

The Crystal Chronicle

May 1989

Our First Meeting

We are glad to announce that we are no longer called the Forming Group. After our first official meeting April 29th we have become The Crystal Club.

There were 12 cross dressers and 1 GG at our April 29th meeting, which turned out to be a very good meeting. We had two visitors from Cleveland, Chris and Denise, who livened things up and offered some good advice. The Crystal Club appreciates their participation. Everybody present expressed their hope and support for the clubs future.

At the meeting the topic of discussion was what should be the basis for admission and membership to the Crystal Club. We eliminated my idea of using gender dysphoria as being inappropriate and too limiting. There were other ideas which didn't work any better. The only basis that seems satisfactory would be being a complete cross dresser. We feel this is reasonable and non-discriminating. We did decide the Crystal Club will be an open group.

Initially the Crystal Club will be for social and support purposes for all kinds of CDs. What direction the club takes later remains to be seen, for now we'll work on becoming established. I personally would like to see the club become involved in educational pursuits to the public about the transgendered community.

Several of the ladies went out to Wall Street, a lesbian bar, after the meeting. I haven't heard what kind of time they had. We are welcome at Wall Street.

This May Newsletter is the first of what we hope will be a monthly newsletter. Naturally we plan to make it better as we go, complete with places to go and advertisers. Any comments or advice are not only welcomed, but encouraged.

We have not officially elected officers yet.

However, the acting officers and/or organizers of the club are Mary Ann, Susan, Kelly, and Rochelle. I am hoping we don't rush into election of officers too soon, so the potential leadership will have time to emerge.

The Crystal Club is going to meet the fourth Saturday of each month. Meetings fees will be \$15.00 (\$20.00 couple) and annual membership is \$15.00. For the time being we will have vegetables, snacks, coffee, soft drinks, beer, and wine. When we get more established we will offer a full meal.

There will be a meeting May 27th at 7:00 in the evening. (The door will be open around 6:00.) The address to write to for interested parties is:

Crystal Club
P.O. Box 287
Reynoldsburg Ohio 43068-0287

Maps are available and motel rooms can be reserved in the \$30 range.

The Crystal Club would like to thank Yvonne Jordan for getting together the people interested in starting a CD club in Central Ohio. Without her help we each would probably still be working independently. Special thanks to Cheryl Marie, who started the whole thing off by writing to several of us through Tri-Ess.

Well, anyhow, we are pleased to get out our first newsletter, and welcome any inquiry.

Until later,

Susan

Thoughts from Mary Ann

For the longest time, cross dressers living in central Ohio have had to travel to Cleveland or Cincinnati to visit with others like us. It meant driving all day, trying to grab a quick bite to eat, while dressed, along the way, and a late search for a motel room. A long drive the next day, and the

whole weekend was consumed by the event.

This made it difficult for many of us to go. Planning ahead was not always easy. Some of us could only go every several months. Some could not go at all.

At last we have a local group. This means we can get together regularly, talk, help others, and plan the future of the group. It means many of us can afford to get together without spending a small fortune on gas, food, and a motel room. We don't have to shoot the whole weekend.

We're here to give our sisters a chance to meet each other. We can realize that we're not alone, that there really are others like us. We can talk about our feelings, or swap stories, or give each other tips on makeup, or good places to shop. We are here for each other.

I want to see this group grow and prosper. Columbus is the largest city in Ohio. We have Dayton, Springfield, Athens, and other sizable communities close by as well. There are bound to be hundreds or even thousands of cross dressers within an easy drive. We need to reach out to these ladies, invite them to join us, and make them feel welcome.

Not everyone can make every meeting. But if we grow to 25 or 50, we'll have enough at every meeting that we can rent a nice place, offer good food and drink, and still charge a modest meeting fee. At our current size we can offer a small conference room, changing room, snacks, and drinks, at \$15 each. If we grow we could afford a large conference room, changing room, kitchenette, a meal, drinks, and a speaker, for perhaps as little as \$10.

We especially want to invite spouses and significant others. These ladies are very special to us. They may be pretty nervous about this whole cross dressing deal. If they can meet some other wives and talk to them, perhaps they can be reassured. We're offering a special couple rate of \$20 to help encourage couples to come.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting!

Mary Ann

Editor's Edict By Rochelle

I was at the April 29th meeting and was so glad to see so many show up. I'd like to thank each and every one of you for coming. Also a big thanks to Chris and Denise for taking the time to come

down from Cleveland to support us. I truly believe that The Crystal Club has a great chance to grow. I will be looking forward to seeing everybody again as well as any new faces that should come to join us. I hope that if any of you think of something you'd like to see in the news letter you'd fill free to let us know. We hope to improve as we go along with the help of all you ladies. Again thanks to everybody that came to the last meeting and hope to see as many as possible on May 27th for our next meeting.

TV/TS READING

The following are just a few that I know of from Dr. Roger Peo's list on the Compuserve Human Sexuality Form.

TV/TS TAPESTRY. Authoritative information. Published Quarterly, \$40.00 per year. PO Box 367, Wayland, Mass., 01778.

The Femme Mirror, Chevalier Publications, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA., 93275.

En Femme Magazine, PO Box 7854, Trenton, NJ., 08628. \$6.00 per issue, \$30.00 per year.

The Transvestian, 200 Main Street, Tennent, NJ., 07763-0200.

I hope to find more as time goes on. If you know of any please let me know and I'll pass it on in the news letters. Thank you.

Stonewall Union Gay/Lesbian Rights March

The kind folks at Stonewall Union (a large Columbus gay rights group) have mentioned us in their newsletter, and added us to their mailing list. It turns out that many cross dressers, both straight and gay, have gone to them for a referral to a cross dressers support group. Now they can refer such people to us.

We just received from them an announcement of their annual Gay and Lesbian Rights March and Awareness Week. The week culminates in a march on June 25, including a rally and festival. Groups can rent informational booths for \$25. (June 25 will be the day of our June meeting.)

This is an opportunity to reach some sisters in need. If we set up a booth, we hope some cross dressers may see it, or others who know a cross dresser can refer someone to us.

If we want to, we can even take this opportunity to get some media coverage. The usual coverage of this event shows some people marching

carrying banners, and a few men in dresses are always shown. The media seems to like that notion. So if we want their attention, I'll bet they'll bite.

This may be a two edged sword. While we are open to both straight and gay cross dressers, cross dressers are predominantly straight. The public already confuses cross dressers and gay men, and many assume that any man in a dress is gay. If we get our publicity as part of the Stonewall event, we may reinforce that incorrect image in the public eye.

There's also the issue of someone to staff the booth. We could just put up a sign and some flyers and leave, I suppose. But it would be nice if someone could sit there to answer questions. This requires someone who is willing to be seen in public, possibly by the media. (Dressing would be optional.) I can't do this, and I'm not sure if we have someone who can. If you'd like to volunteer, please speak up.

We need to discuss this at our May meeting. Please come prepared with your thoughts. If you can't come in May, please write us a letter and let us know what you think.

Cost to the group would be \$25 plus materials. At this stage I'm not sure what materials, other than a sign and some flyers, we would need.

Flyer

The last page of this newsletter is a copy of our flyer. It is fine to copy this and send it to other cross dresser organizations, or to hand them out to persons who might be interested.