"Great Lakes" Area Editor

TRI-SIGMA SORORITY
CHI Chapter

Chi Tribune

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CHI'S NOVEMBER MEETING . . . . . .

Our November meeting was held on an unusually pleasant evening weatherwise at Kay's home, where we all indulged in an abundance of food and drink. Those of you who don't attend our monthly meetings don't know what you are missing! The following members were in attendance: Karen IL-3-M, Rachel IL-14-B, Betty Ann IL-17-A, Sharon IL-25-H, Jeri IL-28-P, Deanna IL-35-G, and Kay IL-44-N. We missed Mitzi, one of our most faithful members, who recently suffered a mild heart attack. We understand that she has recuperated very quickly, and expects to be back with us for our December meeting. Our Chapter was represented at a LifeStyle Expo in Chicago on November 4th (full report on the seminar on the next page). The Tri-Sigma booth was manned(?) by Karen, Rachel, Sharon H., and Ruthann. The first three are relatively new members of CHI, and they have all shown a lot of enthusiasm and promise for giving renewed vitality to our Chapter. (Thanks to Kay for opening her home to us, and taking the minutes and handling the finances during the absence of your Secretary/Treasurer).

INTER-CHAPTER SOCIAL . . . . . .

The joint social get-together of CHI and Delta Chapters, which was held November 10th and 11th, was a minor disappointment again this year since only a relatively small number of members were able to attend. We had beautiful and modern facilities right on the shore of Lake Macatawa near Holland, Michigan, and enjoyed every moment of our weekend together. Our party-goers included: Jacki OH-10-S, Leslie MI-10-W, Elaine MI-16-W, Deborah MI-18-K, Sonora IN-3-C, Carolyn IN-7-B, Donna IL-11-S and GG Dee, and Sharon IL-25-H. We're sorry more of you couldn't attend because of work or prior committments, but we hope to try another get-together sometime in the future providing there is sufficient interest <u>and</u> enough people who will actually participate.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN . . . . . .

Yes, it's the time that comes every year which we can't avoid - dues time! However, the good news is that even with inflation the annual CHI Chapter dues will remain the same as last year. The dues are $6.00 for Regular Members who live in the Chicago Metropolitan Area, and $4.00 for Associate Members who live outside that area (over 100 miles from Chicago) and are normally unable to attend our Chapter meetings on a regular basis. Both classes of members receive the monthly newsletter and all special mailings covering specific Chapter matters, are eligible to attend any or all Chapter meetings and receive full meeting location information each month, and have a voice in all Chapter business meetings; only Regular Members have the privileges of voting at Chapter meetings and eligibility to hold Chapter office. Persons who are eligible for Associate Membership may elect Regular membership, if they choose. Let's try to have all dues in by December 31st, so we can start the new year off with a clean slate! If paying by check or money order, please make it payable to "Donna Martin;" if paying by mail, send it to the address shown on the newsletter masthead above and please do <u>not</u> mail cash.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS . . . . . .

Nomination of Chapter Officers for 1980 was held during our November meeting, with further nominations and the election of officers scheduled for our December meeting. All current officers were nominated for re-election to their present offices: President, Deanna IL-35-G; Vice-President, Kay IL-44-N; Secretary/Treasurer, Donna IL-11-S. Any Regular Member of CHI is eligible to vote and to be elected to office, but those nominated for office should be persons who attend Chapter meetings on a fairly regular basis and are willing to accept the small amount of work the position requires. Be present this month to cast your vote.

CHI TREASURER'S REPORT . . . . . .

Balance on hand, October 31st:	$54.65
Meeting Fee:	+40.00
Donations:	+12.00
Meeting Room (Refund Fee):	- 5.00
Refreshments:	-15.00
Postage:	-14.09
Supplies (Envelopes):	- 1.18
LifeStyle Expo Registration:	-30.00
Balance on hand, November 26th:	$41.38

FUTURE CHAPTER MEETINGS . . . . . .

We are always open to offers for having our monthly meetings in a private home, which is more comfortable and flexible than meeting in a motel (also, more economical). We know that due to circumstances many of our members cannot offer their home; however, if you could, we would all appreciate your hospitality. We want to continue to charge modest meeting fees, but this will only be possible by a reasonable amount of meetings in a home to off-set our increased costs when we are forced to meet in a motel. If you are in a position of being able to have a future meeting in your home, please let one of your Officers know.

CHI'S CHRISTMAS MEETING . . . . . .

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 8th, which is the second Saturday of the month. Those who attended our October meeting felt that the third Saturday was just too close to Christmas, and there would be conflicts with our usual date. We are fortunate again this year in that Deanna and GG Marilyn have offered their home for our Christmas social, giving us an opportunity to relax in a more hospitable atmosphere. Directions for locating their home will be found elsewhere in this issue, and members may arrive any time after 7:30 P.M. Since this is the Holiday season, how about inviting your "special" GG to come with you? We think she will have a lot of fun, and there will be other GG's present to help break the ice if this is her first time, or if she does not attend often. As usual, we will exchange grab-bag gifts. If you want to receive a gift, bring a gift with you (approximately $7.00 value). The gift exchange also includes the GG's on the same basis of bring a gift, get a gift. Place a card with your name on the inside of the package so the "receiver" can identify the "giver."

We expect our usual large group for the Christmas meeting. However, due to the short period between the mailing of this newsletter and the meeting, there will not be enough time for the return of our usual postcard. If you expect to attend, please telephone Deanna or Marilyn promptly so they will know how many to prepare refreshments for. We hope to see as many CHI members as possible at this special Christmas meeting.

Donna

LIFESTYLES EXPO . . . . . .

On November 4th, four members of CHI Chapter, Karen IL-3-M, Rachel IL-14-B, Sharon IL-25-H, Ruthann WI-14-L, participated in a LifeStyles Expo (seminar) held at the Best Western Motel on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. The purpose of Chapter involvement in this convention-type seminar was to inform both professionals and the general public of the realities of the crossdresser, specifically, the heterosexual crossdresser:

- Who we are - We could be anyone.
- What we are - Just people, with many of us happily married and who have children.
- What we want - The chance to dress in whatever way we please and be ourselves; that those of us who can pass as women do so, and blend in with society as any genetic female can.
- What we do not want - To become women via surgery; to have sex with other men; to flaunt our lifestyle or make general spectacles of ourselves; to proselytize.
- Purpose of Tri-Sigma - To give others like ourselves the opportunity to find some measure of happiness and self-acceptance; to let them know that they are not alone, both thru correspondence and the establishment of local Chapters; to foster the education of professionals and the general public; to correct the numerous misconceptions surrounding our paraculture.

Attendance at the seminar was good, and we were kept quite busy for most of the nine hours the Tri-Sigma booth was open. At the request of the sponsoring organization we did not appear as our femme-selves, much as we would have preferred, as the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois still have archaic laws on the books prohibiting crossdressing. In retrospect, this worked out well, as people approached us with open minds to ask what we were all about and discuss our point of view intelligently, rather than look upon us as curiosities, or as those "four screwballs dressed as women." Aside from answering a lot of questions, literature from Tri-Sigma and other related organizations was available, as well as several photograph albums. Many people we talked to seemed puzzled at first by the word "crossdresser." They were not too sure what this implied, but responded readily to the term "transvestite." This would seem to icate that people still are not aware of us, and think of crossdressers in the one term that tney are vaguely familiar with. As we all know, too many people automatically assume that all crossdressers are Gay, and hopefully a few misconceptions were straightened out on that point.

Lengthy conversations were held with women, and the other exhibitors. As a general rule, men apparently did not wish to seem too interested in the subject of "dressing in women's clothing." The women wanted to understand why we wished to be like them, how we felt when dressed, how we shopped for clothing, and why we wanted to take upon ourselves the "difficulty" of being a woman.

A conversation was also held with representatives of Chicago's Gay community, who informed us that they get many calls and letters from "straight crossdressers" looking for any kind of contact, and wanted to know if we could work out a system of referrals with them.

A couple who ran a computer dating service spoke with us, and though they were interested in what we had to say, and seemed willing enough to work crossdressers into their program, it was generally agreed that this was wishful thinking and not too feasible at present. It was a nice idea, though, and somewhat gratifying that they thought enough of us to want to work something out. Granted, any business is on the lookout for new customers, but they did seem sincere. They inquired as to where they could send for more literature on Tri-Sigma, and we gave them the information.

After speaking to several other people involved in alternative lifestyles, who were admittedly more experienced with this sort of thing than we were, we drew the conclusion that the mood of moderate tolerance found in certain areas of major cities (New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, et al) is not indicative of the feelings of the nation as a whole, and is to be looked upon as an exception to the rule and as isolated incidents. We still have a long way to go if we are to overcome the Anita Bryants of the world, and gain any measure of acceptance from main-stream America. Those of us who can, must leave the comforts of our motel rooms and mail es and get to work, and quit leaving our collective tasks and responsibilities to the Virginia rance's of the world, who must face society virtually alone.

All in all, the day was well spent. We helped educate a few people (still too few, unfortunately), made personal contacts that could be helpful to us in the future, and were perhaps able to steer a few of our unknown sisters in the right direction.

Reported by Karen IL-3-M