

Chi Chapter Tribune

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Issue # 10

In October:

Chapter to vote on major issue

Absentee Ballot on back

82 attend September meeting



Why Should We Change Our Policy? by Miranda Stevens

At last month's meeting, I introduced an amendment to change our membership policy to one that is nondiscriminatory. When it was submitted it had 16 signatures, which represents about 10% of our membership. We could have had many more sign on if I had continued to ask for signatures. But only 5% is required to submit a proposed amendment. With a few exceptions, people were eager to sign on to the amendment. Let me explain why.

Whatever else it is, Tri-Ess is primarily a support group. For most crossdressers, it is an entry point into an amazing transgender world beyond their own closet doors. Most of us come to Tri-Ess scared, unsure of ourselves, not knowing who we are or what we are. As we learn more about ourselves, we realize that there is a spectrum of transgender expressions. Along this continuum of gender identities, we find ourselves at some point at any given time. But we don't know where we are along that continuum unless we are free to explore our gender honestly in a nurturing, nonthreatening environment. A support group should provide that environment.

Everything in this world is not always black and white, there are shades of gray. Many of us, like myself, don't easily fit into a rigid category. Many of us have a hard time defining ourselves as crossdresser or transsexual, straight or gay/lesbian. Why should we have to? Gender is a continuum after all, it is not all rigid boxes. But what if you come into Tri-Ess, learn to love the organization, make closer friends than you have ever had in your life... and then find that you may at a different place on the spectrum than you originally thought! If you are open and honest about it, you may find yourself threatened with

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Presidents Podium

Normally, I try and have an uplifting column, this month I would usually speak about Halloween, and the need for you all to think about the upcoming nominations for the board which will be held in October. However, we have a more serious problem overshadowing all those, the very existence of the chapter as we know it. This being the attempt to open Chi Chapter up. Twice in March attempts were made by Miranda (once at a board meeting on the vote for the new bylaws and once at the March business meeting where she unsuccessfully tried to get a movement going to change our entrance requirements) and now she is on her third try by proposing an amendment which would allow ANYONE to join and vote in Chi-Chapter. Because this is so serious, the ENTIRE board was polled on the use of absentee ballots and authorized their use, this following numerous requests for them.

This proposed amendment is based on a misguided belief that the current Tri-Ess rules prohibit certain people from joining either as a FULL or a FRIEND member. It is written to confuse either by intent or by chance. What it does is create a new classification of member, one who they claim is excluded from Tri-Ess membership. Golly!!!!!! The FULL membership is for Heterosexual crossdressers and their spouses/family. The FRIEND membership includes ALL OTHERS who support our mission.

This leaves the proposed Affiliate member as some who does not meet

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Oct 18th Meeting Info Page 5



Miranda Writes...

Oooh... I just can't wait. October is my favorite month! It's National Crossdressers Month! And of course you know what that means... it's our wonderful annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest! I'm so excited! What are you gals going to dream up to wear this year! Can it possibly top last years entrees?

The contest will have multiple categories, but they are all in the "GG" (gender gifted) class: most glamorous and gorgeous, the most gruesome and ghoulish, and the most garish and ghastly. In each category, creativity and imagination will be the deciding criteria. So get to work, girls! It's not too late to look your best (or worst as the case may be). You may win one of our fabulous prizes.

The games are still in the planning stage. We may try the pumpkin decorating contest again, and have some other games. Musical chairs is out... we did that at last month's meeting. (We've got to get a bigger meeting room!) I think we should try bobbing for apples. It would be kind of fun to see Kiki's wig floating in the barrel.

- Open House at Rachel's and Outing to - "Different for Girls"

Saturday, October 11 is going to be a real special day! We are having an outing to see an excellent new transgender movie, "Different For Girls," playing for a very short run at the Music Box Theatre. When I told Velma about it, she came up with a wonderful idea: we can all meet at Rachel's and carpool from there to the theater which is only a few blocks away. So... here's the plan.

First, there will be an open house at Rachel's Wigs and Beauty Salon, 1833 W. Irving Park Rd, starting about 1:00 p.m. Velma says, "Spend a day at Rachel's and get in touch with your femme side. Get your new fall hairstyle, makeover or manicure." She promised that refreshments will be available as well!

Then around 6:30 p.m. we'll head off for the Music Box at 3733 N. Southport. I don't know the exact show time, because they manager of the theater told me they don't set them 'til a few days before the show opens. But he said it will be around 7'ish. So let's plan to leave by 6:30 p.m. After the show we can split up and head out to Halsted Street for dinner and a night on the town! What a great day this is gonna be!

Now about the movie... Here's a quick synopsis sent to me by Marsha Jackson. Review by Leslie Rigoulot.

"Kim needs to cut loose and Prentice needs to grow up. And this is their thoroughly British love story. Prentice and Kim went to school together and meet again after a twenty year interval. It wouldn't be too remarkable except that they went to an all boy school and in the intervening years, Prentice's school chum, Karl has become Kim.

"Rupert Graves ("A Room with a View", "The Madness of King George") takes on the role of the punky Prentice. But it will be

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The Secretary's Desk SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP..... by Kiki

The August meeting started around 8:30 by the introduction of the members. We also had someone signing for our member Wendy who is deaf. Among the super overflow 'crowd' of 82 attending the September meeting were;

Paula, Barbara #1, Lois, Alicia, Naomi & Rachel, Eve, Laura, Gloria, Kiki, Carole, Sheila D, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Athena, Lori, Candace & Dawn, Christine, Lee, Denise & Kim, Sandy, Carol, Janet, Dee Dee, Allanah, Jackie & Sandi, Erica, Norma & Joyce, Karen, Rachel & Kate, Colleen & Verna, Toni M, Vickie, Pamela, Michelle, Vanessa, Stacey, Miranda, Rori, Loraine, Sherri, Barbara K, Renee, Aries, Fay, Vicki, Beth, Kay, Andrea, Shelly & Linda, Kimberly, Nicole, Velma, Christina Jennifer & Carolyn, Jill, Samantha, Carolyn, Diana W, Jackie Ann Crystal, Diana L, Julie Ann, Denise, Sara, Joanie, Cynthia, Candy & Fran, Marlene, Nancy, Julie, Glenna, Lisa, Roxi & Prince.

A vote was taken and passed for a change in the By Laws for meeting fees. Miranda discussed the "What's Happening" agenda, copies of which were provided on each table and recommended a movie called "Different For Girls" coming up in October at the Music Box. Its about girls and sports announcers who like to bite them and wear frilly things. (Only kidding)

Candice then gave her report on new comers and the couples group. She also announced a Retreat for couples and/or singles to be held on a weekend by Barbara Getz to develop one's femininity. (And how to beat off sport announcers.)

Christine gave her report on the State of the Treasury, various people gave various announcements the guts of which are found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Naomi gave a speech supporting the raise in membership fees, and then Miranda proposed a new amendment changing membership categories at which point the room became hushed because nobody understood what she was talking about at first.

Laura Ashley, a speech teacher for actors and actresses, gave a program on how to speak like a woman which is certainly needed in our group. Most of us talk like a fishwife at an auction for dead anchovies.

The following attended the meeting:

Marv Albert was not sighted.

READ ON!

The New Miranda Or, How to take away the rights of heterosexual crossdressers to govern themselves.

Miranda Stevens, our very able vice-president of Programming, has proposed an amendment to our by-laws. It reads beautifully and is totally politically correct! It was also written by a master in political phraseology and intrigue who in the last month was able to get the City of Evanston to pass an ordinance providing rights and protection to "transgendered" individuals. She is to be commended for changing a government body's laws to recognize that such individuals do exist and need protection.

However, such an amendment is not for everybody.

It is for government bodies. .

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(Continued from page 1) Presidents Podium

either of these requirements, obviously they must be someone who DOES NOT SUPPORT the mission of Tri-Ess, voting members will include vendors, professionals, admirers, friends of Tri-Ess, enemies of crossdressers - anyone with an agenda who wants to darken Chi's doors. this makes sense once you filter out all the gobbly gook, double talk and sweetness of the proposed amendment and the rhetoric of it's supporters. Take for example, Miranda mentions in her column that her proposal requires some level of membership in National to be a member of Chi, but the proposal speaks a different language and says just the opposite. The sweetness is so thick you can't even make out the gobbly gook.

The old complaint that TS's and gay CD's can't join is a bunch of BULL, they may join as friends, and they ARE welcome at our meetings. All we ask is that they not hold public discussion of TS related situations.

The pro-amendment people want to take the choice away from our members, by pretending that they favor diversity, " while promoting a resolution that would actually destroy the diversity of the transgendered community in Chicago. At present, Chicagoans have the choice of a diversity-membership group (CGS) and a family-oriented crossdressers support group. Under this proposal there would be only one type of group in Chicago. Where is the freedom of choice in that?

A vote for this proposal is a vote to draw the chapter out of compliance with the policies of National Tri-Ess. The proposal is incompatible with Article I and with Article III, A & B of the Chi Chapter Bylaws, as well as Art 9. It has the effect of dividing the bylaws against themselves. It is not possible to amend Art 6 with out amending Art 1, 3, and 9. Allowing 'Friends of Tri-Ess' members to vote in elections and hold office (Section 3, of the proposal) is a violation of Tri-Ess National policy, and will lead to revocation of Chi Chapter's Charter.

We as Transgender people need to get past this "My way is the only way": syndrome and to get our way by cloaking ourselves in false morality. That their views are morally right but at the same time suppressing contrary views.

This amendment is not about discrimination but about a selfish attempt at control. 'If I can't get everything my way, I will destroy it' attitude. If these people believed that there was no open group like CGS, there would be cogent arguments for the need of a diverse-membership group and they could start their own. But to foist their viewpoint on an existing group, Chi Chapter, and control the entire area, suppressing contrary points of view, is wrong. The Great Lakes Gender Leadership Conference which Carol Rodgers and I started last year is an example of the co-operation between groups that exists. Why do we need only one group???

All around our country there is a manifest need for groups focused on Crossdressing & Spouses. No matter how hard the proponents of this amendment try, they cannot legislate away the need for a family-oriented crossdresser-focused group; you can legislate policy but not need. The need will cry out until it is met. If this proposal passes, Chi Chapter will cease to exist. But there will ALWAYS be a Tri-Ess group in Chicago.

Why is this proposed 'Affiliate' membership charged \$36 for dues compared to the regular dues of \$24 ???? Are we attracting someone who is willing to pay for the privilege to vote???? We are proud to be a part of Tri-Ess, and to be a part of the support & education that Tri-Ess provides. It means a lot to us. We won't sell out our Tri-Ess identity for any amount of money.

Now think about this, we have over 160 members, half of which have never attended a meeting, These are the people we are here to support,

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POLICE RAID CROSS-DRESSERS' PARTY!

By Christine Adams



Actually, it wasn't OUR party, but there was a police raid at Tommy Gun's Garage on Saturday, September 13. It was all part of the fun during the outing that Rori was so kind to organize. As could be expected, all eyes in Tommy Gun's were on us as we entered the establishment. Perhaps that was just due to the fact that we were easily the best dressed ladies in the place. Everyone was very polite and friendly toward us. All the group parties at the restaurant were briefly introduced, and we were presented as the group from Transformations. We had a travel agent from another table come over and chat with us briefly, and also had fun with the bachelorette party at the table next to our's. They gave the bride to be a cake with a BIG candle shaped like you know what. You should have heard the jokes they made when it came time for the bride-to-be to blow out the candle. As for the show, the staff asked for a 'volunteer' from the audience to play the part of Mae West on stage. Our own Lori got picked, and played the part very well. She gave us some great public relations in a very lady-like manner. As for the police raid, the officer showed up drunk and wearing an oversized dress over his policeman's uniform. He said he wanted to quit the police force and become a 'transformer'. Everything was done in fun - you should have heard the teasing they gave a group of engineers from Ohio (They were in Tommy Gun's to celebrate the fact that they WEREN'T in Ohio). Afterwards, a group of us went to the Baton Club. This was my first trip to the Baton Club, and it was quite an experience. For those of you unfamiliar with the Baton Club, I will describe it to you. The Baton Club puts on a show consisting of what are probably the most beautiful female impersonators in the country. A few of the acts feature performers in scantily clad costumes, but there is no nudity. The audience consisted of about 95% bachelorette parties, and I have to admit that I had more fun watching the rest of the audience than I did the actual show. The young women there wet NUTS and frequently tipped the performers by stuffing dollar bills into the performers' bras. Once again, our group was treated very politely by everyone else, and a good time was had by all. This is one outing that is definitely worth repeating, and I hope everyone joins in the fun the next time we go.

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(Continued from page 2) Miranda Writes

difficult to recognize Steven Mackintosh who portrays the prim and proper Kim even though he has been in "Memphis Belle" and "Princess Caraboo".

"The film engages the audience on a gut level so that we care about Kim and Prentice. What makes a man a man, or a woman a woman? The story of Kim is juxtapositioned with a subplot concerning her brother-in-law's inability to father a child. Is he less of a man?"

Nominations Wanted

Also during our October Meeting we are having nominations for office. Last Spring, elections were kind of boring: no surprise candidates, no contested elections, no stuffing of the ballot box. You gals should be ashamed to say you're from Chicago! Seriously, if you want to assure the longterm vitality of Chi Chapter, we need to have a steady influx of new people and new ideas. If you've never run for office before, consider doing so now. It's a lot of hard work, but it is fun, rewarding, and you have a chance to make a difference in other's lives.

Rest of the year

I am not going to forecast programs past the beginning of '98. After all, who knows if I will still be Program VP next year. The November program will be elections and hopefully, some lively discussion of issues between the numerous candidates. And then to calm us down, Mary Ann Foster will bring us to a higher plane with her presentation on Transgender Spirituality.

In December, our annual holiday ball, Puttin' on the Ritz, once again returns to the Ramada O'Hare. Besides a wonderful formal dinner, we've booked members of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, the highlight of Be All '97, to thrill us once again with their fabulous show. And we've lined up George, our favorite DJ, to keep us dancing the night away. Make your reservations at the Ramada early to guarantee a room.

See you at the Halloween Party!

Miranda

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(The hit of the Be-All)

For those of you who wish to make early **tower room** reservations, our guaranteed price is \$78

(Continued from page 1) Miranda-Change

expulsion from membership, or relegated to second-class status called "Friend of Tri-Ess," with no voice in the organization. Does this sound like a support group to you?

It just isn't fair. Our membership policy as it stands now is discriminatory. It is one's basic humanity that qualifies a person to support that frightened crossdresser and her worried partner and family. What do gender and sexuality have to do with one's basic humanity and ability to respond to the needs of another human being? There are numerous analogies I can cite. The current policy reminds me of a whites-only country club. What does being white have to do with playing golf? (Maybe you should ask Tiger Woods.) One does not need to be a heterosexual crossdresser to support the needs of a heterosexual crossdresser.

Read over the proposed amendment. Pay particular attention to the fact that the focus of Chi Chapter remains exactly the same as it always was. Note that some level of membership in National Tri-Ess is required to be a member of Chi. The only change is that the new policy does not discriminate against our friends, the people who want to support us, the very same people who are helping us gain human rights protection in Illinois.

Miranda

(Continued from page 2) Kiki

We are not a government body.

Nobody is at risk here.

We are a social/support group for the heterosexual cross dresser.

Miranda's amendment provides that the current category of members that we call "Friends of Tri Ess" be merged with the Full member and be allowed to vote and hold office, and a new category of member called "Affiliate" be allowed to vote, pay higher dues and not be required to belong to Tri-Ess National.

This new "Affiliate" member does not have to be and I emphasize the "does not have to be" part, a crossdresser or a supporter of its mission toward heterosexual crossdressers. It can be anyone.

This is like allowing anyone in the Metropolitan area of Chicago to vote for the Mayor and the aldermen of Chicago if they pay taxes of some sort, or the Fraternal Order of Police allowing crooks to join and vote since they put their money up.

To me this is akin to having the inmates run the asylum. Miranda bases her argument on the following premise which reads "And Whereas: Criteria such as ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in no way diminish one's ability to support the mission of Chi Chapter or perform the functions of an Officer of Chi Chapter."

It reads so nice and is so politically correct! The key words here are "no way diminish....". That's wrong! So wrong it sucks. If you are not a crossdresser no way will you know how a crossdresser and his family feel and your ability to support crossdressing is severely diminished by your own needs which, if you are not a crossdresser, could be entirely different from a crossdresser's.

This technically would allow damn near anyone to vote whether they are crossdressers, or openly gay, or Drag Queens, or transsexuals, or transgendered (whatever that means), and even purple truck drivers to vote in our elections. Unfortunately our type of group does attract all sorts of people and we should not just let anyone in and give them the privilege to vote for us.

Its like letting all the people whose countries are in the UN vote for our President!

Several years ago due to the flack we were getting because we were not an "open" group, a category called "Friends of Tri Ess." was created. We have only one, a vendor.

The "Affiliate" that Miranda wants given voting privilages does not have to be a heterosexual crossdressers They would not be required to support our mission. They would not have to be our "Friends". And--they would not have to be members of Tri Ess National!

That makes us an "open" group that supports anyone who is so-called "transgendered" or anything else.

We already have two wonderful "open" groups in the Chicago area, CGS of which I'm a member and Toni's group in Indiana. These groups include gay, bi, and heterosexual crossdressers, transvestites (which is the same as a crossdresser only more so), and pre-op and post-op transsexuals. A third group is definitely not needed.

We are by design a social/support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families so our social and support events are geared toward the heterosexual crossdresser not some other transgendered person who may want information on sex change operations.

As Kiki's Bible says, "Render to Tri Ess the things that are Tri Ess's and to CGS (or Toni's), the things that are CGS's and Toni's.

As I have said before this new amendment takes away out rights as heterosexual crossdressers to vote for ourselves and govern ourselves!

Save Tri Ess for heterosexual crossdressers only!

Vote "NO."

Bye.

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(Continued from page 3) Denise-Presidents Podium

the ones who rely on this newsletter and the national publications. Out of the more than 160 members are approximately 30 CGS members, myself included. NOW what happens if Chi Chapter becomes an open group? Oh the 30 or so CGS members will remain there, the other 130 or so will be left with an open, unfocused group, not attached to any national group. These 130 members have, in the past, selected NOT to join an open group, it doesn't serve their needs. Do you really think they will want to remain in an OPEN group, I think not. There won't be two open groups in Chicago, there will only be one and it won't be any larger than it is now. These 130 members, YOU, have been left out in the open because a group with a misguided sense of morality says so.

I am a crossdresser...Life long and only out for the past 6+ years. I identify with those who don't want to go out shopping, afraid to go to a meeting....these are normal concerns, I have been there and done it. I don't have any desire to ride in parades, picket buildings, or flaunt myself to the public. In fact it scares me. I dress a few times a month that's all I need...I don't wish to make myself known at work or else where. More power to the people that can do all these things, I wish it was easy, but it is not. Miranda stated in the Chicago Tribune that she is a "Transgendered Women", I state: "I AM NOT A TRANSGENDERED WOMAN but a Heterosexual Crossdresser w/ spouse, receiving and giving support.....no more—no less.

My job is to get to those afraid to go out to a meeting, those who are afraid because they are not sure what they are, TS, CD, or Gay, those who are afraid that their spouse or partner may find out or may need support also. Our goal is to ensure them that it is safe, they need this... Once out they may decide for them selves which way they travel the roads available. We openly work with the other groups to interface and give the member the best possible support.

This is really a referendum if Chi remains in Tri-Ess; it flies in the face of Tri-Ess policy and its vision and its mission. A vote for this amendment is a vote to take Chi Chapter out of Tri-Ess and it is a virtual certainty that the chapter charter would be revoked. The amendment (can be seen in the insert in it's entirety) reeks of glaring ignorance of the purpose we at Chi Chapter provide and an outright disregard for the very people who have chosen to be Chi/Tri-Ess members.

VOTE "NO"

P.S. This is also my re-election campaign speech.

Denise

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Candace for V.P. Outreach

Once again it is time to consider running for an office in Chi Chapter. We officially place Candace D. Mahne, as a candidate for the office of Vice President in charge of Membership and Outreach.

Her focus is to continue the time honored tradition of the Chi Chapter Hot Line. The "hot line" requires a personal touch. Someone with patience, empathy and the ability to help the caller to relax. First listen, then dialogue with the caller, helping him (her) feel at ease. Reassuring the caller that they are not alone. In fact there is many of us out..And the meetings are where we gather to share our stories, real and fancied.

Typical callers are primarily crossdressers. Curious, frightened and lonely,men, wanting affirmation of their wholeness. Our primary purpose and life blood is the newcomer. We pride ourselves as a "hatchery" in transgenderland.

Some nights, hours are spent listening, affirming and encouraging our telephone callers, assuring them our "gift" is wholesome. Although hundreds of letters are mailed each year, this form of communication is impersonal. It, too, lacks the "human touch of our "feminine side. Often, there are lapses of months between calls of some individuals. And they feel secure in talking to the same person.

The World Wide Web, has most recently broadened, our outreach and exposure to the world. People communicate with typed words and never feel the warmth of a person's voice. It is as if a robot was their mother.

Because of security, Chi Chapter requires, at least one telephone conversation with a prospect, prior to being given our meeting location. Other times a "dressed" interview in a home or some public place, such as a restaurant is required.

There is nothing like the "personal touch", remembering the last conversation with the perspective, even though it was months ago.

In the past four years, Candace has made at least 14 "house calls". Two house calls have been made "En Femme" to single crossdressers in their homes: Bartlett and Aurora. Two were met at a hospital parking lot (Hoffman Estates and Central DuPage), as they needed that "human form" for confidence and were escorted to their first meeting.

One was met at a bank parking lot in downtown Lombard and driven to Transformations for a "do". Another was met in a electrolysis salon, in a shopping center in Rockford and had lunch in a public park. Another was met at Transformations and later after her "do" taken to a Chinese Restaurant in Elmhurst and for a drink at Temptations. And lastly, transportation has been provided for members with "restricted drivers licenses.

And then there are the calls from the wives and women friends of crossdressers. Most are curious needing understanding and sources of reference. Most want to talk to someone willing to be gentle and sympathetic to their issues as well; so some common ground can be established.

Some are angry and hurt. Their husbands have not told them about themselves from the start and they wonder what else has been "hidden" from them. Others feel "violated" when they discover their clothes have been worn by us (without their consent). And others are confused and are in need of the same education and understanding you require. Crossdressers are more whole with the support of a loving (accepting) partner.

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Rachel for V.P. Programming

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and to explain why I want to be the next Vice-president of Programming of Chi Chapter. Hopefully this letter will make clear my goals and how I plan to reach them.

My name is Rachel. My wife Kate and I have been involved in Chi Chapter since 1996. I am deeply grateful that Chi Chapter was there for us. I'm sure you all know that wonderful feeling when you discover that you are not alone, that you are part of a group made up of wonderful, caring people from all walks of life.

I feel that as Vice-president of Programming I would have a chance to give something back to the newcomers who take that all important step and cross the threshold for the first time, the members of Chi Chapter, and the members of P.A.L.S. Who love and support us. We are all on a journey to discover the true nature of who we are and to become the person we want to be. Programming should be directed towards helping each member achieve these goals. Our programs should develop what is on the inside of us as much as what we look like. Below is a list of program ideas I propose. They fall into three main categories: 1) educational / informative, 2) personal growth and healing, 3) fun / social. Hopefully, most programs will contain a mixture of all three areas.

- 1) A panel of members sharing their experiences as crossdressers, how they have dealt with problems, and how they have grown over time.
- 2) A guided discussion by Barbara McCoy Getz on relationships and intimacy.
- 3) A guided discussion by Mark Werle, a counselor and therapist from Chicago, on identifying and dealing with our emotions.
- 4) Fashion do's and don'ts.
- 5) A game show involving all present at the meeting.
- 6) A panel discussion of the aging crossdresser: changes in viewpoint, attitude, body and style.
- 7) A panel discussion of feelings, thoughts and opinions our wives and significant others would like for us to know but may be afraid to share with us.
- 8) Crossdressers as presented in history, art, film and literature.
- 9) Getting to know each other. An evening dedicated to the members of Chi Chapter getting to know each other better through various "icebreaking" techniques.

These are just a few of the ideas I and others have come up with. I am sure there are many more excellent ideas within the membership. I would hope that I could draw upon the entire chapter, to include P.A.L.S., for programming ideas. We have a terrific chapter and an invaluable resource for ourselves and those who will come. With your help I believe the chapter can become even better and stronger. In turn, we can help each other become better, stronger, and healthier.

Rachel Baba

(Continued from page 6) Candace

Another plus is the other "team member: Dawn. She is available for spouses of the crossdresser. AB the founder of PALS and coordinator of Couples Group, converse in a positive manner "woman to woman" about the husband crossdresser. And there is support in Chi Chapter for her, too.

The office of Membership, and Outreach is very important to all the of closeted" and their significant others. They must give, not only our time, but more importantly give of themselves in a "motherly", nurturing, sympathetic, empathetic and reassuring manner.

Outreach has many participants, primarily all of you that are "It out". The image, demeanor and attitude you portray to the general public ultimately reflects upon all of us, either negatively or positively.

There are many Chi Chapter members participating in presentations to students in high school, colleges and universities. A common thread amongst all the transgendered groups is coordinated in conjunction with the Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council for uniformity of presentation material and developing new outreach and Speakers.

The most recent addition is at Rock Valley College (Human Sexuality Class). Last summer Candace was a speaker and a participant at the first The National Convention of Welcoming and Affirming Baptist Convention in Evanston. And in July of 1997, she traveled to Bean Blossom Indiana, for the annual retreat and board meeting of the American Baptist Concerned. This is a 25 year old arm of the American Baptist Church concerning pastoral care for gay, lesbian, bisexual and most recently transgendered persons. She made a plea to the attending clergy urging the recognition of pastoral care for the transgendered community. She was invited to join and participate in areas of her expertise.

If there is anyone in Chi Chapter who can meet the dedication and loyalty requirements presented, come forward. Either as an aspirant of the Membership and Outreach Vice President of Chi Chapter, or actively join us in our endeavor.

We believe the best candidate for this post is CANDACE D. MAHNE.

a proven record of loyalty to Chi Chapter (Tri Ess), embracing others' participation and empathy on the "hot line". Has expanded outreach from colleges to seminaries and home visits, as well as providing transportation to our meetings.

FOR THE PERSONAL TOUCH ELECT CANDACE D. MAHNE
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE REELECTION
OF CANDACE D. MAHNE
FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF
MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH
CHI CHAPTER TRI-ESS

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Couples Group

The couples group met at Norma & Joyce's home on September 27th. With 6 couples present, a great discussion was held. Don't miss the next one on **Saturday, Oct 25th**. We will announce the location at the meeting or you may call the helpline for information.

NOTE: There is NO crossdressing at the meeting.

P.A.L.S.

The P.A.L.S. meeting was held at 6:00pm on Sept 18 just prior to the regular meeting. Present were; Kate, Kim, Linda, Dawn, Carolyn, Claudia, Joyce, Donna and Fran..

October meeting schedule October 18 th

4:00 pm Changing rooms open #117 & # 120
6:30 pm Changing rooms close
6:30 pm PALS & Newcomers groups meet
8:00 pm Meeting begins

Location of the meeting room is still unknown but either way, entrance should be thru room 117 or the regular room.

For room reservations, call: 630-279-0700

Dues are now being accepted for the year 1998.

Chapter Dues are \$24.00 for all members.

NOTE: ASSOCIATE members are now classified as FULL members.

National Dues are \$36.00 for individual and \$48.00 for couples

Please remit direct to Chi Chapter at:

**Chi-Chapter
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040**

BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS


For your vote to count, you must follow this procedure.

- 1: Cut out the ballot on the dotted lines on the rear page and mark your vote by circling the word YES or NO.
- 2: Fold ballot and place in the provided envelope.
- 3: Fold this envelope and place in a larger envelope and seal.
- 4: Print your return address in the upper left corner this must be the address you currently have on file in your membership record.
- 5: Print the word BALLOT in the lower left corner.
- 6: Print the numbers from your membership number (also found on the mailing label) on the REAR flap and "Sign" your fem initials below that. Mail to:

Chi-Chapter
PO Box 40

Wood Dale IL 60191-0040

soon enough so it can be received at the box no later than noon on Oct 18., 1997

I. A. Member PO Box 3456 Chicago IL 60614	
BALLOT	Chi-Chapter PO Box 40 Wood Dale IL 60191-0040 USA

1234
I. A. M.

Rear of mailing envelope ↑

DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING on the inside ballot envelope!

**Proposal For An Amendment
To The By-Laws Of Chi Chapter Of Tri-Ess**

Whereas: We the undersigned believe in the mission of Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess as a support group for the heterosexual crossdresser and his family,

And Whereas: Current membership classes in Chi Chapter allow individuals who fall outside of the category of heterosexual crossdresser and his family to join as "Friends of Chi Chapter,"

And Whereas: Friends of Chi Chapter are denied voting privileges and are disqualified from running for office,

And Whereas: Criteria such as ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in no way diminish one's ability to support the mission of Chi Chapter or perform the functions of an Officer of Chi Chapter,

And Whereas: We believe In a nondiscriminatory membership policy, and that diversity not only strengthens our community, but is key to its ultimate success,

Be it resolved that the By-Laws of Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess be amended as follows:

ARTICLE VI- MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1- Types

A. Recognizing that the purpose of Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess is primarily for support of the heterosexual crossdresser and his/her family, membership is open to anyone who supports that mission. The following memberships will be available to those wishing to join Tri-Ess Chi-chapter:

- a. Member with standing in Tri-Ess National
- b. Affiliate Member

SECTION 2- Membership Classifications:

- A. Member with standing in Tri-Ess National: Any person who holds a current active Full Membership or Friend of Tri-Ess Membership in the National Society for the Second Self.
- B. Affiliate Member: Any person who does not qualify for Full Membership or Friend of Tri-Ess Membership in the National Society for the Second Self.

SECTION 3- Restrictions

- A. Membership shall not be withheld from an applicant because of sex, race, ethnic background, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- B. All members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- C. Chapter membership dues (see Article VIII, Section 1) for Affiliate Members shall be 50% higher than Member with standing in Tri-Ess National.
- D. Members with standing in Tri-Ess National and Affiliate Members may vote in elections and other issues which require a vote of the membership.
- E. Affiliate members are not eligible to run for office.

Ss:

Miranda Stevens, IL-4098-M, Julie Johnson, IL-4627-J, Carole Abrams, IL-1672-A, Laura Bowe, IL-1186-B, Samantha Versicky, IL-4605-V, Diana Williamson, IL-4664-W, Colleen Conner, IL-4096-C, Verna Conner, IL-9252-C, Diana Little, IL-4655-L, Nicole Taylor, IL-4579-T, Beth Plotner, IL-4414-P, Lori Fox, IL-3368-F, Kimberly Reck, IL-4451-R, Christina Motiaytis IL-4603-M, Toni Monzo, IL-4172-M, Jackie Ann Crystal, IL-4684-S



CHI-CHAPTER ABSENTEE BALLOT

YES, I APPROVE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

NO, I DO NOT APPROVE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ MAILING INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE