

Volume 1, Issue 9

June 2007

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- Transitioning in Ohio: The Legal Process
- Local & National Resources
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PRIDE, Change, Evolution and Organizing

It's been several years since my first PRIDE holiday. I was living in the City of Brotherly Love at the time and everybody could feel the energy that was building in the air. It's still something I feel every June—there's a smell of pride (and summer) in the air, everywhere, all the time, everyday. Thirty full days of it!

Since I began my transition, the meaning of Pride, for me, has changed greatly. I think it's changed just about, if not more, than I have. My observations of self, those around me, and my surroundings in general have constantly changed. In a way, I've shed the skin I was born into and grew up within, and evolved into a new body— a new self. A new me. And with that, I've had to learn to renegotiate my sense of Pride in who I am.

I'm reminded that I am lucky to loved and supported by my friends and family. I'm reminded that I live in a city, as Midwest as it is, a city that has a huge population of *OUT*

GLBTQI people. I take a lot of Pride in that! If it wasn't for those before us who fought for equality and for GLBT rights, then life as we know it would be much different. Sometimes it's only a handful of people who organize and press society and politics change. Sometimes, that's where the next revolution begins. And sometimes, that's all it takes. Get involved in our community. Volunteer for a organization who's mission you believe in. Donate your time, your money, your voice and your words.

Wherever you are, however you celebrate PRIDE. Take a moment and reflect on your strength and courage you've taken to be the person you know you are. Take PRIDE in that decision. Be PROUD of who you are!

Play safe.
Have fun.

Happy Pride Everybody!

Pride 2007 Events – Columbus

Saturday, June 2
Cruisin' in the Park—Classic Car Show at Goodale Park, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Center on High Turns South Beach, 1160 N. High Street, 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., \$2 Admission.

Stoney Shorts Festival, A production of two short plays: Band Fags by Frank Anthony Polito and In the Business by Lori Cannon, Two Showings: 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$5.

Saturday, June 9
TransOhio Unity Picnic at Goodale Park. 12pm-5pm. See page 8 for details.

June 13, 2007
In the Life: Black and Gay Back in the Day - A panel discussion on the African American GLBT experience in Ohio with a historical focus on coming out, meeting other GLBT people, relationships, religion and family.

June 20, 2007
Cruising: Male Dating and Sex Before AIDS and the Internet - This panel discussion will focus on the different ways gay men met each other, communicated, dated and engaged in relationships during more discreet, closeted and homophobic times.

Saturday, June 23
Pride Parade 2007- Lineup by 12pm at Goodale Park, Step off at 1pm.

Pride Festival 2007, Bicentennial Park, 12pm-7pm

Dancin in the Streets, 7pm – Midnight, Outdoor concert. 630 N. High Street.

For a full schedule of events, visit:
<http://columbuspride.org/events>



Local & National Calendar of Events

June 2007

- Dayton Pride, Saturday, June 2, 2007.
- TransOhio Unity Picnic, Saturday, June 9, 2007. 12 - 5 pm. Goodale Park, Columbus. Open to the GLBTQI community, friends and allies. More info and to RSVP, email TransOhio at TransOhio@wowway.com.
- Cincinnati Pride, Saturday, June 9, 2007. <http://prideisalive.com>
- Cleveland Pride, Saturday, June 16, 2007. <http://www.clevelandpride.org>
- *Call Me Malcolm*, OutReels film screening, Sunday, June 17, 2007. 6:00pm, St. John UCC, 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. For more information, visit: <http://www.OutReels.com>
- Columbus Pride, Saturday, June 23, 2007. <http://www.stonewallcolumbus.org>
- Houston Pride, Saturday, June 23, 2007. <http://www.pridehouston.org>

July 2007

- SPICE 2007. The Spouses' and Partners' International Conference on Education (SPICE). July 20 - 22, 2007. Minneapolis, MN. For information, visit: <http://tri-ess.org/spice>
- CampOUT, July 26 - 29, 2007, Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary, Bloomington, IN. http://www.lagarou.org/campout_2007

August 2007

- FTM2007, Gender Odyssey, August 21– September 3, 2007 (Labor Day Weekend), Seattle, Washington. <http://www.transconference.org/index.htm>
- Family conference for parents of gender variant and transgender children: Gender Odyssey, August 21– September 3, 2007 (Labor Day Weekend), Seattle, Washington. <http://www.transconference.org/family/index.htm>


September 2007

- Southern Comfort Conference, September 11-16, 2007, Atlanta, GA. For info: <http://www.sccatl.org>
- Out & Equal Workplace Summit, September 27 - 29, 2007, Washington D.C. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.outandequal.org/summit/2007/OutEqual-2007Summit.asp>

October 2007

- Fantasia Fair. October 14 - 21, 2007. Provincetown, Massachusetts. For info visit: <http://www.fantasiafair.org>
- Eureka! En Femme Getaway. October 24 - 28, 2007. Eureka Springs, Arkansas. For info: <http://www.femmegetaway.com>

Would you like to add your event to our calendar? Email event information to TransOhio@wowway.com

 **SAVE THIS DATE!**

TransOhio Unity Picnic
Saturday, June 9, 2007 — 12pm-5pm
Goodale Park, Columbus, OH.
Open to the GLBTQI community, kids, friends & allies.
More info & RSVP: TransOhio@wowway.com
(See page 8 for additional details!)



Governor Strickland Signs Executive Order

5.17.07 - Governor Signs Executive Order Restoring Ban on Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation

Columbus, Ohio – Governor Ted Strickland signed today an executive order establishing a policy that bans discrimination of current or prospective state employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Text of Executive Order Follows:

Executive Order 2007 – 10S

Establishing Policy Against Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

1. The State of Ohio Should Treat Employees Respectfully. Persons employed by the State of Ohio are a vital part of creating and fostering efficient governmental practices and ensuring that all citizens of Ohio receive the support and services that they need and to which they are entitled. Because of the contributions that State employees make, their colleagues and supervisors should treat them with respect and dignity.

2. The State of Ohio Should Seek to Attract Top Quality Employees. The government must compete for the best employees it can obtain. Discriminatory conduct in hiring and other employment related decisions undermines the State's ability to attract and retain the best possible employees.

3. State and Federal Law Already Prohibit a Range of Discriminatory Practices. Ohio law, consistent with federal law, prohibits employers, including the State, from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, disability, age, or sex. However, there are no such laws that prohibit employers from discriminating in employment related decisions on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

4. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination is Currently Occurring in State Government. Information compiled by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission documents ongoing and past discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity in employment-related decisions by personnel at Ohio agencies, boards and commissions. Such discriminatory conduct undermines the effectiveness of employees discriminated against, prevents the State from attracting the best available talent to work on behalf of the people of Ohio, and offends basic notions of human dignity.

5. Applicable Definitions. The following definitions apply to the requirements of this Order:

a. Sexual Orientation: A person's actual or perceived homosexuality; bisexuality; or heterosexuality, by orientation or practice, by and between adults who have the ability to give consent.

b. Gender Identity: The gender a person associates with him or herself, regardless of the gender others might attribute to that person.

6. Prohibition Against Discrimination. For the reasons stated above, I am declaring it to be the policy of the State of Ohio that no person employed by a Cabinet agency or by a State of Ohio Board or Commission may discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in making any of the following employment related decisions:

- a. Hiring
- b. Layoff
- c. Termination
- d. Transfer
- e. Promotion
- f. Demotion
- g. Rate of Compensation
- h. Eligibility for In-Service Training Programs

7. Management of Discrimination Complaints. Any person who believes that an agency, board, or commission employee has discriminated against him or her in violation of this Order may file a discrimination complaint with the Equal Opportunity Division/Equal Employment Opportunity Section of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. All such complaints will be investigated and resolved within the timeframe allowed for claims of discrimination that are recognized by Ohio law. Persons engaging in discrimination in violation of this order will be subject to discipline commensurate with the sanctions that would be applied to illegal discriminatory conduct.

8. I signed this Executive Order on May 17, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio and it will expire on my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.

Ted Strickland, Governor

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State

(Text of Executive Order from <http://governor.ohio.gov/>)

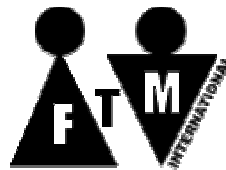
FTMI Ohio Dr. M. Edward Walker Chapter News

FTMI is in its 21st year of providing inclusive, informative, supportive meetings. Through free peer support, community building events and bridging identities FTMI provides help, support and community to FTM's worldwide. We gather together at chapter meetings, film screenings, author readings, guest speaker events, creative performances, marches, Day of Remembrance ceremonies and educational conferences to share our stories and learn from one another. We provide a supportive and inclusive community where we share our experiences and empower our members to be leaders.

FTMI Ohio grew out of a meeting held in September of 2006 by FTMs and allies from all over the state and was welcomed as a start up chapter by FTMI in October 2006. The goal of FTMI Ohio is to build the chapter into a state-wide outreach and advocacy voice for FTM's, SOFFA's and all female-to-male people on the gender variant spectrum. This can be accomplished by connecting with other FTM's throughout Ohio.

FTMI Ohio officially became the FTMI Ohio Dr. M. Edward Walker Chapter on February 24, 2007. Dr. M. (Mary) Edwards Walker, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, (1832-1919), loved by Belva Lockwood, was known as "the most distinguished invert in the United States." The hero of the Civil War, Dr. Walker wore men's clothes and advocated for an end to laws that discriminated against trans men for wearing men's clothing.

If you wish to join the chapter and want to connect with other FTM's and SOFFA's in the state of Ohio please contact us at FTM-I_Ohio@yahoo.com.



For more information on FTM International, please visit their website at: <http://www.ftmi.org>

PRIDE (noun)

- ◆ feeling of self-respect and personal worth
- ◆ satisfaction with your achievements

June is PRIDE month. Wherever you are, however you celebrate PRIDE. Take a moment and reflect on your strength and courage you've taken to be the person you know you are. Take PRIDE in that decision. Be PROUD of who you are!

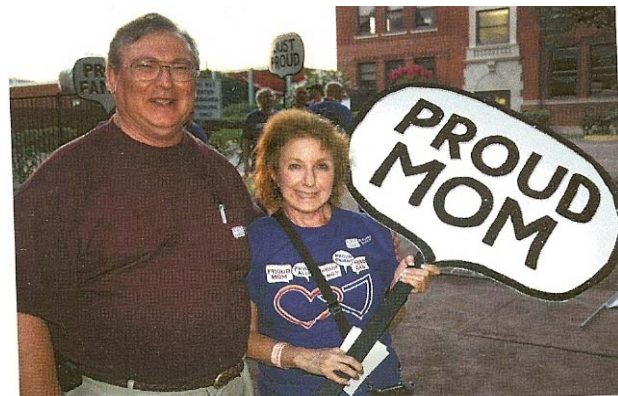
Trans♂Ohio.Org

We Want You!

- √ Educate
- √ Mentor
- √ Get connected
- √ Get involved in your community
- √ Build bridges to other communities
- √ Break-down old community silos

Volunteer or become part of the TransOhio Staff. For info, email us at TransOhio@wowway.com

PRIDE CORNER



PFLAG Mom and Friend & Supporters of TransOhio

Have photos from PRIDE you'd like to share with TransOhio? Send photos in digital format to TransOhio@wowway.com and will include them in the July 2007 TransOhio newsletter!

I am different!
Why? Because I choose to be who I am not what society dictates!
Men think I have chosen to become a second class citizen.
Women applaud my courage in understanding my true self!
What is this difference?
I have admitted to myself that I am female not male as the doctors declared when I was born.
They chose based on some external visual objects.
I chose because in my heart I have always known!
I tried their way and it led to despair and darkness!

THEN I CHOSE LIFE!

—Pamela Ann Reed

Here To Stay

Not so long ago in time,
I thought my life not worth a dime.
Why do I stick around,
When maddening pain does abound?
This is it, I must go.
I can not live anymo'.
I'm gone, I'm outta here.
I'm gone.
Then one day I realized I was me and I'm okay.
It is God I must obey.
He said, "I died on the cross for you."
I said, "Okay. What must I do?"
Jesus said, "I need you to stay and share your story,
"My love and guidance will bring you to Glory."
I bowed my head and fell to my knee,
"Thank you Lord for loving me."
I jumped up and ran from the house,
"Listen up. I have something to announce!"
With pride I say,
"My name is Skylar Vincent and I'm here to stay!"

— Skylar Vincent Seward

Call for Writers!

TransOhio wants your work!

We are always accepting work for future issues of
the TransOhio newsletter.

We're interested in the following:

- * poetry
- * short stories (fiction & non-fiction)
- * opinion essays
- * coming out letters to family & friends
- * photos
- * artwork (drawings, paintings, etc.)
- * calendar of local/national workshops & events
- * book and movie reviews or recommendations
- * online resources
- * trans-friendly doctors, services, support groups, counselors, etc
- * GLBTQI identities in the Trans-world
- * guest writers
- * SOFFA's Corner

Please send your work
to TransOhio@wowway.com!



“Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul.”
— Henry David Thoreau

Whoever said “the best things in life are free” obviously wasn’t going through a gender transition. For those who are transitioning, some of the “best” things in their life can cost thousands of dollars. And unlike a house or an education, there are no SRS loans from your friendly neighborhood bank for which you can apply.

When a person first realizes or accepts their transgender status, it’s easy to get swept up in the tidal wave of a whole new gender to explore and accessorize. However, both for a transitioning person and their partner (supportive family members, friends, etc.), it is a VERY good idea to plan out what financial commitments are most important before taking that long awaited shopping spree.

An easy way to make your transition smooth monetarily is to make three lists:

1. Includes basic expenses including rent/mortgage, credit card and utility bills and other steady monthly costs.
2. Transition costs including prescriptions, necessary “trans-wear” such as binders, wigs, and other basic transitioning needs (you can include a small budget for new clothing/etc, but don’t spend a lot!).
3. Include high-cost items related to your transition such as surgeries, electrolysis, and the associated costs for these procedures including travel and overnight accommodations.

Armed with these lists, you can start planning how to pay for all the necessities of lists one and two while still saving

If you’d like to share your SOFFA experience or ask Anna a question, please email her at TransOhio@wowway.com.

Feedback, responses and advice provided are not intended to take the place of individuals seeking proper medical and psychological doctors. Responses are purely based upon personal experience.

up for list three if/when you decide to have such procedures.

As I said before, it is very easy to get swept away with the idea of an entirely new wardrobe to go with this entirely new you. However, it is important to be discerning in your high-cost purchases. Low-cost purchases make this a lot easier! Thrift shops, garage sales, and “trans-wear” swaps are just a few ideas to consider when beginning to understand your new look.

Thrift and consignment stores are great places to find designer (and even not-so designer) clothes to experiment with in finding colors, styles, and sizes that look best on you. Such stores also have the added benefit of helping you get rid of old clothes. Garage sales can be great places to find jewelry and other accents such as purses, hair accessories, and shoes. Clothing at garage sales can range from non-existent to strangely exotic; basically, they’re worth browsing, but don’t expect much.

Lastly, don’t forget the people around you! Though you are not likely to find “trans-wear” at a garage sale or thrift store, it is very likely that other people who are ‘further along’ in their transition have items they no longer need. Many items can be used again by people who are just beginning to explore their true selves.

Additional Resources:

As Anna mentioned in above, the people who’ve transitioned before you are an amazing resource for clothing and other items that both are sought out during transition in the MTF and FTM communities.

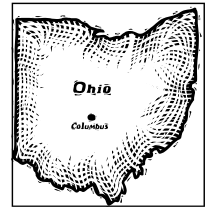
We weren’t able to find many big-brother/big-sister type programs, but we know they exist. The programs we did find and are familiar with are the following:

- Chi Lambda Epsilon, a Chapter of Tri Ess (Ohio & Western PA.): www.triess-cle.org
- The Transitional Male: www.thetransitionalmale.com/Binders

If you are familiar with other Big-Brother/Big-Sister type programs, please let us know!

Ohio Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization): www.bravo-ohio.org
- Central Ohio CD Support: www.crossohio.org
- Chi Lambda Epsilon, a Chapter of Tri Ess (Ohio & Western PA.): www.triess-cle.org
- EqualityOhio.Org: www.equalityohio.org
- FTMI-Ohio: groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I_Ohio
- Gay People's Chronicle: www.gaypeopleschronicle.com
- Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio: www.genderprogram.com
- Outlook News: www.outlooknews.com
- PFLAG Columbus: www.pflagcolumbus.org
- PFLAG Dayton: www.pflagdayton.org
- Stonewall Columbus: www.stonewallcolumbus.org
- The Alpha Omega Society: www.aosoc.org
- The Crystal Club: www.thecrystalclub.org
- TransFamily of Cleveland: www.transfamily.org



TransOhio Wants Your Old Books!

We are interested in books by trans writers or written about transgender and transsexual identities and experiences.

TransOhio will be donating collected books to the library at The Center on High.

Contact TransOhio at TransOhio@wowway.com to make your donation!

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/12/2007_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



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!

Transgender-Friendly Shopping & Services

Alternative Auto Care
136 W. 5th Ave, Rear
Columbus, Ohio 43201
(614) 294-0580
Chris, Owner

www.alternativeautocare.com

Dr. Timothy E. Moats, D.D.S
Family Practice
656 High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
(614) 885-6698

Radiant Laser Hair Removal
11138 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
(513) 489-1900
www.radiant-laser.com

Becca's Hair Studio
3700 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-9222
Becca - Owner

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SAVE THIS DATE!

TransOhio Unity Picnic

Please join us on Saturday, June 9th, 2007 for the TransOhio Unity Picnic! This is open to all Ohio GLBTQI people, friends, family and allies (kids are invited too!)

Goodale Park in the Short North
120 W. Goodale Blvd, Columbus, OH
June 9th, 2007 ~ 12pm—5pm

We are asking that everybody bring a picnic-type-food to share (and a serving spoon). Also, don't forget to bring a blanket/chairs for yourself and your guests. Please also bring your own drinks.

If you have specific questions, please contact us at TransOhio@wowway.com!

Please join TransOhio for this afternoon of fun, food and friends!



TransOhio Wants Your Old Books!

We are interested in books by trans writers or written about transgender and transsexual identities and experiences.

TransOhio will be donating collected books to the library at The Center on High (Stonewall Columbus).

Contact TransOhio at TransOhio@wowway.com

Is your business or service Transgender-friendly?

Get listed with TransOhio and be seen!
Email: TransOhio@wowway.com for info!

TransOhio is supported by
CENTER ON HIGH 
Stonewall Columbus

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