



News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

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Renaissance

News & Views Shut Down!

Well, now that we have your attention we're glad to tell you that it's not *quite* true. We have suspended publication for July only. For the first time in ten years there is no regular issue of *Renaissance News & Views*. The rent on our national office has nearly doubled, expected revenue from the Second International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues did not come up to expectations and neither did our request for donations. (See page two for a Congress report.) We are facing serious financial difficulties in the coming months.

What Does This Mean To You?

If Renaissance National doesn't get an influx of funds immediately we will cease publication of the newsletter and close the national office. We don't want this to happen and we think you don't want it to happen either. Ten years ago Renaissance was founded to provide transgendered people with information on gender issues, give transgendered people a place to meet others like themselves, and to educate the general public about transgender issues. So far, we've done a good job. But now the time has come for the membership to ensure that Renaissance will continue as an organization into the 21st century with able leadership.

We have taken several steps in that direction: getting a real office; adding an Executive Director; and sponsoring the Second International Congress. All of these steps helped us become the best transgender organization we can be. But, we need to be better. Why? Because each and every crossdresser trying on his sister's or wife's underwear in the middle of the night, every little boy who feels that he should be with the girls (and vice versa), every transgendered person who has felt shame or guilt because they know that they are different—they all need to know they're not alone.

What Can You Do?

To maintain our organization and grow into the 21st century we need money—now. Putting to-

gether twenty four pages of news each month, getting it printed and mailed doesn't happen by itself. The phone doesn't answer itself. The information requested in those phone calls doesn't mail itself. Even though the majority of the labor involved is volunteer, duplicating and printing costs money, mailing costs money, envelopes and stamps cost money, *everything* costs money. And, for now, the money isn't there.

This year, for the first time ever, we solicited additional donations from our members. This met with only limited success and did not raise anywhere near the revenue we had hoped for. Now we must ask for an additional assessment to keep the doors open for the rest of the year. Unlike other pleas for donations, we can assure you that the funds we raise will be used to do the work we have pledged to carry out. The money will keep *News & Views* coming to you for the rest of the year.

What's About Next Year?

Next year we are going to ask you to continue to support our efforts on behalf of the transgender community by paying *more* for a subscription to *Renaissance News & Views*. In return, we will give you more for your money. The newsletter, which has been bulging at the seams for some time, will morph into a monthly magazine with photos and expanded content. It's an exciting idea that has been discussed at National for several years. Now is the time to move ahead and take the next step.

Help us make that step possible. Join together with your sister and fellow Renaissance members and send in the one time assessment of \$7 per person. If you can send more please do. With your help we will continue to carry out our mission, continue to provide the best news in the transgender community, and continue to help people just like you to make a better place in the world.

Thank you for your support.

JoAnn Roberts, Chair of the Board
Angela Gardner, Executive Director

Second Congress A Success Host Organization Near Death

The Second International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues was held over June 19 to 22 in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and hosted by the Renaissance Education Association, Inc. Over 210 people attended representing health care professionals and members of the transgender community.

The Friday program held a little bit of something for everyone and included such presenters as Virginia Prince, Ph.D.; Niela Miller, Sandra Cole, Ph.D.; Dallas Denny; Marisa Richmond, Holly Devor, Ph.D. and many more. Kate Bornstein kicked off the first Plenary session with a discussion of why gender is like the FDA food group pyramid.

The Saturday schedule was jammed with great presentations including material from a special FtM panel with Jamison Green, Jason Cromwell, and Maxwell Anderson. Stephen Whittle flew in from Manchester, England, to present a paper on the legal status of transsexuals in U.K. There were two sessions on voice therapy/surgery that were well attended and many sessions on gender developmental issues. The Plenary for Saturday was Dr. Louis Gooren from the Vrije University of Amsterdam; Netherlands, discussing the possible biological origins of transgender and transsexual behaviors.

Sunday was no less important than the first two days with half a dozen programs by professionals and community members alike. A much awaited discussion of the new Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) Standards of Care (SOC) was presented as a Plenary Session by Dr. Stephen Levine who chaired the SOC revision committee. There was much heated and passionate discussion about the new SOC. To Dr. Levine's great credit, he wrote down all of the criticisms for further review

by the SOC committee.

Renaissance is the first transgender support group to host a professional conference of this caliber and nature. Renaissance members can be proud of the performance of its host committee and team members. There were no major crises and all of the minor glitches that occur in any event were handled quickly and efficiently. Overall, participants graded the congress "excellent" with high marks for quality of content and execution.

Discussions are presently underway for a third congress with a number of potential hosts.

While the Congress itself was successful, Renaissance National, the host organization, has not fared as well. If not for some of the income produced by the Congress, Renaissance National might have closed its doors by now. (A complete accounting will be included in the August newsletter.) However, Renaissance National is in dire straits financially and several options for the future of National will be discussed at the July 13th meeting of the board.



History of Renaissance Now Available

In commemoration of our tenth anniversary, we have commissioned a written history of the Renaissance Education Association. Renaissance National Librarian, Dr. Lee Etscovitz has done an outstanding job of assembling our history taken from the pages of *Renaissance News* and later *Renaissance News & Views*, and from personal interviews with the principals involved in creating the organization.

The result is a 104 page, letter size book recounting the past 10 years of Renaissance achievements and milestones. Included are capsule summaries of each year and selected articles from the pages of the newsletter.

This book is available in limited quantities for \$12.50 plus \$2.50 shipping. Send a check for \$15 to the Renaissance National Office and request a copy today.



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\$2.50 per issue, \$24 per year (12 issues). Previous year back issues are available for \$2 per copy plus \$0.52 postage and handling. Send check or M.O. to the above address, attention: Back Issues.

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