

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 15 No. 5- May 2003

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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 Column

- Nikki

Technology continues to remain a hassle for our group – no sooner did we fix the newsletter computer

and the email server went down. To those who have been trying to communicate via cc-talk – our apologies, the system is still down as of May, and we still don't have a clear timeline on a fix.

A little more successful in arranging speakers. The tentative agenda for this year is as follows. Please check the website for the latest information, or call Tina at the hotline.

May – No speakers

June – Marge Creech – Faith and the Trans Community

July – Special Surprise Guest (Still being arranged)

August – Picnic & Swap Meet

September – Multigroup meeting & Legal

Speakers

October – Halloween Party

November – No Meeting

December – Christmas Party

A note on the September meeting. While it is still in the planning stages, things are really looking good for a multigroup meeting, with attendance from many other Ohio trans-groups. We are also attempting to arrange for some legal experts to discuss the current status of the legal world relative to our community.

The Pink List has slowed down a bit this last month. Again, if you know of an organization that should be listed, please download an authorization form from the Pink List page (Adobe PDF file) and have the business owner send it in. Due to legal considerations and the desire to assure safety for our membership, we will not Pink List an establishment without this approval.

See you at a meeting soon!

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Valley Gems Meeting

The Valley Gems meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

Transgendered Community Supported by Stonewall

Stonewall is also hosting a Free Support Group, the normal meetings are at 7:00pm on the First Wednesday of the month.

This is an opportunity for members of the TG Community to come together in a Safe & Secure atmosphere to air their concerns, make new friends, as well as, have a place where they can feel free to be themselves.

Meral Crane is the facilitator of the group, she welcomes all interested people to attend.

Free Changing Room Available

Stonewall has made a room available to members of the TG Community that need a safe, free place to change. For more Information please contact Angie Wellman at 614-299-7764.

The Other Prom

The Other Prom will be held at the Wexner Jewish Center at the Ohio State University (46 East 16th Ave.) on Saturday, May 31 from 10 p.m.- 2 a.m.

While the Other Prom is free, tickets are required. Tickets are available at the OSU Multicultural Center (4th floor of the Ohio Union), Kaleidoscope Youth

Coalition (203 King Ave.), and Stonewall Columbus (1160 North High St.).

The Other Prom is sponsored by GLBT Student Services, the Multicultural Center, at OSU; Jewish Queers; FUSION; Kaleidoscope Youth Coalition; Allies for Diversity; and Interweave, the First Unitarian Universalist Church.

For more information contact:

Phone: 614-292-6200 (GLBT Student Services)

Email: fusion@osu.edu

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

**Community leaders upset with Columbus officials
Bathhouse controversy revealed city's 'false
promises,' says Stonewall's Anderson
by Eric Resnick**

Columbus--In the wake of a controversy over a gay bathhouse, the city's gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender leaders say they are displeased with Columbus elected officials, and are organizing to deal with accumulating grievances.

According to Stonewall Columbus director Kate Anderson, the city mishandled the new Flex bathhouse's dispute with Driving Park neighborhood groups. She said this is the most recent in a long line of "false promises" from city officials, who she said have taken GLBT campaign contributions, then done little in support.

The bathhouse reopened May 7 after closing voluntarily for a month so the city could help resolve the dispute with the groups, which wanted it closed permanently. Flex management said they saw no

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activity on the city's part.

Anderson also cited the passing over of openly lesbian attorney Mary Jo Hudson for appointment to a vacant city council seat in December, 2002. Hudson had not been promised the seat, but openly gay attorney Elliott Fishman and openly lesbian community activist Lynn Greer had earlier been passed over for vacant seats that were promised to them.

After the 1998 repeal of a two-month-old ordinance giving health coverage to the same-sex domestic partners of city employees, the city agreed to educate the general public on the issue.

Anderson said the city has failed to do that, and has acted too slowly on its new proposal to provide coverage to all members of employees' households, including same-sex domestic partners.

The household benefits proposal came about in spring 2002, following a Community Relations Commission ruling that the city violated its own non-discrimination law by not offering health coverage "to domestic partners of homosexuals."

That ruling came from a 1997 complaint filed by James Hartman. The city is appealing that ruling, according to Anderson, "as a political maneuver to slow down the process long enough to see what happens to the household benefits."

Anderson said the city has also not made good on a \$600,000 operations grant made to Stonewall in 2000. "We were supposed to get \$100,000 a year for six years," said Anderson. "So far, we have gotten a total of \$80,000." "No minority community gives more," said Anderson, "but we are the last ones to get our needs met."

Anderson said elected city officials interpret the 2002 Democratic primary loss of openly gay Ohio House candidate Chad Foust as a sign that the GLBT

community cannot get the vote out.

Foust lost the race to Dan Stewart, who went on to represent the 25th District, which includes the gay Short North neighborhood.

"But the piece that has energized the community is the public contempt by council members who say they our issues will not be pushed forward unless we make them do it," said Anderson.

Anderson said there have been some openly gay appointments to commissions, and attorney Brian Shinn serves as the GLBT liason to Mayor Michael Coleman and his staff.

"But they are few in comparison to other minorities." Anderson also expressed concern that GLBT city employees are fearful to be out at work, and do not feel protected by the city's non-discrimination ordinance.

Anderson, Shinn, and Stonewall board chair Rob Berger met with Coleman May 8 to discuss these matters. Anderson said Coleman understood the issues, but "found our complaints personally offensive and said so many times, because we said GLBT momentum has stalled under his administration."

Coleman spokesperson Mike Brown said the three presented the city with a list of 16 items they were displeased about.

"The mayor was taken aback by the rhetoric and the lack of respect for the history of our record on the issues," said Brown. "And some of the issues we are already working on."

Shinn said the biggest problems he sees are the communication gaps between the GLBT community and city government.

"There are perceptions that the city is not following through," said Shinn, "but there is follow-through."

Shinn added, "I walk the line between

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advocating for my community and being a productive member of the mayor's administration."

"They [Stonewall] have high expectations," said Brown, "and we continue to embrace that. Even though they don't feel like we're out fighting for them every day doesn't mean that we aren't doing inside fighting."

A dozen GLBT leaders met May 10 to discuss political strategy. "We discussed short, medium, and long-term goals," said Anderson.

Strategies discussed include managing GLBT political contributions in such a way that the candidates know how much more they would have gotten had they pushed harder on GLBT issues.

Anderson said candidates often do not know how much of their campaign contributions came from GLBT community members. "We are also recruiting openly gay candidates to run for city seats in 2005, and we are targeting a candidate to take out," said Anderson. Anderson said they are also considering a ballot initiative to amend the city's charter to a city council elected by ward, instead of at large. "We might get better representation that way," said Anderson.

The household benefits committee is expected to make its recommendations public in late May. Stonewall's May 21 board meeting will be devoted to a town hall for the purpose of discussing issues of concern and beginning the process of ranking them in order of priority.

Senate & House Bills Introduced to Outlaw GLBT Discrimination

Senate Bill 77 and House Bill 147 were introduced in April. For details on each bill, see <http://www.transgenderlaw.org/ndlaws/index.htm#legi>

slation

On the ugly side, Senate Bill 65, the so-called "Super DOMA" act, would prevent same sex couples from sharing a last name, adopting each others children, and be utilized to challenge marriage decrees from other states. For details, see

<http://www.gaypeopleschronicle.com/stories03/03apr4.htm>

Websites of Interest

Found a website worth bookmarking? Share it! Send your websites of interest to ccnl@tgender.net

Excellent website with many articles relating to all aspects of gender change
[http:](http://)

General website on TGTS Health Issues
[http:](http://)

A great resource for anyone considering SRS. Anne Lawrence is a MD & Phd who maintains a website devoted to TS medical issues.

[http:](http://)

Great Information on the legal front
[http:](http://)

Transgender and employment website
<http://www.gendersanity.com/resources.shtml>

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A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

Author Unknown

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...one old love
she can imagine
going back to...
and one who reminds
her how far she has come...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...enough money within her
control to move out and
rent a place of her own
even if she never wants
to or needs to...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

..something perfect to wear if
the employer or date of her dreams
wants to see her in an hour...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

..a youth she's content
to leave behind...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...a past juicy enough that
she's looking forward to
retelling it in her old age....

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...a set of screwdrivers, a
cordless drill, and a black
lace bra...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

..one friend who always makes
her laugh... and one who lets
her cry...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...a good piece of furniture
not previously owned by anyone
else in her family...

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...eight matching plates, wine
glasses with stems, and a recipe
for a meal that will make her
guests feel honored..

A WOMAN SHOULD HAVE

...a feeling of control over
her destiny...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

..how to fall in love without
losing herself...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

..how to quit a job,
break up with a lover,
and confront a friend
without ruining the friendship...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

...when to try harder... and
when to walk away...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

...that she can't change the
length of her calves, the width
of her hips, or the nature of her

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parents...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

...that her childhood may not
have been perfect...but its
over...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

...what she would and wouldn't
do for love or more...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

..how to live alone... even if
she doesn't like it...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

...whom she can trust,
whom she can't,

and why she shouldn't
take it personally...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

...where to go...
be it to her best friend's kitchen table...
or a charming inn in the woods...
when her soul needs soothing...

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW...

..what she can and can't
accomplish in a day...
a month...and a year...

if nothing else... know that you are truly
loved and thought of by the friend who
sent this to you...and that she only wishes the
best for you and your life.

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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
One year membership, email newsletter only	\$30
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.