

The Crystal Chronicle

June 1989

Editor's Edict By Rochelle

Hello again and welcome. I'd like to start out by stating that we had a great meeting in May. I think we made some wise choices in regards to Crystal Club. We learned more about what we'd like to see in the future. For we are here and we are going to remain.

With the two GG's that were there we had better insight into what we are seeking. We have a great ways to go but with the group that we have it will be no problem.

It seems strange saying welcome to new members since we are all new to the group but I'd like to say welcome to C.T., Nellie, and Stephany. Three great people that attended the May meeting for the first time. I hope that we'll see them at future meetings.

There are a few of us working together to put a buyers guide together to help members shop in Columbus. If any of you have a special place that may help others please let us know and we'll pass it to the others.

As editor I'd like to ask for some help from the members in the form of letters to the editor. I'd like to help answer any questions about the club, or find somebody that can. I'd also like to hear your comments on different parts of needs and wants. It would be so helpful if we could get letters from our GG's making their feeling and comments known to us also. Just send them to Rochelle Richards, C/O Crystal Club, P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 43068-0287. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Rochelle

Membership Dues

Crystal Club membership dues are \$15 per year for cross dressers. Couples (a cross dresser and a

GG) may also join at \$15 for the couple. Dues are due and payable July 1 of each year, and cover the period from July 1 to the following June 30.

As we do not yet have a bank account, we prefer that membership dues be paid in cash at a meeting, or to one of our officers (Susan, Mary Ann, Kelly, or Rochelle.) We are working on getting the account, however, and hope to have it by July 1. We will accept checks or money orders made out to Crystal Club (or left blank, if you're brave) mailed to the PO Box, if you cannot attend the meeting. We may have to hold onto the check for awhile if we have trouble cashing it, but we will honor your membership.

We strongly recommend that you pay your dues at the June meeting or by mail at the same time. The July newsletter, and attendance at the July meeting, will be open to paid members and first-time attendees only.

First time attendees are welcome to attend, and should pay the meeting fee. After one meeting, the prospective member should know whether they want to join or not. We recommend that she join (by paying membership dues) at that same first meeting, if she chooses to join. This will give her voting rights, get her on the mailing list, and permit attendance at future meetings.

May Meeting

The May 27th meeting was small but good and productive. I felt it was more like a support meeting than other meetings I have been to. I thought the meeting was going to be short and uninteresting because of the small turnout due to the Memorial Day Weekend. I hope that I remember not to underestimate small meetings again.

C.T. and Nelli came from Zanesville (CD and GG) and shared some very interesting experiences and input. Coming to a CD support meeting was a first for C.T. and Nelli, we're glad they came

and hope they decide to come again.

Also coming out for the first time was Stephany, who we were happy to see and talk to, and hope to see again.

It was also mentioned at the meeting that membership fees are due and payable anytime for those of you who want to become members. Since we do incur a cost to operate, send out a newsletter, and so on, there is a limit as to how long we can send out monthly newsletters to nonmembers. So please consider sending in your membership fees. We will announce in the near future when we have an official bank account for the Crystal Club. Incidentally, if any of you ladies know of a financial institution that offers checking accounts with no monthly service charge, please let us know.

At the May 27th meeting we discussed whether the Crystal Club should take part in the Stonewall Union's Gay Awareness Parade. We decided to decline participation, primarily because our group is too new and not established enough, we don't have anybody who is out of the closet enough to stay in the booth and we are concerned about poor coverage or misrepresentation by the television media. However, we also decided that we should watch and study this event for the possibility of participating next year. We feel this could be a good opportunity to educate the public. We certainly encourage your input here. Remember the Transgender Community is your community, what would you like to see happen?

Most of the girls at the meeting went out to the Grotto afterwards. There was an F.I. show. the show was fairly good but the bar was a little smoky and loud for my taste. If any of you ladies know of other places where we are welcome that is on the quieter side please let us know.

Speaking of places to go, we are welcome at the Wall St. Bar. Also I talked to one of the owners of the Grapevine Restaurant. She said we are welcome there, however, daytime would not be good because the crowd is much different, mostly business people who are uninitiated to our CD culture.

For those of you who are thinking of coming to the June 24th meeting, we need for you to respond beforehand so that we can make adequate preparations for the meeting. Also, at a certain point, and we hope that it will be soon, we will have guest speakers on various things like make-

up, theories on cross dressing, etc, but we need a few more people in attendance.

A project the Crystal Club has decided to work on is a shoppers guide for CDs, where as the place where the product sold or service rendered is done where CDs are welcome as such and consequently get better service.

For example, being able to try on clothes before you buy them, or getting assistance in size and style. Naturally the guidelines for different shops will vary and there will be some shops that will prefer that you don't come dressed. If anybody knows of any stores or services being done one this or similar basis, please share it with us. We are of course interested in places in Central Ohio.

At a certain point we want to put an ad in the Columbus Free Press and even prepare a news release. Here again your input is encouraged, what would you like the public to understand about us?

Susan

Financial Report

This report covers the months of March, April, and May, 1989. We intend to include monthly updates in future newsletters.

March	Starting Balance	0.00
	Income	20.00
	Expenses	20.00
	Ending Balance	0.00

April	Starting Balance	0.00
	Income	185.00
	Expenses	115.16
	Ending Balance	69.84

May	Starting Balance	69.84
	Income	97.00
	Expenses	98.71
	Ending Balance	68.13

Income for March was from donations. Income for April and May was from meeting fees and memberships.

Expenses were for the meeting rooms, food, beverage, postage, copying, and P.O. box rental.

Susan

June Meeting

The June meeting will be on June 24. The doors

will open at 6. Since there is no scheduled business this month, the meeting will just be a social, unless anyone has business to propose.

ATTENTION: The June meeting will very likely be in a different room. The hotel managers are working to try to get us into our regular room, but somebody beat us to it. We will probably be in rooms 120 and 121, rather than the usual conference room and changing room. Rooms 120 and 121 are on the same side as the conference room, but at the other end. (This means we'll be meeting in a regular hotel room. One of the beds will be removed, but it may still be a bit cramped if we get a lot of people. We can always overflow into the other room.)

There will be signs on both sets of doors telling which room we are in, *please read the signs*. It is possible we will get the conference room at the last minute, although they tell us it doesn't look good.

	120	June meeting
	121	
		Regular rooms
	chg conf	
office		

This is the last time we will have this problem. We have been assured by the hotel management, Linda and Dave, that we have the room reserved for the rest of the year on the fourth Saturday night of each month. They have been very helpful to us, but when the BMV moves into the 4 room block and stays for a month, it's difficult to make them move unless they agree.

Mary Ann

National Affiliation

The Crystal Club is currently a local, independent, support group for cross dressers and their SO's. There are some benefits from national affiliation, such as being mentioned in national directories, so that local ladies who write to the national group can be referred to us.

There are three major national (or larger) cross dressing organizations:

1. Tri-Ess (SSS, the Society for the Second Self,) 20-30 local chapters.
2. Renaissance, 7 local chapters.
3. IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education,) 51 affiliated organizations, including Tri-Ess, Renaissance, 5 Tri-Ess chapters, and Cross-Port, Crossroads, Paradise, and Transpitt.

We originally considered forming a Tri-Ess chapter in Columbus. When we got together in March, it became clear that Tri-Ess was not the answer. Tri-Ess has a policy allowing only "heterosexual cross dressers", meaning TV, but not TS or gay. Our group wished to be open. We have made some preliminary inquiries to Renaissance (an open organization) and IFGE (an meta-organization of affiliated cross-dressing organizations.) At the May meeting, we decided to affiliate with IFGE, and elected Susan our representative.

The latest Renaissance News contains the following item:

We received a letter from a contact in the **Columbus, Ohio** area about recent activities there.

A group of people, unrelated to Renaissance, got together in March to form a group in the area. A second organizational meeting was held in April. One of our contacts, Sandy [they mean Susan - MAH] was in attendance. She reports this new sisterhood is based on an open membership policy. They have not, however, asked to become a Renaissance chapter. Accordingly, we have deleted the Columbus listing from the *Chapter news and notes* column on page two.

We're very pleased to see people helping themselves and not at all concerned about their chapter status. We'll help in whatever ways possible. We wish them well.

Anyone from the area interested in this group should contact: Forming Group, Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

The most recent Renaissance News contains several barbs at Tri-Ess, berating them for their "straight" policy. This text will be available at

the meeting for those interested.

The reason I have heard from Tri-Ess for their “straight only” policy is to protect the wives. Many of us are fortunate enough to have understanding, open minded wives and girl friends, who know what we are and what we are not. Unfortunately, many wives are hostile, or afraid their TV husband may be TS. It is difficult to get a wife to go to a meeting, or to participate in the culture. Many of the wives are reassured that their husband is TV by the fact that all the other cross dressers at the meeting are TV.

Tri-Ess generally does not mention other organizations (except for IFGE) in its publications. I found out about Renaissance and Cross Port from other Central Ohio sisters, after having been a Tri-Ess member for over a year. When writing for information, I was referred to Alpha Omega, but not told about Paradise or the closer Cross Port.

Personally, I would like to see Tri-Ess and Renaissance work together, and try to bring the community together, like IFGE does. I think there is a need for both open and straight groups. Cleveland has both Alpha Omega, a Tri-Ess chapter, and Paradise, an independent open group, and these groups cooperate and have many members in common. Why can't we all work together like these fine sisters?

Mary Ann

Policies

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers. We welcome TV, TS, TG, and others who assume a complete feminine identity. We welcome their wives and significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from other cross dressing organizations, when cleared through an officer.

We do not care about the sexual preference of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies at all times. Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not be “hit on” by anyone present.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed in feminine attire, or not dressed (i.e. in masculine attire). It is expected that most members will normally dress, but this is not required. Persons are *not* permitted to arrive

partially dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the rest of the group. Ladies pants and casual wear are fine.

Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been screened or approved by an officer, their wives/SO's, helping professionals, and approved guests. The location of the hotel is given out after the screening process, in order to protect our members from people looking for cheap entertainment.

The Crystal Club may be reached at:

Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg Ohio 43068-0271

Attendance Survey

We had a large meeting of 14 sisters in April, and a smaller meeting of 7 in May. May 27 was Memorial Day weekend, but some of you have indicated you don't dress in the summer. When we vary by that much each month, it's important to get some idea of how many are coming, so we can plan: schedule speakers on days when many of us can be there, have the right size room, and have the right amount of food and beverage available.

I'd like to get some idea of your plans for meeting attendance for the rest of 1989. You don't have to make a formal commitment, but if we have some idea what people are thinking, it helps us plan. Please fill out this survey and send it back to our PO Box, or bring to the June meeting if it's too late to mail.

Our regular meetings are on the fourth Saturday evening of each month. Those Saturdays are listed here. For each date, please indicate whether you think you'll be there (if you're not sure, give a percent chance.)

- _____ June 24
- _____ July 22
- _____ August 26
- _____ September 23
- _____ October 28
- _____ November 25
(This is Thanksgiving weekend.)
- _____ December 23 (This is Chanukah, and right before Christmas.)

If there is anything we can do to make it easier for you to attend, please tell us what. For example, we may want to reschedule the November and December meetings earlier in the month to avoid the holidays. Alternative dates might be the first Saturday of the month:

- _____ November 4
- _____ December 2

Shopping Survey

Please let us know where you shop. There are many kinds of businesses of special interest to cross dressers. We'd like to approach the management of as many businesses as possible for inclusion in our shoppers guide. Places you like to shop, with or without the knowledge of

their management, would be good places to start. All answers are optional.

Cross dressers are especially interested in businesses such as:

1. Ladies clothing. (Use of fitting rooms is a plus.)
2. Cosmetics, sales and training.
3. Hair styling.
4. Wigs.
5. Shoes. (Large sizes of high heels are a plus.)
6. Foundations and prostheses.
7. Lingerie.
8. Cross dresser specialty merchandise.
9. Electrolysis, waxing, and other hair removal.
10. Photography.
11. Restaurants.
12. Bars.
13. Psychological counseling.
14. Physicians. (Some cross dressers want hormones.)
15. Eyeglasses.
16. Voice coaching.
17. Style and deportment training.
18. Publications/magazines/newsletters.
19. Support Groups.
20. Mail Order

Let us know of any special features or special training the employees have of interest to cross dressers. If cross dressers are welcome to come in while dressed, that helps.

We are mostly interested in businesses in the Central Ohio area. Something out of the ordinary that is worth the drive could be included as well, especially in Cleveland or Cincinnati. Mail order businesses can be anywhere.

If you know of particular places *not* to go, or rip-offs, please let us know that, too.

Name: _____