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Chi Chapter TRIBUNE

Vol# 38 Issue # 11
November 1999

STUFF and THINGS

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



October Meeting Recap

At least 55 members/prospective members and spouses were in attendance for our pot luck dinner. Unfortunately I don't have a list of who brought what but I really want to thank everyone for their generosity. Due to a goof up on my part, we didn't have the promised Karaoke, but next time I won't mess up. Following that

we had a costume contest which was judged by the newcomers. Jenee from Wisconsin won with her portrayal of Shannia Twain.

Nominations were held for the Chapter board of directors and the results follow;

Treasurer;	Sara Fenwick
Secretary;	Amanda Richards Christine Adams
VP Outreach;	Shelley Hartt
VP Programming;	Abby Adams Naomi Owen
President;	Denise Peters

At the November meeting we will hold elections for the contested Secretary and VP Programming board positions. The candidates were asked to submit a brief campaign statement which you will find elsewhere in this newsletter.

November Meeting

Also in November we all will have a full stomach at the Chapter. Our food will be Turkey and all the fixin's, except desert. We will also have both mashed potatoes and Yams this year. Please bring along a dessert if you wish. I am sure we will all enjoy that.

Events

This column was written before the Fall Harvest or the Holiday EnFemme so no news yet. Luci's party was a couple
(Continued on page 2)

Abby Productions, presents;



NOVEMBER PROGRAM NOTES

The program theme for the November meeting is "Passing". We'll offer three different approaches to this important subject. First, we'll have some fun with a short skit depicting some of the trials and travails of attempting to pass en femme in public. This will be followed by a panel presentation in which sisters who pass in public will talk about how they approach going out. Finally, the panel will take questions from the audience. The panel will also include some representatives from PALS who will talk and answer questions about being out with someone who is en femme. If all this wasn't enough, we'll also be having our annual turkey dinner catered in, and possibly a jump start on some en femme holiday entertainment. Most important, we'll be voting on officers for next years board. In short, don't miss the November meeting!!

ABBY



Amanda Lynn's Notes



At the September meeting the board discussed the falling numbers in our group's attendance and membership roster. We made some assumptions on why this might be happening, but decided that just assuming things was not the way to go. We need to get some hard facts on what your opinions and interests are. So I formulated a questionnaire that was distributed at the October meeting. (It can be found elsewhere in this issue.) I received thirty responses, which accounts for an estimated 75% of the members who were present. That shows a pretty strong interest by those who were there. I don't want to share the responses with you quite yet, for I don't want to skew any of the responses we hope to get via mail, or at the November meeting. So in December you will see a complete report here.

If our roster includes about 180 members, then 30 responses actually looks pretty small. More like just 16%. So we need to impress upon YOU to take out a pen, fill out the questionnaire and mail it back to me. You can also bring it to the November meeting or e-mail me a response. (My address and e-mail are at the bottom of the form.) YOUR response is important... especially if you have not been coming to meetings, or if you are a borderline member who is contemplating whether or not you will renew your membership. Judging from the responses received thus far, everyone wants to see this group thrive. There are varied interests in programs, sub-groups, procedures and activities. We can make this coming year exciting, but we need YOUR input to do it. So once again... Get out the pen, fill out the questionnaire and mail it to me. NOW! There's a PRIZE for each person who takes the time to answer a few simple questions...the understanding that YOUR opinion counted. Claim it!

Absolutely Picture Perfect, Inc.

**Transgendered Photographers
for the
Transgendered Community**

Portraits, Transgendered ID Cards

Christine Adams (630) 397-6975

(Continued from page 1) Denise's Stuff

of weeks ago and it was great. The performers were top notch and everyone had a good time. There will be another next spring.

DUES Time

For most of you, your membership expiration date is 1/1/2000. So barring any Y2K problems, we will be placing your expiration date and amount on the mailing label on this newsletters envelope. Please check it as some of you expire on a different date.

Ritz

This years 'Chi Chapter Person of the Year' is Velma Olson of Rachel's Wigs. Velma has been a staunch supporter of Chi for many years and I know that each one of you has been touched in some way by her kindness and dedication.

More Ritz

Ritz tickets are now on sale. They may be purchased by mail (see coupon on back page) or at Rachael's Wigs, Transformations or Skyscraper Heels. Price is \$45 per person and we are having the PULSATION BAND as our entertainment.

The Ramada advised that room rates for our group are \$84 in the tower. They do have a parking fee which I believe is \$5 for the evening under 7 hours and \$8 for those who have a room.

Velma has announced that she and Rachel will have a hospitality room open to all who would like to stop by. More details and room number will be in next month's newsletter.

Tri-Ess stuff

Chi Chapter has for the past three years been one of a few chapters meeting the membership requirements of Tri-Ess National. As I said two years ago, Chi Chapter is a Chicago area group of Tri-Ess members. We have 100% compliance with our membership rolls and are very proud of that fact. Each and every chapter member is a member of National.

New Logo

I am proud to announce that I will be making a presentation of a new National Logo to the National board, for their consideration, at the Holiday EnFemme (next week). In 1998, the board considered over 30 new logos, some professionally designed, to replace the familiar diamond with the three 'S's' and the number 2, and rejected all of them. Following some guidelines brought up at that meeting, I decided to embark on a design which I think covers all the requirements. A variation of the new logo can be seen as background on the chapter web page and will shortly be used on the national web site.





Naomi Owen



Christine Adams



Abby Adams

incumbent

I have been a member of Chi Chapter for about 8 years. I am a former secretary and treasurer. Along with Dee Dee and Amanda, I have been helping to host the newcomers meetings for several years. My wife, Cheryl, and I have recently become the food hosts. I am extremely grateful for all the friends and help I have gotten from Tri-Ess and just want to continue helping the group to the best of my abilities.

Christine Adams

Hi, girls!! I'm afraid that Abby hasn't been out and about much these past few months, so there hasn't been anything interesting going on to write to you about. But Denise asked that the candidates in the contested races write something for the newsletter, so here goes.

First of all, I want to thank whoever it was that nominated me for a second term as VP for programming. It came up so fast that I didn't get to see who did it. Thanks dear. I've really enjoyed trying to come up with program ideas for the chapter this year, and I think we've got a good one for November (see program notes).

After the nominations were made at the last meeting, Naomi and I sat and talked about the position. We both agree that programming is too important for just one girl to handle by herself.

So we've decided to try working together and with other members to try and gather as broad an input as possible into programs for chapter meetings, regardless of which one of us is elected.

I do have some ideas that I would like to try next year. First of all, I think we need to have Miranda back to do a full program about It's Time Illinois and what's on their agenda as we get ready for the 21st Century. I have also been talking to several ministers about doing a program about the spiritual and theological aspects of cross dressing. And we have another skit in the works for next spring which will need to have several cross dressers in starring roles.

Terri and I have had a wonderful year being a part of Chi-Chapter, and win or lose, we look forward to playing an active role for years to come.



Amanda Richards

incumbent

When I ran for the office of Secretary last year, my motives were in the spirit of giving something back to a group I have taken so much enjoyment from. In the past year I hope you have seen my service in terms of monthly newsletter articles, attention to newcomers, providing entertainment and general interest in the welfare of our special organization.

I would like to continue this service in the next year and would like to share my simple goal with you: to listen to your needs and work toward making them a reality. I have been concerned about our falling numbers and thus solicited your responses in the questionnaire found in this issue, and also passed out at the October meeting. My pledge is to take your opinions and suggestions into consideration and help form the organization to better serve the needs of its members. In so doing, I hope to help increase our membership by encouraging newcomers to join, retaining the interest of current members and attracting the many 'no-shows' to meetings. Of course, this cannot be done alone, but must be done with YOUR help too. So if you cast a vote for me, you cast one for yourself too. We're in this together.

Couples

Group

P.A.L.S.

PALS, COUPLES & STUFF

We had a great turn out of 14 people at the couples meeting Oct 23rd. A BIG THANKS to Connie and Pat for hosting the meeting in their home. We always seem to have lots of laughs, some interesting conversation and plenty of goodies to eat. We welcome any newcomers. If you have a spouse or significant other that chooses not to attend the couples meeting, a single partner from the relationship may attend.

No matter how many we have in attendance at the PALS meeting, we always seem to enjoy the company and good conversation. We encourage all spouses and significant others to attend the PALS meetings to get to know some of us that share the same struggle and challenges that face us each day as we journey with a cross-dresser. The spouses/significant others sexuality is very important and must be nurtured during this period of learning and adjustment. We need to see life as an adventure that we can all take part in together and help each other make the most of each day and each moment. Come join us and help us make a difference!

J.D. & I was joined by Barbra McCoy Getz, several other cross-dressers and some family members to appear on a WGN Channel 9 pilot series about personal human interest stories taken from classified ads in the Tribune. Our ad for Tri-Ess support groups has been in the women's section of the ads for some years now. Recently, J.D. was contacted by a production company to help with an expose' on cross-dressers. Saturday was the big filming day beginning at 8:30am to 12:15 am. The general feeling is that it went very well and we hope this will be the beginning of reaching out to cross-dressers and their families in a new way. The show will be aired sometime after January 1st, 2000. We will keep you informed of the exact date as we are made aware of it.

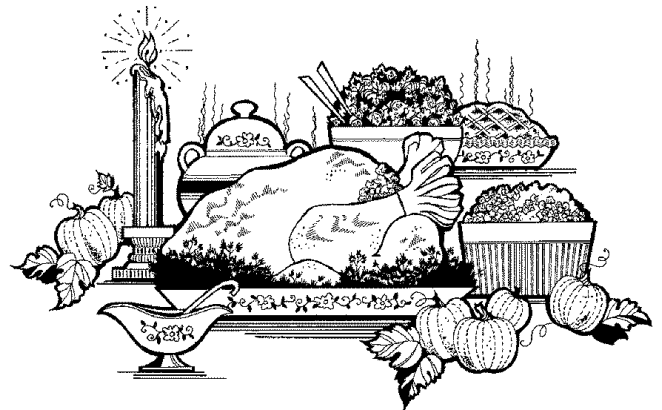
The next PALS meeting will be on November 20th at 6:30pm directly before the 8:00pm general Tri-Ess meeting. The next Couples meeting will be November 27th at 7:00pm. For location, contact J.D. or Linda at Shellhart@aol.com or Jourknee21@aol.com.

NOVEMBER REFLECTIONS

"Look, I really don't want to wax philosophic, but I will say that if you're alive, you got to flap your arms and legs, you got to jump around a lot, you got to make a lot of noise, because life is the very opposite of death. And therefore, as I see it, if you're quiet, you're not living... You've got to be noisy, or at least your thoughts should be noisy and colorful and lively," Mel Brooks

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Ch Chapter
Tri Ess



[HTTP://members.aol.com/chitriess/triss/chimain.htm](http://members.aol.com/chitriess/triss/chimain.htm)

Open letter from Christine Kaesberg to her state representative:

Friday, October 8, 1999

The Honorable Mary Lou Cowlshaw
Illinois House of Representatives
Illinois State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Representative Cowlshaw:

I am writing you regarding house bill 474 to end discrimination against gays, lesbians, and transgendered people. I have noticed that you have not supported this bill in the past. The arguments opposing this bill claim that these people have chosen an immoral, anti-family lifestyle, want their choice protected, and want converts to their lifestyle. I can state from personal experience that none of this is true.

I am transgendered. I never wanted to be transgendered. My only choice was to either accept my transgenderism or commit suicide. I have seen different psychologists who have confirmed this. I have never even read of a mental health professional who deals with gender identity disorder on a regular basis and believes it is a choice. Preliminary studies from autopsies of transsexuals confirm this - their brains are very different from the average brain of their birth sex but very similar to the average brain of their new sex.

I am an Eagle Scout and I try to follow the Scout Law, including the point that says a scout is reverent. I am a member of St. Raphael's Parish and attend Mass with my wife every Sunday. We have raised our daughter to be a good Catholic and are currently paying for her to attend Loyola University Chicago. I am always asking myself if I am behaving in a Christian way. I know many Christians believe that my crossdressing is forbidden by the bible. However, Deuteronomy 22, verse 5 is the only part of the bible that could be interpreted this way. If you research theological studies of Deuteronomy to see what theologians say about this verse, you will find one of the following:

- 1) they say nothing about this verse;
- 2) they say that it is probably not a reference to crossdressing;
- 3) they say that this entire section of Deuteronomy is giving the Hebrews directions to set themselves apart from their neighbors, and that many neighboring people included crossdressing as part of their worship of pagan gods.

Compared to other transgendered people, I am one of the lucky ones. So far, my gender has "only" cost me several thousand dollars plus a personal emotional hell that I wouldn't even wish upon my worst enemy. Many transgendered people end up losing their spouses, children, houses, friends, and jobs. An unfortunate few who are the victims of hate crimes pay the ultimate price of their lives. I am deeply saddened just to see other transgendered people suffer like this. I have no desire to get new 'converts' to transgenderism just so that they can suffer, too.

I personally know other transgendered people who live in Naperville. You won't hear from them because they are terrified to share their secret with anyone outside the gender community. Please help us by voting yes on House Bill 474.

Thank you,

Christine Kaesberg

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Great Lakes Council of Gender Groups

Activities Calendar

NOVEMBER 1999 - DECEMBER 1999

November

Tue 11/9 8:30 pm
11/10-11/14
11/11-11/14

CGS Business Meeting
Holiday En-Femme, Houston, Texas
Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, 414-297-9328

Sat 11/20 8:00 pm
Tue 11/23 8:00pm

Chi Chapter Thanksgiving Dinner
CGS Social, Temptations

December

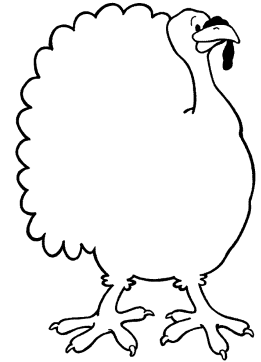
Sat 12/4
Sat 12/11 7:30 pm
Tue 12/14 8:30 pm
Sat 12/18 6:30 pm

CGS Christmas Dinner- Ann Sathers
GGG Meeting, Milwaukee
CGS Business Meeting
Puttin on the Ritz, Ramada O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont

Future;

November 2001—

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



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Sally Kupczyk												<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent Beauty Consultant												<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4553W. 56th Street #110C												<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chicago IL 60629												<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	(773) 735-9906												<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*

*Advanced Payment; \$ 45 per person
Payment received after Dec 11; \$ 50 per person*

*At the
Ramada O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL*

Dancing, Dining, Entertainment Puttin on the Ritz TICKETS

Also available at Transformations and Rachel's 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 Inn 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**

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

2. When were the last two meetings you did **NOT** attend and why did you not attend?

Month _____ Reason _____

Month _____ Reason _____

3. Please give your opinion on the following by checking the appropriate response.

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.					
3b. The internet allows closeted CD's to have a means of contacting other CD's without leaving home or joining a support group.					
3c. Our Tri-Ess focus on heterosexual and family contributes to decline in membership.					
3d. The hotel is conveniently located.					
3e. The Saturday meeting night is convenient.					
3f. The price of membership dues/fees is too high.					
3g. The membership often leaves persons alone with no one to talk to.					
3h. The programs we offer fit my needs.					
3i. Your own topic:					

4. Of the types of programs we have, check how often you think we should have them.

	Have More	Keep Same	Have Less	Never Have
4a. Professional or CD-Knowledgeable Speakers				
4b. Panel Discussions				
4c. Femme tips. makeup, wigs, clothing etc.				
4d. CD Wives/partner relationships				
4e. Single/divorced CD issues				
4f. Parties (Extra fee like Garden Party, Ritz etc.)				
4g. Entertainment/arts, music, plays etc.				
4h. Other: Specify your suggestion:				
4i. Other: Specify your suggestion:				

5. If you want speakers or discussions, what subjects would you be interested in, and/or who do you suggest we contact?

6. What programs or activities had meaning to you or were your favorites over the last year?

7. In the coming year our officers need to focus on...

Use the back of the sheet for any additional comments or suggestions.

Turn in at the meeting or mail to Amanda Lynn Richards, PO Box 426, Western Springs, IL 60558.

E-mail mandy@mcs.net