

Perceptions Newsletter

Perceptions Inc. P.O. Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641 (989) 891-1429

From the Desk of the Chair Mindy Pennington

You listened, greeted, contributed, purchased, baked, danced, cleaned, shopped, partied, exercised, cooked, and responded...

What an amazing year we've had. Membership has grown over 50% in 2003 and we had great events this year...

- Valentine's Dance
- Scavenger hunt
- Talks Back at SVSU performance of *The Laramie Project*
- Chocolate Party and Garden party with PFLAG
- John Corvino talk filled the Grace A. Dow Library Auditorium
- Pride Festival in Lansing
- Adopt-A-Highway cleanup
- July 4th Fireworks celebration in Bay City
- Stellar speakers at the monthly meetings
- Volleyball at the park and the YWCA of Bay City
- Food drive for Underground Railroad
- A second coffee shop gathering was added--in Freeland
- Rainbow Referrals business list on the website
- P-Kids Holiday Party and...

The Montague Inn Holiday Party and Silent Auction was the big finish for the year--over \$3600 raised by YOU! Thanks to you, the members and thanks to the businesses that donated--we are able to donate \$1000 to Underground Railroad in Saginaw.

The Board set many goals last January such as surveying the community, learning from other non-profits, developing a media strategy, build coalitions with other local organizations, and developing a fund-raising strategy. Perceptions' members have been the key factor in the success of this organization. You listened, greeted, contributed, purchased, danced, cleaned, shopped, partied, exercised, cooked, baked, and responded to the local media. Are you ready to do it all again, and even better? I am.

So, welcome to 2004. It's time to start of a new year with some incoming Board members. We have four candidates who will be added to the slate for the January meeting. If you are a Donor Member you will vote on the whole slate of candidates this month. (I feel like the Academy announcer...) The nominees are: Tom Brubaker, Rev. Beth Rakestraw, Leo Romo, and Craig Windt. Come and meet them at the January 29th meeting and start the year off right!

Mindy



**Opening doors for the
Mid-Michigan GLBT
Community**

Calendar Highlights:

- [Wednesday, January 21st, Meet & Greet at Bay City Coffee and Tea](#), 810 Saginaw St, Bay City, MI 7-9 pm
- [Sunday, January 25th PFLAG Meeting](#) 2-4:30 pm Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland
- [Thursday, January 29th, Perceptions General Meeting](#) 7-9 pm Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.
- [Saturday, February 14th Perceptions' Valentine's Dance](#) at Tittabawassee Township Hall in Freeland

To receive email alerting about upcoming events, send your email address to PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoogroups.com

Perceptions December Board Meeting

Bay City, YWCA 12/16/03 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Present: D. Barron, R. Bowden, J. Crane, L. Crane, J. Illig, B Jahr, C. Lisee,
M. Pennington

M. Pennignton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

- I. Welcome to potential Board members: Tom Brubaker, Rev. Beth Rakestraw, Leo Romo, Craig Windt
 - A. Each had a short presentation that summarized their wish to serve. Each brings very supportive skills to Perceptions.
 - B. A question/answer opportunity for Board and invitees followed. Board responsibility projects were outlined for the invitees
 - C. Chair called for short bios of prospective and seated Board members to be presented to donor members at January General meeting.

Montague Affair summary/Financial statement – Jeff Illig gave a summary of the intake of ticket sales and auction proceeds

 - A. \$1000 suggested as a donation to UGRR. diedra knox volunteered to call UGRR (Valerie Hoffmann) and set up a photo op for presentation of the check as well as an invitation to talk about the organization to the members at our January meeting.
 - B. Doug Barron started a discussion that would have us look into actions that might improve next year's event.
- II. M. Pennington made a motion to have the recorder send meeting minutes within 7 working days after the meeting. The motion was accepted and the resolution passed.
- III. Discussion of the Board's efforts at its initiatives on Women and Youth will be discussed in full at the January strategy meeting.
- IV. Barbara Mausolf, a prospective Board member declined the Board seat due to some personal changes in her life. Thank you Barb for considering Perceptions for serving your community. Barb has expressed her interest in participating in the growth and expansion of Perceptions as a donor member.
- V. Valentine's Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 14, 2004. Carla Nemath has agreed to DJ and to provide Tittabawassee Township Hall as well as a Security Guard. Chris Brennan and diedra knox will be finalizing plans for this dance and will present to the Board in early January with a prospectus and any relevant changes
- VI. January meeting agenda
 - A. Presentation of Board slate and election by donor members
 - B. Membership Renewal Campaign
 - C. UGRR check presentation followed by introduction of representative
 - D. Power Point presentation by Charles Lisee on Initiatives and proposed changes by Perceptions.
- VII. Health Fair Committee – D. Barron, R. Bowden, d. knox- will meet and present to Board.
- VIII. Volunteer recognition – We are appreciative to the many volunteers who have helped make us more visible. We need to find a way to thank them at the end of the year for their tireless effort. The Board will consider opportunities to meld our volunteers and our sponsors.
 - A. 2003 – rent and provide a buffet for volunteers at Hello Sushi, a contributor to the Montague event. Suggested by D. Barron
 - B. 2004 – free travel to Triangle Film Festival (proposed by C. Lisee)
 - C. 2005 - ?
 - D. Jeff Illig suggested we give Terry Zajac a \$50.00 gift certificate to a favorite store for his tireless effort at hosting 2 premier events for Perceptions/PFLAG – Garden Party and Chocolate Party. Thank you so much Terry for all you have done and continue to do.
- IX. C Lisee will announce via Yahoo group that the coed Volleyball games will be cancelled due to YWCA renovations.
- X. Volunteer reporter. We do need someone to 'catch the hot story' and get the next great pic. C. Lisee has volunteered to scour the membership through the Yahoo group.
- XI. D. Barron will contact T. Zajac and propose Feb7th, 2004 as the date for the Chocolate Party
- XII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm

Perceptions
PO Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641

Phone
989.891.1429
E-Mail: board@perceptionssv.org

Fax
989.891.1429

www.perpecptionssv.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Now through February 1st, 2004, Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933-1945](#) The Museum at Michigan State University, West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI. The official website: <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/hsx/> Opening reception details below.

[Friday, January 16th-23rd, Reel-Pride Michigan](#) Michigan's GLBT Film Festival: 8 Days, 22 Screenings, 42 Films. Films that celebrate the love, life and diversity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied communities. <http://www.reelpridemichigan.com/>

[Wednesday, January 21st, Meet & Greet at Bay City Coffee and Tea](#), 810 Saginaw St, Bay City, MI 7-9 pm. This is an Informal get-together in a non-smoking coffeehouse with hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and desserts. Come from all around the Tri-Cities and enjoy a hot cup of coffee with friends.

[Sunday, January 25th PFLAG Meeting](#) 2-4:30 pm Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

[Thursday, January 29th, Perceptions General Meeting](#) 7-9 pm Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. We'll be having our annual Membership Drive, Board Elections, brainstorming on future meetings structure, presentation of board planned programs and events for '04, and a presentation of the "Community Events Initiative", a tool to be used for members that would like to host an event or program. **This is truly a meeting for the community**, please join us!

[Saturday, February 14th Perceptions' Valentine's Dance](#) at Tittabawassee Township Hall in Freeland. This event has been brought back a second time due to its overwhelming success last year. This year, there will be snacks, BYOB, dancing with instruction by Carla and a few performers. More info to come. SAVE THE DATE!!!

[Saturday, March 6th, Chocolate Party](#) More details to come...

[Saturday, April 17th, Perceptions' Health Fair](#) 11a-5p at Bay County YWCA. Many vendors will be on hand to provide free basic health monitoring. There will be seminars specific for woman and teen as well as men's issues. Anyone attending can workout free at the Y for the day. Swim, use the gym, play ball. More information to come

[Tuesday, May 11th, We Are Family Lobby Day](#) From 8am-3pm in the Mackinac Room of the House Anderson Building, Lansing, MI. The Coalition for Adoption Rights Equality, American Friends Service Committee LGBT Issues Program, and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will all be coming together to advocate for all our families, for all our children. For more info, check out <http://afsc-fan.org/familylobby.html>

[Saturday, May 22nd "Together in Faith: Journey into Inclusiveness"](#) Michigan's first national LGBT Spiritual Conference bringing LGBT and Ally spiritual leaders to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. Attendees will leave new information, tools and networks to help them create LGBT-affirming cities and faith communities. Rev. Mel White, John Corvino, Jim Toy and local/national spiritual leaders will speak. Cost until March 14, 2004 is \$75, including breakfast, lunch and dinner. Read more details and register at www.togetherinfaith.com Local contacts are Leo Romo at leoromo@yahoo.com and Jeff Illig at michmoshbc@aol.com

HIV+/AIDS support group meets every Tuesday in Bay City from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Contact Tim Neal at (989) 894-2991 for locations for the meetings.

WWW.PERCEPTIONSSV.ORG