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Chi Chapter TRIBUNE

Vol# 38 Issue # 12
December 1999



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Don't be a Couch Potato
this Christmas season!

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There is still time to get out to
the winter event:
Puttin On The Ritz, the 15th annual
Chi Chapter Awards-Dinner/dance.

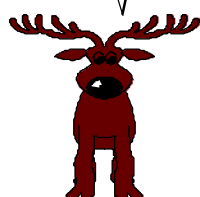
Order your tickets by mail (up to Dec 11th) or pick them up
anytime at our participating vendors, While you are there, buy a
gift for that someone special or even yourself. After all you deserve
it, don't you? You can even call us on the hotline for a reservation.

Then, using the simple formula shown on
this page, get ready and have a fun time.

=



Having fun at the RITZ !



Have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
And a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

STUFF and THINGS

"You can never have enough 'STUFF'"
Denise, 1999

November Meeting Recap

56 members/prospective members and spouses showed up for our Thanksgiving meeting. The embarrassing question of the evening (not really) was "what do you plan on doing New Years Eve?" From the answers, it seems most of us will be spending the time at home watching the rest on TV. A few said they would attend local community celebrations. Naomi announced that she was withdrawing her name from nomination for the position of VP of Programming and throwing her support to Abby. This left only one contested position for the board. Following the business section, Amanda and Abby presented a brief interlude of crossdressed Christmas tunes while the rest of us filled our plates at the Thanksgiving table. We then enjoyed a short play by the Chi Chapter players. Although, next time we will make sure we order a stage and some amplification. Those that did hear and see the play say it hit home and very truthful. Following the play, a panel of members and spouses who go out regularly, gave information and answered questions regarding what to wear when shopping and going out in public, including if the wives 'dress' up to hide their identity. We welcome our three newcomers/new members; Marie- [REDACTED] and Laurie [REDACTED]

After the panel discussion, Barbara Lee and myself fed the ballots for the officers election through the Bozo-puter and the results of that show Amanda as our Secretary for the year 2000.

Holiday EnFemme

The Holiday EnFemme was held in Houston in November. Sara left on Monday the 9th so she could set up her photo studio. Kim & I left on Thursday morning arriving at Robin K's home in Memphis that evening. Robin is a member of the National board and met many of our Chi members at the garden party last summer. She was just over a bout of pneumonia and was really primed for the Holiday. Friday morning we all left at 4am (Ouch!) and arrived 10 hours later in Houston. Geeez, they have worse traffic than Chicago. (But not as bad as Orlando).

At the hotel we all registered and got ready for the evening dinner. Old friends were located and new friends were made. The next morning Kim and I attended the board meeting. A new board member was elected, Susan from New Jersey (you may have met her also at the garden party). Robin resigned as Director due to her health and was appointed Director Emeritus. Then the board voted on our new logo which was accepted after some intense questioning.

That afternoon, Kim attended a wives meeting with Peggy Rudd and following that we all prepared for the awards dinner. I was asked to accept the Leadership/Servant award on behalf of Donna Martin for her extensive work for Tri-Ess. In all, 130 Tri-Ess members attended the Saturday dinner and many sat for a group photo which is available from Sara if desired.

Sunday morning, many of us attended the brunch and said our goodbyes. Robin, Kim and I were on the road by 11 am headed North to Memphis where we dined at Corkys BBQ and stayed overnight as guests of Robin's. Monday morning, we slept late and Robin prepared a breakfast for us while I repaired her leaking kitchen sink. We said our good by's and Robin said she was going back to bed but we should call her when we got home. Then it was off to Chicago for another 10 hrs of driving. (Isn't as bad as it sounds.)

(Continued on page 3)

A Look Back At The Last Year Of This Century.

By Shelley Hartt

Looking back at my first year as VP of Out Reach and Membership I have found it to be very rewarding. As a group we have provided a safe and friendly atmosphere where both the newly blossoming crossdresser and their partner can learn to grow beyond their fears. Our women's group "PALS" and our Couples Group have helped relationships stay together. I would like to thank my wife Linda for all her hard work and help in chairing and leading both these support groups this past year.

Our "New Comers Meeting" chaired by Dee Dee has continued its great work in helping the first timers feel comfortable and welcome. I would like thank her and her team, Amanda Lynn and Christine, for all the time and energy they have given to make these meetings a success.

We have been quite active this year with our Out Reach Programs at a number of colleges. Each year we are invited to speak to psychology students about the transgender community. The collages this year, both spring and fall quarters, were College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Rock Valley Community College in Rockford, Loyola North Shore Campus in Evanston, Elgin Community College and Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. We also went out of state to Indiana to a college in North Manchester. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members, both new and old, who help make these programs of educating the public on who we are a success. And it works for they keep asking us back. Thank you Dee Dee, Amanda Lynn, Candace, Naomi, Eve, Barbara Lee and Lauren. And thanks to this years new volunteers, Sara, Abby, Lori and Sherri. I like to given a special thanks to the wives, Linda and Dawn, who brought their perspective and experience on our cross-dressing to the students.

I have been very busy this year with answering our Hot-Line, E-mails and P. O. Box inquiries. It has been personally rewarding for me to help bring support and understanding to the crossdresser who maybe afraid to come out of their closet and to bring them the knowledge that they are not alone. I like to again thank my wife Linda for the help she has given in talking with the partner. I also want to thank Denise for filling in for me when I have been out of town. This is an area I would like some help this next year. If you are interested in giving some of your time please contact me. We would like to establish one day or evening each week and make it available for someone calling in on our Help-Line to be able to talk to one of us directly.

The Chi-Chapter board has been looking for reasons why our membership has fallen off over the past couple of years and why some news comers do not return. I believe that if we all continue to focus on the mission of Tri-Ess our membership will improve. We can not and should not be an organization for all transgender people, for we have a specific purpose and function. My hope is that a new comer, either the CD or their partner, who has attended our monthly meeting, will feel welcomed and accepted by the group and will want to come back. As they make friendships and gain support and knowledge from our members they will grow in time more comfortable and accepting of themselves or of their partner. I believe that these members will be are future for they will keep coming back because of the friendships they have make and will in turn give back support and friendship to the new members. There will always be some new comers, as there are some hot-line inquirers, who are not yet ready for our support, and there maybe some who feel they can travel this journey alone. We all can be proud of what our organization does for the transgender community. We help with the first steps on this journey called the Transgender Spectrum. Thank you all for who you are and for what you give.

With Love from My Heart, Shelley



The Questionnaire Report

We received 46 questionnaires. That shows a good amount of interest by many of our members. Thank you! Yet, less than 25% of the membership returned their form. I guess that proves the 80/20 rule: 80% will let the other 20% do the work. It shouldn't be that way, and I'm hoping the 80% will make a new millennium resolution to get more involved.

So what did people say? The variety of responses is quite diverse.

The responses confirm the need for a group like ours, and for our focus. Meeting nights, locations and cost seem to be agreeable to most. The internet plays a new and important role in getting out the word that we are out there, but perhaps is not the cause of decreased meeting attendance as one member commented: "CGS's attendance is not down" because of the internet. More people were favorable or were neutral on the programming than were in disagreement.

Femme tips and CD-knowledgeable speakers head the list of programs we should have more often. We have a lot of contacts in the community for speakers, but maybe you know someone too. Give us a name, we'll make the contact. Significant numbers confirm the need to keep spouses involved, and a good number need to have some forum for single/divorced CD issues.

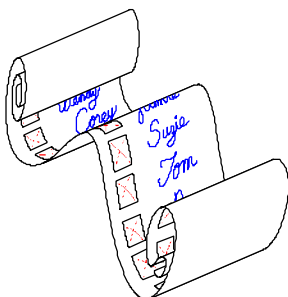
Voice training and clinical/professional speakers scored the highest write-in for program types to have.

I'll let you read the rest.

Where do we go from here? Well I suggest that we look at these results starting in January and pick the most interesting items to follow up on. That should set our tone for the coming year.

The officers have been challenged in some of the comments, but so have all of YOU! A group like ours is only as good as the members are willing to make it. So expect to be called on to participate more in the coming year. Perhaps we can lower the 80/20 rule to 60/40, 50/50 or dare I dream on, 100% participation? Yes, I strongly think a requirement for membership should be that each member must participate in helping with something at least once a year. Participation should be part your dues to the group. Get ready to roll up those frilly sleeves girls.

Results on page 5



(Continued from page 2) Denise

Unfortunately, I was unable to reach Robin when we arrived home, and for several days following. The day before Thanksgiving, I learned that Robin had passed away, that same Monday when we enjoyed our last breakfast with her. Take care good friend, we will all miss you.

Another Sad Note

I have also learned that Judy [REDACTED] (Headliners) mother had passed away sometime around Thanksgiving. I don't have any other information at this time. At this time of year lets all give thanks that we have known and enjoyed the company of those who are no longer with us.

Thanks

I want to thank those of you who helped in the sorting of the National Directory Supplement at my home in November. A big hand for Kim, Kiki, Shelley, Pam A. and Kelly who endured 6 hours of hard work. Also to Sara and her mother for their work in presorting the directory.

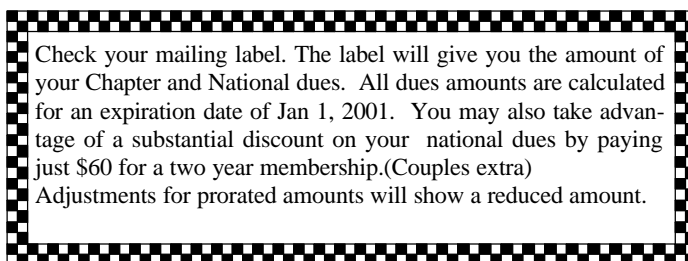
More Ritz

Rachel & Velma have announced that they will have a hospitality room open from about 12:30pm to ?? For anyone who would like to stop by. They will also have makeovers etc available. The room number will be available on the hotel TV system.

New Logo

The new Tri-Ess logo was officially voted in at the board meeting. It was a lot of fun designing it and I hope everyone is happy with the results. For those who would like to use it on their web page, they are available for downloading from the chapter web site logo page.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Millennium



Local National

24 35

Jane Doe
PO Box 3622
Weston IL 60177

Couples Group

SUPPORT – A JOURNEY OF LOVE

November is almost behind us. The days seem to go by so quickly, especially if you're touring Germany! J.D. and I really did miss being at the November Tri-Ess meeting. I especially missed not being in the play Abby wrote. Can't wait to hear the rave reviews! While all of you were having your traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner, J.D. and I found the Vater & Sohn Café & Restaurant in a little town called Bad Briesig. It was there that we dined on roast goose dinner complete with herb dumplings, gravy, and red sweet cabbage. We topped it all off with a delicious cappuccino. All I can say is WOW! Next to that the bakeries were second on our list. The Germans are the best in bakery goods of all kinds. It is easy to come back with a few more pounds. And I'm not necessarily referring to the luggage, although, we did have more luggage coming back than on the way there. I was so fortunate to have completed my entire Christmas shopping list. It's a dirty job shopping in all those German shops but someone had to do it. We look forward to seeing everyone at the gala Christmas Party on December 18th all dressed up in the holiday spirit. Don't forget to wear your dancing shoes cause we will have a live band!

I'd like to thank all of the people who were generous enough to volunteer their time and efforts in our Tri-Ess Outreach programs during this year. **Every time we reach out to inform, someone reaches back with understanding.**

A huge thank you to all the couples that have participated in our monthly couples group and made it such a success. We are growing in size but also from within. **Keep coming back!**

Another huge thank you to all the spouses and significant others who come to our PALS meeting each month to support each other. **Keep coming back and spread the word!**

J.D. and I will be releasing information regarding the Channel 9 TV filming as soon as it is made available to me.

Please check with J.D. or me for information regarding the December PALS and Couples meetings.



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Please take a few minutes to read the following words from which we could all benefit. Can you relate to any of them?

TO LET GO TAKES LOVE

To "let go" does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else.

To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it is the realization I can't control another.

To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another, it is to make the most of myself.

To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about.

To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To "let go" is not to be in the middle arranging the entire outcome but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

To "let go" is not to be protective, it is to permit another to face reality.

To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.

To "let go" is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and to correct them.

To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes, and to cherish myself in it.

To "let go" is not to criticize and regulate anybody but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.

To "let go" is to fear less and to love more.

To "let go" is not to worry about what we don't have, but to be thankful for what we do have.

Happy Holidays to All
Linda

Questionnaire results

Possible points affecting decline in membership and meeting attendance.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
3a. CD's need a support group where they can meet others.	29	6	1		
3b. The internet allows closeted CD's to have a means of contacting other CD's without leaving home or joining a support group.	9	19	7	3	1
3c. Our Tri-Ess focus on heterosexual and family contributes to decline in membership.	3	7	10	12	5
3d. The hotel is conveniently located.	10	18	6	6	
3e. The Saturday meeting night is convenient.	21	14	3	2	
3f. The price of membership dues/fees is too high.	2	2	10	18	6
3g. The membership often leaves persons alone with no one to talk to.	2	13	13	8	1
3h. The programs we offer fit my needs.	2	14	14	7	1
3i. Your own topic: Newsletter meets needs of chapter				1	
Rate various programs	Have More	Keep Same	Have Less	Never Have	
4a. Professional or CD-Knowledgeable Speakers	28	7	1		
4b. Panel Discussions	18	17	4		
4c. Femme tips. makeup, wigs, clothing etc.	23	15	1		
4d. CD Wives/partner relationships	8	25	1	1	
4e. Single/divorced CD issues	15	10	4	2	
4f. Parties (Extra fee like Garden Party, Ritz etc.)	10	25	1		
4g. Entertainment/arts, music, plays etc.	11	20	3		
4h. Other: Specify your suggestion: POLITICAL/NATL SCENE	2			2	
4i. Other: Specify your suggestion: INTERESTING MEETINGS	2				
POOL PARTY	1				
SALE/SWAP	1				
HISTORICAL TALK				1	
OUTREACH	1				
EVENTS IN CITY	3				
MUSIC	3				
RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL				1	

Why are you unable to attend some meetings?

- 12 Out of town
- 11 Conflict
- 6 Family commitment
- 5 Busy/too tired
- 3 New member
- 3 Work
- 2 Illness
- 2 Kids
- 2 Too hot
- 2 Vacation
- 1 Broken ankle
- 1 Have not developed friendships
- 1 Just go out afterwards
- 1 really bad mood
- 1 too much interaction with CGS people

What was the main reason you decided to come to today's meeting?

- 5 meeting night
- 3 first time
- 3 friends with similar interest
- 3 Halloween
- 3 opportunity to CD
- 3 come to every meeting
- 2 come whenever I can
- 2 in town
- 3 meet others
- 2 support
- 1 curiosity
- 1 fall & winter are best time for me
- 1 give husband chance to dress
- 1 got a ride from a friend
- 1 have not attended in some time
- 1 no conflict
- 1 nothing better to do
- 1 S.O. said to be there

Confidential & Discrete transportation for the crossdresser

Go to that party, theater, dinner or event in style.

C&D LIMO SERVICE

CHI CHAPTER MEMBER OWNED & OPERATED

CHUCK

815-341-8148

H A P P E N I N G S

Great Lakes Council of Gender Groups Activities Calendar DECEMBER 1999—JANUARY 2000

December

Sat	12/4		CGS Christmas Dinner— Ann Sathers
Sat	12/11	7:30 pm	GGG Meeting, Milwaukee
Tue	12/14	8:30 pm	CGS Business Meeting
Sat	12/18	6:30 pm	Puttin on the Ritz, Ramada O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont

January

Sat	1/8		Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee
Tue	1/11		CGS Business Meeting
Sat	1/18	8:00 p.m.	Chi Chapter Meeting
Sat	1/22		T.O.N.I. Meeting (219) 650-2142
Sat	1/25		Chi Chapter Couple Group
Tue	1/28		CGS Social

Future;

June 2000 Be-All Cincinnati
Nov 2000 Holiday EnFemme Los Angeles

June-July 2001 (tentative) for Chi to host SPICE

November 2001—

Chi Chapter is proud to host the first Holiday EnFemme of the new Millennium. "2001, a Tri-Ess Odyssey".



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<input type="checkbox"/>	4553W. 56th Street #110C																		<input type="checkbox"/>
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*You Are Cordially Invited
To Attend*

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

*The
Chi Chapter
Annual Awards Banquet
and Christmas Party
Honoring*

Velma Olson

Featuring entertainment by the Pulsation Band

Cocktails: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Evening

December 18, 1999

At the

Advanced Payment; \$ 45 per person

Payment received after Dec 11; \$ 50 per person

*Ramada O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL*

Dancing, Dining, Entertainment Puttin on the Ritz TICKETS

Also available at Transformations, Rachel's Wigs and Skyscraper Heels

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

Enclosed is my paid reservation for _____ person(s), for "Puttin On The Ritz", featuring the Pulsation Band, on Saturday evening, Dec 18th at the Ramada O'Hare in Rosemont. 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 12/11/99, \$45 per person**
 At the door: \$50 per person
 Please DO NOT MAIL after 12/10/99