

The Crystal Chronicle

January / February 2005

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

Current Officers

President - Rachel

Vice President - Linda

Treasurer - Tina

Secretary - Jenifer

Newsletter Editor(s) Linda

Meeting Coordinator Barbie

Screening Officer(s)

Internet - Rachel

Librarian - Jenifer

Web Mistress - Linda

Phone - Tina

Assistant - Rachel

The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club.

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

Editors Notes: The time for change is NOW. We need to join together as one GLBTA.

Add any letter you wish; but let us speak as one voice.

Double standard:

I recently went to a job help center and talked with a counselor. As I sat in the hall, I had just finished filling out all the necessary information forms. A man came out of a rear office looked around and then ask the receptionist if his 3:00 appointment had shown up. She said yes. He looked around again and called my male name. 3 women and myself were in the room. When I stood up he had a strange look on his face. I guess I wasn't what he expected to see. We went to a conference room and sat down. He first talked about my nails, complimenting me on how nice they were; then he stated that "most men have shorter nails even though some do get a manicure and use polish". I almost got up to leave, but I thought no, I need a job. He started commenting about my hair and that is when I stopped him. I told him that I need to explain something to him. I told him that I was transitioning from male to female. The look on his face was priceless. He said that he had helped a woman who looked and dressed as male find a job about a year ago. He was up-front with me and said that helping me find a job was going to be challenge and he would do his best. He explained that even though companies are not supposed to discriminate in the hiring process, they do. I agreed with him that most companies do; if they did not discriminate that I would have a job. He looked at my resume and said that it was an old style that most companies didn't use any more and gave me a book on how to write a resume and how to use key words.

Last week I noticed a job opening from a company that I had applied for last summer. They deliver and setup beds and other equipment to nursing homes. Last year while I had my face to face interview, a woman was applying for the same job I was got the job. She looked more male than I did.

Last week a different person was in charge of the hiring. A Human Resources person from the Toledo office sat in on the interview. They looked over my resume and the interview started. First they ask if I thought that I could load a bed that weighed about 250 lb. into a van. They showed me how and I loaded and unloaded it twice. Then the man from Columbus office told me that I would need to cut my hair short and that I could not ware earrings at work. I apologized for wasting their time; however,

I had a couple questions. I asked both of them; would they hire a woman for this job? They said yes. Then I ask them would she have to cut her hair and not wear earrings? They said of course not, she is a woman. The person from Toledo asks me if I was going to transition. I said yes. The other person gave him a funny look trying to understand what he was saying. He said that they had a woman who had transitioned to be a man at the Cincinnati office about 4 years ago. He told me that all final hiring decisions had to be made by their main office and that he contact me on their decision in a couple weeks.

Society accepts a woman if she wears men's clothes and has short hair. If a man wears any type of women's clothes he is looked down on or thought of as weird or perverted.

Let's get one thing straight; there is nothing inherently male or female about any one article of clothing. The design of a piece of clothing may favor one or the other; a bra definitely fits a woman better than a man but it remains nothing more than a specific configuration of cloth, metal, plastic or other material. As a culture, we have chosen to associate certain types and styles of clothing with either men or women. We have done the same thing with hair styles and makeup. There are people who feel that crossdressing is unnatural. They are right; the wearing of *any* clothing is unnatural. We have no genetic predisposition to wearing clothes. People started wearing clothing for warmth from the cold, protection from the sun, and later to cover up parts of the body their society determined should not be seen. Crossdressing is as unnatural as straight dressing. The idea of clothing and their meanings are placed upon us, and is a fabrication of society. Don't take me wrong clothes allow me accent parts of my body that I like and hide the parts I do not. I just wish society would allow me to wear the clothes that I like to wear.

I am ask a lot 'why do you like to like wearing women's clothing' I tell them that inside I am female and that society has determined what men's and women's clothes are. The old saying is true; clothes do make the man or the woman. The main reason it gives me a more complete sense of myself; I feel more like me. Sometimes there is definitely a sensual aspect to dressing in women's clothes. I like the way some women's clothes feel. A flowing skirt brushing against my legs, a silk blouse, a soft angora sweater and how the wind feels blowing against my hose covered legs. If being a woman meant that I had to be dipped in green paint because that is what woman do in our society; I guess I'd look like Kermit the frog because I feel female inside.

Men's clothing is not sensual in any way. They are functional, comfortable, and generally bland. Plain colors mainly in solid, stripes, square or some strange amoeba pattern. A few years ago men used to wear ruffled shirts, tights, knickers, wigs, heels. Prince Charles and his sons occasionally wear kilts. Many countries the men wear robes and gowns some very colorful. America still seems to be stuck in a warp of some kind. The typical business attire for a man is blue suit, white shirt, red tie and black wing tips, and if it's raining: a tan trench coat. It looks like a bunch of clones walking down the street. Women's clothes are just more fun; it allows women the freedom of self-expression that men do not have in their clothing. Women, have flexibility in dressing how they feel with choices in fabrics, color, style and accessories, Women can crossdress all the time if they wish. They buy men's jeans, shirts and sneakers, even underwear and they do it without shame or ridicule. Most of the time the female crossdresser is considered fashionable. Some of the women's fashions have even copied men's clothing tuxedo shirts and jackets, boxer shorts, and sport coats are just a few items that have been feminized. It seems clear that women wearing men's clothing (female crossdressing) is socially acceptable.

Men, do not have this freedom. Wearing any clothing associated with women is frowned upon by a male dominated society. Men wearing women's clothing is not socially acceptable mainly by MEN and therefore the male crossdresser opens himself to scorn and ridicule. We are tagged as freaks and some people immediately assumed that we are either gay or that we are just mentally disturbed which is false most of the time.

Birth certificate:

Senate Bill 37 introduced by Memphis Sen. Steve Cohen on Jan. 13, states that Tennessee is one of only three states that “refuse to allow transgendered persons the opportunity to correct their birth certificate.” That point parallels a chart on the Internet by Lambda Legal, a homosexual legal organization, which lists **Tennessee, Ohio and Idaho** as the only three states that do not permit a birth certificate change after a sex-change procedure. Cohen's bill further asserts that Tennessee is “the only state in the country with a statute specifically prohibiting the correction of sex designation on a birth certificate”. The bill proposes to amend the Tennessee Code to state: “Upon receipt of a sworn statement by a licensed physician indicating that the gender of an individual born in Tennessee has been changed by surgical procedure, the certificate of birth of the individual shall be amended to reflect the change”. “It is important for homeland security issues that people who often need birth certificates for identification, that the birth certificate's sex matches the sex that they, in fact, are,” Cohen said. He also stated, “At birth, sex is determined by physical appearance, not psychology. If the person psychologically is of a different gender and pursues sexual transgender surgery to have their physical and hormonal basis to correlate with their psychological makeup, then an amended birth certificate is appropriate, because that is their sex. Both the original birth certificate ‘which will remain unchanged’ and the amended birth certificate would be kept on file by the state, Cohen said.

Editors Notes:

Thanks to Sen. Steve Cohen for bring this bill to the floor of the senate. This is a step in the right direction because people who are transgender do not wish to deceive or mislead anyone. And to anyone that thinks that we are changing of sex to hide or mislead someone. **Live my life and then will talk.** Try living a life where you feel one way and are **forced** to dress in clothes you don't like or play and act as the wrong sex and your not allowed to express your feelings ‘crying’ because that is a sign of being weak. Try living a life of ‘not fitting in’ because feel different than the other children that are born with the same plumbing as you; then you are ridiculed, bullied, beat up or killed because you looked different, weak or acted a little different in your walk, talk etc.. Try living a life from childhood to adult hiding who you truly are inside because you're plumbing said ‘you are one sex’ but your mind says you're a different sex. Then society says you have to live your entire life in the sex that matches your plumbing. Only **three** states will not allow a person to change a birth record be who they need to be to live a ‘normal’ life. **Now here is the real problem:** If the birth record and the person that it belongs to does not match then people and the government think you are trying to hide something, or from someone. **Here is the solution:** Lets just say someone marked the wrong sex and put the wrong first name on the birth record; **‘AND JUST CHANGE IT’**. Birth records are amended in Ohio my mom lived most of her life and when she applied for SS she found her birth record had no first name; Da.

Let's hope this bill passes in Tennessee. Wake up Ohio and Idaho and put yourself in our shoes. We were born this way and in some-cases the doctors decided what we should be. If more of you were more of us, these and other laws would be changed for the betterment of everyone.

Below is a person with her opinion; I haven't found what planet she's from.

Ann Bennett, a longtime pro-family advocate in Kingsport, Tenn., told Baptist Press, To me, sex is determined by your chromosomes. Somebody who has been altered surgically and chemically really should not have their identity protected from people who might get involved emotionally with them. Our current laws should protect a person from being victimized by an emotionally needy person hiding from who they are. Bennett said, concerning the three states where birth certificates cannot be altered after sex-change operations, Bennett said, it's a surprise to me that the homosexual movement has already achieved this legislation in so many other states.

Columbus:

by Eric Resnick Gay People Chronicle, OH February 4, 2005

A bill to protect gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Ohioans from discrimination has been introduced in the Ohio House. House Bill 28 was introduced February 1 by State Rep. Dale Miller; a Democrat who represents Cleveland's west side. Miller also introduced a similar bill in 2003, the first such measure ever in the Statehouse. This bill is more comprehensive, he said, because it also applies to state boards and commissions. The measure amends all sections of the Ohio Revised Code dealing with discrimination by adding "sexual orientation" wherever other protected classes such as race, religion, and national origin are currently listed.

"Sexual orientation" is defined as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, asexuality or transgenderism, whether actual or perceived." The bill would bar discrimination in employment, housing, selling and renting, credit, financial assistance, labor organizations and public accommodations such as restaurants and hotels. Violations would be handled by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, which is also directed to work with the Department of Education to teach students about sexual orientation discrimination. The bill has ten co-sponsors in addition to Miller: Reps. Dixie Allen of Dayton, Peter Ujvagi of Toledo, Catherine Barrett of Cincinnati, Barbara Sykes of Akron, Mike Skindell of Lakewood, Dan Stewart of Columbus, Annie Key of Cleveland, Edna Brown of Toledo, Minority Leader Chris Redfern of Catawba Island Township and Assistant Minority Leader Joyce Beatty of Columbus. All are Democrats. Allen, Ujvagi, Barrett, Skindell, Stewart, Redfern, and Beatty were the co-sponsors of the 2003 bill. Miller said he's pleased to have picked up three co-sponsors. "After the publicity and the vote on the [marriage ban] amendment, I'm glad to see the increase," said Miller. "It shows that there is still some support for fairness and equality."

The 2003 bill got sponsor testimony in the State Government Committee, but went no further. The current bill is assigned to the Civil and Commercial Law Committee, which is chaired by Republican Rep. Bill Seitz of Cincinnati. Seitz sponsored the anti-gay "defense of marriage act" signed into law last year and attempted to persuade state senators to put the constitutional marriage ban amendment on the ballot on behalf of the Bush presidential campaign.

Rep. Todd Book of McDermott is the ranking Democrat on the committee. Joyce Beatty is the only committee member among the bill's co-sponsors. Miller said Seitz has said little about the bill. "He's given no indication that it will be heard," said Miller, "but he's given no indication to the contrary, either." Miller said he will push for proponent testimony in addition to sponsor testimony. Miller said the timing of the bill is important. "We're going into budget hearings," said Miller, "and the focus is going to be on economic improvement through more business activity." "I don't think we can work on growing the economy until we say everyone is a participant and everyone is welcome," said Miller. "People who work hard and play by the rules should share in the benefits. I see this as both a civil rights and an economic issue."

State Sen. Dan Brady is also planning to reintroduce his Senate version of the measure, Miller said. Brady, a Cleveland Democrat, first introduced it in 2003. Miller added that Brady has no timetable in mind. Brady is prohibited from serving past 2006 due to term limits. Miller has indicated he will seek that Senate seat.

Other states with similar anti-discrimination bills pending are Oregon, Maine, Colorado, Delaware, and Montana. Currently, 15 states and the District of Columbia include sexual orientation in their equal rights laws. Five also include transgender people.

Eleven Ohio cities have similar ordinances, covering a sixth of the state's population.

<http://www.gaypeopleschronicle.com/stories05/february/0204052.htm>

* The story above was reproduced as published

Editors Notes:

To support Ohio House Bill 28 find your representatives, write or call them: Rep. Dale Miller Cleveland's west side, Reps. Dixie Allen of Dayton, Peter Ujvagi of Toledo, Catherine Barrett of Cincinnati, Barbara Sykes of Akron, Mike Skindell of Lakewood, Dan Stewart of Columbus, Annie Key of Cleveland, Edna Brown of Toledo, Minority Leader Chris Redfern of Catawba Island Township and Assistant Minority Leader Joyce Beatty of Columbus. All are Democrats. Allen, Ujvagi, Barrett, Skindell, Stewart, Redfern, and Beatty were co-sponsors of the 2003 bill.

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, but only five include protection against discrimination based on gender identity, according to the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

Last week, the state of Illinois added gender identity to its Human Rights Code. Task Force officials said Illinois joins California, Minnesota, New Mexico and Rhode Island and more than 60 counties and cities that have similar laws in place.

Don't drink the water:

Intersex fish are back in the news. Researchers in West Virginia are trying to figure out why some Male Fish Producing Eggs. A combined state and federal agency report due out in early March should begin to explain why.

The problem seems to originate mainly in the South Branch of the Potomac, in which a decline in smallmouth bass populations on the South Branch led the state Division of Natural Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Fish Health Laboratory in Kearneysville to study the problem. Samples of smallmouth bass taken in summer 2003 and spring 2004 found the "intersex" condition in 42 to 79 percent of male fish, the highest above Petersburg, as well as near Forks of Cacapon on the Cacapon River of the Potomac. Intersex fish have previously been discovered in rivers in Colorado and Washington State. They've been studied extensively for a decade in Britain, where a third of male fish sampled in 42 rivers exhibited the same condition.

Scientists say what causes this is an endocrine disruption; a disturbance in the hormonal systems that regulates the growth and function of the reproductive system, along with all other biological processes. They speculate that many natural and synthetic substances may also be at fault. A high concentration of poultry farms in the Potomac Highlands raises some suspicion. There are so many of these chemicals that we humans are putting out There are very potent endocrine disruptors from plastics and herbicides that people routinely use in yards and elsewhere, not just agriculture, and antimicrobials in soaps and detergents. Vicki Blazer, a USGS scientist studying the problem, urged caution. I think we need to be careful before we point the finger at anyone."

Two major concerns for this area bear special attention:

Tourism could be affected. The South Branch is listed by DNR as one of the state's best smallmouth bass waters. It is also a favorite for boating, tubing and other water contact recreation.

Also at issue is the public drinking water systems for at least five West Virginia communities draw from below sites where intersex fish have been found. Contaminants not removed by those systems could potentially affect human health as well. The report due out in March may help to answer this question.

Blazer still drinks the water she's served in area restaurants; but has stopped using antimicrobials that we all use in laundry detergents and hand soaps, the herbicides we all put on our lawns

Natures Crossdressers:

Behavioral ecologist at the University of Western Ontario in Canada studied the giant Australian cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*) and determined it may be the most talented quick-change artists in the animal kingdom. Single males can adopt a sophisticated feminine appearance and change their appearance as fast as 10 times in 15 minutes. The disguise helps them get near females that are guarded by larger males. The competition between males for the females is very intense. On average, four males fight over each female, but the ratio can be as high as eleven to one. The winner of each challenge, usually a large male, guards his new mate closely. But smaller males still manage to secure about a third of all mating. There is a range of tactics from which a 'sneaker' male disguising oneself as a female. To be convincing, the mimic has to take on a mottled coloring of the female, hide some of his arms and alter the shape of the visible ones. This option includes waiting until the larger male is busy fending off a challenge; then meeting his mate under a rock as she prepares to lay an egg and then manages to fertilize the target females. Sexual mimicry is not new to the animal world. Both bluegill sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*) and red-sided garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis*) are known to make use of it, for example. But male cuttlefish are the only animals known that can turn the change in physical appearance on and off so quickly.

Hermaphrodite Dual-Colored Lobster: "One In A Few Million"

Lobster fisherman Murray Townsend was astonished when he discovered a lobster with two distinct colors in his trap. But his astonishment turned to amazement upon closer inspection. This crustacean was also two genders - a hermaphrodite.

The lobster was caught in December off the coast of Nova Scotia's Cape Sable Island. Its shell, usually a dark green hue is divided at the midline - one side is blue and the other is greenish-brown. The lobster is equipped with both male and female reproductive organs.

The ocean oddity is a first for Townsend and his crew. "I've seen lobsters of different colors, shades and with different markings, but nothing quite like this," he stated. A technician for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans said the odds of coming across such a specimen are probably one in a few million.

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Halifax has taken possession of the lobster after it was donated by I. Deveau Fisheries. The institute will observe and study the creature which is languishing in a salt-water tank. It will eventually be placed in a live exhibit.

Changing gender:

I noticed this story and thought it might help someone in their journey.

The story starts as Michael Mardel how it feels to be a transgender man. I always felt like a square peg in a round hole for as long as I could remember. I was born female, but I always knew that there was something not quite right, something I was looking for.

I became a nun in 1968 when I was 19. I thought maybe religion would be the answer to my problems. I stayed with the order for five years. Life didn't work out for me in the convent. After the convent I started all over again. And I still had all these questions; where do I want to work, what do I want to do, who do I want be with, and who am I? I went overseas for a few years, came back and became a teacher librarian. At the school there was this really nice female teacher. I was thinking "Oh wow, she's gorgeous, I must be a lesbian. At the age of 35 I decided I was a dyke, so I moved into that scene and had a wonderful time, but after nine years and two partners the feeling wasn't there anymore. I knew there was still something else to discover about myself. I thought maybe it was something spiritual or something I just couldn't figure it out what it was about me that was missing or not right. Then I met a transgender woman and I thought: "Well, they're really interesting, but I did not understand the

concept." I was in a bookshop one day and there was this book about transgender issues called 'True Selves' and I started to reading it, going: "Hmmm, this is my story as well." From then on there was no doubt, I realised I was the wrong gender. 'Hey, I'm a guy,' there was really no big fanfare, no big shock, it just made total sense. It wasn't hard for me to change and become a man; I worked out in a gym through the week. At age 48 I finally understand myself. I found what I had been searching for and it just felt right. Next, I got in touch with the gender clinic in Melbourne, and they helped me get these breasts off my body. I was absolutely sure this was what I wanted to do. My Life has been pretty much the same since I became a man. I didn't change the way that I dress that stayed the same. I'm exactly the same person inside that I used to be, the only thing that's changed is my haircut and the loss of my breasts. I'm not trying to be total male, I'm just being myself. On the internet I found a site which sold prostheses. I now buy the underwear with a pouch so I can pop the prosthesis in and get a bulge.

My friends wanted to train me to be a man, they pointed out some things I do a bit feminine. But I want to be the man that I am, I don't want to fit a stereotype and if I do things a bit feminine, well that's just me.

I've always hated my breasts and I was thrilled when I got rid of them, I'm going to get tattoos to cover the scars up. When I was 34 I had a hysterectomy because I never wanted kids. I had to wait six months and have counseling before the hysterectomy. My family has problems with the pronouns; they can't seem to say "he" when referring to me. But my mother presented me with my grandfather's cufflinks a few years ago, that was a big moment. The only thing that I miss about being a woman is the dyke friends, the intimacy that you have with other lesbians. That has all changed now because I've changed my gender. Now I say I'm bisexual, but I don't deliberately go out to fall in love with a transgender woman, it's the person I'm interested in. I don't relate to men really, there's not enough emotion.

I think I'm much more successful as a guy than as a woman, but physically I can't change the size of my hips or my hands. I take the hormones so other people can see what I know; there's a man here. I'm still looking out through the same pair of blue eyes, nothing has really changed, but what does change is your sensitivity to how people are relating to you. I haven't really thought about gender reassignment surgery. I haven't heard of anyone who's really had great success with an F-M surgery and I really don't want anyone to mess around with my waterworks. It's not going to make me feel more like a man. I'm OK with my body, I'm happy with what I've got. I wanted a flat chest, I got a flat chest, and the penis part of it is not a big deal.

Going to my school reunion as Michael was interesting. There were only a couple of people who had a problem with it. Talking about being transgender to some of the women I went to school with, it was an all-girls' school. They said "Well it just makes sense; there was just always something different about me that no one could put their finger on." I always tried to fit in and not stand-out or be different, but I knew there was a difference, I just didn't know what it was.

I can still slip into the girl-talk with them. But when they bitch about men I have a go at them.

The joy of life is that you don't know what's around the corner.

Michelle Hamer is the author of *It Couldn't Happen To Me . . . But it Did* (Lothian/GSP \$24.95).

Tax change: We need to keep an eye on this!

U S congressmen are giving Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Mark Everson until the close of business Feb. 28 to explain why the IRS granted a tax deduction for a sex change operation. "As members of the United States House of Representatives, we view this as an outrage and believe it sets a precedent that both the IRS and the American taxpayer at large will not be comfortable with," the congressmen wrote to the IRS chief.

It was widely reported in December that the IRS had granted a tax deduction to Rhiannon O'Donnabhain, who claimed her operation was medically necessary because of a diagnosed condition called "gender dysphoria."

The congressmen goes so far as to reprint for Mr. Everson a portion of a mental health manual stating that the "psychological" condition that afflicts the woman does not warrant a sex change operation. In addition, the lawmakers point out, the IRS decision to allow the deduction smacks in the face of the law-abiding tax examiner who labeled the woman's surgery "cosmetic."

"Putting this burden on the American taxpayer is unacceptable," the congressmen concluded.

We are only promised the here and now.

Live life now, with hopes for a tomorrow and no regrets of today.

--Where ever you are in your journey be comfortable with who you are.

--If you do not except yourself as you are, don't expect anyone to.

--A true friend will tell you what they think, not always what you want to hear, but maybe it's what you need to hear.

Your presence is needed at this meeting.

You are the Crystal Club.

You determine who the officers are for the next year.

You determine what the Crystal Club will do in 2005.

*** February 26, 2005 Elections 7:00 pm**

*** March 26, 2005 Regular Meeting 7:00pm**

The Crystal Chronicle Information Page

Copyright (C) May 2002 by the Crystal Club, Editor: Linda Cox. All rights reserved. Articles and information contained in The Crystal Chronicle may be reprinted by other non-profit Organizations without advanced permission provided the author and source is cited and a copy of the issue containing the reprinted material is sent to the Crystal Club within two months of publication. The opinions or statements contained in the Crystal Chronicle are those of the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the Crystal Club. Furthermore, neither the Crystal Club nor the Crystal Chronicle editor assume responsibility for any consequences resulting either directly or indirectly either from advice or from any of the material contained in this newsletter. Contributions of articles are encouraged but may be altered with the author's intent retained or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed. Contributions or comments may be electronically mailed directly to the editor at ccnl@tgender.net, or sent to the postal address.

Postal Mail: The Crystal Club att: newsletter editor PO Box 287 Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

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. **The Crystal Club is not a dating club.** 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 \$40 Newsletter subscription only \$20

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> **Newsletter editor e-mail:** ccnl@tgender.net

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 6:30p.m. (For those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually centers on a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

Business meeting: is held on the second Saturday of the month the doors open at 7:00 p.m. After the club's business is addressed, members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting this 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.