

May 2018

**Volume 34
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CrossPort Schedule of Events

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

“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

Second Saturday, Sat. May 12, Location TBD

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. May 14, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church **SPECIAL MAKE-UP APPLICATION EVENT! See page 7**

Thursday Dinner, Thur. May 17, 7:00, Mokka in Newport then Social at Rosie's

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

First Friday Karaoke, Fri. June 1, 9:00PM Tostados

Lawrenceburg Pride Event, Sat June 2, Parade at Noon

Veterans Admin Dayton Pride Fair, Mon June 4

June Board meeting, Tue June 5, 7:30PM, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

Second Saturday, Sat. June 9, Location TBD

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. June 11, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

Veterans Admin Cincinnati Pride Fair, Wed June 13, 9AM

Thursday Dinner, Thur. June 21, 7:00, Mokka in Newport then Social at Rosie's

Cincinnati Pride Festival Saturday June 23

Saturday Night Out, Sat. June 23, 7-11PM, TBD (see Facebook or website)

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. June 25, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

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 Cross-Port at 513-344-0116 or at CrossPortCincy@yahoo.com or post them on the CrossPortCincy Facebook group

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Keeping Your Head Above Water.

I remember when I was very young, probably about 5 or 6, going to the pool before I could swim. There was a ledge along the edge of the shallow side that was probably 6-12 inches deep. I did the "alligator" crawl along the edge, walking with my hands, and my head just above the water. It was fun, and I had my legs stretched out behind me.

Then I made the mistake of going to close to the edge, and with my weight behind me, one of my hands went over the edge. I plunged over the edge, my body dragged behind me. I was shocked, and panicked. I sucked in water and began to choke. Fortunately, someone, (my father I think) saw me and grabbed me out. It was a terrifying moment. I don't think of it often, but every now and then I relive that feeling.

Eventually, I learned to swim, a little bit by the end of that summer, and better and better over the years. Eventually I could dive in the pool and swim under water the length of the pool and back without coming up for air. (I couldn't do that now!) With trust, learning and practice, I managed to learn to overcome my fears. Just as importantly I learned how to survive. Some of the most important lessons were to not panic, and know when to come back up for air.

Years later, I was able to help my own children overcome their fears and learn to swim. It wasn't instant, and they weren't good swimmers to begin with, but they both earned the Swimming merit badge for scouts.

In our lives, we have similar experiences. When we are new to something big in life, we need to learn to survive. Typically this takes guidance and trust. It is important to find people in your life that you can truly trust. It really helps if those people have some experience, and an absolute must that they have your best interest in mind. Sometimes we need to start slow, and build up our confidence and skills. Start by figuring out the two or three things that are most important. Work on them, and you will survive.

As time goes by, you will gain experience and be more sure of yourself. When you are able to relax, that old panic will slip away, and you find joy in what you are doing, and who you are becoming. But you really aren't done in your journey. Once you have progressed to the point where you are capable, it may be time to pass what you have learned to someone else. While conquering a skill is exhilarating, passing one on is even more satisfying.

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.

Paid advertisements or Letters to the editor or CrossPort organization in the Innerview are not an endorsement by CrossPort.

Happy Birthday!

Aggie S.

Teri M.

Jane L.

Kara B.

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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“How Transitioning Affects Sports Performance of Trans Athletes”

By Kaitlin Menza, *Shape Magazine* September 9, 2015

Editors Note: While this article is from 2015, the question has been recently raised and is still relevant. Also while providing credit to the Author and publisher, images have been replaced due to copyright laws.

In June, Olympic gold medal-winning decathlete Caitlyn Jenner—formerly known as Bruce Jenner—came out as transgender. It was a watershed moment in a year where transgender issues have been consistently making headlines. Now, Jenner is considered one of the most famous openly transgender people in the world. But before she became a transgender icon, before she was on *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, she was an athlete. And her public transition arguably makes her the most famous transgender athlete in the world. (In fact, her heartfelt speech was one of the 10 Amazing Things That Happened at the ESPY Awards.)

Although Jenner transitioned long after her athletic career, the (slowly) growing acceptance of those who identify as transgender means there are countless people out there who are transitioning while competing in a specific sport. New headlines come up every week—there's the South Dakota lawmaker who has proposed a visual examination of athletes' genitals; the California initiative to ban trans people from using their chosen locker rooms; the Ohio ruling that trans female athletes in high school must be checked to see if they demonstrate a physical advantage in terms of bone structure and muscle mass. Even for those most sensitive and supportive of LGBT causes, it's tough to figure out if there's a "fair" way to allow someone to play for a team that's the opposite gender from what they were assigned at birth—particularly in the case of trans women, who identify as female but presumably have (and retain) the strength, agility, body mass, and endurance of a male.

Of course, the experience of being a trans athlete is much more complex than just changing your hair and then watching the trophies roll in. The actual



science behind hormone therapy or even gender re-assignment surgeries doesn't provide easy answer, either—but neither medical step changes athletic ability in the way that some might think.

How a Trans Body Changes

Savannah Burton, 40, is a trans woman who plays professional dodgeball. She competed in world championship this summer with the women's team—but played for the male team before she started her transition.

"I've played sports most of my life. As a kid, I tried everything: hockey, downhill skiing, but baseball is what I focused on most," she says. "Baseball was my first love." She played for nearly twenty years—albeit as a male. Then came running, cycling, and dodgeball in 2007, a fairly new sport outside the grade-school gym. She was several years into her dodgeball career when she decided to take medical steps to transition in her mid-thirties.

"I was still playing dodgeball when I started taking the testosterone blockers and estrogen," Burton recalls. She felt subtle changes within the first few months. "I could definitely see that my throw wasn't as hard as it was. I couldn't play the same way. I couldn't compete at the same level that I had."

She describes a physical transformation that was thrilling as a transgender person and terrifying as an athlete. "My mechanics of playing didn't change," she says of her agility and coordination. "But my muscle strength decreased significantly. I can't throw as hard." The difference was especially striking in dodgeball, where the goal is to throw hard and fast at your human targets. When Burton played with men, the balls would bounce so hard off people's chests

that they would make a big noise. "Now, a lot of people are catching those balls," she says. "So it's kind of frustrating that way." Throw like a girl, indeed.

Burton's experience is typical of male-to-female (MTF) transitions, says Robert S. Beil, M.D., of Montefiore Medical Group. "Losing testosterone means losing strength and having less athletic agility," he explains. "We don't know if testosterone has a direct effect on muscle strength, but without the testosterone, they are maintained at a lower pace."

How Transitioning Affects Sports Performance (continued from Page 4)

This means that women typically need to work harder for longer to maintain muscle mass, whereas men see results more quickly.

Beil adds that men have a higher average blood count rate, and transitioning can "cause the red blood cell counts to go down, because the amount of red blood cells and red blood cell production is influenced by testosterone." Your red blood cells are integral in carrying oxygen from the lungs to your tissues; people who get blood transfusions often feel a surge of strength and vitality, whereas people with anemia feel weak. This could explain why Burton also reported a decrease in stamina and endurance, particularly when going for a morning run.

Fat redistributes as well, giving trans women breasts and a slightly fleshier, curvier shape. Alexandria Gutierrez, 28, is a trans woman who founded a personal-training company, **TRANSnFIT**, that specializes in coaching the transgender community. She spent her twenties working hard to lose weight after she hit a peak of 220 pounds, but she saw all that effort literally softening before her eyes when she began taking estrogen two years ago. "It was definitely scary," she remembers. "A few years ago I used to use 35-pound weights for reps. Today, I struggle to lift a 20-pound dumbbell." It took a year of work to get back to the numbers she had pulled before her transition.

It's a fitness cliché that women are afraid to lift because they don't want bulging muscles, but Gutierrez reassures the ladies that it's really hard to get there. "I could go lift heavy weights, and my muscles aren't going to change," she says. "In fact, I actively tried to bulk up, as an experiment, and it didn't work."

The reverse transition of female to male (FTM) receives less of the athletic focus, but it's worth noting that, yes, trans men do typically feel the opposite effects, though a bit sooner because testosterone is so potent. "It can take years to develop the body you want under normal circumstances, but testosterone makes it happen very quickly," Beil explains. "It changes your strength and speed and ability to respond to exercise." Yep, it's pretty awesome to be male when you're aiming for great biceps and six-pack abs.

What's the Big Deal?

Whether male to female or vice versa, a trans person's bone structure is unlikely to change in a sig-

nificant way. If you were born female, you're still more likely to be shorter, smaller, and have less dense bones after transition; if you're born male, you're more likely to be taller, bigger, and have denser bones. And therein lies the controversy.

"A FTM trans person will end up somewhat disadvantaged because they have a smaller frame," Beil says. "But MTF trans people tend to be bigger, and may have certain strengths from before they started using estrogen."

It's these particular advantages that are raising tough questions for athletic organizations around the world. "I think for high school or local athletic organizations, it's a small enough difference that people should largely ignore it," he says. "It's a harder question when you're talking about elite athletes."

But some athletes themselves argue that there really isn't an advantage. "A trans girl is not stronger than any other girls," Gutierrez elaborates. "It's a matter of education. This is totally cultural." Trans*Athlete, an online resource, keeps track of the current policies toward trans athletes at different levels throughout the country. The International Olympic Committee, for one, has declared that transgender athletes may compete for the gendered team they identify with, provided they've completed external genital surgeries and legally changed their gender.

"The science behind [transitioning] is that there is no advantage for athletes. That's one of the biggest problems I have with the IOC guidelines," Burton insists. Yes, technically trans athletes are allowed to compete in the Olympics. But by requiring a genital surgery first, the IOC has made their own declaration of what it means to be transgender; it doesn't take into account that some trans people never get genital surgery—because they can't afford it, couldn't recover from it, or simply don't want to. "A lot of people feel that that's very transphobic," says Burton.

Though both women both lost some of their athletic skill, they say the positives of transitioning far outweigh the negatives. "I was willing to give up everything to transition, even it kills me," Burton says. "It was the only option for me. I felt like, it would be great if I could play sports after this, but it was a bonus. The fact that I'm able to play after transition is just amazing."

This article can be found at the following URL:
<https://www.shape.com/lifestyle/mind-and-body/how-does-transitioning-affect-transgender-athletes-sports-performance>

April Board Meeting Report *By Cathy Allison*

Cathy was the meeting Facilitator.
Board members present: Jeanne, Jill, Cathy, Laura Ann, Stacy
Board members absent: Vicky, Tina
Guests present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm, April 3, 2018.

Monthly Reports:

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

There was no report on the PO Box as Vicky was out with knee surgery. Jeanne volunteered to check it in the next day or two.

Stacy reported on Hotline Phone. She has received 6 phone calls from people about meetings and the newsletter or who just wanted to talk.

Stacy reported on Membership. As of this Board Meeting, CrossPort currently has 22 voting members for 2018.

There was no report on the Finances as Vicky was out with knee surgery.

Jeanne reported on the CrossPort Website and Social Media. The new CrossPort had over 241 unique visitors in the last month.

Jeanne has been coordinating with JJ and Laura Ann in regards to VA resources. She will also schedule 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. She also intends to make CrossPort's Twitter feed more effective.

Cathy reported on the Email Correspondence. There were two requests to be added to the Crossportcincy FB discussion group and one to get the InnerView. Cathy resolved these. There was one email about incorrect information on the CrossPort web site. Cathy corrected it. Two TG newsletters were received, from IXE and from Chicago Gender Society. These were forwarded to the board and to Meghan.

Ohio River Valley Pride invited CrossPort to attend their first Pride event on June 2, 2018. Forwarded it to the board.

Deborah Peterson of VA/TRAC asked if CrossPort would be interested in a table at the VA's Pride Fair on June 12, 2018. Forwarded to the board.

CHNK invited CrossPort to attend a planning session for an LGBTQ+ collaborative group on May 1, 2018. Forwarded it to the board who moved the May board meeting one week later so that they might attend. Email request about the efficacy of breast enlargement pumps. Forwarded it to the board who replied that the effects of pumps were only transitory, CrossPort members were invited to Easter Services by Philipus United Church of Christ. Cathy posted it to the Crossportcincy FB group.

The average response time to email queries looking for support was less than 24 hours.

Tina reported on the CD/TS Peer Support Group. She submitted a report to the board. 8-10 people were attending including a young transman and his mother.

Stacy submitted a report on First Friday Social. The February First Friday at Tostados Grill remains popular.

Stacy submitted a report on Second Saturday Social. The first event will be at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant in Kenwood.

Stacy submitted a report on Thursday Night Social. 15 attended and because it was a St. Patty's Day theme, a \$10 gift card was given to the person who wore the best green.

Stacy submitted a report on Saturday Night Out. The event was the GLSEN Pink Punk Prom and 9 people associated with CrossPort past and present attended.

Jill reported on the Library. Two books were donated by Danielle, "Transgender History" by Susan Stryker and "Make Up" by Eve Oxberry.

April Board Meeting Report continued from page 5

Stacy submitted a report on Outreach. TDoV was well attended and there are several other outreach opportunities coming up in the near future. Scheduling conflicts forced CrossPort to pull out of the Social Services Fair at Cincinnati State held Wednesday, April 4.

Jeanne is meeting with Karen of LWC to coordinate sources on TG specific medical care in this area.

Laura Ann has been invited to speak at the Greater Cincinnati Democrats Club on May 24.

Cathy reported on the Newsletter. The March newsletter was emailed to 276 addresses on March 3. One email address bounced, one receiver unsubscribed, no reason given. 91 were opened and 73 clicked through to access the InnerView.

The April newsletter was emailed to 277 email addresses on April 2. 275 were delivered. The number of opens and click throughs were less than 24 hours old.

Old Business:

Transgender Day of Visibility Wrap Up. Cathy is putting together a report of feedback from our members who attended which will be submitted to the TDoV organizers.

Summer Picnic Planning. Several board members had issues with both the Summer Picnic being held on June 2 which conflicted with the first Pride Event in Lawrenceburg, and also the precedent of allowing a donation sway the board's vote in the decision making process. The board voted to return the \$100.00 donation and to ask Vicky to cancel the reservation at Mt Airy Forest for June 2.

In a second vote, the board voted that the Annual Picnic should be scheduled from July 21 through August 12. That covers the last two weekends in July and the first two weekends in August.

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. Stacy proposed that the board gift a CrossPort magnetic name badge to all the voting members who joined at Bronze Level (\$50), Silver Level (\$75) or Gold Level (\$100). The board voted to accept the proposal.

Pursuit of Paying Sponsors. This item was tabled until the next board meeting.

Library Donations. A request for additional donations needs to be posted on the crossportcincy Facebook

group.

Provider Questionnaire. Jeanne still needs to follow up with a provider to get feedback before replying to Meghan.

New Business:

June 12 VA Pride Fair. Laura Ann will contact Ann Eaton to confirm our presence there.

Code of Ethics and Conduct. A list of items which should be addressed was compiled. Cathy will work up a first draft to submit to the board for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36pm. The board agreed that Cathy should facilitate the May meeting.

Make up Night: May 14th from 7-10

-Stacy and Meghan

It is always interesting to us in this community when we are having a conversation with someone and they say, "I don't have a clue about Makeup." It is so vitally important in who we are and how we present ourselves that we are putting our best face forward. So Crossport is dedicating a Support Group meeting to Make-up.

We have all seen Makeovers on TV and on YouTube but interactive learning can be a far more valuable mode of learning for some individuals. This meeting will feature 3 Makeup experts that will present several topics like; what type of makeup is best for your skin type, what shades and colors complement your features best and how to achieve certain effects.

Everyone who attends will have an opportunity to talk with someone about Makeup. Some of you will even get to be used as models! We want to cover every aspect from shaving to beard cover to foundation to eye shadow. It might be a good idea to bring your current products with you for discussion and review. And maybe you even know a trick or two that you can share with the group. We hope you will keep this date open and we look forward to seeing you at this event.

BEST MAYBELLINE MASCARA



Cathy's Corner Market

By Cathy Alison

Saturday April 14 was CrossPort's first "Second Saturday" event. This month it was at Chuy's Tex Mex in Kenwood. Like many new events, this one started with a small group, just Stacy, Renae and I showed up at Chuy's for dinner.

I found Chuy's to be a mixed bag. We spent about 40 minutes at the bar waiting to see if anyone else was going to show up before we got a table. Both bartenders were friendly and attentive. After getting seated, our waitress was friendly but kept referring to us as "you guys". She came across as simply unenlightened rather than mean spirited, but it was still annoying being miss-gendered, even if not intentionally. The food came quickly. It was decent though nothing to write home about.

After Chuy's we went up to Old Street Saloon in Monroe for their 24th Anniversary Celebration. I had not been there since 1994 when CrossPort met there for the monthly Thursday Social. The place was a lot smaller than I remembered and it was packed wall-to-wall with celebrants.

Old Street had a drag show that night which is something they have every Saturday. There was a \$5 cover which I understand they charge any night they have a show. They had eight performers in for their Celebration. I have to admit that I had not been to a drag show in over 20 years. I had seen dozens in the late 80s and early 90s and even worked backstage at one, so pretty much thought I had seen everything. But there were several things I had never seen on stage that night.

First, there was a husband and husband team which did a male/female duet. There was no gay marriage 20 years ago so that was something I had

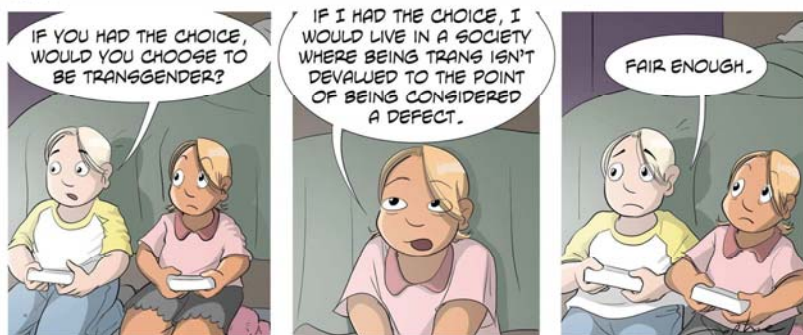
never seen. Two of the performers did 'drab' rather than 'drag' and one of those was a transman. Definitely nothing I had ever seen before. Another female performer out of Louisville had breasts that while most likely augmented were still pretty impressive, another thing I had not seen in a drag show before. I found that with a mixture of trans and gay performers, I needed to pay attention to how the MCs introduced them because some they introduced as Mr. and some as Miss, just to get an insight into their off stage gender orientation.

I had an extended conversation about transgender stuff with a 30yo straight girl at the next table who was in town visiting her gay sister. Basically things like what pronouns to use when talking to a trans person and how wide the gender spectrum actually is. She was really shocked to learn that I had been married over 30 years (to a woman!). Unlike our waitress earlier in the evening, she wanted to learn about our community so not to offend. It is always fun talking to someone who actually wants to learn something.

I also met Ronda who goes dressed to Old Street most weekends. Ronda fundraises to get supplies to donate to homeless people in and near Hamilton. She also helps homeless people find temporary housing. She made me feel that I should spend more of my spare time helping people less fortunate than myself. Ronda is now in the Crossportcincy FB group so make sure to say 'hi' to her.

As usual when you hang out with Stacy and Renae, we ended up leaving only because they closed the bar. Old Street is certainly not the gay country bar it was 'way back when and I learned a few things as well as taught a few things. The next Second Saturday gathering will be May 12.

#321



f @assignedmale
t /c/SophieLabelledraws

Merch : assignedmale.etsy.com
Donate : patreon.com/sophielabelle

Assigned Male Cartoon

The "Comic Strip" to the left is from an online webcomic that is published weekly. The Canadian artist/writer, Sophie Labelle, was born in 1987. She has worked as a teacher and a camp counselor, where she had contact with transgender children. Her experience with these children, and their self image challenges, inspired her to write the comic about an 11 year old transgirl and her friends.

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

Phone: 513-344-0116

Our phone line is a digital mobile telephone answered by a designated CrossPort Member. Please be assured that you can safely leave a message and your call will be returned in confidence at a time of your choosing.

CrossPort Website: <http://www.crossport.org>

Message us through Facebook, either through the CrossPort Cincinnati page or the CrossPortcincy group.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All membership information will be held in strict confidence.

Our goal is to better serve your needs!

PREFERRED NAME: _____

(+LAST INITIAL) (used at gatherings/newsletter)

MAILING NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

*EMAIL: _____

NEWSLETTER: YES ___ NO ___

PHONE: _____ OK TO TEXT? ___

SPECIAL EDUCATION/CAREER/SKILLS? (TELL US ABOUT YOU!)

YOUR INTERESTS: TS ___ TG ___ CD ___ GAY ___ FRIENDSHIP ___

EVENTS ___ OTHER ___

*YOUR DATE OF BIRTH: ___/___/___

MUST BE OVER 18 TO ATTEND, UNLESS PARENT/GUARDIAN IS PRESENT

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER'S NAME: _____

TODAY'S DATE: ___/___/___

HOW DID YOU FIND CROSSPORT? _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: NEW ___ RENEWAL ___ INFO CHANGE (\$30/YEAR, JAN-DEC)

TYPE OF PAYMENT: CHECK _____ CASH

PAYPAL accepted via our website: CrossPort.org

FULL MEMBERSHIP @ \$30/YEAR (Jan 1-Dec 31)

Voting, hold office

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING AT A HIGHER LEVEL, TO SUPPORT CROSSPORT EVENTS AND SERVICE TO THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN THE GREATER CINCINNATI AREA

BRONZE LEVEL @ \$50/YEAR

SILVER LEVEL @ \$75/YEAR

GOLD LEVEL @ \$100/YEAR

MAIL TO: CrossPort, PO Box 19936, Cincinnati, OH 45219

Or pay at any CrossPort meeting or event

Or via the website: CrossPort.org

Preparing for Pride

-Meghan Fournoit

Sure, this is the May issue, but by the time you get around to reading the Innerview, a week or two into the month may have gone by. By then several events for the month may have already occurred, and you may have missed a golden opportunity. This June, the Tri-State area is chock full of Pride Events, and it helps to have a guide to remind people of what is going on.

What is Pride anyway?

Pride in the LGBT community is an event put on by local groups to raise awareness of LGBT issues and promote acceptance in the larger community. Most often it consists of a Parade and a festival in which vendors, entertainment and community action or support groups participate with events and informational booths. The first Pride events trace history back to June 1970 in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. One year after the Stonewall Riots in New York City, LGBT individuals made an effort to stand up for basic rights and acceptance. Over the years Pride events have grown larger and more diverse. For some, it has become more of a party or celebration, while for others, the socio-political aspect is still the main focus.



In the Tri-state area, Cincinnati hosts a very colorful event. The parade is heavily supported by companies with Employee Resource Groups, Health organizations and Support groups. Along the route, there are protesters that stand in opposition to various LGBT stances, but generally violent confrontation is extremely rare. The city of Cincinnati has done a good job of providing access and protection for the parade and festival. Within the festival, there

is quite a menagerie of participants, so people watchers will have a field day. Everything from Leather Bears to Genderqueers, you can see it all. That make us simple CD and TS/TG folk downright vanilla. Well, at least I'm French Vanilla!

While pride is certainly entertaining, you may be interested in more that just going to have good time. Crossport sets up a booth at the Cincinnati festival, and is looking to expand it's role in several other Pride events this year. This year Crossport plans on having an official presence in four events. The first annual Lawrenceburg Indiana Pride Festival and Parade is scheduled for Saturday, June 2. The Dayton Veterans Administration Pride Fair is scheduled for Monday, June 4. The Cincinnati Veterans Administration Pride Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13. The Cincinnati (Regional) Pride Parade and Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 23.

Crossport typically has a booth with a table for educational literature which needs to be attended. This year our booth is enhanced with a spectacular new banner. Booth attendants should be able to answer some basic questions about Crossport activities and point to support resources. Set up is not overly complicated, but can include setting up a couple of folding tables and chairs, and for outside locations setting up a pop-up canopy. Outdoor locations can also get quite windy, so keeping literature from flying away can be a challenge. Depending on the venue, a cooler with drinks and snacks may be present. Moving all of the equipment may also take some effort.

One note about the Cincinnati Festival; the location last year was at the far end of the festival. Last year I had about a 1.5 to 2 mile walk to my parking. Having the foresight to bring flats, and changing into heels at the booth was a great idea, except the flats I had were horrible on the back of my heel. I ended up with a blister anyway. Having a basic first aid kit handy is probably a good idea. Sensible shoes for anyone actually walking the parade is a must!

Transgender Day of Visibility

-By Cathy Alison

Since 2009, every March 31 has been the Transgender Day of Visibility. This year in Cincinnati, TDoV was held at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

This was not the first local TDoV. That honor goes to the 2015 TDoV organized by Heartland Trans Wellness Group which was held at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center. About 60 people attended. In 2017 and 2018 the Cincinnati Revolutionary Students held TDoV rallies on the steps of Tangeman Hall, with about 50 attendees at each.

Organized by Evelin Heflin, Transgender Wellness Program Coordinator at Central Clinic Behavioral Health and with monetary support from the Living With Change Foundation, attendance this year jumped to about 280.

Presentations were given in the Frisch's Auditorium at the Harold C. Schott Education Center. Organization tables were set up in the foyer outside the auditorium. In addition to CrossPort, other groups with tables included Heartland Trans Wellness, Central Clinic, Lighthouse Youth Services, Northern Kentucky University and GLSEN.

We did find it interesting that the event signage stated that TDoV was a private event. We wondered why that would be if TDoV was about Visibility. Stacy spoke to Evelin about it and soon the signage was removed.

1pm until 2pm had been set aside for people to visit the different organization's tables. We were visited by a number of individuals and families. Thanks to Vicky and the work she had previously done at the Pride Festival CrossPort booth, we had literature on a variety of trans legal issues that had been put out by Lambda Legal and they were quite popular.

2pm until 3pm was presentation time inside the auditorium itself. The MC was Sylvia Thomas from Indianapolis. Sylvia describes herself as "a working class, Native-Irish American, queer, intersex, transgender woman with a disability, who has a lot to say." Her web site is here: <http://www.sheissylvia.com>

The first presentation was done by Nick B. Nick is a young transman from Cincinnati who juggles a variety of objects. At one point he juggled a ball, a pin and a tennis shoe. He was quite good.

The second presentation was by Ali Yahsir, a transman who delivered a message on how important family support was. He had at least a half dozen family members there as well.

The third presentation was by Sarah Kabakoff and centered around that while being transgender was not a choice, it was also not something that would hold you back. Sarah talked about how she had taught herself programming and become a Solutions Architect for Toast Inc. a provider of restaurant point of sale systems. She talked of meeting with CEOs, CFOs and CIOs on a weekly basis then working at a deep technical level with their IT departments to design workflow and software integrations with their back end computing systems. Even better, she talked about how her company had her back when dealing with clients. For me, this was the best presentation of the day.

The fourth presentation was a video by Lauren Soldano titled "But I'm a Genderqueer" made in 2011. As someone new to the concept of genderqueer, I have to admit that I have been baffled at what the term basically meant. While the beginning of the video exacerbated my confusion, the end actually helped me understand the non-binary nature of genderqueer. Lauren's web site is here: <http://www.laurensoldano.com>

The fifth presentation was spoken poetry performed by Sylvia Thomas, the MC. I found it interesting but it didn't really connect with me personally.

The sixth and last presentation was by Chris Seelbach about the goals of the Living With Change Foundation. After his presentation, he invited all the attendees to walk as a group to see Fiona. This was the Visibility part of TDoV.

And Visible it was. This was the first nice Saturday of spring and was also the first day of Zoo Blooms so the zoo was packed full of families. Stacy and I spent more than an hour walking around the zoo, just sightseeing and enjoying the day. It was a very pleasant experience.

All in all, this TDoV was a net positive for me. There are definitely improvements to be made, but having 280 people attend a TDoV in Cincinnati is a pretty big deal.

I would also like to thank Stacy, Jeanne, Samantha, Jacqualinn, JJ and Liz for working the CrossPort booth.

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