

Illinois Gender Advocates



Advocacy for the Transgender and Gender Variant Community

A §501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2004

Some Resolutions for the New Year

By Diana Williamson

Around the first of each year many of us take a long, hard look at ourselves and decide that some changes need to be made. In order to achieve that goal, we frequently adopt a list of resolutions that will hopefully make us better people during the year to come. Probably the most common New Year's resolutions include decisions to improve our relationships with the people who are most important in our lives. Other resolutions often involve promises to adopt a healthier way of living, finishing chores that may have been neglected, and taking steps to improve our financial security.

Illinois Gender Advocates has also taken a serious look at itself, and has decided that we definitely need to make a number of significant changes in 2004. In many ways, IGA's New Year's resolutions are a lot like those commonly made by individuals. And, like many individuals, we may struggle in our efforts to follow through with them. Nevertheless, we are going to lay out our resolutions for everyone to see. And, at this time next year, we intend to revisit them to see what we were able to accomplish and where we fell short.

(Continued on Page 2)

**The Next Meeting of
Illinois Gender Advocates
Will Take Place at 7:30 p.m. on
Thursday, January, 2004
And Will Be Held at
New Spirit MC Church
542 S. Scoville Avenue
In Oak Park**

**Our Guest Speaker Will Be
Kim Mongoven from
Amnesty International**

Whatever

Are We Being Scapegoats?

By Beth Plotner

As I'm sure you're all aware SB101 (the amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act) has not passed. There are a number of reasons why the bill has not passed. SB101 has had a lot of opposition from the religious right here in Illinois.

What are they afraid of? Well, it seems that among other things they are afraid of us. The transgender community. We are one of the reasons, or should I say scare tactics, they are using in whipping up support against SB101.

(Continued on Page 3)

Some New Year's Resolutions

(Continued from Page 1)

Resolution No. 1: IGA promises to improve its relationship with the people who are most important to us.

The people who are most important to IGA are, of course, the members of the transgender and gender variant community. This means *all* of the members of the *entire* community, including cross-dressers, drag queens, transgenderists, and intersex people, as well as transsexuals. We will attempt to reach out as much as possible to the female-to-male population. Serious efforts are also needed to include ethnic, religious, and other minorities.

Our first specific goal with respect to this resolution is to increase attendance at our business meetings by giving people a reason to attend. We will endeavor to have a program at every meeting that relates to IGA's mission and which is also of interest to individuals in the community. Generally, this will involve a speaker who will make a presentation during the business portion of the meeting, and then be available for informal interaction during a reception afterwards. As always, our meetings will continue to be open to everyone.

In the past, most of the actual work of the organization was carried out by a small handful of individuals. That may have been a necessary working model for a new organization and for the specific legislative goals that we had set out for ourselves. But we are now in our ninth year of existence, and we have already accomplished our original legislative objectives in Chicago and Cook County. It is time for a new and *inclusive* approach.

We hope to achieve greater participation through our volunteer program. Everyone – literally *everyone* – can make some contribution to IGA's goal of making the transgender community a better and safer place for all of us. Working with IGA does *not* have to involve "outing" yourself. Nor does it require the expenditure of substantial amounts of time and energy. Each member can set his or her own individual limits on participation, and those limits *will* be respected.

Finally, we recognize that an organization which tries to be completely serious all the time quickly becomes very dull most of the time. In order to avoid such a pitfall, we are attempting to have a series of social events that will allow our members to enjoy each other's company and enjoy a pleasant evening's entertainment without taking on the cares and burdens of the world. We hope everyone will want to join us for such activities.

Resolution No. 2: IGA promises to adopt a more responsive attitude toward its own members.

In the past, IGA (and It's Time, Illinois, our predecessor in interest), tended to be somewhat rigid in its "command and control" structure. Virtually all decisions were made by the

board of directors, with very little input from the grassroots members. Such an approach may well have been necessary at the time in order to achieve the specific goals of the organization. But times have changed, and so have our goals. We need to be more responsive to the needs of our members, and to involve the membership in IGA's decision making process to a greater extent.

Our leaders will, of course, continue to lead and continue to be responsible for the executive decisions concerning the future of the organization. But we will need to hear the concerns of our members and address those concerns in our actions. Hopefully, we will also be able to delegate portions of the decision making process to committees of members established to accomplish specific tasks.

Resolution No. 3: IGA promises to continue working on its important projects.

IGA needs to reestablish focus on certain projects that have been neglected. For many years, we documented and reported on acts of discrimination and hate crimes based on gender identity or expression. Our reports were generally well received, and contributed to our legislative successes. We must not lose sight of the need to continue documenting and reporting discrimination and hate crimes.

For a very long time, we had an excellent working relationship with Equality Illinois, the statewide LGBT human rights organization. That relationship has suffered greatly during recent years, however. It is now time for healing of the wounds that caused the separation, without regard to recriminations and the personalities involved. The coming year will present challenges to our community that must be met with a united front. We simply cannot afford to have our community to be splintered at this point in time.

Resolution No. 4: IGA promises to be fiscally responsible.

Over the past couple of years, IGA managed to place itself in a difficult position by taking on an ill-conceived financial burden, while simultaneously failing to provide for adequate sources of continuing revenue. We lurched from one financial problem to another without ever establishing a permanent, ongoing solution. Clearly, the existing situation needs to change.

IGA will have to rely on its members for payment of dues and contributions of funds. Hopefully, our new status as a §501(c)(3) charitable organization will make it easier for members and friends to contribute, since contributions will now be tax deductible to the extent provided by the Internal Revenue Code. Our annual membership renewal drive will start in January. We sincerely implore our members and friends to be as generous as their circumstances allow.

It will also be necessary to look to other sources for operating funds. If all goes well, IGA will sponsor a number of reasonably priced fundraising events throughout the year. We

will do our very best to make all of these events appealing and safe for everyone.

Organizations such as IGA can also qualify for grants from various funding agencies. We successfully obtained a grant once, but failed to follow through with any further applications. Our current plans include making grant applications a fiscal priority.

These, then, are IGA's New Year's resolutions for 2004. We have no intention to limit ourselves to making resolutions just once each year, however. So, if you think we have omitted an important resolution, please let us know. Write to us by mail or e-mail, call us on the hotline, or come to a meeting and tell us in person. We may not always agree with you, but we will *always* listen to what you have to say. And if we get some responses – even some bitter complaints – that will tell us that we are on our way to keeping one of the most important resolutions of all.

On behalf of the board of IGA, I want to wish you all a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year.

How to contact us...

Illinois Gender Advocates

47 W. Division St., #391
Chicago, IL 60610

Telephone Hotline:

312-409-5489

Please leave a message. We will get back to you as quickly as possible.

TYRA Youth Hotline:

312-217-1120

E-Mail:

IGA@genderadvocates.org

Web Site Address:

<http://www.genderadvocates.org>

Whatever

(Continued from Page 1)

One of the objections they are using is that the language of SB101 is so broad because in the definition of sexual orientation it includes gender identity. Well as a matter of fact it does. There are also claims that the 2 terms are interchangeable. Well that's not quite true. Sexual orientation and gender identity are not quiet interchangeable. You can discriminate against someone based on their sexual

orientation or their gender identity or both. Often in fact discrimination is based on someone's gender expression as a way to discriminate against his or her sexual orientation. She acts too much like a man or he's too effeminate.

Without including gender identity and expression in the law that would leave many unprotected. How many cases have we documented over the years when discrimination against a gay or lesbian person is based on the way they act? Many people use gender cues in their assessment of another's sexual orientation.

Beyond the language problem other barbs are being thrown are way. It has been brought up that if SB101 passes it will mean that employers will have to allow male employees to dress as women. I must say I missed that explicit language. Ok I'll be fair there is no express language in SB101 that says that. However, there is nothing in SB101 that would prohibit an employer from setting a reasonable dress code as they already do under Illinois law.

What this means is if a person transitions from one gender to another an employer could not fire them. But on the other hand a person would not be allowed under SB101 to be one gender one day and the other the next. In a perfect world it would be allowed. In a perfect world we wouldn't need SB101. I guess there are those in the religious right who may have latent transgender feelings and are afraid they would no longer be able to resist the temptation to wear a dress to work.

I don't know why the right hypes on the male to females. Hey you in the right wing what about the female to males? There are a good number out there. Why aren't you worried about women coming to work dressed as men? Wouldn't that hasten the fall of society, as we know it?

Then of course there is the dreaded bathroom issue. We have been over this so many times just the thought of it makes me cringe. But for the right I'll explain it one more time. You use the bathroom of the gender you identify and appear as. A male to female transgender employee pre-transition would still use the men's room. Here's another news flash for the right, transgender people use the bathroom mostly to take care of nature's needs. They also need the bathroom occasionally for personal grooming. Oh my it seems transgender people use the bathroom for the same reasons others do.

To our allies and supporters I say in fact I implore you don't do anything to SB101 that would affect the rights of the transgender community. By doing so you will also weaken the law for the GLB community. We need to stick together on this! Don't let other's try to split the community.

OK, those of you on the right who oppose this bill, why don't you use a little more honesty and drop the scare tactics? You know we're no threat and that all we are asking for are equal rights not special rights. How would you feel if you could be fired from your job just because of your religious views? That your employer doesn't think those views are "mainstream"

and therefore are a danger and doesn't want someone like you working for them. Yes, I know you are protected under current law so what I just stated is a hypothetical. Well aren't you the lucky ones.

And speaking of religion, why do you claim that religious institutions aren't exempt when they clearly are? And I just love your claim that truly religious persons should be exempt from the law. Nice try, but with that argument shouldn't every "truly religious" person be exempted from any of the provisions? If my religion states that I shouldn't be around non-believers shouldn't I be able to either fire you or not hire someone who doesn't believe as I?

So come on you out there on the religious right. If you are so religious as you claim how about being honest? Or are lies, deceit and prejudice part of whatever religion you claim to practice?

Be Sure to Attend Our Next Meeting; Guest Speaker for the Evening Will Be Kim Mongoven of Amnesty International

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. at the New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, located at 542 S. Scoville Avenue in Oak Park. Please enter by the side door on Adams Street, then go up the stairs and turn right to the meeting room. Ample free parking is available on the street.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Kim Mongoven of Amnesty International, who will discuss issues of violence against transgender people throughout the world. Following the regular business meeting, there will be an opportunity to discuss these and other related issues with Ms. Mongoven on an informal basis. We will also serve complimentary pizza and soda after the meeting.

Thanks to Our Contributors:

A big thank you goes out to those who contributed articles to the newsletter this month. It is really appreciated from month to month. Thanks!

- Diana Williamson
- Rebecca Davis
- NCTE
- Beth Plotner
- NTAC

Feedback...

Problems? Questions? Disagreements? Want to submit an article? Please write to us. We love to get mail.

Board Members of Illinois Gender Advocates:

Chair:

Diana Williamson
DianaW@genderadvocates.org

Vice Chair:

Rebecca Davis
RebeccaD@genderadvocates.org

Secretary:

Position currently vacant.

Treasurer and Director of Legal Advocacy:

Beth Plotner
BethP@genderadvocates.org

Webmistress:

Marsha Jackson
MarshaJ@genderadvocates.org

Development Director:

Jacob B. Mueller
JacobM@genderadvocates.org

Director at Large:

Bradley E. Mickelson

Staff Personnel of Illinois Gender Advocates:

Youth Director, TYRA:

Miranda Stevens-Miller
MirandaM@genderadvocates.org

Minutes for the Monthly Meeting of December 2003

By Rebecca Davis, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. Six people including the officers were in attendance.

Legislative: S.B. 101 is still stalled. Marcia Jackson attended a meeting at Sen. Carol Ronen's office. If S.B. 101 fails in its current form, considerations were discussed to revise the language of a new equal rights bill. The transgender community needs to stay aware of developments and make

your voice heard. The alternative is for transgendered people to be left out of the bill completely. **We must all remain involved and vigilant or we may be relegated to being without equal rights everywhere in the State of Illinois.**

Events: The next edition of IGA television will be at 6:30 PM on Jan. 9, 2004. This month's guest will be from Amnesty Int'l and will discuss transgender issues worldwide. Those of you with cable in the city of Chicago are invited to tune in. The show is on cable Channel 21 Cable Access TV, a part of the LGBT consortium on Hotline 21.

If you do not have access to the cable show, it can be viewed on the IGA website. This month's guest will also speak at the IGA monthly meeting on Jan. 8, 2004. There will be pizza after the meeting so come and be a part of the future of transgendered people. *Your future depends on your actions and involvement.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

NTAC Denounces Federal Marriage Amendment

From the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC)

December 9, 2003 – Immediately before the Thanksgiving break, the U.S. Senate submitted a Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) bill, nearly identical to one submitted in the House by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO) last May. In response, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) called the proposal “mean-spirited overkill” designed to send the message that all Americans are not created equally.

The proposed bill reads: “Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the Constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred on unmarried couples or groups.”

In addition to denying individual states the right to determine whether they will allow same-sex couples the right to marry within their borders, the FMA would effectively repeal most, if not all, civil rights protections currently afforded same-sex couples and their families by some state and local jurisdictions. The discrimination would affect not only American gay or lesbian couples but, also, intersexuals and transsexuals whose marriages would not be legally recognized as being between one man and one woman.

“Specious ideological politics at its worst” is how Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of NTAC described the bill. Noting the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that disallows recognition of same-sex marriage in 1996, Foster commented, “FMA is mean-spirited overkill, pure and simple.

Its only benefit is to placate the Neo-Conservative Agenda for political purposes.”

In a November 26, 2003 public statement on the issue, Kim Gandy, President of the National Organization of Women (NOW) said, “The so-called Federal Marriage Amendment is a transparent election-year ploy to gain political profit by exploiting bigotry and hate. The Constitution should be amended to extend rights to everyone and guarantee equal treatment, and should not be marred by institutionalizing discrimination... Civil marriage is a legal right, not an ideological playground.”

In its 214-year history, the Constitution has been amended only rarely and then only to address a great public policy need. First amended to include the Bill of Rights in 1791, it has only been amended 17 times since.

The proposed Marriage Amendment would deny gay, lesbian, intersex, and transsexual couples and their children over a thousand state and federal civil rights bestowed on traditional families such as parental rights, hospital visitations and medical decisions, inheritance rights, and health care benefits. On the other hand, it would absolve such couples of the responsibilities of marriage and child rearing. Far from protecting the family, it would destroy family stability for millions of Americans.

Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) said that he would oppose a federal marriage amendment. “I don't think the Constitution was ever written and set up for those kinds of amendments,” Hagel said in the Omaha World-Herald on July 13, 2001. “I think those kinds of issues are better left to the states.”

In addition, this amendment would render useless the ‘full faith and credit’ clause of the Constitution, which requires that the states recognize and uphold “the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state.” This part of the constitution has been undermined by such cases as *Littleton vs. Prange* in Texas’ 4th Court of Appeals in 1999, which voided a legal Kentucky marriage on the basis of archaic definitions of man and woman.

The medical-biology community has known for years that there is no simple definition of man and woman. The right to marry cannot be based on chromosomes since there are many more than the two standard pairings of XX and XY sex determinants. Neither can it be based solely on genitalia since not all people have recognizably male or female genitalia. Nor can it be based on reproduction, since that would prohibit marriage for the elderly and the infertile.

The proposed amendment would effectively repeal the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th amendment, which prohibits states from denying any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

In recent years, there has been a steady increase in support for same-sex civil marriage and for making the legal rights of

marriage available to homosexual domestic partnerships. A May 2003 Gallup Poll demonstrated that 6 in 10 Americans support granting the legal rights of marriage to same-sex couples, and the same study also indicated that the United States is evenly divided, 49% in favor and 49% against, on allowing same-sex couples to enter legally -recognized unions.

Previous polls have shown that 66% of voters support granting equal inheritance rights to same-sex couples and 90% support hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples equal to those of married heterosexuals.

“No one should be denied the right to choose their life partner,” said Rep. Rush Holt (D(NJ), in a recent letter to constituents. “It is a basic human right. Throughout history, we have only moved forward when society has distinguished between traditional values and valueless traditions.”

“Heterosexual couples don’t have a monopoly on love, and shouldn’t have a monopoly on marriage,” NOW’s Gandy added. “My marriage won’t be threatened or undermined by making civil marriage rights available to same-sex couples, and neither will anyone else’s.”

“This amendment is counterintuitive to the constitution’s preamble,” said NTAC’s Foster. “It says some people in America are endowed with a right to marry, and others are not. And we have elements in Congress who want to break up families and permanently codify inequality.”

NTAC denounces the bigotry of amending the Constitution to discriminate against gay, lesbian, and transgender Americans. We urge all fair-minded Americans to contact their elected representatives and make their opposition to the Federal marriage Amendment known.

Founded in 1999, NTAC – the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition – is a §501(c)(4) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgendered, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

President Voices Support for Marriage Amendment Amidst Vocal Opposition

From the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC)

December 21, 2003 – President George W. Bush threw his ideological weight into the looming battle over the civil rights of gay, lesbian, intersex, and transgender Americans. The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) decries these efforts to destabilize gay and gender-variant families in the hopes of garnering reelection support through religiopolitical bigotry.

In a televised interview with ABC New Primetime’s Dianne Sawyer on December 18th, President Bush stated, “If necessary, I will support a constitutional amendment which would honor marriage between a man and a woman, codify that.”

The President’s reference to the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA), which has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, brings joy to those who would deny gay, lesbian, intersex and transsexual families the more than 1,000 federal benefits that accrue to heterosexual families. Even with this pronouncement, archconservative organizations such as the Family Research Council still criticized the president for offering any hope of government recognition of same-sex family rights. Meanwhile, Bush’s actions bring cries of outrage from those who would be victims of constitutional bigotry and discrimination.

“One would expect the President would exhibit more leadership and less tendency to buckle under to extremist elements that make up his party’s base,” said Vanessa Edwards Foster, Chair of NTAC. “Once again, we’re bitterly disappointed.”

Foster added that the FMA will “throw intersex and transgender citizens’ marriages into chaos, and may well deny them the right to marry anyone.”

“Many moderates in the GOP, and even conservatives like Vice-President Cheney, have voiced their displeasure with taking on such a specious bill,” Foster added. “Clearly the knee-jerk right-wing political machine is alive and well and dominating America.”

As tensions and rhetoric rise, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has called for volunteers to participate in acts of civil disobedience. A widely distributed NGLTF announcement urges lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or other fair-minded people willing to engage in direct acts of civil disobedience to e-mail their contact information to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at nglft@nglft.org in order to be included in planning actions across the country.

President Bush seemed to offer some wiggle room by adding, “Whatever legal arrangements people want to make, they’re allowed to make, so long as it’s embraced by the state.” The proposed constitutional amendment, however, says that no state law shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred on unmarried couples or groups.

Although Mr. Bush is not really offering anything to those not included in the heterosexual definition of marriage, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council wrote, “I am concerned that the President thinks counterfeit institutions such as same-sex unions are OK and do not threaten to devalue the real thing. Counterfeit marriages called ‘civil unions’ pose a serious threat to the health of our culture, and while the President may believe this is an issue to be resolved

at the state level, he should use his moral leadership to steer states away from such culture-threatening unions – not encourage them by showing indifference or political tolerance.”

“The Federal Marriage Amendment would undermine United States’ Constitution. There is a part seemingly forgotten by those who would deny anyone but themselves rights,” stated Jerry McCracken of FTM Informational Network. “How is it that the ‘Christian Right’ are the only ones allowed civil rights in this day and age? Our forefathers must be turning in their graves at this assault on civil liberties.”

“Marriage is a legal agreement more than a religious agreement,” added NTAC chair, Foster, “but even considering the religious concept of marriage, why should one faith have precedence over other faiths which have no problem with same-sex unions? Allowing one religion the ability to change the constitution virtually sanctions it as the state-recognized religion.”

The FMA is an attempt to make discrimination a guiding principle in the fundamental law of our land, the U.S. Constitution. The purpose of the president’s declaration is to appease the uncharitable appetite of his religious right supporters. Organizations like the FRC clearly want no tolerance shown to GLBT families.

In this season of peace, it’s time for all Americans – Christians, Jews, Muslims, atheists and pagans, gays, and straights alike – to call for an end to intolerance, and an end to Republican attacks on the family. NTAC urges all Americans to stand up for civil freedom and civil equality. Write and call President Bush, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, church leaders, anti-gay organizations, and the media and tell them to end prejudice and to end attacks on gay, intersex, and transgender couples and their children. Comments for the president may be called in to (202) 456-1111. Congressional contact information may be obtained at the NTAC website at www.ntac.org.

“The President should drop this FMA folly,” added NTAC’s Foster, “and focus on important issues such as bring more jobs back to America!”

Issues Alert: January 2004

From National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)

This has been a watershed year, not just for NCTE, but for transgender civil rights. We’ve seen incredible progress, but also undue helpings of tragedy and much caution for the future.

The percentage of people in the U.S. who live in jurisdictions with explicit protections for gender identity and/or expression doubled for the second year in a row to over 24%. For the

first time, two states (NM and CA) added statewide protections for us in the same year. Additionally, ten municipalities from San Diego, CA to Scranton, PA added protections.

Governors of two states (KY and PA) issued executive orders protecting transgender people who work for state governments. On the other hand, in two states (AZ and MI), LGBT activists who had worked with their governors for similar orders were surprised and disappointed when gender identity and expression were cut out at the last minute leaving transgender state employees vulnerable to discrimination.

Hate crimes laws protecting people based on gender identity passed in Hawaii and New Mexico, bringing to seven the number of states that protect us from hate crimes.

On the streets though, transgender people continued to be brutalized and murdered this year. At least seventeen transgender people in the United States were murdered and countless others were attacked. On November 20th of this year, the fifth annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) was commemorated in more cities across the country and around the world than ever before. DOR events continue to grow in significance and participation, drawing attention to this too often invisible massacre of transgender people.

In Washington, a unified lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community came together to ask Congress to support federal anti-discrimination and hate crimes legislation that would protect people based on both sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Over twenty national LGBT groups and thirty statewide regional groups joined in this request. And while both the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA) were introduced without explicit coverage for us, significant advances were made in both Congressional education and in collaboration with allies. And the newly united LGBT community has come together in recent months to begin to draft a new, more inclusive anti-discrimination bill that would protect all LGBT people.

No review of 2003 would be complete without mention of three important court cases. Specific to transgender people and our rights, Michael Kantaras a female-to-male transsexual won his Florida custody case when a judge ruled him to be legally male. The U.S. Supreme Court’s Lawrence decision striking down sodomy laws and the Goodridge marriage case in Massachusetts have also directly affected transgender people, as has the continuing extremist right backlash.

Also this year the International Olympic Committee recognized that post-operative transsexuals could compete in the Olympics, while, on the other hand, the Catholic Church decreed that sex change is not possible.

Finally, in 2003, NCTE opened the first Washington, DC offices of a national transgender organization. As you can read on the following page, we are already having an impact.

We are proud to be a small part of such a vibrant, growing grassroots movement in which thousands of people around the country are doing the education and advocacy necessary for our eventual success as a civil rights movement.

Despite all of our mutual success, though, we can still all see and feel the violence, the discrimination, the fear, and the disrespect that so many transgender people face every day. We promise to keep working here in Washington to do our part, to keep fighting for equality, safety and justice for transgender people.

Application for New or Renewal Membership

YES, I would like to join (____) or renew (____) my membership in Illinois Gender Advocates.

Name(s) _____

Name to Be Used on Mailing Label (if different from above) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Membership Level (check one):

(____) Student/Youth - \$10

(____) Regular Membership - \$30

(____) Supporting Member - \$100

(____) Benefactor - \$250

(____) Other - \$ _____

How would you like to be involved with Illinois Gender Advocates? (Please check all that apply.)

(____) Keep informed by newsletters

(____) Participate in monthly meetings

(____) Participate in actions

(____) Join a working group or committee

(____) Liaison with other human rights groups. Please specify _____

(____) Do you have any special skills that could help us out? (legal / legislative, artistic / design, technical / computer) Please specify: _____

Have you ever been a victim of a hate crime or discriminated against because of your gender identity, expression, or image? Yes / No (circle one)

If yes, may we document your case for our report? Yes / No (circle one)

Please mail, along with your check or money order, to:
Illinois Gender Advocates, 47 W. Division St., #391, Chicago, IL 60610