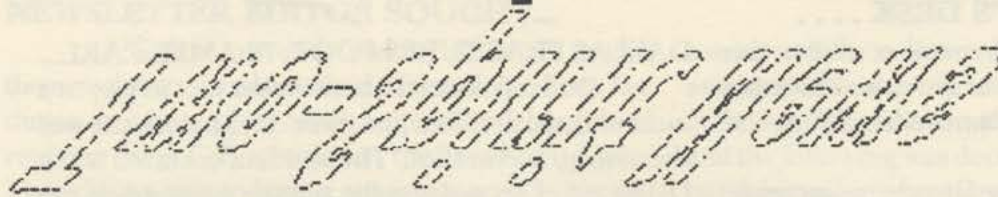


Two-Spirit News



a publication of Atlanta
Gender Explorations

Volume 3, Number 4

October 1996

SOUTHERN COMFORT A SUCCESS!

The sixth annual Southern Comfort Conference was held September 26-29 here in Atlanta. Attendance reached approximately 300, with worldwide members of every part of our diverse community represented. Many A.G.E. members took an active part in helping the conference succeed by volunteering. Special notice goes to Donna Johnston, who did double duty as treasurer for both A.G.E. and S.C.C. Donna took over from another A.G.E. member, Petra Lynn Hoffman, who resigned earlier in the year for personal reasons. A.G.E. put an informational flyer in the attendees welcome packets to increase community awareness about our group. A.G.E. also sponsored a reception Friday evening for FTM/male identified transgendered persons in the hospitality suite. The conference seemed to have a little something for everyone, and the night life was, of course, lively. Congratulations to the Board and volunteers of SCC!!

DR. RICHARD ADLER AT NOVEMBER MEETING...

The November General Meeting of AGE, November 2, will feature Atlanta Speech Therapist Dr. Richard Adler. Dr. Adler is noted for his skill in helping individuals develop more convincing and comfortable speech patterns. As usual, the meeting will begin with a support group led by Jack Boyan, M.Ed., and conclude with dinner at St. Charles Deli.

MAX RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT...

Max Beck resigned as President of A.G.E. at the September 22 Steering Committee meeting, both for personal reasons and to allow him to throw his energies into building an intersexed community in the Southeast. Carl Tripp will take over duties as President, effective immediately. Max's resignation leaves A.G.E. searching for a Vice-President. Nominations are being taken and a special election will be held at the November general meeting. A.G.E. thanks Max and his partner Tamara for their service to the group.

MOVIE OUTING CONSIDERED/ PLANNED

A suggestion has been made to have a monthly movie outing scheduled for the group. The idea is to pick one afternoon a month (possibly the 4th Sunday) to attend a matinee showing of a movie. The possibility of meeting an hour before the show for coffee and conversation at a nearby establishment was also mentioned. *The first outing has been planned for Sunday, October 27, meet at Galletto's at Virginia & Monroe (next to Blockbuster) at 4:30 p.m.* Note: the movie will be chosen by consensus at the social hour. For more information call Carl @ (404) [REDACTED]

HUNGRY???

Come eat with us at our monthly dinner. Each second Tuesday we gather at a local eatery to enjoy food and fun. Come and bring your best friend, your significant other, your boss, whoever you want to bring—or come in the glorious company of just yourself, but come. Dinners are announced in the TSN, at all meetings, and information is available from Carl at (404) [REDACTED]. ALL ARE WELCOME AT MONTHLY DINNERS, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE. This is a time to relax in the company of gender friends.

NEXT MONTHLY DINNER

Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 pm
(note new, later time)

Sunflower's
5975 Roswell Road (404) 256-1675
(0.4 miles outside 285, Exit 17, next to Kinko's)

Call Carl at (404) [REDACTED] to save a place

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Since assuming Board member duties this Spring, I have been observing our group and listening to our members. I'd like to point out a few things and briefly discuss them with you.

I have seen our meeting attendance increase, and I have heard members speak of the need to hold a second support group meeting each month. I have also heard suggestions for more social activities. Calls for information are steady, and we have many newcomers. This all suggests growth, which is good.

But I get a sense that we are not meeting our member's needs with our current activities. Attendance at monthly dinners is down, despite efforts to choose more economical restaurants and to increase awareness of the event. Although we average 15 people at the support group, fewer people are speaking out. The support group is one of the main reasons we exist. It is a time to share both the good and the bad things happening in our lives. Members say all is well for them, yet they don't share their joys any more than others share their sorrows. Many newcomers don't return after their initial meeting and I can only wonder why.

Which leads me to ask the membership, "Are your needs being met?" If not, what are your needs? If we are, do you have suggestions on how to meet others needs? A group succeeds by soliciting and implementing suggestions.

So, let me hear from you. Give me a call. Drop me some EMail, or attend a Steering Committee meeting. Let me know what you like and what we as a group can do better.

CARL

A.G.E MEMBER NEWS

MEMBER TARGET OF ATTACKS...

Phillida, who lives in Lithia Springs, has been harassed over the past few months by an unknown person. From harassing phone calls to rock throwing and broken windows, the situation has been tense and frightening. Phillida, who has lived in her home 10 years, suspects a man she hired and later fired to do repairs on the house. Douglas County police have questioned the man but have no other leads. Some members took turns staying at Phillida's to provide support.

DALLAS FRACTURES FOOT, BLAMES CARL...

Dallas fractured a bone in her foot in July in a most unusual accident just three days before she was slated to go on vacation. The accident occurred when Dallas stood up awkwardly, putting pressure on the outside of her foot. Dallas blamed Carl, who was on the phone with her at the time. Carl denied any wrongdoing, but offered her a ride to the emergency room. After spending six weeks in a cast, Dallas has mostly recovered.

COMMITTEE VOTES TO SUSTAIN ORDINATION...

Erin reports that on September 11th, the Committee on Ministry unanimously voted to sustain her ordination. Their decision will be reported to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta on October 22. The Presbytery will then decide on the Committee's report. This is a positive sign for Erin, and we wish her much luck.



Editorial policy

1. Articles should be pertinent to the transexual (MtoF and FtoM), crossdressing, transgendered, gay, lesbian, or bisexual community in the Atlanta metropolitan area.
2. The editors reserve the right to accept any article at their discretion.
3. Articles in this newsletter may or may not express the views and opinions of AGE, the readers, or the editors.
4. The normal maximum length of an article is two double-spaced typewritten pages.
5. Announcements of services and events will be accepted and limited to eight double-spaced typewritten lines.
6. Articles will not be returned.
7. The newsletter will not be responsible for lost articles.
8. Articles may be submitted either to the AGE post office box (see right), by fax (404) 815-7340, or via E-mail to [redacted]@aol.com.

AGE

Atlanta Gender Explorations: providing a family of support in Atlanta for Crossdressers/Transsexuals/Transgenderists, and their family, friends, and partners. AGE is affiliated with AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service.

AGE

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President	Carl Tripp
Secretary	Denise Johnston
Treasurer	
Newsletter	Erin Swenson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOUGHT...

A.G.E. is currently seeking someone to edit the newsletter. Erin has asked to step down from her duties as editor after doing a commendable job of reviving the A.G.E. newsletter, the Two Spirit News. The editor needs to have a computer and the knowledge of and/or desire to learn desktop publishing. The Editor will help write articles as well as solicit submissions. Anyone interested should contact Carl @ (404) [redacted]

STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS...

Max announced his resignation as President. Nominations were opened with Denise and Terry both being nominated. Decreasing attendance at monthly dinners was discussed. Those present decided to switch the time to 7:30 to try to boost attendance. A monthly movie outing was discussed and will be brought to membership for consideration. Dallas will host Thanksgiving dinner at her house at 2:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. She will provide the turkey. Guests need to bring a covered dish and something to drink. The Christmas Party was canceled in favor of having Christmas dinner at Denise's. Again, bring a covered dish and drink. New Year's Eve will be celebrated at Cowtipper's at 8:00 p.m., followed by dancing at the Otherside. Dress will be dressy/semiformal. Presentation for October will be a panel discussion titled "Coping With Gender Issues Before OR Without Transitioning." November's presentation will be by Dr. Richard Adler, who is a voice therapist. December will hopefully be given by Virginia Erhardt on "Dealing with Loneliness and Loss During the Holidays."

Annual dues were discussed. It was agreed that the full amount of \$25.00 would be paid up until June 30. From July 1 through September 30 the fee would be \$12.50. On October 1 the fee would again be \$25.00, but would cover the membership through the next year. This will make payment more equitable to new members joining throughout the year. Regular members will still pay membership dues in January. Financial hardship will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Julia forwarded a suggestion to begin a phone calling program for newcomers—kind of like a "Big Brother/Big Sister" buddy idea. The plan would call for regular members to volunteer to be big brothers/

sisters and for newcomers who felt the need to be assigned to a volunteer who would call/write between meetings. Discussion on this issue has arisen in the past and the following was decided: Carl will announce the need for volunteers. Once a group is set up an announcement would be made at the end of each newcomers meeting to let new people know that members are available to make supportive calls. It would be up to the newcomer to ask for a contact person and then a volunteer would be assigned from the pool. If the new person does not want to be called, then no one will call.

Along the same line it was discussed that we need to do better about calling long time members that miss some meetings to see how they are doing. It will be up to us to notice who has not been attending and to let a board member know so a call can be made if no other member has the person's phone number.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be November 17, 1996, at 2:00 p.m., at Carl's house. This is a change to a bi-monthly meeting.

INTERSEXED PEOPLE RECOGNIZED...

Intersexed people's struggle for visibility was chronicled in a recent issue of Southern Voice. The article was written by Deb Fraker and featured an interview of Max Beck, who was the main source of information for the article. Way to go Southern Voice! Way to go Max Beck!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

NEED NEW EYEGLASSES? Call Sallie Opticians at (404) 659-0365 and ask for Michael Tobias or David Thibodeaux. Denise talked with them at Pride, and they said they would set up after-hour private appointments with people in our community who may be uncomfortable shopping in public. (Who? Us? Shop in public? NO WAY!!! You won't find any of us public cross-shopping.)

ERIN SWENSON, Ph.D., announces the formation of two transition therapy groups; one meets weekly, the other monthly. Both meet HBIGDA Standards of Care. (404) [redacted] EMail [redacted]@aol.com.

CASUAL/DRESS/CAREER WEAR, SIZE MISSES 12-16. Casual dress shoes, size 10/11. Six wigs in brown and auburn. Costume jewelry, 40B breast forms, lingerie. Call Barry at (770) [redacted] evenings or leave message.

A.G.E. Meetings for 1996

All General and Newcomer's Meetings will be held at First Metropolitan Community Church¹, 1379 Tullie Road, NE, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Newcomers to 7:30 p.m.) and followed by dinner, unless otherwise noted. Dinner meetings² are at various locations (check your Two Spirit News for listings).

OCTOBER 5	GENERAL	TG Without Transition, 5:00 p.m.
OCTOBER 8 ²	DINNER	Crabhouse at Rio Mall 6:30 p.m.
OCTOBER 19	NEWCOMER'S IV	Employment Issues, 5:00 p.m.
OCTOBER 27	MOVIE OUTING	Meet at Galletto's at Virginia & Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
NOVEMBER 2	GENERAL	Richard Adler, Ph.D., Speech Therapist, 5:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 9	POTLUCK TO HONOR	Rev. Wilhelmina Hines, First MCC, time TBA
NOVEMBER 12 ²	DINNER	Sunflower's on Roswell Road (see p.1), 7:30 p.m.
NOVEMBER 16	NEWCOMER'S V	Medical & Paramedical Issues, 5:00 pm.m
NOVEMBER 17	STEERING COMMITTEE	Carl's house, 2:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 28	THANKSGIVING DINNER	Dallas' house, 2:30 p.m. (bring covered dish+drink)
DECEMBER 7	GENERAL	Dealing with Holiday Loneliness & Loss, 5:00 p.m.
DECEMBER 10 ²	DINNER	Northlake Diner, LaVista Road, 7:30 p.m.
DECEMBER 21	NEWCOMER'S VI	The Transgender Community, 5:00 p.m.
DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DINNER	Denise's house, 2:30 p.m. (bring covered dish+drink)
DECEMBER 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE	Dinner-Cowtipper's, Dancing-Otherside, 8:00 p.m.

¹ Remember that our meeting location remains CONFIDENTIAL.

² DINNER MEETINGS are open to everyone.

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ONLINE NEWS...

Email Address Update...

A.G.E. needs to update it's online address book. Some of the addresses we have are returning mail as "user unknown." If you have an EMail address and would like to be on the AGE distribution list, please send a note to:

AGEinfo@aol.com

LATE BREAKING NEWS...

Wilhelmina Hines, a transgendered MCC minister from New Zealand, will be visiting Atlanta next month. We are planning a potluck for Saturday, November 9, at First MCC, time TBA. Bring a dish (a covered one with food in it) and meet with one of the world's few transgendered ministers.



Check out these Web Sites...

Drs. Menard and Brassard, Surgeons in Montreal:

<http://www.sit.qc.ca/grs>

Tampa Gender Identity Program

<http://www.nu-woman.com/tgip.htm>

Look for our own Erin Swenson as a live guest soon on AOL!!!

The Two Spirit News is looking for good articles of all kinds from its readers. If you would like for your article to be considered, write Donna Johnston at AGE, P.O. Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357 or (preferably) send your article online to Erin Swenson at [redacted]@aol.com. Articles also may be faxed to (404) 815-7340. All articles will be considered subject to our Editorial Policy.