending to be something they are not. Transgender at Work focuses on voluntary cooperation between employers and employees. While civil rights laws are important to understand, and provide useful examples of language, advocacy for laws is outside the scope of TAW.

Meet Your Officers Dianna Mills - Treasurer

I've been a member of the club for about 11 years and have been treasurer for the last three years. In the past I've been the club secretary for several years and also meeting coordinator.

The Crystal Club has helped me accept myself on a level that I could not find prior to joining. I have found that Dianna is a part of me that I can accept and enjoy.

I'm fortunate to have a wife that is accepting of Dianna and we have had some interesting times over the last 11 years. We have been to the Southern Comfort Conference

several times, to the Erie Sisters Gala Weekends several times, to Provincetown for a week of Dianna, to Niagara on the Lake for a weekend with the girls from Toronto and shopping on several occasions to the Mall of America and several other malls.

As most of you probably know, I am a cross-dresser rather than a transsexual. I feel that I have found my comfort level on the scale between male & female. If I had to choose one or the other it would have to be the male. But I am glad I don't have to make that choice. I think the club should and does give each of us the opportunity to find who we are and allow each of us to express that identity in a non-threatening environment.

The club has given me the confidence to do things I never thought were possible. For many years I imagined going into a store, trying on and buying a dress, going out into public places dressed as Dianna. My experiences have been rewarding and have not created any scenes or embarrassment.

I hope all of you find the club as rewarding as I have.

Upcoming Meetings

September 2001

- 14 - Crystal Club business meeting**
22 - Crystal Club Picnic

The annual picnic will be held outdoors (weather permitting) at the normal monthly meeting site. Additionally, representatives from Mary-Kay will be on hand to provide some example facials, and provide some tips. These ladies are trans-friendly and have a number of tricks

to improve your look. The lead representative spent several years in theater and has experience transforming the male face into a female presentation. This should be an excellent event.

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

Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Parents and Their Families
[Gigi Kaeser](#) [Kath Weston](#) (Introduction)

the pressures of homophobia. Included in the book are people from diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, representing a wide range of family structures. Together, they provide clear evidence that family roles and responsibilities need not be based on gender, and that children thrive in an atmosphere in which understanding, respect, and love transcend the prejudices of the day.



From the Publisher

This volume combines interviews and photographs to document the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents and their children. It allows all of the family members to speak candidly about their lives, their relationships, and the ways in which they have dealt with

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

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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.

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