

# Illinois Gender Advocates



Advocacy for the Transgender and Gender Variant Community

A §501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

[www.GenderAdvocates.org](http://www.GenderAdvocates.org)

Volume 4 Issue 1

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## Resolutions Revisited

Last year at this time, the Illinois Gender Advocates newsletter published a series of New Year's resolutions which we hoped would be carried out by our organization during 2004. We also said that we would revisit our resolutions a year later to see what we were able to accomplish in one year's time, as well as recognize the areas in which we fell short. The year has now gone by, and it is once again time for us to take a critical look at ourselves in light of the resolutions we made.

For its first resolution, IGA promised to improve its relationship with the people who are most important to us. Those people who are most important to us, of course, are the members of our own community: the transgender and gender variant citizens of Illinois.

Our first specific objective was to improve attendance at our monthly business meetings by giving our members a reason to attend. In order to accomplish this objective, we began by scheduling a program for every meeting and by trying to have many of those programs involve interactive participation by those in attendance. We also conducted "focus groups" during the business portion of the meeting on a regular basis as a means of increasing participation and getting feedback on specific issues from our members.

The consensus seems to support the conclusion that our first objective has been met. Attendance at the business meetings has more than tripled since this time last year. People seem to enjoy the meetings and the programs, and have generally made positive comments.

We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. We must continue to strive toward increasing attendance at meetings and maintaining open channels of communication with the community we seek to serve. Although attendance and participation at meetings have improved, there still remains much to be done before we can claim real success.

*(continued on page 2)*

## CALENDAR

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**Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> — REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7:30 PM, Featuring Pamela Sumners from Equality Illinois discussing the status of the Illinois LGBT human rights bill; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park**

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**Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>—IGA-TV on Chicago Access Network Television Channel 21 (only available on cable in Chicago) starting at 6:30 p.m.; our guest will be Rick Garcia, political director of Equality Illinois**

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**Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7:30 PM, Featuring Rev. Karen Hutt of the Church of the Open Door discussing race and faith issues in the LGBT community; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park**

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## ***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:**

Contact Casey at 773-935-3151

**E-Mail:**

IGA@genderadvocates.org

**Web Site Address:**

www.GenderAdvocates.org

## ***Feedback...***

Let us know what you think, or submit an article.

### **IGA Officers & Directors**

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## **Resolutions Revisited** *(continued from page 1)*

The level of our diversity also remains a challenge for the coming year. IGA needs to reach out to *all* members of our community. Sadly, female-to-male transgender people continue to remain significantly underrepresented at IGA, as are many ethnic and racial minorities. We would also like to see an increase in the number of younger people attending our meetings and participating in our activities.

Over the next few months, we will address the other resolutions that were made in January 2004 to assess our successes and failures. As always, input is welcomed and encouraged from our members and friends.

## **Membership/Renewal Drive**

Memberships in IGA are on a calendar-year basis, and should be renewed every January. Your membership and active involvement in IGA have never been more important to our community than right now. We have made significant advances in the past, but recent political developments threaten to reverse that trend. If we do not present a united community, we may lose many of rights we struggled so hard to obtain. Please fill out the form printed below and mail it to us so that you may keep your membership current in IGA. As always, we look forward to seeing our members and friends at our regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

### **GET INVOLVED, SUPPORT THE CAUSE OR JUST STAY INFORMED!**

#### **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** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Numbers** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Membership Level (check one):** (  ) **Student/Youth - \$10** (  ) **Regular Membership - \$30**  
(  ) **Supporting Member - \$100** (  ) **Benefactor - \$250** (  ) **Other - \$** \_\_\_\_\_

***EVER BEEN A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST DUE TO YOUR GENDER IDENTITY, EXPRESSION, OR IMAGE?***

***Yes / No (circle one) If yes, may we add your case to 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**