

Illinois Gender Advocates



Advocacy for the Transgender and Gender Variant Community

A §501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

www.GenderAdvocates.org

Volume 4 Issue 3

March 2005

Good News!

March is already on its way and IGA is moving forward on many different fronts. In observance of Black History Month, Rev. Karen Hutt, co-pastor of the Church of the Open Door, appeared as the featured speaker at our February meeting, discussing issues for people of color in the LGBT community. Similarly, for our monthly cable access television program (CAN-TV Channel 21), Stevie Conlon interviewed Gené Stephens-Connolly, an attorney who works for a Chicago area publishing firm. The live, interactive format of the program drew many interesting comments and questions from viewers.

TYRA, Illinois Gender Advocates' weekly trans youth drop-in program (from 6 to 8 pm on Wednesdays) with Howard Brown, has demonstrated renewed vitality following the move to its current meeting location at the Broadway Youth Center. Participation has increased considerably, with as many as twelve young transgender people attending the weekly drop-in sessions on a regular basis. Also, thanks to the great efforts of leader Casey Schwartz of Howard Brown, TYRA now has a mission statement and a written set of general procedures. Several of our members are actively involved with the program and we're asking for your support through volunteering or contributions. Stevie Conlon spoke at a recent program to the youth on activism.

IGA has also been active sharing the trans experience and educating the public. Diana Williamson, IGA Chair, addressed the Palatine PFLAG meeting on Monday, February 21st, and presented a historical perspective on transgender issues. The meeting was attended by national and state PFLAG leaders. Diana also discussed legal issues affecting the transgendered at the Northwestern University Law School on Thursday, February 24th. On Friday, February 25th, IGA Vice-Chair Stevie Conlon appeared on a panel discussing job and fellowship search issues for LGBT students at the University of Chicago in Hyde Park.

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CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 1st— REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7:30 PM, Featuring a panel discussion of how transgender people can gain greater acceptance in the greater LGBT community; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park

Friday, March 4th—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 Julie Mosier of Chix Mix Productions

Tuesday, April 5th—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7:30 PM, Featuring Mark L. Zukowski, M.D., discussing ethical considerations in the medical treatment of transgender people, particularly with respect to cosmetic surgery; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park

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

Diana Williamson, Chair

DianaW@genderadvocates.org

Stevie Conlon, Vice Chair

Stevieconlon@genderadvocates.org

Gina Lake, Secretary & Newsletter Contributor

efgenesmith@hotmail.com

Marsha Jackson, Treasurer

MarshaJ@genderadvocates.org

Rev. Bradley Mickelson, Board Member

RevMickelson@genderadvocates.org

Lynn Rempert, Board Member

HERE Z RFR@aol.com

Good News!

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On Wednesday, February 23rd, Stevie Conlon and IGA Secretary Gina Lake were in Springfield to attend a reception sponsored by Equality Illinois honoring state lawmakers who sponsored and supported the recently enacted non-discrimination legislation.

Finally, IGA has planned a number of important upcoming events: Dr. Mark L. Zukowski will be the featured speaker at the regular meeting on April 5th. Dr. Zukowski will discuss the ethical considerations surrounding medical treatment for transgender people, especially as they relate to cosmetic surgery. On Saturday, May 14th, IGA will present the About Face Youth Theatre's production of an original play entitled

Inside Out at New Spirit MCC. Tickets for the program are \$35 per person, and will include dinner, the play, and an opportunity to engage in a discussion of the play over coffee and dessert. This joint fund raiser event with New Sprit & About Face will be IGA's Pride Event for 2005. Please attend or make a contribution! This year, IGA plans to participate in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26th, starting at 12:00 noon. Anyone who wants to be part of the IGA entry should contact IGA Treasurer Marsha Jackson, who will be the coordinator for this year's parade.

Membership/Renewal

Please do not forget to send in your membership and dues for 2005. We need your support to help our community.

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