

CROSSPORT *InnerView*

April 2018

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CrossPort Schedule of Events

The Monthly Schedule of Events for CrossPort for April and May are as follows:

April Board meeting Tue. Apr 3, 7PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Social Services Fair, Wed. April 4, 11AM-1PM, 4PM-5PM, Cincinnati State
 First Friday Karaoke, Fri. Apr 6, 9:00PM, Tostados (Columbia Tusculum)
 Transgender Peer Support (**Swap Night! See details below**), Mon. Apr 9, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Labels and Love, HRC Sponsored Fashion show, Fri Apr 13 8:00PM Check Facebook for link. Tickets required.
Second Saturday, Sat Apr 14 Check Facebook for Time and Location
 Thursday Dinner, Thurs. Apr 19, 7:00, **Mokka in Newport** followed by After Social at Rosie's Tavern, Covington
 Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Apr 23, 7PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Saturday Night Out, Sat., Apr 28, 9:00PM, TBD (see Facebook or website)
 "Building Bridges", Tue. May 1, 5-8PM, Children's Home NKy, Covington KY
 First Friday Karaoke, Fri. May 4, 9:00PM, Tostados (Columbia Tusculum)
 May Board meeting Tue. May 7, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Transgender Peer Support, Mon. May 14, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Thursday Dinner, Thur. May 17, 7:00, **Mokka in Newport** followed by After Social at Rosie's Tavern, Covington
 Saturday Night Out, Sat. May 26, 7-11PM, TBD (see Facebook or website)
 Transgender Peer Support, Mon. May 28, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
Annual Picnic, Sat June 2, Mt. Airy Forrest, Noon to Dark

Transgender Peer Support Meeting on April 9 will be Swap Night. This is a swap meet, where members can bring gently loved clothing that they are willing to donate to other members, free of charge. If you participate, be sure to do a nice job cleaning the items before bringing them, and try to bring items in good repair.

Other TG Support meetings may also involve a theme or speaker. Stay in touch with our website and Facebook for the latest changes. Suggestions for themes, venues and events are always welcome.

If you have questions or comments on meeting locations or times, contact CrossPort at 513-344-0116 or at CrossPortCincy@yahoo.com or post them on the CrossPortCincy Facebook group

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

You're WHAT??? Ok so I'm sure some of us have heard that before. Those two words embody probably the largest struggle our community faces. It is at the very core of every major issue. Identity. How are we defined, who has the right to make those definitions and who has the authority to cast judgement on whether or not you fit. Unfortunately it is not as simple as trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. Given the experience that our community has with this issue, it is important that we are aware of the same issue in other forms and situations.

In 2017 Rachel Dolezal shocked the world when it was revealed that she was NOT, in fact, of African American descent. Her story blew up quickly, with condemnation and derision from many sources. Caucasians and African Americans alike were incredibly incensed over her revelation. How dare she claim to be African American. After all DNA doesn't lie. What was wrong with her to want to become that. How could she do that to her family? She has no right to appropriate this culture, she didn't grow up facing the problems and hardships associated with being black. Do these arguments sound familiar?

I find it interesting, however, that a lot of the same people making these arguments absolutely LOVED the movie Dances With Wolves. Who wasn't excited when Kevin Costner was accepted after the hunt and that dance around the fire. Who didn't cheer when he escaped his bigoted Army captors and flee into the mountains to join

(temporarily) his adoptive tribe? Or a similar movie, Little Big Man, starring Dustin Hofmann. Cheering for this one is even more curious. Dustin's character flips back and forth between his adopted Indian tribe, and western white culture. All the time the audience is cheering for him, even if the other characters in the movie don't.

So why do we have such a disparate response? I believe that it has a lot to do with presentation and expectation. By showing the human side and the struggle of the characters in the movies, the director has managed to get the audience to invest in emotional empathy. Whereas in the case of reporting on Rachel Dolezal, many of the writers had already made their own judgement and presented the "facts" in a biased manner. In many cases the facts are filtered and skewed to favor a preconceived agenda by the writer.

We like to believe that we are unbiased by how information is presented, but it is clearly not that easy. It takes a great deal of self discipline to not instantly jump to a conclusion or nod our heads in agreement with a story written to appeal to our preconceived notions. But I would challenge all of us to take the time and thought to examine why we react the way that we do. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to others, and maybe by understanding this bias we can even explain it to others.

Your Editor,
Meghan Fournoit
mhb2ist@yahoo.com

TAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL!

CrossPort members can choose to become a member at an increased level. Those donating to the organization through the higher levels will be acknowledged quarterly in the newsletter, much like donors to the symphony or other non-profit organizations. The levels of membership are:

- \$30 - Basic Membership
- \$50 - Bronze Level
- \$75 - Silver Level
- \$100 - Gold Level

Please consider a donation at the higher levels to support CrossPort's mission to the transgender community in Greater Cincinnati.

A BIG THANK YOU TO
NIKY S.
For Becoming a
GOLD Level Voting Member!!!

Happy Birthday!

Christine Apr 10

Jenn Apr 16

Charlene Apr 28

If you would like to be added to our list, please send the month and date of your birthday along with your name to: CrossPortcincy@yahoo.com.

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Meet The Board!

VICKY BLUM

I joined Crossport in November, 2009. After suffering through gender dysphoria for most of my life it finally resurfaced in July, 2009. Though I had known of Crossport for years I finally came to my first Crossdresser support meeting. It was wonderful to be in the presence of others like me. However, something else was missing.

In January, 2010 I attended my first Transsexual support meeting. I found myself that evening and I knew that life would never be the same. I knew that my current life would collapse as I began down the road to my true self. Up to that time I was a married man of nearly 23 years with two children in college. When my kids were told my feelings and my dysphoria I saw the beginning of the end of "life as I knew it." Within a few months I found that, regardless of my love and devotion to my wife, I could not maintain a false life as a man. The torment drove me to consider suicide for the only time in my life. It was through divine intervention that I turned from the edge of personal destruction and found my true life. I was not wanted, as a woman, in my family. Within a few months I was moving forward to move on from my family. I moved out of my home in August, 2010 and began my transition in earnest.

By January, 2011 I had begun living full time as a woman! The wonder of it all nearly took my breath away, yet at the same time I experienced the first feelings of true peace. It was a time of learning of myself for the first time, of the life I should have lead but was denied due to an accident of birth. To quote A Tale of Two Cities, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." I was filled with happiness but I also felt intense loneliness. I was living the blessing of a second chance of life but I still carried the ties of my old, male life. I transitioned at my current place of employment. I am a mechanical engineer who was in her 14th year at a local plastics manufacturer. I struggled for acceptance, as Vicky, with my coworkers who had only known me as a man. Even

though they were informed of my transition two months prior it was a struggle for many of them, which in turn became another struggle for me. I had a goodly number of supporters at work, at church and of course, at Crossport.

My transition came to its physical conclusion on the lovely and beautiful day of June, 3, 2014. At Lower Bucks

Hospital in Bristol, PA I attained my dream of a lifetime when Dr Sherman Leis performed Vaginoplasty. A new girl was born into the world that morning! I have never known such JOY since that day. I love the life that I live and I have no regrets.



I saw the incredible benefit of this organization and the life-giving support that it gives. I tell many that Crossport saved my life. In turn I gave my attention and my energies to Crossport. I was elected to the Board in November, 2010. I was originally Outreach Director and Treasurer. I participated in my first Transgender Day of Remembrance that year and it became an integral part of my life for the next 7 years. I eventually took over the telephone hotline duties and checking on our post office box. My most fulfilling office within Crossport was in moderating the

Transgender Support meetings twice per month. For six years I lead this group, either alone or with a partner. This position allowed me to interact with so many people who were coming into themselves. For some it was a wonderful time of discovery but for others it was time of agony, regret and self-loathing. I was blessed to be in a position to help others in a time of great need. I have since relinquished many of these duties to others except for Treasurer.

My hobbies are volunteering at my church. I am a member of Women's Organization, having been a Board officer for four years. I also am chairwoman for our main fundraising event held in mid-October. I love woodworking, the beach, and I am an avid reader. My future goals are to learn to play the harp, specifically in a hospital's Hospice ward. I was raised to be a caregiver and I want to give what I have according to the talents I was given.

If you need to contact me directly I can be reached at vblum31@gmail.com.

Minimizing Your Waist or Why Meghan Doesn't Eat Much at the Christmas Party

Gaining that hourglass figure can involve more than just augmentation of the bust and derriere. I personally try to get that svelte look by minimizing my waist line. Not only do I find that much more attractive, but it also opens more possibilities for clothing by providing me with more typical proportions. And going down one dress size also provides more dressing options. But minimizing the waist just by diet and exercise is challenging. I am not as young and energetic as I once was, and my hormonal balance tends to put most of my excess baggage right there. So, in my quest to produce the appearance I so desire, Mother Nature needs a helping hand.

If stomach crunches and salads are of limited help, what's a gal to do? Foundation wear of course! I've tried several products and methods, and found some are more effective than others. Pricing can vary quite a bit depending on product, quality and source. Comfort, ease of use and impact on clothing can also be important factors in selection.

Back in my late 30's, while I was a mere denizen of the closet, I had longed to get something that could help. I looked long and hard, and eventually bought "The Ultimate Waist Cincher" from Fredericks of Hollywood. I was pretty excited, and while it did help, the effect was limited. The price was a little higher than I wanted to pay, but not horrible, around \$40-60 dollars as I recall. This item covered the waist only, above the hips and just over the lower section of the ribcage. It had laces in the back for tightening and a zipper front closure. It was made of a heavier satin material and had a limited number of plastic "bones" to help keep the garment properly distributed and avoid bunching.



Unfortunately, the garment was not really built to survive the tightening that I required. There was some limited discomfort and restriction of movement, but not horribly so. Eventually it pulled apart, sort of like getting a bad run in your stockings. I

ended up discarding it in the purge of '06.

When I reemerged almost 10 years later, I started to try new products. One was an inexpensive Flexees waist girdle from Walmart. There are dozens of variants on this type of product, mostly an elasticized foundation, sometimes with plastic boning, sometimes not. These garments have no adjustment, so getting them on past either your rear or over your chest will limit the amount of help they can give. I also find that they tend to have bunches and bulges that make the effect less perfect. Relatively cheap, and not overly restrictive, this type of garment can provide some limited trimming.



Similar to the waist girdle is the panty girdle. Again, the design primarily uses elasticized waist bands for the effect, with the same challenges. One additional issue with this type of product, which is shared with Control Top pantyhose, is roll down.

Often these products tend to roll or creep down from the upper portion of the waist down to the area just above the hips. Also, some of these garments don't extend as high on the waist to the lower ribcage to begin with. In either case, bulging and "muffin top" on a section of the desired waist can occur. If you are looking for lite control, or using this in conjunction with additional foundation this is an inexpensive solution. One other caution, consider the fact that this type of garment can be difficult to put on and take off, so consider this if you will be needing to visit the facilities while dressed. Some garments have a flap or fold that can provide you limited access.

Finally, we get to my favorite waist control/torture device, the corset! While there is a huge variety in this category, I tend to classify them into four types, Waist Cinchers, Under Bust Corsets, Over Bust Corsets and Body suite/Teddy corsets. Fancy, but flimsy "corsets" sold by lingerie stores really don't count and should probably be labeled Merry Widows. My categorization is all dependent on how much coverage there is. Cinchers have the least and the full Body Suite has the most. Even within these categories, there are varying features, design and qualities.

(continued on page 5)

Minimizing Your Waist (continued)

Since torso length and natural waist formation is variable, certain styles like the Body Suite may be a very poor fit. Materials and the use of boning as well as the quality of the closure systems also have a great impact on the effectiveness of the garment. One thing that is common on all true corsets is that they have a closure system and adjustment that allows them to be tightened after putting them on. This is what allows them to be more effective than other garments.

The easiest one to put on and adjust, and the one that will fit just about everyone is the Waist Cincher. The draw back on Cinchers is that they tend to produce more muffin top than corsets with larger coverage. I mentioned the one from Frederick's earlier, and I will admit, it was a great first attempt. Since that time, I've gotten an Over the Bust corset and an Under the Bust corset. While I was really pleased with my Over the Bust corset, I don't



use it a lot. It is a brilliant red satin and has black ruffling that tends to show under an outfit, so I tend to use it as semi-outer wear. It laces and adjusts really well and is fairly durable. One complaint that I have is that it gives me a little back cleavage, and is a little trickier to use with forms, since the cup area is not as well formed, and

does not cover the upper portion of the breast area. For those gifted with more natural décolletage, these are fabulous. It does not pair well with an additional bra. Currently my most useful corset is an Under the Bust that goes from just above the hips to my bra line. I think I paid \$25 from Amazon, and while it seems to work well, I sometimes worry if the lacing is strong enough for me.

Corsets have a variety of tip and tricks that need to be mastered to make them most effective.

Putting them on is the first trick. My corsets have a series of clasp on the front, called busks, that allow me to wrap them around my torso from back to front, and then latched. On the backside is series of eyelets that use lacing to keep the two halves together, and the coreset tightened to reduce the waist. The laces need to be pre-arranged to allow the corset to be closed up front, and then the lacing pulled to tighten. The laces are pulled from the center set, and the slack is reduced up and down the back. Before tightening, I try to make sure the back panel is in place. This is a flap that runs the length of the corset that after tightening provides a layer between the skin and the laces, and reduces skin puckering through the laces. I found that tightening the top down to center, then bottom up to center gives me the best effect. I like to hook the laces



around a door knob and lean back while tightening to keep the slack from escaping. Tying off at the end will depend on the amount of lace you have. I like to wrap the laces around my waist and tie off up front. Traditionally tying off in the rear is very common. After tying off, the excess lace needs to be tucked away.

A few issues with corsets do come up. I find that bending over can be very difficult, and wearing a corset is almost like a work out, and can build up a sweat. I have some acid reflux, and corset wearing can aggravate this. Prilosec and reducing my food and drink intake helps. If not adjusted correctly, the corset can jab the bones into sensitive areas and may get uncomfortable over a period of time. Also, lacing and other accoutrements may show through certain clothing. It is also a bit easier to adjust with someone else's help, but only if they know how to do it. Corsets have a top and bottom side which makes a difference in how they fit, but it is not always obvious which end is which.

March Board Meeting Report *By Cathy Allison*

Cathy was the meeting Facilitator.

Board members present: Vicky, Jeanne, Jill, Cathy, Tina, Laura Ann

Board members absent: Stacy Lynn at Keystone

Guests present: Chris Seelbach, Ashley

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Special Guest Presentation:

Chris Seelbach, Executive Director of Living With Change Foundation made a presentation to the board about the history and goals of LwC and how LwC and CrossPort can work together to benefit transgender individuals throughout the region.

LwC has three primary purposes:

1. Partner with Children's Hospital and provide funding so that their Transgender Health Clinic has full time staff and a permanent physical space.
2. Teach schools, colleges and work places on how to understand and deal with trans-people.
3. Get political and oppose legislations that are anti-transgender such as the proposed bill advocated by Ohio Representative Tom Brinkman of Mt. Lookout to protect parental rights following Judge Silvia Hendon's ruling that gave custody of a F2M teenager to his grandparents.

LwC is sponsoring a Midwest Regional Transgender Conference at the Sharonville Convention Center in September 2018 which will provide three days of training to medical personnel on how to handle transgender patients.

CrossPort members can help because LwC is also sponsoring a mentoring system with Cincinnati Big Brothers/Big Sisters to pair transgender minors with a transgender adult who can talk to them and answer questions they have that cisgender mentors may not be able to do.

CrossPort might also be asked to present at the Transgender Parent Support Group started by the Children's Hospital Transgender Health Clinic.

The board invited Mr Seelbach to become a member on the Crossportcity discussion group.

Monthly Reports:

Minutes: Cathy submitted from the February 6th meeting. They were accepted.

PO Box. Vicky reported one membership check was mailed in.

Hotline Phone. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She received 4-5 phone calls from people about meetings and some new people who want to know how to get started.

Membership. Vicky submitted a report to the board. As of March 6, CrossPort has 19 voting members for 2018.

Finances. Vicky submitted a report to the board. As of March 5, 2018, there were three expenditures since that last board meeting, \$35.00 for the phone, \$86.00 for Pride

registration and \$13.16 for domain name registration. Including voting memberships not yet deposited, the bank balance totaled \$1343.08.

CrossPort Website. Jeanne submitted a report to the board. The new CrossPort is up and running. It is built in Wordpress and includes a fully integrated calendar and Google Analytics. It also has a live feed to CrossPort's Twitter and Facebook pages.

Content needs to be improved as it mirrors the old site with clearly dated material removed. Jeanne will put together an editorial group of board and non-board members to create new content and put together a social strategy which includes all on-line presences and the newsletter.

Email Correspondence. Cathy submitted a report to the board.

- There was one request to remove inaccurate information from the old website and one report of missing information on the new website. Jeanne resolved both.
- There was one request to be added to the Crossportcity FB discussion group. Cathy resolved this.
- One email about the Support Group. Tina replied.
- Two TG newsletters were received, from IXE and from Chicago Gender Society. The board asked that copies be sent to them in addition to Meghan.
- Daniel Stultz sent an email to confirm CrossPort's information for the Lighthouse Sage and Supported Resource Guide.
- Emily Peterson of Case Western reserve asked CrossPort to publish information on an online research survey of non-gender conforming individuals. Cathy did this.
- Deborah Peterson of VA/TRAC asked if CrossPort would be interested in a table at the MST/Sexual Trauma Awareness Fair at the VA on April 12. The board declined as CrossPort is a social organization not a trauma organization.
- Several emails came in from BlackQueerColumbus asking for support for the #blackpridefour. Jeanne asked that these be forwarded to her.
- The average response time to email queries looking for support was less than 24 hours.

CD/TS Peer Support Group. Tina submitted a report to the board. She did request that CrossPort supply funds to freshen up the meeting refreshments. The board voted to allow an expenditure of up to \$30 and require the group to have a donation jar which would be used to fund future refreshment purchases.

First Friday Social. Stacy submitted a report to the board. The February First Friday at Tostados Grill had 15 in attendance.

Jill submitted a report to the board on the March First Friday as Stacy was unable to host that night. Six attended that Social.

March Board Meeting Report continued from page 6

Thursday Night Social. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She met with the management at Mokka and received assurances that even though the kitchen would close at 9pm, the place will stay open until 11-12. It was decided that Mokka has features that make it an attractive place for new persons to attend so the Thursday Social will not be moving in the foreseeable future.

Stacy plans to put up St Patrick's Day decorations in the area where CrossPort meets for the March social.

Saturday Night Out. Stacy submitted a report to the board. Even though the rain was torrential, seven CrossPort members and one ally had dinner at Boswell's and then went to Urban Artifact to listen to a funk band. The March Saturday Night Out will be the GLSEN Pink Punk Prom.

Second Saturday Social. Stacy submitted a report to the board. This is a new monthly Social before the Third Thursday Social for those members that cannot get out during the week. The restaurant venue will change from month to month and will start in April.

Library. Jill submitted a report to the board. One person, not a CrossPort member had asked to borrow two DVDs, however the bylaws state the library may only lend to voting members and making copies would violate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Cathy had asked K.J. Rawson of the Digital Transgender Archives about possible archive sites for the library. He replied that he was certain that several colleges or archives would be interested in the collection. Jill argued that we should not give up control of the library and the board voted to keep control of it.

Outreach. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She did help a UC student with her documentary project. Vicky reserved a 10x10 area with electricity and a parking pass at the Cincinnati Pride, June 23. Cathy submitted a report to the board. Arykah Carter, a board member of TransOhio reached out on FB and is now a member on the Crossportcincy discussion group. Jayson Douglas of the LGBTQ group at UC passed Cathy's email address to Evie Heflin of Central Clinic who is organizing TDoV which resulted in CrossPort requesting a table at TDoV. Chris Seelbach had been offered, and accepted, an invitation to be put on the InnerView email list which resulted in him presenting Living with Change Foundation to the board.

Newsletter. Cathy submitted a report to the board. The February newsletter was emailed to 275 addresses on February 1. Two email addresses were invalid, five receivers unsubscribed. 106 were opened and 70 clicked through to access the InnerView. The March newsletter was emailed to 276 addresses on March 3. One email address bounced, one receiver unsubscribed, no reason given. 77 were opened and 59 clicked

through to access the InnerView.

The board had not responded to Meghan's request that for the March issue she would like to clean up the advertiser page so no advertisers were removed from that page.

Old Business:

Gangsters. Laura Ann reported that her attorney advised that the only way for CrossPort to get their \$135 back would be to take Gangsters to small claims court. As this would require a minimum filing fee of \$35.50 plus both Vicky and Laura Ann taking off work for most of a day, the board voted to no longer pursue the money.

Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31. There are currently five volunteers to staff the booth; Jeanne, Cathy, Laura Ann, Tina and Samantha.

The board determined that CrossPort is not currently financially sound enough to contribute to TDoV financially.

Cathy volunteered to print a new CrossPort banner and to work up the artwork to get new business cards printed. She was authorized by the board to order them through Vistaprint.

New literature also needs to be printed. Who is in charge of this, nothing in my notes?

Vicky has a cart which can be used to transport items to/from TDoV.

Summer Picnic Planning. The board was presented with a \$100 donation to offset the \$160 cost of reserving a site at Mt Airy Forest for the picnic. The board voted to accept the donation and to schedule the picnic at Mt Airy on Saturday, June 2.

April Peer Group Swap Meet. The swap meet will held at the April 9th meeting. Jeanne will handle the write-up for social media.

2018 Membership Drive. Cathy set up a Paypal link on Facebook and Jeanne set up a Paypal link on the new Website. Requests for voting members were posted on FB and in the newsletter but you cannot set up a Paypal button within a Mailchimp email. New requests for support will be sent out on all social platforms before the next board meeting.

Pursuit of Paying Sponsors. The board has agreed that non-paying advertisers should be dropped from the InnerView's Advertisers page.

Library Donations. Time ran out and this item was tabled until the next board meeting.

New Business:

Provider Questionnaire. Per Meghan's request. The board agreed to review Meghan's questionnaire and provide feedback to her before the next board meeting.

Laura Ann Weaver. She is now on the VA's LGBT Task Force Committee. She wanted to make sure that members knew that the VA will pay for both therapy and hormone replacement therapy. She will work with the VA to increase links to the TG community. The task force meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48pm. The board agreed that future board meetings should begin at 7pm rather than 7:30pm.

Cathy's Corner Market

-Cathy Allison

The event selected for March's Saturday Night Out was the GLSEN Pink Punk Prom held at the Masonic Temple on 5th Street in downtown Cincinnati. I had no idea what to expect since the last Prom I attended was in 1978. It turned out to be two separate and distinct events.

The first event is the Youth Event which is pretty much a regular Prom for teenagers. The music was loud, the lights were pulsing and over 400 LGBTQ+ teenagers and allies showed up to party the night away. The kids all get to attend free of charge.

The second event is the Adult Event which was two floors above the Youth Event. This is a paid event and the money that is raised covers the cost of the Youth Event. I am not sure how many people were at the Adult Event, but I am guessing there were about 200.

The Adult Event had a table with lite bite h'orderves, two small bars, two long rows of tables covered with silent auction items and a raffle for a dozen bottles of wine and liquor. There was also a DJ, a small dance floor and a GLSEN backdrop with a photographer. Soft drinks and food is covered with the cost of your ticket. Alcohol is purchased by buying tickets for \$2.00 each and turning them in for a drink. Wine was 2 tickets so only \$4.00 a glass which is less expensive than most bars and restaurants these days.



From left: Jaqualinn, Cathy, Paula, Samantha, Lisa, Stacy, Renae

The TG community turned out to be a fairly well represented. I knew that Jaqualinn, Maggie Mae (who suggested the event), Renae, Samantha and Stacy were going to be there. I also knew Paula I. was going to be there be-

cause she has been a long time GLSEN supporter. Aimee K. and Raya S. were also there and it was my first time meeting them.

A little while later, I saw a blonde in a very nice black and red dress checking out the silent auction items. Not recognizing her, I asked Stacey (walking directory of most of the Greater Cincinnati TG community) if she knew who it was. After looking a couple minutes Stacy said she thought her name was Lisa who was a former CrossPort member, also known as "Bad Lisa".

So off we went to (re)make acquaintance. As it turned out Lisa had originally joined CrossPort in the early 90s so she and I had a small window of overlap for about a year. Her company was one of the Pink Punk Prom sponsors so she has attended a lot of GLSEN proms over the years.

Lisa Johnson, the Cincinnati Police department LGBT liaison officer who came to the last CrossPort Christmas party also came up and talked to us as well.

For entertainment, in addition to dancing to the music provided by the DJ, one of the high school students did a lip sync in drag and later, a Beyonce impersonator did her best to get everyone on their feet and dancing. There was also a 20 minute window where the adults could go one floor down to watch the Youth Event from a balcony. 18 kids did a synchronized dance routine which was actually pretty good. Then the dance crowd split into two groups with an open aisle between them and couples started to dance down the space in between. Within a couple of minutes the whole crowd had joined them and the dance floor was two spinning wheels of dancing teenagers. It looked like a lot of fun.

The Prom ended at 11pm. Jaqualinn, Renae and Stacy went over to Tostados Grill and stayed until it closed. I went to the Below Zero After Prom Party to meet Erica. Lisa and Maggie Mae also went to Below Zero (BZ).

BZ had their regular drag show upstairs at the Cabaret. If you had an After Prom Party wrist band, you could go upstairs to watch it whenever you wanted. If not, you had to wait in line. At one point there were over 40 people in line waiting to get upstairs.

We stayed until BZ closed. There were a lot of admirers there, both male and female. Everyone got a chance to break at least one heart!

All in all, I had a great time and am looking forward to next year's GLSEN Prom.

CrossPort Social Meeting

The social is held on the *third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm* at a local restaurant (currently Mokka) and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for all transgender individuals to get out and socialize at a safe environment. Following dinner is a gathering at Rosie's Tavern, Covington, an LGBT friendly bar that is used to TG patrons.

Combined Peer Support Meeting

Meets 7:30pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church. The meeting, which focuses on female-to-male and male-to-female transition as well as crossdressing issues, and living your authentic gender identity, offers an opportunity to network in a supportive forum.

CrossPort Board Meeting

The board typically meets on the *first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm*, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church, to discuss club matters. All members are welcome to attend.

CrossPort Saturday Night Out

This is an evening out at a local nightclub. It is tentatively scheduled for the *fourth Saturday* evenings of each month. The time and location of this event will change with each occurrence.

NEW**CrossPort Second Saturday Social**

This is an evening out at a local dining establishment. Similar to Third Thursday, but for those of us who can't get out during the week. It is scheduled for the *second Saturday* evenings of each month. Unlike Thursdays, the time and location of this event will change with each occurrence. Fantastic compromise on the Great Dinner Debate!

Karaoke Friday Nights

The *first Friday* of the month CrossPort meets for a social engagement to share fellowship, music and merriment at a Tostado's, starting at about 9:00pm. Spouses, Significant Others (S O's), and family are also welcome and encouraged to attend all meetings and events.

For more information on all meetings please email CrossPort: crossportcincy@yahoo.com, visit the CrossPortcincy Face Book group, or call the CrossPort Phone number listed below.

Contacting CrossPort

Mail: P.O. Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45201

Email: crossportcincy@yahoo.com

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Seattle judge shows scant patience for military transgender ban



Plaintiff Cathrine Schmid, second left, listens as attorney Natalie Nardecchia speaks to media members in front of a federal courthouse following a hearing there Tuesday, March 27, 2018, in Seattle. U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman says she won't immediately consider President Donald Trump's new policy banning transgender people from serving in the military. Pechman is one of four federal judges who have issued orders blocking Trump's decision last year to overturn an Obama-era directive allowing transgender troops to serve openly. ELAINE THOMPSON/AP PHOTO

By GENE JOHNSON | Associated Press |
Published: March 27, 2018

Editor's Note: The following article and attached image was published by Stars and Stripes, a newspaper that has served the US Military for over 100 years. The views and opinions represented are neither a representation of Crosssports views, or official policy by the US Military or Department of Defense.

SEATTLE — President Donald Trump's move last week to tweak his ban on transgender people joining the military might not save it from being struck down, a federal judge in Seattle suggested Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman was one of four federal judges around the country who late last year temporarily blocked the president from overturning an Obama-era directive allowing transgender troops to serve openly, finding the ban likely unlawful and discriminatory. The legal challenges have been brought by transgender troops, those who aspire to serve and a range of civil rights organizations.

(Seattle Judge, Continued from Page 10)

Pechman scheduled a hearing Tuesday for arguments on whether to make her ruling permanent, but late Friday, Trump announced that he was rescinding his previous decision after a Pentagon review. Instead of barring transgender troops outright, he would allow them to serve in certain limited cases. Any who have transitioned to their preferred gender or who need medical treatment to do so would be presumed ineligible for service, though they could seek individual waivers allowing them to serve.

The Justice Department immediately asked Pechman and other federal judges to dissolve their old orders as moot — something Pechman showed little interest in doing, noting that the late Friday filing left scant time for the plaintiffs to respond.

None of the other courts held hearings in cases challenging the transgender ban since the new policy came out Friday, though U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, D.C., scheduled a case conference for Wednesday morning. Cases are also pending in federal court in Baltimore and Riverside, California.

Pechman requested further briefing within a week about how the president's new policy might affect the case, but she insisted Tuesday that both sides limit their arguments to the broader initial ban and suggested that her ruling might focus on that. The hearing was reminiscent of some of the legal challenges to Trump's travel ban, when he repeatedly changed his policies in light of unfavorable court rulings.

Pechman repeatedly asked Justice Department lawyer Ryan Parker for any evidence in the record that banning transgendered people would further the military's asserted goals of unit cohesion, morale, preparedness and cost savings: "I can't find any factual underpinnings in what you've supplied to me," she said at one point.

Parker pointed her toward a report from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, released in support of the president's revised policy, but the judge dismissed it, saying the report wasn't properly before her because it was filed late.

Pechman also shrugged off the government's argument that the courts should give deference to the military as the entity best suited to determine what is required for national defense. The judge noted that the courts once gave such deference in allowing the military to segregate troops by race, ban women, ban women from combat, and ban gays — all of which have since been overturned.

"In retrospect, all of that deference was in error," Pechman said.

She chastised Parker over other points as well, saying the government had evaded page limits by using a smaller font than allowed in its filings and that he failed to respond to arguments raised by the state of Washington, which intervened on the side of the plaintiffs.

Natalie Nardecchia, an attorney with Lambda Legal who represents the plaintiffs, argued that the government's new policy is irrelevant: Trump set out with a goal of banning transgender people from serving in any capacity, as he announced on Twitter, and then set about having the military come up with an after-the-fact rationale as to why it should be implemented.

"When the government discriminates against a group of people, they have to have a reason; they can't say, we'll go study it and come up with a reason," Nardecchia said. "Making slight changes in the policy in its final version does not render it constitutional."

A Banner Dinner

Cathy Allison

Seventeen came to the March Thursday Social at Mokka in Newport. Samantha brought her parents Ana and Chuck again. Georgia brought her friend Shirley who was the only first timer. Laurie came with me, then there were Barbara, Danice, Danielle, Dee, Jill, Joni & Tanya and Stacy. Maggie Mae's twin brother showed up a bit later and Marsha arrived shortly before we headed elsewhere.

The new CrossPort banner also made its first public appearance.



After dinner, seven of us went to the Crazy Fox. There I got to meet Markie for the first time, and Joni and I learned that we were both involved in the gaming miniatures industry. I am amazed at how many of the CrossPort people I have met in the last year like to play board and table top games. Getting to learn more about other people in the group is why going out is so much fun.

Several people headed over to Rosie's Tavern after the Crazy Fox, but I had to call it an evening at midnight and head for home so I wasn't one of them.

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