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Elections

Nominations for the Chi Chapter Board were held at the October meeting. Nominated were:

Treasurer:

Sara F. IL-4690-F

Nominated by Christine Adams

Secretary:

Amanda Richards IL-3432-D

Nominated by Dee Dee

Sec by: Christine Adams

VP Programming:

Abby IL-4953-J

Nominated by Naomi Owen

Sec by: Diane

The above were unopposed and will take office Jan 1, 1999

Nominated for

VP Outreach:

Shelly Hartt IL-4356-H

Nominated by: Linda

Christine Adams IL-3445-K

Nominated by Amanda Richards

Nominated for

President

Candace IL-3416-M

Nominated by Rachel

Sec by: Kate

Denise Peters IL-3493-P

Nominated by Julie Ann Johnson

Sec by: Naomi Owen

An election will be held at the November meeting for these two offices.

Chi Chapter TRIBUNE

Vol# XXXVII November 1998

Issue # 11

Thanksgiving Rori does makeover!!!

Chi Chapter Elections

Coming Up...

November Meeting.....

November brings Rori and her touch of class on fashion and makeup for the holidays. Kim's idea (with Joyce's help) was to cater the dinner. The board was presented with this option and agreed. We will be serving Turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, etc. If anyone would like to bring along a dish, please do so. Our budget normally does not allow for full meals except for special occasions. I think you will agree that Thanksgiving is a special occasion.

Vote '98

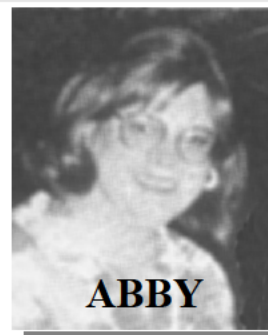
At the November meeting we will also hold elections for the positions of President and VP Outreach/Membership. We need a quorum of at least 32 qualified voters in order to hold the election. Each Full member will find an insert in this newsletter with a listing of members that qualify to vote along with the number of meetings attended beginning Dec 97. Please note that you must have attended at least 4 meetings from Dec. 97 through Nov. 98, the number shown does not include Nov. 98. Please come on down, vote, and enjoy Rori's program, and the food and commiserating with your friends.

Couples Group

Several months ago, four couples began an 'intense' couples journey aided by Dr Barbara McCoy. Dawn and

(Continued on page 4)

New Officers



ABBY

VP Programming



AMANDA

Secretary



SARA

Treasurer

VP Outreach/Membership Candidates

Shelly Hartt



As your candidate for this important office, I want to take a few minutes to tell you some things about myself and what I believe to help you make the right choice. I have been a member of TriEss Chapter

and National for more than three years. Though in the past I have been nominated for the position of Secretary and VP of Programming, I feel in my heart that the office for Membership

and Out Reach is where I can do the most good.

These past few years I have been doing Out Reach in the form of education. This year I attended an interactive workshop entitled The Gender Spectrum, which was presented by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. In April I participated in Gen-Pac's lobby days in Washington D C and this summer I accompanied a bus load of members from Illinois Federation on Human Rights to Springfield to talk with our state representatives on a bill that would protect us from discrimination in housing and employment. I have also been asked to tell our story to counselors at Horizons in Chicago and at several college psyche departments. Most recently I had an opportunity to accompany Dee Dee to a couple of her out reach presentations to graduate students at Illinois School of Professional Psychology, Chicago Campus.

I believe the more people I can talk to, especially one on one, the more they will see we are good and respectable human beings, they need not fear. And the more people see us as who we truly are the sooner society may accept us.

The most important part of Out Reach is SUPPORT! This is what Tri-Ess is all about and this is what I believe in. Support for the CD who is either writing us, phoning us, or is attending their first meeting. Support for the wives and girl friends of our members through our PALS group and support for our couples. Linda, my soul mate for more then thirty years, and I have seen the need to help couples preserve the family as a whole and loving unit- We know; first hand; the issues that threaten the relationship and continue to share our experiences with anyone who is troubled. We have met couples and individual members, one to one, and will continue to do so regardless the outcome of the electorate.

As your VP of Out Reach I would continue the high standards that Candace Maine has given us over the years and will support all existing programs for my philosophy is not to fix something that already works. The only area that may need some changes is in our couples group. I see a need for several levels, depending on where a couple is at. This could be determined by their level of communication, acceptance and willingness to compromise. I look forward to serving our community and those who one day will get up the courage to call me on the hot line for I know, as you do, how it felt the first time I called. I thank you for your support.

Christine Adams



Christine's Campaign Comments

I have been a member of Chi Chapter since 1992. Over the last 4 years, I have co-hosted the newcomers' meetings along with Dee Dee and Amanda. I have been a member of Chi Chapter's executive board for the last 2 years, serving first as secretary and then as treasurer. I am currently seeking election as vice president of outreach, and will summarize for you

my feelings on this position. I think that the most important thing that I will convey if I am elected to this position is a feeling of love and acceptance. Whether a person is a transsexual being referred to CGS or just someone unsure of what his crossdressing means, I want them to feel loved when they call the hot line. I will never forget how scared I was the first time that I called and spoke to Deanna. I was grateful to know that I wasn't crazy and not so grateful to know that there was no cure for me. Being transgendered can be a very difficult thing to live with, and I want to do whatever I can to help other transgendered people.

Check your mailing label. The label will give you the amount of your Chapter and National dues. All dues amounts are calculated for an expiration date of Jan 1, 2000. You may also take advantage of a substantial discount on your national dues by paying just \$60 for a two year membership.(Couples extra)
Adjustments for prorated amounts will show a reduced amount.

Local National

24 35

Jane Doe
PO Box 3622
Weston IL 60177

Presidential Candidates

Denise Peters



I have been dressing since high school. Several years ago, at age 49, I finally found I wasn't alone when I learned of Tri-Ess, called the hotline and spoke to Naomi. Despite fears we all have, Naomi was very calming and arraigned for me to attend the next meeting. All I can say is that that phone call was one of the biggest steps I ever took in my life. Having a compassionate voice to speak to and not being judged by a stranger on the phone allowed me to attend my first Chi-Chapter meeting. I have since been very active in the community, going out regularly and am currently serving my third year as Chi-Chapter President and my fifth year (58 issues to date) as Editor of the Chi-Tribune newsletter. My past service has included; Vice President of Programming at the Chicago Gender Society, Vice President of Chi-Chapter and later its Secretary. I was co-founder of the Great Lakes Gender Leadership Conference (COGG Council of Gender Groups) which is an umbrella organization involving seven gender groups in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. My first ever BIG event was Holiday EnFemme ('96) where I was in charge of registration and publicity while at the same time serving as Chair for Be-All '97 in Chicago, also doing publicity and registration. After closing my BBS, The Lifetime for crossdressers, I established the Chi Chapter web page. This is a daily job and keeps a person jumping handling inquiries on the net.

As President, one is to supervise, direct and assist the duties of the other officers and manage the affairs of the Chapter, serve as ex-official of all committees. In doing this, I find our membership needs to be built-up, we are down 57 members over last year, 10 or so lost probably because of the late year amendment proposal last year. Couples remain the same but individuals are decreasing. We need to focus on the individual crossdresser as well as the couple, we are here for both. I also believe, despite what others may say, we are not only a support group but equally as well a club. Many of you do not need support and for those of you we provide a quiet, friendly place to go.

On that track, attendance is running approx. 20 members per meeting lower than last year. I think that this year we will turn that trend around.

Regardless if you vote for me or not, the most important post at stake is that of Membership Development (Outreach). They have much work ahead. When setting up the new phone system, both Candace and I agreed that the Hotline phone system will require qualified people to man (woman) the lines, we need volunteers and can also provide training..

I want to see that prospective members are given proper information, not unjustly disqualified or sent elsewhere. I firmly believe that the main purpose of the hotline is to screen potentially dangerous people from attending, not to prejudge them by what they may think they are or by what we believe them to be, be it TS/TV/Gay or other. This is best done in the newcomers group and by meeting the candidate in person,

Candace



No letter submitted

NOVEMBER MEETING
Saturday November 21st

Officer Elections

Rori

"From Daytime to Evening Glamour"

Turkey and all the dressings

**Meeting on the First Floor i
n the regular room**

most times the person them selves have no idea what they are.... just think about your own experiences.

I would also like to see the hotline available for live person answering at set times so a schedule may be announced, both here and on the internet.

Denise

(Continued from page 1) Denise

Candace were among them and unavailable for the Chapter Couples Group so I have temporarily been handling that in their absence. Dawn is now back as Chair the Chapter Couples Group.

Kiki...

Kiki has advised that she will not be available for the next two meetings and therefore has appointed Secretary-Elect Amanda Richards as her replacement as Secretary. Aloha Kiki, don't forget us...

Deluge

Following last month's story by Gloria, I asked around for more true life experiences. Amanda promptly came forward and sent in her dream come true story which can be found on page 5.

November Recap

The meeting of 10-17-98 was started at 8:05 sharp, give or take 15 minutes. Following introductions, and officer reports were made.

Shelly who told us about the Rainbow Cotillion to be held on Oct 23rd and sponsored by MCC and LesBiGay Radio. Naomi announced the BeAll committee meeting to be held in Cleveland on Oct 24th. Anyone wishing to attend should see Naomi.

The CGS roller-skating party on October 22nd was announced.

Following that were the nominations for officers, the results of this can be found on the front page.

Dr. Alan Lanning then got into a deep give & take about crossdressing and the community and oneself. I didn't take notes on this so I can't give you an overview.

Following Dr. Lanning, Rachel held the annual Halloween costume contest,

First place went to Sara as the granny, she won a Halloween centerpiece donated by Kim.

Second Place went to Trisha as the maid, she received a bottle of body lotion.

Third place went to Linda as the Fairy, she won the bouncing rubber spider.

Those in attendance at the November meeting were:

Abby's Road

I guess that will teach us to miss a meeting (or leave early). No one else got nominated, or volunteered to be V.P. of Programming, so I guess you are stuck with me for the year. I feel fortunate that I have been able to spend some time with both of the candidates running for President and I believe that I'll have a strong working relationship with whichever one we choose for next year.

Speaking of next year, I guess it's not too early to get started for our January program. I am proposing an ice-breaking event known as the "Post Christmas White Elephant Gift Exchange". Here's how it works.

Each person or couple is to bring one wrapped present to the meeting. It must have no markings on it to indicate who brought it and must be wrapped in a way that does not reveal what is inside. This is your opportunity to anonymously get rid of those presents which you are too embarrassed to exchange, give to someone else, or even put out for the trash. Everyone's name will go into the drawing box. When your name is called, you come forward and select one of the wrapped gifts. However, before you open your gift, you have to make a decision. Would you like to open your present, or trade it, unopened, for something that someone else has already opened? If you want to trade, the person with the item you want must surrender it to you. Of course, the person whose name is drawn first has no one to trade with, and the person whose name is drawn last has the choice of everything else that has been opened. I'll explain more about it and answer questions in the coming meetings.

For February, I'd like to continue doing something with the "Queen of Hearts" pageant that Rachel started last year (yes I know it's not an original idea, but I've never been too proud to steal someone else's good ideas). We'll be working out the details with how it will go this year once the new board is installed.

Finally, this year I would like to begin a regular feature of having one of the members give a 5-10 minute talk about themselves, their journey and their

IL-4953-J, Abby & Terri
IL-3432-D, Amanda,
IL-4496-S, Amanda,
IL-4866-R, Amy,
IL-3355-B, Athena,
IL-2206-D, Barbara,
IL-3416-M, Candace & Dawn
IL-3616-R, Carol,
IL-4362-A, Dawn,
IL-4328-B, Debbie,
IL-3708-O, Dee Dee,
IL-3767-H, Denise,
IL-3493-P, Denise & Kim,
IL-4655-L, Diana,
IL-3313-P, Jamie,
IL-4604-K, Jill,
IL-4627-J, Julie Ann,
IL-3475-J, Lee,
IL-4580-C, Linda,
IL-3368-F, Lori,
IL-2566-H, Marcia,
IL-4837-S, Nancy & Judy,
IL-1164-O, Naomi & Rachel
IL-4579-T, Nicole,
IL-3196-M, Pam,
IL-4229-A, Pamela,
IN-4054-K, Paula,
IL-4461-B, Rachel & Kate
IL-4690-F, Sara,
IL-4356-H, Shelly & Linda,
IL-4606-D, Wallie,

New members :

Kelly & Connie, Steffie, Andrea, Felica

First timers:

Gina P, Rayann, Tricia, Maureen, Theresa, Lucy A, Megan

Old Timers:

Leslie B.

experiences. In the short time that I have been coming to Tri-Ess there haven't been many opportunities to learn about what other members have gone through. This would be strictly voluntary. If any of you would be willing to consider doing this, please let me know, either at a meeting or you can e-mail me at [redacted]@hotmail.com. See you all in November.

Abby



Amanda's Dream Come True

By Amanda R.

On the wall of my office at work are pictures of me en-femme. They are in full view because in December of '96, I was asked by my managers to play a Vanna White character at a parody of "Family Feud" that we were going to have at our office holiday party. The invitation stemmed from Halloween of '95 when I dressed as a bag-lady fortune teller and won the best costume contest.

I discussed the opportunity with my wife and we agreed that I could probably pull this off without any repercussions. They knew that I am a musician and had a former life that was involved with theatrics and performing. Besides, it would be an opportunity to do some indirect outreach as you will see later in the story.

So I agreed to the Vanna invitation, but only if they would let me do it to the max. I wanted the gown, the makeup, the jewelry, a fabulous introduction...the whole 9 yards.

My story to them was that in order to find the right resources to look like a woman I searched the internet and found IFGE. Some lovely person there put me in touch with a group in Chicago called Tri-Ess, which gave me a list of vendors who would help me out. The vendor of choice has connections with the Baton (anyone we know?) and agreed to help me look authentic. (My own coming out story of finding Tri-Ess actually started with contacting IFGE who did refer me to Naomi at Chi-Chapter, so relating the details of this fabrication was easy to do.)

Well it must have been very convincing, because I had no problems with the planning committee. They even agreed to pay expenses!

The party was to begin at 4:30 so my afternoon started with mysteriously disappearing from work after lunch for a transformation at Transformations. Later when I arrived at the party, they hid me in a booth in the restaurant while dinner was being

finished in the party room. During that time word had spread to the kitchen and waiter staff that I was really a guy. It was no coincidence that every employee in the place purposely made a trip past the booth and offered a greeting and smile. I sat there with one of the managers, a woman. She questioned me about my inner feelings as my debut approached. I told her that I felt just fine and confident and that getting all made up was quite a lovely ordeal.

I was wearing a short ivory dress with a v-neckline and a doubly flapped skirt that criss-crosses in the front a few inches above the knees. The dress was generously covered with gold beads and sequins. The hem on the sleeves and skirt was decorated with a 4-inch gold fringe that swings and sways with every motion. Going for the gold, so to speak, I even used my 'cleavage spring' invention to show just the right amount of curve at the bottom of the v-neckline.

Well the time had finally come and so I walked up two flights of stairs and stood in the hall while I heard my introduction: "And now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce our hostess... She's really hot and here she is, Barbie Queue!"

The music to Pretty Woman started blasting and I made my entrancer to wonderful screams, laughs and applause. My performing ego was in full swing, powered by the true woman inside. I walked around each table and did poses as cameras flashed and the video person followed every move with her lens. I went up to a director that chided me about my bag lady costume the previous year and gave him a big hug (to additional screams) and loosened his tie while telling him to 'stay cool.' The look on everyone's face was that of amazement and disbelief that a guy in his 50's could look so good as a woman. (Actually a few didn't even know who I was until they were told!) I finally quit showing off and took my place in the middle of the stage area. The Feud parody began and all through the show I kept showing off and using the dress to create a lot of fun as I would wiggle and get the fringe to swing with the motions.

The show ended and people came up to

me to talk. One girl pulled out her lipstick and gave me a fresh coating over mine. Wow! These were some of the comments:

"You even shaved your legs."

"Women would kill for your legs."

"You have more cleavage than I do."

"Do you do this every week? You should!"

"Where did you have this makeover done, I want to do this for Halloween next year." (from another guy)

"I can't believe I'm talking to a guy."

"You're so natural, you even walk like a woman."

"You look so comfortable, you're not scared to do this in front of all of us. "

I got into conversations with people and started to do outreach about crossdressers. My "story" was that at Rori's I met a couple of 'real crossdressers' who were friendly and educated me about their backgrounds and crossdressing experiences. This made me aware of their lifestyle and all the 'closeted' things they have to do out of fear of discovery. The story must have spread fast, because an hour later one of the women was telling it back to me!

Well the weekend passed and Monday showed up. What teasing and questions would I face now that the cat's out of the bag? Well, all turned out just right. The aftermath of the party was a week of questions and answers of how I looked so authentic. (They also showed the video at our full department meeting the following Friday.) I never broke from my story and constantly took a positive happy stance on what a great experience this was for me, and how much I enjoyed being a girl that evening.

Women were more interested in the details than men were. Yet, the men were also positive with comments like "You should entertain dressed like a woman on the weekends." or "That was really great, you have a lot of courage." There also were some "colorful" comments as one would expect from guys, yet they were never

Couples Intimacy Group

In February of this year, four Tri-Ess couples decided to embark on a new, challenging and exciting experience. Each couple made a commitment to meet once a month for six months to learn and experience a deeper sense of intimacy with their spouse, as well as, the other people in the group. My husband Jim & I were fortunate to be one of the couples to take part in this experience.

Barbara McCoy Getz and her husband Russell Getz, who have been doing transgender counseling for a number of years, facilitated the sessions with a very special passion for helping people.

We participated in passive and experiential activities that helped us become more caring, more aware, more loving and accepting of ourselves and of each other. It took us on a journey into our hearts and souls. We laughed, we cried, we shared some very special moments.

As a result of this experience, the four couples recently went on a weekend retreat. Each couple planned an activity to enhance intimacy and creativity with each other. We also were in charge of cooking one of the meals for the entire group. It was a weekend of sharing, loving, working and laughing. We all brought back peace, serenity, love & a strong desire to keep our group together.

PALS' November Food for Thought

If we are depending on our partner
to make us whole
we're in trouble

Sooner or later, we shall feel betrayed
Sooner or later, we shall hate the dependence,
Sooner or later, we may be the one
who does the betraying.
wholeness is within.

CGS Christmas Dinner

Saturday December 5th

Ann Sathers Restaurant

Call 708-863-7714
For Details

E-Mail Address List:

Abigale [redacted]@hotmail.com
Amanda Lynn [redacted]@mcs.net
Amy [redacted]@aol.com
Ann Nicole [redacted]@aol.com
Athena [redacted]@usa.net
Carole L. [redacted]@geocities.com
Chi Chapter Chitriess@aol.com
Christine Adams [redacted]@aol.com
Dawn A. [redacted]@ruralamerica.net
Denise Peters [redacted]@aol.com
Diana L. [redacted]@aol.com
Donna Martin [redacted]@aol.com
Gloria Wright [redacted]@aol.com
Jane Ellen Fairfax JEFTris@aol.com
Jenee JeneeMe@aol.com
Jeri [redacted]@pla-net.net
Julie [redacted]@aol.com
Kiki [redacted]@aol.com
Laura S. [redacted]@aol.com
Linda N [redacted]@aol.com
Lowla V. [redacted]@aol.com
Pamela A. [redacted]@aol.com (AOL users only)
[redacted]@hotmail.com(All others)
Paula K. [redacted]@aol.com
Rachel [redacted]@aol.com
TriEss Directory Direct3S@aol.com

**PLEASE ADD YOUR ADDRESS HERE,
SEND US YOUR E-Mail.....**

**Renewal Dues are now being
accepted for the year 1999.**

Chapter Dues are \$24.00 for all members.

**National Dues are \$36.00 for individual and
\$48.00 for couples
(Two years available at \$60 or \$80)**

Please remit direct to Chi Chapter at:

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

G.L.G.L.C .

Activities Calendar

NOV-DEC 1998

November 1998

Nov 5-8 Fall Harvest, Minneapolis
Nov 8-13 Holiday at Sea, Dignity Cruise #10, Cruises, Inc 1-800-621-6699
Tue 11/10 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
Sat 11/14 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 11/21 Chi-Chapter Thanksgiving evening with Rori Petros
Tue 11/24 CGS Social-Thanksgiving dinner - Temptations

December 1998

Sat 12/5 CGS Christmas Dinner - Ann Sathers Call 708-863-7714 for Details
Tue 12/8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
Sat 12/12 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 12/19 'Puttin On The Ritz' Ramada Hotel, Rosemont
Sat 12/26 T.O.N.I. meeting, call 219-650-2142 for details

PLAN AHEAD

1999 Be-All, Cleveland...(Will Drew 's brother show up?????)
1999 Holiday Enfemme, Houston, TX
1999 Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, WI

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ TICKETS

Also available at Transformations and Rachels Wigs

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

For more information: call the "helpline" at 708-383-1677
Room reservations available at the Ramada 847-827-5131
Mention Tri-Ess Chi Chapter Ritz, Request 'tower room'

Enclosed is my paid reservation for _____ person(s), for 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ on Saturday evening, December 19, 1998 at the Ramada Hotel, O'Hare. I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$ _____

Please print your femme name and last Initial _____

Membership # (If a member) _____

COST: **Payment received by 12/9/98: \$38 per person, \$70 per couple**
 Payment received after 12/9/98: \$43 per person, \$75 per couple