

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 5- May 2002

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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 Corner

- Nikki

It has been a busy couple of months now, and we are starting to make some progress. The meeting schedule is pretty much set for the year(see the lists later in this newsletter), and we are well into our constitution/by-laws review. Based upon our current schedule, we expect the review committee to provide their recommendations to the Board in June, with publication to the membership in July and ratification in August.

Over the past several months, I have been amazed at the number of transgendered individuals we have encountered outside the Crystal Club. Rachel and I attended the Fusion meeting (OSU) last Month and five people identified as being TG out of a group of forty GLBT members. Later, I attended a two-day executive seminar Sponsored by Stonewall at Kaleidoscope. One of the volunteers me that they have approximately six minors in the group who are transgendered . Clearly, there are a number of individuals within the Central Ohio community that we are reaching. Our major challenges in the coming months will be to make contact, and also to determine how to support these new members of the community.

A major element of this effort will be our support of the PFLAG National Conference in September. PFLAG has graciously offered us free meeting space and changing areas during the conference, and seems very interested in supporting our community as a whole. I encourage everyone to plan on attending the September meeting at this conference – it should be an exciting experience for everyone. This is a real opportunity for our group to show ourselves as a TG support grouping Columbus, while bringing our issues and concerns to the forefront. Finally, Courtney Sharp (the first TG person named to the PFLAG Board) is expected to speak to our group as our monthly speaker. This is a unique opportunity for our membership to voice concerns and outlooks to someone advocating on our behalf.

Several members have mentioned the possibility of a spouses support group. We are currently thinking about holding a separate meeting with a professional facilitator. This will give spouses an opportunity to talk about their concerns and issues with other spouses in a private, secure environment outside of the normal club meeting

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Feedback on this type of format would be greatly appreciated. As always feel free to contact any Board Member, or reach me directly at nikki@tgender.net.

See you at the May meeting!

Stonewall TG Support Group

There is a TG support group in Columbus sponsored by Stonewall as part of their outreach program

Stonewall has also announced that their outreach support group has moved to the First Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

Meral Crane is acting as the facilitator for these meetings. There is no charge to attend.

Valley Gems Meeting

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

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

TRANSGENDER LAW & POLICY INSTITUTE

Press Release

New York City Council Votes to Include Transgender People in its Human Rights Law

Contact: Paisley Currah
Tel: 718-636-6165
E-mail: pcurrah@brooklyn.cuny.edu

April 24, 2002-After years of education, advocacy, and politicking at City Hall, transgender activists were able to celebrate today when the New York City Council passed a bill amending the city's Human Rights Law to include transgender people. With the expected support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York City will soon become the 42nd jurisdiction in the United States to explicitly

protect people from discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations, according to the Transgender Law & Policy Institute (TLPI).

Transgender activists and advocates from the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA), the TLPI, the New York State Transgender Coalition, City Council Members Margarita Lopez, Bill Perkins, Christine Quinn, and Phil Reed have been working together for the past three years to ensure that transgender people are protected under the city's non-discrimination law. Last May, over 50 people testified at a hearing in favor of the bill, but it was never brought to a vote. This year, however, the election of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the support of new City Council Speaker Gif Miller changed the political landscape for the better. Yesterday, after hearing a number of transgender testify about the discrimination they face, the Council's General Welfare Committee voted in favor of the bill, 7-1, and today, the City Council voted to pass the bill with a vote of 45 to 5, with one abstention. Mayor Bloomberg has indicated he supports the legislation.

Many people felt it is their privilege to judge me on my appearance, testified Carrie Davis, a counselor at the Gender Identity Project of the LGBT Community Center, at yesterday's hearing. I have been denied jobs, I have been denied housing. I have been denied services. I have been harassed and abused. I have been beaten and raped, and I have had my children taken away from me, said Davis, also a co-founder of NYAGRA and a board member of the International Foundation for Gender Equality.

"With this law, the City Council is sending a very clear signal to employers, to landlords, and to owners of public accommodations that this kind of discriminatory behavior is now illegal," said Paisley Currah, an associate professor of political science at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, NYAGRA co-founder, and TLPI board member. "And as the largest jurisdiction by population in the U.S. to ban discrimination against transgender people, it might have a positive spillover effect elsewhere because it suggests to legislators in other cities that transgender inclusion will eventually become the norm in human rights laws."

According to the bill's legislative findings, the intent of the bill is "to make clear that all gender-based discrimination - including, but not limited to, discrimination based on an individual's actual or perceived sex, and discrimination based on an individual's gender identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression - constitutes a violation of the City's Human Rights Law." The legislation defines gender to include "actual or perceived sex and shall also include a person's gender identity, self image, appearance, behavior, or expression, whether or not that gender identity, self image, appearance, behavior, or expression is different from that traditionally associated with the legal sex assigned to that person at birth."

With the passage of the bill, Int. 24, New York City will be the third jurisdiction in New York state--the others are Rochester and Suffolk County--to pass such a bill. Two states, Minnesota and Rhode Island, and 39 other municipalities, have enacted similar laws. But the New York State Sexual Orientation Non-discrimination Act (SONDA), which is widely expected to pass this election year, does not include statutory language that would include people of transgender experience.

"The decision of state legislators and the Empire State Pride Agenda not to include transgender people is a real loss," said Currah, who was part of the legislative task force for the New York City bill and has extensively researched and written on transgender rights legislation. "When the leading gay rights group in the state will not support state-wide equality for transgender people, it shows the prevalence of discrimination against transgender people, and just how necessary passing this kind of legislation is for the transgender community."

The Transgender Law & Policy Institute is non-profit organization dedicated to engaging in effective advocacy for transgender people in our society. The TLPI brings experts together to work on law and policy initiatives designed to advance transgender equality. Visit us on the internet at <http://www.transgenderlaw.org> where charts and maps listing all U.S. jurisdictions with transgender inclusive human rights laws are available for downloading.

Gwendilynne's Editorial

In reference, to the vote in New York City to include the Transgendered Community in its Human Rights Law.

I feel in light of the fact that the State Of Ohio, is seemingly on the opposite end of the spectrum, in their opposition to a similar bill for the Transgendered Community Of Ohio.

That it is nessacary to take this opportunity to point out that the Transgendered Community from a "National Stand Point" is making some headway in our fight for equal rights.

This vote shows us what is possible when we come together, Standing United.

We the People of the GLBT Communities of Columbus & the Entirety of Ohio, must also come together & make our voices heard.

We need to remind the Members of our Local Government that we too are Citizens & Taxpayers Of both the United States of America & the State of Ohio. Which entitles us to EQUAL RIGHTS under the LAW.

Happy Birthday Diana

Diana Brit will be celebrating her very special birthday with a 0 in it the evening of Saturday, May 25, 2002 at Club Diversity.

She has extended an invitation to all our members to stop by after the Crystal Club meeting that evening to join in the celebration & have a piece of birthday cake.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DIANA!

Beauty Secrets

By Vicki Pennington & Barb Canter-Frech

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 cnl@tgender.net to have your tip included in next month's newsletter.

Hands down, the most often asked question we get seems to be can you help me select a foundation

color? The answer is YES, YES, YES!

Many of us have some pretty scary things hiding underneath the bathroom vanity, you know those bottles way back there in the corner.

No, we are not talking about bugs, spiders, or heaven forbid, dust bunnies. We are talking about the protection portion of the 5-step skin care program.

For anyone wondering about a 5-step skin care program, it's that cleanse, exfoliate, freshen, moisturize and protect business that we've heard about at one time or another. If not, more will be said about that later!

Foundation, or base, applied to a cleansed and moisturized face protects us from the sun, when it contains SPF. Foundation is to those of us who use makeup, what a canvas is to a painter. On our canvas, we apply all of our many makeup tips, tricks and brush strokes.

If, however, the face is too yellow, too pale, too dark, too pink or too orange after applying the foundation we can get a bit frustrated. After all, how much fun is it to try to return a makeup item to a regular store?

We thought this subject might be a good place to begin our series. Lets begin by looking at your freshly cleansed and moisturized face, free of all cosmetics. Note any secondary coloring on the face such as obvious red, pink or gold tones. Your complexions coloring will fall into one of the following Shade Levels: Ivory, Beige, Light Bronze or Bronze. Apply a test stripe of foundation along the cheek, jaw line and slightly down onto the throat. If you are unsure which color to start with, begin with the middle color within your Shade Level.

Select the next lightest and the next darkest color within your shade level. Apply a stripe of each of these colors side by side next to each other on the same side of your face. Go darker or lighter as necessary until you find the shade that begins to show softened edges and disappears into the skin. This color is your best color match selection! We could stop here, but it seems unfair to not let you in on a makeup artist's ability to enhance or correct secondary skin tones, sometimes referred to as under tones.

A bit of sparkle can be added also to correct a

complete lack of undertones. This one little extra step can dramatically enhance the face giving it a more finished and beautifully polished look.

For example, those with complexions having secondary red or pink tones can try using a neutral base or warm base color within the correct Shade Level. Using a foundation with a neutral or warm base can help even out the face color for a flawless finish.

If you are unable to determine a foundation base color, place a stripe of each color in the same Shade Level on the back of your hand.

The foundation base colors become easily identified as cool or pink based, warm or more gold based, or neutral, meaning it is without a predominant warm or cool base. If still in doubt about which color will work for you, apply each color, one by one and see which looks best on your face.

We can help you find the foundation color that is best for you! E-mail us if you want to make this test. No

From the Desk of Jenifer Crystal Club Secretary

Hello Sisters of the Crystal Club;

There is a very important & influential person That I feel deserves to be mentioned this month.

A true pioneer of the Transgendered Community, if there ever has been one.

This person changed the opinion of many people for the good of our community, so we all owe her a debt of gratitude, in my opinion.

I am speaking of course of Christine Jorgensen, a transsexual of the 1950's.

May 3, 1989 marks the 13th anniversary of her death. I am deeply aware & saddened because this date has already passed.

However, I still feel the need to bring this news to your attention.

On a Lighter & Happier Note:

May also marks the birth month of this wonderful person, she was born on May 30th, 1926

I would strongly recommend to all of you to go online or to your local library to learn more about Her, as I have already done.

I could tell you all about her in this newsletter, but, I believe that I would rather try to pass my feeling of wanting to get to know her better, on to you.

So that you are inspired to do the same. I believe we need to honor her for the leadership she has shown us.

On a different note:

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, is showing at Studio 35 on Indianola Ave. in Clintonville. These shows are on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month, starting at Midnight.

For Further Information you may call:
(614) – 261 - 1581

NYC Mayor signs Bill into Law

New York Times, Op-Ed
May 1, 2002

Civil Rights for the Transgendered

Mayor Michael Bloomberg yesterday signed into law a bill that extends New York City's human rights protection to transgendered people — a group that includes cross-dressers and people who have law, which passed the City Council 45 to 5, is an important step forward in fighting prejudice and in protecting the rights of some of society's most vulnerable citizens.

The transgendered category covers a wide array of people who do not fit into traditional gender groups, whether due to appearance, behavior or physical attributes. Even in a city as diverse, and generally tolerant, as New York, transgendered people often find themselves discriminated against when looking for work and on the job, and in finding and keeping housing. They are frequently denied service in restaurants and stores. And they are often the victims of hate crimes.

In the debate over the new law, few argued that transgendered people deserve to be discriminated against. Rather, they said that transgendered people were adequately protected by the city's human rights law, which prohibits discrimination on the basis

of gender and sexual orientation. The argument that explicit protection of the transgendered was superfluous was the one Mayor Rudolph Giuliani gave last year, and the position that Mayor Bloomberg took until he changed his mind.

It is true that transgendered people have sometimes been able to employ existing antidiscrimination laws, but not reliably. Putting specific language into the city's human rights law removes all doubt that the transgendered are entitled to equal rights and equal treatment. It also sends a clear message that this sort of discrimination will not be tolerated.

Because the rights of the transgendered have gotten little attention, it might seem that New York broke new ground yesterday. But in fact, more than 40 towns, counties, cities and states — including Iowa City, Louisville, Kentucky and Rhode Island — have written transgendered people into their antidiscrimination laws. New York City's action yesterday was not path-breaking, but it should light the way for other jurisdictions to extend protection to their own transgendered citizen.

Upcoming Meetings

May 2002

- 10** Business Meeting
- 25** Club meeting – BRAVO Speaker

June 2002

- 14** Business Meeting
- 22** Club meeting - State Highway Patrol Speaker

July 2002

- 12** Business Meeting
- 27** Club Meeting – Laser Hair Removal

August 2002

- 09** Business Meeting
- 24** Club Meeting – Cook Out at B.W.M.Park

The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

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.

Screening Officers:

(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:

cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:

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

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

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.