

Perceptions Newsletter

Perceptions Inc. P.O. Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641 989.891.1429

PERCEPTIONS CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

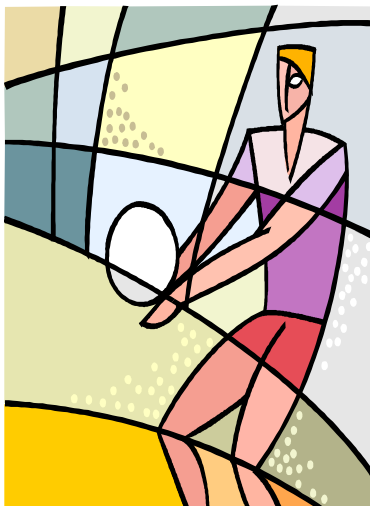
by Ralph Collins

Perceptions co-ed volleyball resumes January 4th, 2005. No prior experience or playing level necessary. Perceptions has reserved the gym at Delta College for this event. We will play twice a week, Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and again on Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings - competitive play (league rules); Sunday afternoons - casual play (rules relaxed). Cost is \$3.50 each. The normal fee to use Delta's facility is \$6.50. This reduced fee also allows you to use Delta College's entire athletic facility - including weight room, swimming pool, gym, weight training and cardio equipment. Locker rooms and showers are available at the facility - bring your own lock. Towels are available at the front desk, but you may wish to bring your own. Those wishing to play volleyball or use the facility should check in at the fitness center desk. Remember to tell the desk attendant you are a Perceptions member in order to receive the discount price.

An RSVP email system is being instituted. Individuals wishing to play volleyball will be asked to RSVP so we can anticipate how many will be attending each session. RSVP to: volleyball@perceptionsSV.org

Directions to Delta College:

From I-75, take Exit 160, turn south on M-84 (towards Saginaw) and go ¼ mile to the second traffic light. Turn right on Delta Road. Travel approximately 1-1/2 miles to the college entrance. After entering the college campus, park in either the East or West Parking Lot. Enter the college and go to the P Wing room 112 which is located on the ground level. For further information please contact either Neil Wolicki or Ralph Collins at volleyball@PerceptionSV.org



Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Calendar Highlights:

- Wednesday, January 12th - Midland Meet & Greet 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 19th - Bay City Meet & Greet 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Sunday, January 23rd - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm
- Monday, January 24th - GLBT Discussion Group 7:00 - 8:30 pm in Bay City
- Thursday, January 27th - Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 2nd, 2005 - Saginaw Meet & Greet 7-9 pm

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



2005 Perceptions Membership Drive

The 2005 membership drive is well under way. Over 300 invitations to all our friends and past members have gone out by e-mail and snail mail. Roughly a third of last years members have already renewed their membership for 2005. If you're debating why you should become a member, consider the words of the people who participated in Perception events.

Why did you join Perceptions?

"I joined Perceptions because it provides a **socialization outlet** other than the bar scene."

"I wanted **to come out.**"

"To volunteer for **political action** regarding gay rights."



"To be free."

"To feel more of a **sense of community**."

"I needed a **network of people** I could identify with."

What does Perceptions mean to you?

"Perception events make me **feel free to be me.**"

"Being free and understand that **I can express myself** in the gay community. Meeting others has helped me to **be open.**"



"Community, **support**, and social activity."

"Perceptions represents a **beacon of hope** that some day our society will accept us for who we are."

"This group has given me **acceptance**. It means that I now have a way to contribute to our issues as well a way to **educate the straight world**. It means a group with **good minds and good hearts.**"



Make it possible for Perceptions to continue serving the local GLBT community by joining today online at www.perceptionssv.org Click on "Membership" at left and process securely through Pay Pal.

Perceptions Board Elections to Be Held At January 27 General Meeting

by Beth Rakestraw

Plan now to attend the January 27th General Meeting, sign up as a donor member (see related article in this newsletter) and cast your vote for the proposed slate of new members of the Perceptions Board of Trustees!

The purpose of the Perceptions Board of Trustees is to oversee and plan Perceptions programming, social and educational events, social activism, publicity, finances, fundraising, communications and community outreach. The board makes policy decisions for Perceptions, seeking always to ensure that Perceptions fulfills its purpose as an organization, which according to Bylaws is "to advance the interests of the GLBT community within the ten-county region including the following counties within Mid-Michigan: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola."

Out of a total of 15 seats, 11 will be vacant as of election time. The Board incumbents hope, with this election, to fill 8 of the vacancies, since a number of individuals have indicated their interest in participating in the election and in Perceptions' leadership. Those candidates will meet with the present board at the Board's January 18 meeting to become better acquainted with the Board, participate in a group interview process, and allow the current board to draw up the slate of nominees for the election. Later in the spring, the board will evaluate the need for filling the remaining three seats, since so much of Perceptions' continued success as an organization depends on its volunteers who serve in a variety of capacities without serving as a Trustee.

Given the current state of affairs for the GLBT and allied community of Michigan, Perceptions' role in Mid-Michigan has become more vital than ever before and so has your participation. Begin to do your part and participate in the election of Perceptions' leadership!



Perceptions

P.O. Box 1525
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Phone:
989.891.1429

Reflections of a Board Member

Dear Perception members,

After enjoying a wonderful holiday season with my family and friends and some much needed time off, I had the opportunity to reflect upon my last year volunteering on the Perception board.

I think back about the telephone call that I received from David Bailey, asking if I would be interested in sitting on the board of new GLBT organization for the Saginaw Valley. I had a lot of apprehension about the commitment of time and the knowledge that I would be outed to anybody that read our newsletters or went to our web site and saw my name as a board member.

However, as I write this final letter and reflect upon the years, I am so proud to part of this organization.

I need to thank everybody who helped make this year's fundraiser at the Montague Inn a success. We were able to give a generous check to a needy organization in our community and help support some of our own events that will be happening in 2005.

We have accomplished so much in a short amount of time and we need to be proud of what we have done for the community and where we will continue to go into the future.

Best Regards in 2005.

Douglas Barron

Fundraising Coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE ADDED TO PERCEPTIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS?

Submit your event to calendar@perceptionsSV.org

Wednesday, January 12th - Midland Meet & Greet 7:00 pm. Espresso Milano, 137 Ashman, downtown Midland. 989-832-3222. This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

Friday, January 14th - "Friday Night Dinner" 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members on Friday nights for dinner at a local eatery. Each week we meet at a different restaurant for food, fun and conversation. An email is sent through our Yahoo Group every week to announce the week's venue. Sign up for our email list on [Yahoo Groups](#), email info@PerceptionsSV.org or call 989-891-1GAY.

Sunday, January 16th – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball 3:30 - 5:30 pm. [Delta College](#). Go in P wing to the Fitness Center and you'll be directed to the "hyper" gym on the second level. Perceptions discounted cost is \$3.50 per person and your pass is good all day with access to the entire fitness center. Show up early and take advantage of all that your day pass has to offer. Make sure you let the gym staff know that you are with "Perceptions" to get your discount. Bring a friend and join us for some fun, casual volleyball excitement. In order to anticipate how many will attend, we are asking each person who plans to attend to RSVP to volleyball@perceptionsSV.org by Saturday evening. For additional information or last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

Tuesday, January 18th – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball 6:30 - 8:30 pm. [Delta College](#).

Wednesday, January 19th - Bay City Meet & Greet 7:00 - 9:00 pm. An informal gathering of the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome in this smoke-free environment. Located at 810 Saginaw Street (between Center and Fifth Aves.), the Bay City Coffee and Tea offers a variety of delicious drinks, sandwiches and desserts.

Friday, January 21st - "Friday Night Dinner" 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 27th - Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 pm. Members will elect the 2005 Board of Trustees at this meeting. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson Ave. For more information, contact [Perceptions](#).

Sunday, January 23rd - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

Sunday, January 23rd – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball 3:30 - 5:30 pm. [Delta College](#).

Monday, January 24th - GLBT Discussion Group 7:00 - 8:30 pm in Bay City. This group discussion focuses on issues the GLBT community face on a day-to-day basis. Whether you're coming out, dealing with grief or looking at an exciting new future, come express your views, support others and share in the experience. Contact info@perceptionsSV.org or call 989-891-1429 for meeting location or more information.

Tuesday, January 25th – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball 6:30 - 8:30 pm. [Delta College](#).

Friday to Friday, January 28 to February 4th - Reelpride Michigan GLBT Film Festival, Main Art Theatre, downtown Royal Oak. 8 days, 22 screenings, 45 films. Visit ReelPrideMichigan.com for more information.

Sunday, January 30th – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball 3:30 - 5:30 pm. [Delta College](#).

On-Going Programs

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.

Anonymous and confidential [HIV testing](#) is available at The Hearth Home in Saginaw. Gay men who participate will receive a Meijer's gift certificate if they choose to test. Contact Ricardo Bowden at 989.753.9011 for further information.

WWW.PERCEPTIONSSV.ORG