

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 3 – March 2002

Current Officers

President - Nikki

Vice President - Rachel

Treasurer - Dianna Mills

Secretary - Jennifer

Newsletter Editor(s) - Gwen

Meeting Coordinator - Barbie

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.

President's Corner

- Nikki

This newsletter is a bit strange for me as I am writing on the front page instead of putting together five pages of content. We held our elections in February and it was encouraging to see so much participation – we have struggled a bit in the past with officers handling two or more position simultaneously.

First, let me give a big thanks to our outgoing President – Tina stepped in over a year ago when Kelly had to step down for health reasons. She kept the club going when other members were unwilling, (or perhaps not yet ready) to assume the leadership role. Tina will continue to handle what I consider one the most critical positions within the club – telephone screener. This position, along with the Internet screener) is serious work – their judgment during the entry process is critical to assuring the safety and security of the membership at large. Tina – you are a beautiful and special person who stood up and got involved when the club needed it most – Thank you on behalf of all of us.

The transgender community represents a wide spectrum of individuals, from the occasional cross-dresser to those completing full surgical transformations. In speaking with many of our members over the past two years, I am struck by how diverse the needs are from this wide spectrum, and variety of expectations for the club to support these outlooks. The Crystal Club faces a difficult task as we attempt to provide support to our membership. One of the things that I would like to accomplish this year is to better meet these expectations, either by setting up programs or linking individuals with other groups in the transgender community with similar interests.

My vision for the Crystal Club is to be a support group for the transgender community. We are the entrance for the TG house. Throughout the rooms of the house are other groups, activists, TG friendly businesses, and other support mechanisms for our community. Individuals will come into our group from the outside. They should feel welcome, accepted, and part of a special group of people. We have four main roles:

To let people know how to find our house and welcome them in the door;

To bring in other support areas based upon the needs of the group;

To be able to point individuals in the right direction when their wants are outside the scope of the club (activism for example)

To support the membership and their families as they deal with a complex, personal, and emotional issue.

In order to achieve this vision, I would like to work with the Board to focus in three main areas.

First, I would like a committee to review both our mission statement and by-laws. It has been over five years since this was last reviewed, and many members have never seen these items. This committee would be responsible for proposing an updated set of documents. I would like to see the membership receive a copy of these documents, and post them on our official website. Confirming what our group is about and what our role is will provide the clear direction for the Board as we consider future activities.

Secondly, the club needs to improve our position as the “window” to the TG community in Columbus. We need to improve the awareness of our existence, and the accessibility to our group. It is significant to realize that our current membership is severely under-represented by younger people, minorities, and F-M transgender individuals. We need to have better contacts and resource awareness within the TG community as a whole. We need to be able to support our membership by providing the contacts, support mechanisms, and business/social interaction points.

Finally, I would like to provide a better level of support for our existing members. We need to continue to provide relevant, meaningful speakers at the monthly meetings. We need to provide avenues for individuals to communicate with one another as

they proceed on their personal journey of self-discovery. We are not only a support group, but also a social group that enables us to be with others that share a common bond. We need to listen clearly to the wants and expectations of our membership, determine if they can be met within the scope of our mission, and then establish appropriate activities. When, in our judgment, the required activities are outside our mission or capability, the club needs to refer those members to external groups in the TG community.

We will not be able to meet every expectation from every member. The fact that our membership spans the entire TG spectrum almost assures that no one group can meet all of the wants. But I believe that we can significantly improve the support we provide to both our existing membership and the TG community as a whole. It will be a challenge and a privilege to work with the board and the membership to achieve these objectives.

Your comment and feedback are greatly appreciated. Please email me at nikkim@tgender.net or mail me at:

The Crystal Club

PO Box 287

Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Attention – Nikki M., President

Meeting notes

Much thanks to Kelly for cooking us all dinner (breakfast?) The food was great and much appreciated. We held elections for the 2002-2003 year. The elected officers are noted on the first page of this newsletter.

Valley Gems Meeting

This is a reminder to let you know that the Valley Gems (Dayton) meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

Member Contri!

In 2001 we received but one (1)!!! Member contribution. Let’s have some more! We would like to see several “regulars” who run a column on a given subject – or perhaps just post a general discussion. So let’s sharpen your pencils – it’s YOUR newsletter!

New Support Group

Stonewall has also announced that their outreach support group has moved to Wednesday's at 7:00 PM. Meral Crane is acting as the facilitator for these meetings. There is no charge to attend.

Finally, congratulations to Mary Ann, who was elected to the Board for Stonewall.

Speaking of Stonewall,

Stonewall Columbus Announces New Executive Director

February 25, 2002

Stonewall Columbus announces Kate Anderson accepts position of Executive Director. Kathleen W. "Kate" Anderson will begin as Executive Director of Stonewall Columbus effective February 28, 2002. Joe Davy, Stonewall Columbus board member and Chair of the Executive Director search committee, offered the Committee's recommendation of Anderson at the Stonewall Columbus February 20th Board meeting. The Board accepted the Committee's recommendation and voted unanimously to extend an offer to Anderson.

Anderson, who holds a B. S. in Sociology from Virginia Tech, recently served as Chief of Staff for the Franklin County Clerk of Courts. Prior to moving to Columbus, Anderson gained extensive experience in personnel management, fiscal management, strategic planning and governmental relations through her work with various state and federal transportations programs. She is a certified mediator and managed a mediation practice in the State of Virginia. She was the founding president of Richmond, Virginia's first organization of gay business professionals, and grew the organization from 25 to 170 members in 18 months.

Susan White, Stonewall Board of Trustees President, is enthusiastic about Anderson's experience and potential. "Kate brings a focus on strategic planning to Stonewall Columbus, and that focus is essential in an Executive Director. Kate has excellent experience in all aspects of management and has a

solid history of fund raising." Community members were invited to meet candidates for the Executive Director position at a community forum held at the Stonewall Community Center on February 9th. Feedback was solicited from those attending the forum, and was considered by the search committee when making its recommendation. The search committee included a Stonewall staff member, members of the Stonewall Board and members of the Central Ohio community.

Stonewall Columbus is a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) human right organization serving central Ohio. The organization, which was founded in 1981, provides education, community building, advocacy and outreach to achieve the goals of equality, fairness, and safety for all members of the GLBT population in Central Ohio.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly... News from the TG front

OUT ON MAIN RESTAURANT TO BRING DOWN CURTAIN MARCH 30

Columbus, Ohio - January 31, 2002 Out On Main, the popular downtown restaurant at 122 E. Main Street, will serve its final meal on Saturday, March 30.

"It's been an awesome five year run," said co-owner Michael Caven, who with life partner and fellow co-owner Tom Grote opened Out On Main in November 1996.

"Early last year Tom made a three-year commitment to expand Donatos Pizza on the East Coast. Our life has changed. We live in two cities and have the opportunity for extended travel. The constant airplane shuttling back and forth between Philadelphia and Columbus and too much time apart, combined with the events of September 11, just made me realize that I want to be with Tom 24/7. We want to be together on a daily basis. It's that simple," Caven said.

The restaurant has from its inception always been more than a place for great dining. It has been a center of energy for the gay community, a point of pride for the national community, a first class intersection for many diverse worlds to laugh, enjoy, learn and dine with excellence. It has been a sort of a parlor for artists and arts audiences.

Is Out On Main for sale? Absolutely," said Michael Caven. "We'd love to see the space continue on as Out On Main or another concept. But Tom and I see our role as complete. "We had a mission for the restaurant, and we believe it has been fulfilled. A smart ringleader, a smart host of a great party, a smart director of a great musical--all of them know to bring the curtain down with an audience thrilled and hoping for more," said Caven.

Over the next eight weeks Out On Main looks forward to welcoming patrons from central Ohio and elsewhere, many who will enjoy their favorite menu items while revisiting memorable experiences of previous visits. Each weekend Executive Chef Donald Hauck will feature favorite appetizers and entrees from various menus over the years.

Closing night on March 30 is slated to include special menu items from past Out On Main theme dinners -- Titanic, Versailles and Orient Express. 100% of the net proceeds will benefit The Legacy Fund at the Columbus Foundation, ensuring Out On Main's permanent place in the legacy of Columbus. "Out On Main will have a fabulous final eight weeks," said Caven, "just like we've had a fabulous five year run."

Contact Michael Caven 614-563-8269

Changing Birth Certificates in Ohio

This letter was received by Mary Ann and forwarded for inclusion to the newsletter.

Dear Mary Ann:

I initially provided some explanation a few weeks ago in response to discussion initiated by Cindy. Since I am sure that the questions you posed are probably shared by a great many people, I'll be glad to explain further.

First, the Ohio Statute (Ohio Revised Code Section 3705.22) does not actually prohibit trans people from changing their birth certificates PER SE. It does, however, raise the threshold of required proof so high as to make it virtually impossible for a transperson ever to meet it -- even if the person transitions while still a teenager. This is because corrections must be made based upon the attending physician or other original witnesses ("informants") who are named on the original birth

certificate. The longer after the birth that a correction is requested, the less likely it will be that the necessary witnesses will be available. Of course, this puts transpeople at a severe disadvantage. Clearly Ohio law never anticipated the advent of gender transition (or even the possibility of mistake in infants born with ambiguous genitalia).

Second, THERE IS a court case which essentially declares that chromosomes (as presumptively determined by birth genitalia) determine sex. The case is a 1987 Stark County Probate Court case, "IN RE LADRACH," authored by Judge Denny Clunk. IN RE LADRACH was a case of "first impression" in Ohio, and has been relied upon numerous times by other Ohio state courts to justify denying transpeople the ability to change their birth certificates. Deb and I are planning a legal assault on both the Ohio Code (and its interpretation) and on the 1987 Starke County Probate Court Decision, IN RE LADRACH, which essentially holds that chromosomes equal sex.

We currently have two clients - both born in Cuyahoga County -- who are post-op and willing to challenge the statute. Our case will rely largely on 1) advances in medical science, and 2) the precedential legal developments in other jurisdictions across the U.S. , to persuade the courts here to get with the times. Currently our clients are a FtM and an Intersex person. I had originally said that anyone else who:

- 1) was born in Cuyahoga County;
- 2) is MtF post-op or FtM with top surgery;
- 3) has undergone a legal name change (or plans to do so prior to filing for correction of their birth certificate);
- 4) is living the Real Life Test; and,
- 5) wants to cost share in the suit;

is welcome to contact me for more information. I initially estimated the cost to get either a successful ruling out of Probate Court or an appealable final Probate decision would be approximately \$2,500.00. This was because much of the work is identical for the applicants, and the more who join in the suit the cheaper it would be for each. The case would only be strengthened by additional applicants, and additional individual costs (over and above those that are shared equally by ALL applicants) would be limited pretty much to filing fees, etc.

Individuals born in other Ohio counties have expressed interest in joining the suit, however, and upon reconsideration I am dropping the requirement (No.1) that all participants must have been born in Cuyahoga County. Instead, I am opening the class of applicants to ALL persons born in Ohio in order to coordinate a class action suit across the state. It will require that all participants WHO MEET THE OTHER CRITERIA file SIMULTANEOUSLY for correction of their birth records in their county of birth. All will present virtually the same case, using identical case law from other jurisdictions and identical arguments. If we do this either ALL, or just SOME, of the applicants will initially be turned down. If ALL applications are denied, it will provide a compelling argument to take to the Court of Appeals and, then, to the Ohio Supreme Court. If only SOME are denied, then we will have an issue that will have to be certified to the Ohio Supreme Court to resolve the conflicts in holdings on an identical issue between different state jurisdictions. It is important for anyone who may be interested to understand that this action will not happen for many months. We will have to carefully lay the groundwork for each county probate court involved, and we will also have to coordinate a D-Day by which all applicants will meet the foregoing criteria and be ready for their individual cases. This is important to prevent our challenge to the law from being heard piecemeal. Since we cannot control the courts' dockets to ensure that all cases are HEARD on the same day, we must control the start date of the actions to ensure that they are all heard within as consolidated a time frame as possible. This will enable us to regroup after the first decisions at the trial court level and again mount a combined, consolidated appeal EN MASSE. I anticipate that total shared cost for a multi-county challenge will be marginally higher than the original amount of \$2,500 estimated for the Cuyahoga County action. This will be mostly to account for having to tailor the various actions to meet the minor variations in legal processes that occur between the counties, and to provide for the additional coordination required for simultaneous actions across the state. However, I still anticipate overall cost savings with additional applicants. Once we have a pool of applicants and a proposed timetable for action, we can narrow the shared costs down to a more certain amount. (Individual filing fees will vary by county, however, and applicants will still be

responsible for those on their own.) Anyone who has further questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks again to Mary Ann and everyone else for facilitating this discussion.

Regards,
Randi Barnabee
Federal Practice Attorney
330-467-5000

Upcoming Meetings

March 2002

8 – Business Meeting
23 – Club meeting – Nomination of officers

April 2002

12 – Business Meeting
27 – Club meeting – Election of officers

May 2002

10 – Business Meeting
25 – Club meeting

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.

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

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.