

Chi Tribune



Vol # 20 Issue #4

April 1995

THE WRIGHT LINE!

By Gloria Wright,



Gloria

Well, the smoke has cleared, and through the cloud of dust our new officers appear. And they look like.....our old officers. Well, they aren't that old, but we've seen these people before. I think it's a testament to these officers that they are still on the board. There was some pretty stiff competition in our March meeting election. Many people told me we really had some good choices to make. I think that's good. I've always said that our people are talented and successful in other parts of their lives. So you would expect them to have the same talents for our group.

I think the old/new officers can be proud that they did well enough to all retain their seats. And I think the challengers can feel proud that they gave us a run for our money. (Not that anyone was paid off, as far as I know!)

Well, that's the past. What does the future hold? Anyone who knows me knows that I'm only interested in what works, not personalities. I think elections are good for at least two reasons, other than deciding on who represents the chapter.

One, it lets us know who has ideas, and who wants to participate at a decision making and action level. So you will see me challenge those who ran to take an active role in the things they publicly stated they were interested in. I don't want to name names, but you just might (as a matter of fact, you will) see me put the moves on Susan and Carol to assist in finding us a new home. Talk is cheap, but actions speak volumes. I will be challenging Rachel to help us with programs, and I will be

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Happy Easter, Passover and Tax Time!!

But lets not forget the anniversary.....!!!!

Happy 20th Anniversary Deanna

This month Deanna celebrates her twentieth year as a member of Tri-Ess and Chi-Chapter. She has come a long way, a way some of us can only dream of. Without her Tri-Ess would only be a small fraction of what it is today. Her unselfish acts and daring to go forth and be on many-many Television shows, risking her own privacy and personal life, has brought national attention to 'our' group.

On behalf of all the members who joined because of your dedication and sacrifice..... **Thanks**

and a special thanks to Joy, who has been both wonderful and supportive and is just a very, very special person.....

Thanks Joy

Denise

Regular MAY Meeting

Spring Fling

A new location

**Holiday Inn - Express
Elmhurst**

**A chance to inspect a possible
new meeting location
complete with guided tour and
dinner, entertainment.**





EDITOR'S CORNER



Denise is On Vacation, this is all a figment of her imagination.....

La Cage????....

Saw an interesting Entertainment tonight the other day. There is a new show on the road called "Cowboys La Cage"....Guess what that is all about. That's right, all your favorite female country-western singers played by men.

Trailers?

A big highlight of the March meeting was when Gloria presented Kiki with an 'award' as 'Queen of the Trailer Park'. The award was a model truck suitable for the Queen and her party. Kiki was last seen looking for a set of batteries.

Ads \$\$

A couple of months back, I brought up the possibility of charging for advertising. This was the second time I did so, but I was encouraged to keep plugging away by Vicki the printers suggestion to try again and her offer to handle the dirty part. The rest of the board was agreeable and I have made up a rate list and hope to have Vicki and (if I can get her from CGS) Sunny to go forth and sell. The monies realized from this endeavor will offset the cost of mailing the newsletter which in postage alone now runs approx. \$80 a month for an 8 page issue.

Road Trip.....

Well not exactly. Just a vacation to the wonders of that automated black hole of money called Disney World. Hope to run into Deanna and family there and then go over to visit our sister chapter Phi Epsilon Mu in Orlando at their monthly meeting, April 1. More on that next issue. Hope I can afford to get back.

Big Time Event!...

We saw a large turnout for the annual officers elections at the March meeting. 87 members, friends, SO's and visitors showed up at the Midway to participate in the clothing auction and the election of new officers.

According to my Bozoputer, there were 53 votes cast with the following results:

PRESIDENT= Gloria Wright

VP PROGRAMMING= Rori [REDACTED]

VP MEMBERSHIP= Candace [REDACTED]

SECRETARY=Denise Peters

TREASURER=Deanna

Congratulations to all, and thanks to all those who didn't make it but showed the desire to run and participate.

"Nuff said about elections until next year....."

Bystander

Our clothing auction proved to be a big success with approximately \$270.00 being taken in on sales and \$27 going towards the Chi-Chapter treasury. In fact, there was such a great amount of clothing that it couldn't all be handled at one meeting and the auction will be continued at the next meeting. So bring more STUFF, OK?

Volume?????.....

If you haven't already noticed, the Volume number on the front page has increased from 18 to 37 in two years...I don't know why. The stories I have are that they represent different starting years for Chi and FPE...Therefore to set the record straight and to honor Deanna (past editor). I am changing the volume number to 20 to honor her years here in Chi-Chapter and as the Tribune's Editor.....

(so fire me if you don't like it)

The Chi Tribune

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Denise Peters

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The Chi Tribune newsletter is published monthly by Chi Chapter TRI-ESS. Please send all news, information, contributions, comments and suggestions to:

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(708) 438-1901

OR

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Upload can be in any popular word processing format or ASCII text file. Typed, faxed articles accepted with prior arraignment

Chi Chapter/TriEss

P.O.Box 40

Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Officers

President: Gloria Wright

VP/Program: Rori [REDACTED]

VP/Membership: Candace [REDACTED]

Secretary: Denise Peters

Treasurer: Deanna Johns

Committees

Couples Group: Susan [REDACTED]

Newcomers: Dee Dee [REDACTED]

Amanda

Food: Sally

TRI-ESS is a not-for-profit social and educational support group for crossdressers and their spouses and partners. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. Except April 95

Chi Chapter Telephone Hotline:
(708) 364-9514

Deanna's Diary



Spring has come early to Chicago, and March Madness was everywhere! Add the excitement of the return of "Air Jordan" to the scene and you could imagine that Chi Gals would have other interests for this month's meeting. NOT! The gals came out in droves; we were literally exploding out the doors.

Whether it was for the elections, or just the camaraderie, we were well represented. Those in attendance were: Deanna, Naomi & Rachel, Laura B, Leslie, Gloria, Carol G, Kiki, Tammy, Vickie B, Ruby, Sheila S, Barbara Lee, Barbara D, Charlene, Rose, Jackie V, Jamie, Amber, Athena, Lori, Sheryl, Candace, Amanda D, Christine K, Edie, Lee, Denise, Monica, Sandy, Susan T, Dee, Carol R, Susan V, Janet, Dee Dee, Jackie & Sandy, Sunny, Burnice, Wende, Norma & Joyce, Jeannette, Cynthia, Vickie L, Karen, Madelyne, Colleen & Verna, Miranda, Alicia M, Anita, Jackie W, Jennifer, Diane, Michelle, Dana & Rosalie, Paula & Sandy, Claudia, Lois, Laurette, Alicia W, Jami, Laura, Sandy P, Kim, Bobbi K, Bobbi, Anthony, Nikita, Andrea, Stacey, Jill, Michelle, D Anne, Barbara B, Rori, Sally, Velma, and Fay Bass. Special guests this evening visiting from C.G.S. were: Stephanie, their President, Janice, their Secretary, and Karen B, their historian, past president, and all around "good gal!"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who voted to elect me as your first Treasurer. I feel it an honor to be entrusted by my sisters. Those of you who may be scratching their heads and saying, "What is she talking about, she's been our Treasurer for the last 10 years!" Yes, I have been the Treasurer, but the title was Secretary/Treasurer, so, in actuality, I am the first member to hold the position of Treasurer.

Now to get back to the point of saying thank you. It is somewhat of a historic occasion, and I am the only one who can bring this following fact to your attention, but as I take office next month, April marks the Twentieth Anniversary of my membership in Chi Chapter. The only other current chapter members who were there at my first meeting today rarely attend meetings. They were Donna Martin, the Tri-Ess Membership Director, and Eve Buchardt, European Liaison for Tri-Ess, and I.F.G.E. member of the Board. I stand in good company and am proud to mention my name with theirs.

I hold a large bit of history in my memory; having seen many members come, grow, and leave, finding other interests and/or directions. I've seen the chapter move from one meeting location

to another, sometimes for bigger and better facilities, and other times because we were no longer welcome. I've seen chapter activities go from six to twelve members meeting in a room going through wardrobe changes twice or three times during the night, and always taking photographs of each other, then sharing those photos at the next meeting, in between wardrobe changes on that night's meeting. I was present when Chi Chapter first went public when we held a meeting at a place called "The Light Factory." I witnessed the birth of the "Be All You Want To Be" weekend, the "Puttin On The Ritz" awards banquet, and the increase in membership with our appearances on such national television talk shows as: David Susskind, Sally Jesse Raphael, and Phil Donahue, and countless numbers of local talk shows where Naomi & Eve made Crossdressing a household word.

I have seen the chapter go through members like Bill Veech would go through ball players as owner of the White Sox in the early '70's. Yet one constant that has stood was that Chi Chapter survived in spite of all the changes. So, when I hear members boast that we are strong in numbers and we should dictate to the National what we will do and what we will not do, I react by becoming angry, then I chuckle to myself when I realize that there will always be a Chi Chapter who will remain loyal to Tri-Ess. One of these upcoming months, the chapter needs to have a good discussion of our goals and objectives; Gloria just mentioned this idea to me, and I am in full agreement with her. I don't know when this will happen, if ever, but it is a good idea for a meeting program.

Some of the candidates for office came up with some very creative and good ideas of what and where they would like to see the chapter; we should take action on some of these thoughts. We need to encourage these young and innovative people to step forward and help the current officers with their duties because you are the leaders of the future for Chi Chapter.

I want to congratulate the other officers on their successful nomination and election to office: Gloria as our President who is as creative and resourceful as any president to serve the Chapter; Rori as VP of programming who I hope gets all the help and assistance she can from all the "critics" in the chapter; Candace as VP on membership, who is an individual who never seem to tire from the work and who always takes on more; and lastly, Denise as the new Secretary, who is a master of the computer and a sponge when it comes to taking on new tasks and a whirlwind when it comes to completing those tasks. I am in good company and you, the membership, have nothing to worry about for the next twelve months. Your chapter is in great hands. But, then, you knew that: you elected us. Thanks to all of you.

Couples Social

By Susan [REDACTED]

Saturday night the 11th of March 7 couples enjoyed themselves with a evening of fun. The night started with dinner at Hackney's in Lake Zurich. Unlike the previous event where we waited for quite some time for a table tonight we were quickly seated and attended. The conversation was lively and enjoyable and we were able to have fun without any set plan or work to do. The meal was excellent and I can safely recommend this restaurant.

Afterwards the evening continued at the home of our secretary Denise Peters. Once again thru their graciousness D and K opened their home to and even provided quite a dessert spread. Why is it when you go to a party at someone's home all the ladies end up in the kitchen? Well some of us "ladies" may not have been dressed but we were present in spirit. To the wives credit they were dressed very pretty and to prevent me from digging my grave, I won't single any out for special compliment.

Now that it seems that we have been able to organize a simple dinner event now I think it's time to do a show. The next outing is still up for consideration though the date has been set for May 13.

The next regular meeting of the couples group will be Saturday, April 29. For more information speak to any of the members wearing the couples pin at the meeting or call Dave or Joy at (708) [REDACTED] evenings after 7pm.

APRIL Meeting APRIL 22nd

Topic:

A: Continuation of the clothing Auction

B: "Ask your officers" Rap session

(Set us in the direction you want us to go, Give us your views on rooms, activities, programs etc.)

Letter from Susan [REDACTED]

To the membership:

Thank you for those who voted for me in the election. It seems that I received twenty percent of the vote, pretty good for the first time running against such an entrenched incumbent as my opposition, Dan Rosten...oops wrong election. All kidding aside as I stated in the election and listed below, I will try to incorporate as many of the things I listed. Also, more than ever, Gloria and I will be coming amongst you to seek out help.

Fear not when we ask we'll you know what's involved. Very often it will even give you a few more hours en-femme. To make this as great a group as you want you need to participate. I'll be around so don't make yourselves scarce. Also Make it a point to come and sit in on officers meetings; you're welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sisterly hugs,

Susan [REDACTED]

The following are ideas for improvement of the chapter.

1. Bring structure in the form of bylaws or a constitution. This will eliminate possible conflicts due to ignorance of rule and behavior.
2. Bring structure in the form of a preset plan for meetings. This will incorporate business as well as the program for the night.
3. Incorporate outside activities on meeting weekend. This will include listings of restaurants and bars to attend before and after the meeting. This will also include a sign-up sheet for those wishing company. Further a map on how to find these places for new people.
4. Determine the need and feasibility of a contact system for those arriving the night before who wish to start that evening.
5. Incorporate and promote a computer bbs. for the use of chapter members as well as for outreach to possible new members.
6. Set up regular member led "boot-camp" for those wishing to improve their feminine images.
7. Find a new location for meetings.
8. Identify and educate potential leaders and promote active participation at upcoming elections.
9. Initiate a team approach for solving and improving all aspects of chapter life.
10. Establish an annual award to the member non-board who has shown extra effort in helping the chapter or a sister.
11. Establish an annual award to a "new" sister who has stood out and shown herself a credit to the sorority.
12. Follow-up on all those attending a meeting for the first time.
13. Create a publication about the chapter for outreach purposes.
14. Make the Board meeting a public event. Hold it in the main meeting room to allow membership opinion.
15. Open communication with other local groups to identify and strengthen common interests and network to support the fight against ignorance and discrimination.

Where To Go - What To Do

Chicago Area Events

1995

APRIL

8th:

Gemini Gender Group
Milwaukee

11th:

CGS Meeting
(Hecks)

22nd:

Chi-Chapter Meeting
(Midway)

SSGNO

(Blue Island)

29th:

Couples Group Meeting

MAY

3rd:

SSGNO
(Blue Island)

6th:

Gemini Gender Group
Milwaukee

9th:

CGS Meeting
(To be announced)

20th:

Chi-Chapter Meeting
Dinner-Prom
(Holiday Inn Express)

Nationwide Events

1995

APRIL

20-23rd:

Moonlight in Manhattan
(New York)
(212) 765-3561

California Dreaming
(Burbank CA)
(714) 779-9013

MAY

17-21st:

Espirit 95
Port Angeles, Wash

18-21st:

Paradise in the Poconos
(610) 640-9449

JUNE

7-11th:

Be-All
(Cincinnati)
(513) 474-9557

14-18th:

Transgen 95
Houston, TX
(713) 723-8368

JULY

26-30th:

SPICE
Memphis TN
(501) 227-8798

GENERAL MEETING

Information:

The April meeting will be held on April 22nd at the Midway Hotel. The Midway is located on the Northwest corner of Busse Road, Oakton and Higgins (IL-72).

The meeting will be in our usual room 168 and opens at 5pm with the meeting beginning at 8:00 PM. An officers meeting will begin at 4:00pm in the side room.

Entrance to the hotel should be made at entrance #6 in the rear of the hotel.

Due to a change in room assignments by the Midway, the usual side room #166 may not be available and we will be using the side room at the opposite end of the normal meeting room instead.

If you wish to make a room reservation, please call the Midway desk at (708) 981-0010 and ask for the current Tri-Ess room rate, and a room near our meeting room #168.

Newcomers

Amanda and DeeDee will host a conversation for newcomers. The conversation will begin at about 6:30 and end around 7:45 in time for everyone to get to the regular meeting. To find the room, look on the door of the regular meeting room (#168) for a notice marked, "Newcomers' Session." It will give the room number.

Open House

Fashion Exchange will be holding an open house on APRIL 23rd from 2PM to 5PM. Snacks and Beveridge Special Price reductions up to 70%

**FASHION EXCHANGE
201 W. St. Charles Rd
Villa Park
(708) 530-0201**

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looking to Sunny to be involved in collecting advertising dollars for our newsletter. Oops, I guess I did name names, didn't I?

Secondly, I used my pornographic memory to keep track of all the ideas presented, and they will all be on the table for next year.

Just to clear up one point made at the meeting: Chi-Chapter did write up rules and regulations twice. I know about the second set, because I wrote them myself. I was unsuccessful in getting them to the ratification stage because this occurred in my "pre-president" stage. I still have them, and will present them to the board for consideration along with any other plans anyone would like to present.

We will be moving our board meetings to 6:00 PM. (It meets on our regular meeting nights.) This should make it accessible for anyone wanting to attend. Everyone is always welcome!

Lastly, we plan to have an "Ask the Officers" session at our April general meeting. So please come prepared with questions, comments, compliments, gripes, etc. As I've said ad infinitum, this is not my group, or the officers group. It's our group, and the more involved we all are, the more successful we'll all be.

Oh yes, congratulations to Kiki, our new "Queen of the Trailer Park." I'm sure she will serve us with honor. Or else we'll show her how history has treated queens who didn't please their minions.

Again, congratulations to the new/old board. Thanks to all who were willing to put their egos on the line in the election. And thanks to all who participated in the election. Let's look forward to bigger and better things this next fiscal year.

See you at the meeting!

What If They Yell "Fire" in a Crowded Theater?

by Barbara (#2) ■■■

■■■ you ever wonder what would happen if someone yelled "Fire" in a crowded movie theater? Well, let me tell you! I had a most interesting adventure on March 11, and though it was a little stressful, the outcome was a much better feeling about myself, and the deep internal satisfaction that comes when I am accepted as Barbara. It also had several humorous moments, so I hope to make you smile.

It all started on Saturday, March 11, which was not only a beautiful day for Chicago, it was to be a beautiful day for Barbara. For most of 1994 I had lost most interest in dressing and going out (not for any reason, it seems), but the old feelings had come back, and it was time to return to Tri-S and get out again. Many of you have met my wife Lisa, and know that I am blessed with a positive and supportive wife, and we decided that with my new clothes (have we been shopping!) it was time for a new hair look. Well, Velma's Hair Day couldn't have been better timed, and I spent three evenings beforehand going through my closet and deciding what to wear for just my second venture out in public in the last two years. So on Saturday, I left the house at 2:00 PM wearing a soft black pleated skirt that fell to just above the knees, a cream colored glossy-fabric blouse, 2" black pumps, neutral hose, and casual gold jewelry to complete the look.. Fortunately the weather was great, and the outfit looked perfectly reasonable for daytime wear. I also wore my brunette long curly wig, knowing full well that it only had to get me to Velma's.

I have never been to Velma's before and it was quite a drive from the western 'burbs, but she is so nice, and the others there were such pleasant company that I hardly noticed two hours pass. Anyway, as I sat down in Velma's chair, I told her that

(Continued on page 8)

Wanna go to a Prom???

Here's your chance!! At Chi-Chapter's

SPRING FLING

'The Prom dress you always wanted to wear.'
A full scale sit down dinner with a cash bar, dancing
and surprise entertainment

May 20th 1995 Regular Meeting Night Holiday Inn Express-Elmhurst


Located 1 Mile south of North Ave. on Route 83 (Kingery Hwy-Busse Road)
at Riverside Dr. (opposite Wal-Mart) Elmhurst

(It's only 10 miles directly south of the Midway hotel on Busse Road/Rt 83)

**Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Menu: Baked Chicken w/Brunitto Sauce, or
Baked Mostasciulli w/cheese, Vesuvio Potatoes, Green Beans, Homemade Apple
Strudel, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Coffee / Tea, Cash Bar**

Total cost per person \$25.00 / \$45.00 per couple.

Room rate is \$59 and reservations can be made at (708) 279-0700, Please mention you are with the Tri-ess group



Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Please reserve _____ seats for the **SPRING FLING**. I have enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ (Fem Name) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tickets will be held at the door.

(Continued from page 6)

while I'd never met her, I'd heard she was a wizard with the wigs. She thought I said 'lizard', so exclaimed with her little-girl voice "A lizard, why am I a lizard?". So our first big smile was when I said, no dear, WHIZZ-ard! Well, she is indeed a wizard, and after I explained my style, and what I enjoy doing, she came back with the most perfect wig - I knew it was right as soon as I saw it! Short, very modern style, and just what you'd expect to see on a thirty-something professional. I would have paid twice what I did for it (sorry Velma - I have a receipt!), and very quickly I gained some of that confidence that comes when you KNOW you look good.

As 5:00 pm rolled around, I knew I had to get moving because I wanted to do some shopping, and see a particular movie. I had also arranged my return home with my wife so that I could dodge a) the kids, and b) her girlfriend who was visiting after a two-year stint out of state! (Of all weekends - but my wife and I both knew what was better for me.) I regretfully had to turn down dinner with Sandy, Miranda, and Carol, but they were having as good a day as I and I'm sure they did just fine. By 6:00 pm I was strolling through Woodfield mall (great, the ONLY theater playing "Madness of King George" is in the mall) on my way to Penney's to kill some time before the 6:45 show. With my heart racing, I stepped into the Saturday night crowd - only to find out that nobody noticed! Now I realize that it could also be that no one cared, but I am pretty sensitive to the difference. The magic was working, and the only person, it appeared, that most people saw was an attractive lady shopping. I noticed one duo of young ladies 'read' me, but they only seemed excited about the 'sighting' of a cross-dresser (wow, just like on TV), and caused nary a fuss. The big breakthrough was that I did not panic and flee! I only smiled, and knew that two out of hundreds was fine with me. Didn't see much in Penney's except a great looking pair of red jean-style stirrups, but couldn't figure out how I would wear them, and left them on the rack. By 6:30 I headed back to the theater, stood in line, and bought my ticket to "Madness of King George".

The theater was pretty full, so I had to sit in the last row. The seat next to me was broken, so I had no immediate neighbors, and the couple on the end paid no attention. (Damn - I have nice legs, too - and he didn't even notice. Must be a 'breast-man'!) The movie is excellent, and I was enjoying it ver much, when about half way through, we start hearing a buzzer alarm. Here was psychology revelation #1 - nobody stirred! It sounded like a dorr buzzer to me, so I wasn't worried a bit either. But after a minute or so, one of the ushers came in and announced there was a fire drill, and for everyone to exit calmly into the mall. Here was psychology revelation #2 and #3 - first, everyone remained calm, and two, many people actually believed it was fire DRILL! Right - Woodfield mall regularly has fire drills in the theater after the rest of the mall closes! I had time to reflect on those thoughts as I soon found myself in the middle of Woodfield Mall, on Saturday 'date night',

surrounded by 5 theaters full of people! I thought about leaving, but apparently the 'fight or flight' instinct failed me, and I decided to stay and tough it out. (Maybe it didn't fail after all.) So we waited while I practiced calming exercises. And waited while I mused on the humorousness of my situation. And waited as my confidence rose, until the fire department arrived. There didn't seem to be a fire, so I am guessing false alarm or popcorn smoke. During all this time I had noticed another single woman in the crowd, so I decided to follow her lead as to what to do. Instead of hunching down and shrinking, I stood tall, patiently holding my purse and jacket over my arm, and casually kept to myself. Once again - wow! - if anyone noticed anything different, they didn't care enough to point it out to anyone. And yes, I caught a few boyfriends looking at someone other than their dates - which also boosted my confidence. Well, after 20-30 minutes, all was clear, and we filed back into the theaters, and resumed the movie. By ten o'clock I was home, and as I crawled into bed later, I could only smile and reflect back on what had turned out to be a beautiful day for Barbara. So beautiful, in fact, that there will now be others!

MARY KAY

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