



**EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.
SUPPORT. COMMUNITY.**

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July 2008

Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	2
Unity Picnic Photos	3
Upcoming Local Events	4
SOFFA Corner	5
Transgender and Ally Symposium	6
Local & National Resources	7
Trans-Friendly Businesses & Services	8
And more!	

We Continue to Write Our Transgender History

On Thursday, June 26, 2008, transgender individuals, organizations and allies wrote a new chapter in transgender history. The first ever Congressional Hearing on Discrimination Against Transgender Americans in the Workplace was held.

Testimony was provided by Shannon Price Minter, Legal Director for National Center for Lesbian Rights; Diane Schroer, Retired Colonel, US Army; Diego Sanchez, Director of Public Relations and External Affairs for AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts; Sabrina Marcus Taraboletti, Former Space Shuttle Engineer and Bill Hendrix, the Chair of Gays, Lesbians, and Allies at Dow (GLAD) for Dow Chemical Company. The minority party called JC Miller, Partner at Thompson Hine and Glen Lavy, Senior Counsel for Alliance Defense Fund as witnesses.

All witnesses had an opportunity to tell their story to members of the United States House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, Committee on Education and Labor. This was history in the making.

I could imagine thousands of others—people who are out, people who are not, friends, family and allies all watching, from somewhere. I watched. My mom watched. Friends watched. Colleagues too.

I found myself nodding in agreement with witness testimony about being discriminated against in the workplace. Many people have shared with me their own experiences of workplace discrimination. Not just about being discriminated against because of their gender identity or expression, but also because of who they loved. I think that we can all agree that we know somebody who has faced some

sort of discrimination. Unfortunate isn't it?

While it's a great start to a new chapter in transgender history, it's clear that the transgender community has a great deal of work ahead of them — at the individual (town, county, city) state level and of course at the federal level. So, that leads me to the following question that I know you all have and are all asking yourself right now (especially on this eve of celebrating independence):

How do I get involved in this education process and how can I continue to help write transgender history?

That's a fantastic question. So, here's the easy answer: Get involved in your local community and state-wide GLBTQI and Ally organizations. We're pretty lucky in Ohio as there are many organizations that serve the GLBTQIA community. Volunteer for organizations such as Equality Ohio, TransOhio, PFLAG, Speak-OUT, Stonewall Columbus, TransFamily, your GLBT centers in Cleveland, Dayton and Cincinnati, ACLU, NCTE, The Task Force, and yes, HRC too.

It's up to each of us to add to our history. To make our mark, to make a difference. Those who came before us did (and there were many). We're doing it now. And there will be more tomorrow and next year.

If you missed the testimony on June 26, you can view the video it at the National Center for Transgender Equality website: www.nctequality.org. Additionally, you can download PDF versions of witness testimony.

For more local and state resources, visit page 7 of this issue.

—Shane Morgan



Local & National Calendar of Events

July 2008

- Created Equal. Sunday, July 6, 2008. Equality Ohio and Summit On 16th. Visit www.summiton16th.org for more info.
- LaGarou CampOUT 2008. July 10-13, 2008. Long Fork Campground. WV. Visit www.lagarou.org for more info.
- Camp Equality (Cincinnati), July 12-13, 2008. Cincinnati, Ohio. Visit www.hrc.org/campequality for registration info.
- Camp Equality (Columbus), July 19-20, 2008. Columbus, Ohio. Visit www.hrc.org/campequality for registration info.
- Campus Pride Summer Leadership Camp. July 19-24, 2008. Towson, Maryland. Visit www.campuspride.org for info.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, July 20, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High. (Visit to The Apothecary Shops pharmacy).
- Northeast Regional FTM Campout. July 25-27, 2008. Massachusetts. Visit www.cauldronfarm.com/events.html#ftm for info.
- Bi-Annual Mountain Man Retreat. July 24-27, 2008. North Carolina. Email tranzeek@yahoo.com for more info.

August 2008

- Camp Trans. Michigan. August 4-9, 2008.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting & Symposium Volunteer Meeting. Sunday, August 17, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium. August 22-24, 2008. Visit www.transohio.org for event info.

September 2008

- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, September 21, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- 2008 Southern Comfort Conference. September 30-October 5, 2008. Atlanta, GA. Visit www.sccatl.org for more info.

October 2008

- IDKE X. October 15-19, 2008. Columbus, Ohio. Visit www.idkex.com for more information.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, October 19, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.

November 2008

- 10th Transgender Day of Remembrance. Columbus, Ohio. Details TBA.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, November 16, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- TransOhio Thanksgiving Dinner. Thursday, November 27, 2008. Details TBA.

December 2008

- The Crystal Club Holiday Dinner. Saturday, December 13, 2008. Columbus, Ohio.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, December 21, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- TransOhio Holiday Gathering. Details TBA.

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Support. Community.
www.transohio.org

2nd Annual Unity Picnic Photos





Join Equality Ohio and Summit On 16th for:
Created Equal: An Independence Day celebration and renewed call to ensure basic rights for Ohioans

Sunday, July 6th, 10:30am



Summit On 16th

To express support for Equality Ohio and the Equal Housing and Employment Act (EHEA), Summit On 16th will host a special service and cookout on Independence Day! Along with hundreds of other faith leaders and groups around the state, Summit On 16th is endorsing EHEA, legislation that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Service begins at 10:30am, featuring guest speakers from Equality Ohio. Cookout follows at Noon, with music provided by the Jen Miller Band.

Summit on 16th is an inclusive congregation open to all people who are moved by the Holy Spirit to seek to commune with, and grow from the experience of God revealed through Jesus Christ.

Summit On 16th, 82 E. 16th Ave.
 (Corner of 16th and Waldeck)
 Columbus, OH 43201

Visit www.summiton16th.org for more information!



Camp Equality - Cincinnati, July 12-13, 2008
Camp Equality - Columbus, July 19-20, 2008

Equality Ohio will be co-sponsoring HRC's Camp Equality trainings in Cincinnati on July 12th and 13th and Columbus on July 19th and 20th.



Camp Equality is an intensive 2-day interactive training program that combines lectures, discussions, and real-life simulations. Camp Equality teaches both advanced and fundamental skills to help strengthen the impact our progressive community has on the 2008 elections.

In order to register for Camp Equality, go to www.hrc.org/campequality. Registration is \$35. Students: Register for \$10 by contacting Charlie Mumford at Charlie.Mumford@hrc.org.

The Brotherhood
 of the Werewolf:
 An Alliance of
 Transmasculine Leathermen

July 10-13

CampOUT 2008
 DEMOS WORKSHOPS PRESENTERS

visit website for pricing
<http://lagarou.org/campout.htm>

Hosted By
 304-577-9347
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The Mountain Man Retreat is a weekend spent at a mountain house with other trans guys in the beautiful Western North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains. This is a rare opportunity to connect, bond, and discuss our unique experiences as transgendered individuals. Mountain Man Retreat is trans-masculine only space.

Thursday, July 24-Sunday, July 25, 2008

Activities include: hiking-fishing the pristine mountain Laurel River - white water rafting-relaxing in natural mineral water hot tubs in Hot Springs-swimming in cool mountain rivers-eating hearty, homemade meals -tent camping also available

All inclusive fee: \$130 (this is a whale of a deal)
 Deposit of \$100 due by JULY 15, 2008. Accommodations limited to 12 persons on a first come, first-served basis.

For More info email Alex at Alexander.bannister@yahoo.com or Zeek at tranzeek@yahoo.com

To Be or Not To Be — THAT is the question

It's not often. But occasionally it happens. But since my husband's gender issues came into the light, every now and then I wake up in the morning wondering to myself, "*Am I really up for this?*" Now this question has nothing really to do with will I stay or will I go. The answer is and always has been, I will stay. However, what is the "*this*" I'm questioning? Is it "Am I really up for being married to a transman?" or is the "*this*" actually much more fundamental? What's the real question and most importantly, what's the answer?

As I consider the question and possible answer further, I am struck less and less by the word "*transman*" and more and more by the word "*being*". What does the word "*being*" mean? Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines the word "*being*" this way:

- the quality or state of having existence; something conceivable as existing
- something that actually exists
- the totality of existing things; conscious existence: life; the qualities that constitute an existent thing: essence; especially: personality
- a living thing; especially: person.

So now you're asking, "Okay Angie, so what's the point?"

I mean who cares what "*being*" means, right?

Well, here's the point.

One of the definitions of the word being is: the qualities that constitute an existent thing.

This leads me to a new question: Who am I?

Well, I'll tell you (yes, I really can do it!).

I am happy. I am loving. I am kind and gentle. I am courageous and I possess inward beauty (the most important kind). These are the some of the qualities that I possess, some of who I am.

Am I really up for being married to a transman?

Well, Am I really up for *being*? That is a question I hope I continue to ask myself on a daily basis and I hope that you ask yourself the same thing. I believe that we are all valuable and necessary to the world. We all have something that we must do, whether it be helping to actively save a life or saving a life by offering a smile, a kind word or some other needed thing; and we all possess certain qualities that enable us to do what is necessary.

So, am I up for being married to a transman? Am I up for being? If I live life according to the qualities that constitute me, according to what I "*be*," if you will - you bet I'm up for "*being*"!

TransOhio TG Support Group

This is a peer led support group that meets at The Center on High (1160 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43201) on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Open to all - FtM, MtF, Cross Dressers, Gender Queer, Intersexed, etc. Drop-ins welcome! Facilitated by TransOhio staff.

Questions? Email TransOhio@wowway.com or call (614) 441-8167.

The Stephanie Chaffin Fund

Please consider a donation to The **Stephanie Chaffin Fund** through TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus. This is another symbolic way of keeping Stephanie's name alive. This goal is deemed more meaningful in light of the way Stephanie's estranged and rejecting family chose to have a funeral where she was shown as a man. Your contribution no matter how small will be very welcome. At the end of each Stonewall TG support group meeting, we typically pass around an envelope to collect donations to help Stonewall. Stephanie, whose funds were clearly limited as a result of which she neglected and could not afford to take her heart medication, used to always empty her pockets of the change she had on her, which was at times as little as a few cents. Thus please contribute what you can as Stephanie did. Our goal is to have The Stephanie Chaffin Fund be used for a medical emergency for a transgender person, such as the kind of medical help Stephanie could have benefited from.

Donations for The Stephanie Chaffin Fund can now be made online through the TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus website. To donate to The Stephanie Chaffin Fund, visit <http://www.transohio.org/donate.html>. Donations made to this fund are tax-deductible through Stonewall Columbus.

For additional questions about making donations to The Stephanie Fund, please email us at TransOhio@wowway.com.

Upcoming Center on High Events

Stonewall Health Check

Free nurse- run wellness clinic on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Blood Pressure Screening, Nutrition Help, Glucose Screening, Legal Help: Free power of attorney and living wills. Referrals: Find health care providers that understand the GLBT community. ...and More! Help with organizing and understanding medications, assistance with compiling a family medical history, STD testing info, foot inspections, and advice to help you make the most of your health care.



Transgender and Ally Symposium

August 22-24, 2008

Columbus, Ohio

www.transohio.org

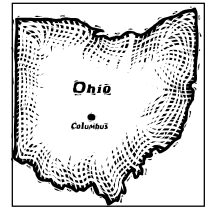
Educate. Advocate. Support. Community.

Our Sponsors: The Center on High; Union Bar + Food; East Village; The Apothecary Shops; PFLAG-Columbus; PRIDE The JP Morgan Chase Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Allies Employee Networking Group; TransFamily of Cleveland; Gender Diversity Program of Central Ohio; The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland; Delaware Gay Straight Christian Alliance; HRC, TruVoice; Equality Ohio. Additional funding was provided by a grant from the Legacy Fund of The Columbus Foundation.

"I ASK MYSELF, IN MERCY, OR IN COMMON SENSE, IF WE CANNOT ALTER THE CONVICTION TO FIT THE BODY, SHOULD WE NOT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTER THE BODY TO FIT THE CONVICTION?" – DR. HARRY BENJAMIN, M.D

Ohio Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization): www.bravo-ohio.org
- Columbus AIDS Task Force: www.catf.net
- Central Ohio CD Support: www.crossohio.org
- Chi Lambda Epsilon, a Chapter of Tri Ess (Ohio & Western PA.): www.triess-cle.org
- COLAGE: www.colage.org
- CrossPort Cincinnati: www.transgender.org/crossprt
- Equality Ohio: www.equalityohio.org
- Gay People's Chronicle: www.gaypeopleschronicle.com
- Gender Diversity Program of Central Ohio: www.genderprogram.com
- GenderBloc: www.GenderBloc.org
- Kaleidoscope Youth Center: www.kaleidoscope.org
- Outlook News: www.outlooknews.com
- PFLAG Columbus: www.pflagcolumbus.org
- PFLAG Dayton: www.pflagdayton.org
- SpeakOUT: www.speakoutcols.org
- Stonewall Columbus: www.stonewallcolumbus.org
- The Apothecary Shop: www.theapothecaryshop.com
- The Alpha Omega Society: www.aosoc.org
- The Crystal Club: www.thecrystalclub.org
- Transcendence: www.transbg.org
- TransFamily of Cleveland: www.transfamily.org



Donate to TransOhio!

TransOhio operates under the umbrella of the Stonewall Columbus 501(c)3 status, which makes your monetary donation to TransOhio tax-deductible!

To make an online donation to TransOhio, visit our website at www.transohio.org/donate.html

Thank you for your support!

National Resources

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): www.aclu.org/lgbt
- FTM International: www.ftmi.org
- Hudson's FTM Resource Guide: www.ftmguide.org
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): www.hrc.org
- InterPride: www.interpride.org/12/2008_Events.htm
- Out & Equal Workplace Advocates: www.outandequal.org
- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE): www.nctequality.org
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF): www.theTaskForce.org
- PFLAG: www.pflag.org
- PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET): www.pflag.org/tnet.html
- Queertransmen.org: www.queertransmen.org
- Tgcrossroads: www.tgcrossroads.org
- Transster.com: www.transster.com
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH): www.wpath.org



Do you have a local or national resource that you'd like listed in the TransOhio newsletter?
Please email your listing to TransOhio@wowway.com!

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Annual Participant Be-All, Chicago's Transgender Convention



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Email: TransOhio@wowway.com for info!

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